



**WYRE MAKING SPACE FOR WATER MEETING**  
**Minutes of meeting held Thursday 22 August 2024**  
**at Wyre Civic Centre**

**Present**

Carl Green (CG) Wyre Council (Engineering)  
Paul Long (PL) Wyre Council (Engineering)  
Ryan Hirstwood (RH) Wyre Council (Engineering)  
Lewis Dobson (LD) Wyre Council (Engineering)  
Nigel Rutledge (NR) Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)  
Martin Dugdale (MD) Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)  
Mark O'Donnell (MO) Lancashire County Council (Highways)  
Graeme Kellott (GK) Environment Agency  
Pippa Hodkins (PH) Environment Agency  
Phil Wylie (PW) United Utilities  
Daniel Archer (DA) United Utilities

**Apologies**

Lorah Cheyne Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)  
Rachel Crompton Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management)  
Tom Myerscough Wyre Rivers Trust  
Ben Rogers Lancashire County Council

**1. INTRODUCTION**

PL welcomed all to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

PL explained that RH and LD are new apprentice engineers for Wyre Council who are sitting in on the meeting to get experience of the Group.

MD explained that he would be taking on the responsibilities of Brian Birkett (now retired)

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted as above.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of 30 May 2024 were agreed.

### **Matters arising:**

- Hillylaid Pool, School Road, Thornton  
PL asked for an update on the removal of the concrete block from Hillylaid Pool (to the rear of Baines School, School Road, Thornton) reported by Thornton FLAG. GK reported that this had still not been removed.

#### **Action - EA**

- Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall  
PL reported that the watercourse adjacent to Sandy Lane has been dug out to improve drainage on the field and reduce the risk of flooding to properties on Sunnyside Terrace. He noted that it appears that the watercourse does not discharge to the road as thought but flows toward Sunnyside Terrace. There is a manhole close to the road which requires inspection, but this is covered by a parked vehicle that has been in place for some considerable time. PL to speak to Police to have vehicle removed so that the chamber can be inspected to determine whether it is connected to the watercourse.

#### **Action – PL**

- Cottam Hall drainage  
PW reported that an inspection of the surface water drainage from the highway and into the park has not yet been done. He will chase this up and report back.

#### **Action - PW**

- Stanah pumping station:  
CG confirmed that the transfer of the pumping station from Wyre Council to the EA is being dealt with by Wyre Estates team and is expected to be completed soon.

PL asked whether Wyre Council would be given access to the station or whether this would become a solely EA asset. He noted that currently officers from Wyre Council were able to activate the screws in an emergency or in response to issues reported by the EA. GK said it would be preferable for Wyre Council officers to continue to have access to help in emergencies. A separate schedule / agreement would be required for this.

- Springfield pumping station:  
CG reiterated his view that the station should be an EA, not Wyre Council's asset. PL confirmed that he has not yet spoken with the owners of Cala Gran Holiday Park about them taking over the operation and maintenance of the station.

CG confirmed that the station is in a poor condition and needs money spending on it to bring it up to a good standard. PL confirmed that works required included

replacement of the switch gear (estimated at around £20k) and repairs to the fabric of the building.

CG said that further works needed to be done with Royles Brook and New Lane stations to bring them up to a good standard. He proposed that the MSfW group look at potential capital bids to upgrade all pumping stations. A joint report to be produced.

### **Action - ALL**

- Garstang floodgate:  
GK reported that EA are waiting for Electricity North West Ltd to divert a cable so that the new crane pads can be installed. Installation of the crane pads is now expected by the end of October and removal of the gate is expected in June 2025.
- Thornton siltation survey:  
GK confirmed that there are significant gaps in the survey data with the key area around Belvedere Road not having been included. PL said that the main area of concern was from the UU outfall from School Road to the bridge at Belvedere Road, where silt levels were significant. GK noted that a previous survey of the watercourse at this point had shown the hard bed to have been over dug and, as a consequence there is a hollow that would allow excessive levels of silt to build up here.

GK said that there are currently no plans to undertake any additional desilt works in Thornton.

GK noted that works are planned to be undertaken this year on the section of Royles Brook watercourse behind properties on Woodland Ave, where access is especially difficult. PL noted that this length has been raised on several occasions by Thornton FLAG as requiring maintenance works.

### **Action - EA**

- Foot bridge at Catterall flood basin, St Michaels:  
GK confirmed that the works to replace the bridge are in progress and the new bridge is expected to be installed by the end of October.
- Intersection of Royles Brook and Anchorsholme Road East watercourse:  
GK confirmed that this work is to be included in the current round of maintenance works. He added that the new contractor has the right equipment to access the area and the works will be undertaken soon.
- St Heliers Place, Barton:  
PL confirmed receipt from MO of the CCTV inspection of the culverted watercourse in St Heliers Place. This had been forwarded to the contractor who has planning permission to develop the land to the south of the culvert for their information.
- Inskip flooding:  
PL reported that he had received a request for an update on recent flooding to the area and what, if any, works are proposed to prevent any repeat. MO reiterated that LCC have undertaken a full survey of the area flooded last year and that there did not appear to be any issues with highway assets. He said that most issues

appeared to be minor blockages to ordinary watercourses and were riparian responsibility. It was agreed that these issues would be brought up with residents.

#### **Action - PL / MO**

- Moss Side Lane, Great Ecclestone:  
NR confirmed that the case still resides with LCC Legal Team and there is no update on this matter.
- School Road, Thornton:  
NR confirmed that there had been no further correspondence with Network Rail on the proposal to daylight the culvert to the rear of properties. He is proposing to meet with NR to discuss options on how best to proceed.

#### **Action - NR**

- Rosslyn Ave / Pilling Lane, Preesall:  
MD reported that he has taken over the investigation to confirm the outfall to Wheelfoot watercourse from Rosslyn Ave. He confirmed that he will be meeting with landowners next week to discuss how best to clear watercourses.

PL asked whether the work would work its way upstream toward Meadow Ave; he said that the watercourses behind Willowcroft caravan park were in a poor condition and needed urgent works to allow the flow of water from Preesall Park and from nearby streets. MD said that he was looking at proving the outfall to Wheelfoot watercourse and had no plans to work back upstream.

PL asked that LCC consider issuing enforcement letters to residents to ensure that works are undertaken. NR said that LCC policy is to send a warning to residents before taking any enforcement action.

#### **Action - NR**

- Royles Brook School:  
PW confirmed that UU have no plans at present to connect the pipes on Wordsworth Ave. He added that there is some concern that there may be some cross-connections in the surface water system and UU are reluctant to connect to the pond until this had been resolved.
- Derby Crescent, Inskip:  
PL reported that he had received a request for an update on the issues with the foul pumping station on Derby Crescent. PW confirmed that this issue is being dealt with by the Preston team and that the person dealing with it has been off sick for some time. PL to meet up with Dave Andrews from UU to get an update and report back to residents.

#### **Action - PL**

- Broad Oak Road, Garstang:  
PW reported that UU are continuing to investigate the drainage in this area. He said that UU had installed flood mitigation to reduce the risk of flooding and there was nothing further to report at this time.

## **4. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

## **Wyre Council**

- PL confirmed that he had met with representatives from Churchtown and Preesall FLAGs and had received correspondence from Garstang, Thornton and Great Eccleston – comments are detailed below, and the Issues & Actions log has been updated.
- PL reported that he and TM have spoken with the owner of the land to the rear of Sunnyside Terrace and gained approval for TM to install water monitoring equipment on the land. This is the first phase of the development of a wetland area in this location to relief flooding to Sunnyside Terrace. The landowner has agreed in principle to allow the wetland to be constructed on his land and has requested further details for consideration. The proposal is to construct the ponds in spring 2025.

## **Environment Agency**

- GK reported the works that are currently in progress, including
  - Installation of the replacement footbridge at Catterall (as detailed above)
  - Repair to a section of embankment by Six Arches caravan site in Scorton, between the railway bridge and the road bridge. Works are scheduled to start next week.
  - Improvements to the river outfall at White's Brook, St.Michaels are planned for next year; it is hoped that improvement works at Rivermede will be undertaken at the same time. PL asked that the EA contact the landowner at Rivermede to advise him of the proposals.
  - GK reported that there is some damage to the embankment of the River Wyre where the Inskip joins, to the west of the Boat House on the A586. He confirmed that this is planned for repair in 2025.
  - GK confirmed that contracted maintenance works have only now been agree and are starting now. Maintenance works by the EA's own works team have been continuing throughout the year; most of the Wyre has been cut and the flood basins cut.
  - GHK reported that the EA are planning to undertake an inspection of Stanah pumping station for Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in the near future.
  - GK reported that the Broad Fleet outfall gate in Pilling is twisted and is letting the tide back in. He added that the penstock has been closed to prevent flooding over the coming high tides. The EA are looking to repair the gate at the earliest opportunity.
- PL noted that there is a significant build-up of silt in the basin in front of Stanah pumping station – he asked whether the EA would take a look to see whether this could be desilted.

### **Action - GK**

## **LCC Highway Authority**

- MO reported that LCC are continuing with their cyclic gulley emptying; works are expected to be complete by the end of September. Works are also continuing with reactive gulley clearing responding to issues raised by the public.
- MO reported the following works being undertaken recently by LCC.
  - A586 Churchtown – drainage works in collaboration with the FLAG
  - Tarn Lane, Thornton – root cutting and relining of pipes to improve local flooding issues
  - Bodkin Lane, Out Rawcliffe

## **LCC (Flood Risk Management)**

- NR introduced MD to the Group. He added that the LCC Team is now back up to full strength.
- NR reported that works on Rosslyn Ave, Preesall would now be undertaken by MD while he concentrated on pushing to finish off other issues, including completion of Section 19 reports. He added that one member of staff is now working full time in completing these reports.
- Other issues included Hollins Lane – looking at drainage downstream of the new development. PL noted that he had looked at this issue some years ago and found that the pipe is blocked some 20m or so from the development. The drainage is riparian and the responsibility of residents to clear. NR confirmed that LCC have undertaken a letter drop to residents to advise them of the drain and will be looking to resolve flooding issue there - he added that he will provide feedback at the next meeting.

### **Action - NR**

## **United Utilities**

PW said there were no new issues to report. UU are looking at spills into watercourses as a priority and little is being done underground at the moment.

- PW reported that UU are looking at works to the pumping station at Great Eccleston to prevent back flow from the River Wyre when it is high. He noted that this is to prevent spills into the river and won't have any bearing on flooding issues.
- Similarly works are being undertaken to install additional storage at St Michaels last online pumping station to reduce spillages
- PW reported that UU now have rainwater management section that will look at infiltration into the mains sewers. He added that a request has been made to include Kiln Lane, Hambleton in the investigations
- PL noted that there have been no flooding issues on Kiln Lane recently, even during heavy rainfall events. PW replied that UU have recently fitted an additional flap valve on the outfall and had not noted any flooding since.

- PW reported that UU have been working on the flooding issue on Coniston Ave, Preesall. He is visiting the site next week to discuss issues with the affected resident. He confirmed that a non-return valve has been installed on the line to prevent flooding to the affected property.

### **Wyre Rivers Trust**

- No representative from the Trust was present at the meeting and no report was received in advance.
- PL reported that he had spoken with TM; he reported that TM has tried to speak with LCC regarding the construction of a wetland area on land behind Millfield School, Thornton. He has been unable to gain access to the land as yet but will pursue this and report back to the Group.

## **5. ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGS**

PL noted that the Issues and Action log has been updated to reflect recent works and additional requests for actions. (An updated copy is attached as Appendix A)

### **Churchtown FLAG**

PL met with the FLAG via Teams on 20 August 2024.

There has been no reported flooding since the last meeting in May 2024.

The following areas of concern were noted:

#### 1 & 2. The Avenue and Smithy Lane

The FLAG asked whether the investigative works undertaken by LCC and CJ Jetz is now complete. If complete they have asked for a copy of the report to be made available to them.

#### 3. Ainspool Lane

The FLAG asked for an update on the installation of a penstock in the manhole on the opposite side of the A586 from Kirkland Hall Gateway. PL replied that consent from the owners of Green Wood is awaited.

#### 4. Ainspool Bridge gauges.

The FLAG confirmed that they would be installing the level gauges to the wing wall on Ainspool Bridge so that they can monitor levels and determine when the proposed penstock from Green Wood should be closed or opened to prevent flooding to Ainspool Lane.

#### 5. Ainspool Field

No flooding recently, CFLAG to continue to monitor ingress locations as opportunities may arise during daylight flooding.

#### 6. Quarterly FLAG meetings

Now that most of the flooding problems in Churchtown have either been solved or have a solution in process, the Group has decided to meet quarterly on the first Tuesday evening of Sept, Dec, March and June, ahead of each Flood Forum.

### Cleveleys FLAG

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting. No report received.

### Garstang FLAG

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting, but the FLAG did raise a number of issues via email.

- The FLAG raised concerns about the Ainspool watercourse to the south-west of the new development between the A6 and Nateby Crossing and sought assurances that the watercourse is not being filled in or rerouted.

The site does not have consent to fill in or reroute the watercourse; however, the FLAG asked for a personal inspection of the watercourse. PL to contact the Developer and arrange a site visit to inspect the watercourse.

#### **Action - PL**

- The FLAG asked for details of the works being undertaken at Catterall Flood Basin. This is covered in the EA report above.
- The FLAG asked for an update on the gates at Glasson Dock. DA confirmed that the gates have been removed. They are being examined to see if they can be refurbished and replaced. GK added that the gates were owned by Port of Lancaster, and they would be working to resolve the issue. Further updates can be viewed at [GLASSON DOCK GATE UPDATE – 18 JUNE 2024 | Port of Lancaster \(lancasterport.org\)](#) and [Glasson Dock, Port of Lancaster: Stuck sea gate frequently asked questions | Port of Lancaster \(lancasterport.org\)](#)

### Great Ecclestone FLAG

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting, although a number of questions were raised by email.

- The FLAG has received a complaint about effluent leaking onto Cartford Lane near to Out Rawcliffe Caravan Park. CG added that he understood that the discharge was coming from the UU pumping station. PW said that he was not aware of this as it fell outside his area (in Fylde) but would raise with colleagues.

#### **Action - PW**

PL asked whether this was related to the UU works to remove surface water from the combined sewer in Little Thornton. PW confirmed that UU are working to remove excess water from the system to accommodate the new housing to be built in Great Ecclestone. PL noted that the recent development in Little Ecclestone (part of Fylde Council) had been given permission to discharge surface water into the combined sewer, an action that would not



normally have been given permission by Wyre Council, and that this is having a detrimental effect on Great Eccleston.

### **Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS**

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting, but the FLAG raised several issues by email.

- The FLAG has requested a site visit to look at flooding issues at Williamson Park, Church Lane to suggest possible solutions to run off from the park flooding the highway.

PL and MO are scheduled to meet the FLAG on site on 23 August to look at potential solutions.

#### **ACTION - PL / MO**

- The FLAG has asked that LCC provide an update on road drainage on Bull Park Lane. It is considered that there are too few road gullies to properly drain the road.

MO to discuss this with the FLAG at the meeting on 23 August

#### **ACTION – MO**

### **Out Rawcliffe FLAG**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting. No report received.

### **Preesall FLAG**

The FLAG met on 19 August 2024.

Issues raised:

1. Dykes and Gullies:

Following recent works to dig out the watercourse alongside Sandy Lane, an inspection of the manhole to the north of the watercourse and the pipe under the road is to be undertaken to ensure that the water runs to the north and not towards the properties.

#### **ACTION - PL / MO**

2. Sunnyside Terrace wetland area:

The latest proposals to install monitoring devices were discussed. PL to pass on details of the landowner north of the footbridge to TM for consent to install on their land.

#### **ACTION - PL**

3. Lancaster Road culvert:

The FLAG remains concerned about the differing water levels either side of the culvert and have asked if this can be looked at further

#### **ACTION - PL / MO**

4. Green Lane watercourses:

The FLAG has asked that the proposal to join that the watercourse on the west side of Green Lane to that on the east side, upstream of the current connection to be considered so as to ease flooding to Sunnyside Terrace.

#### **Pilling FLAG**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting. No report received.

#### **St Michaels FLAG**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting. No report received.

#### **Thornton FLAG**

The FLAG had raised a number of queries for consideration

- The FLAG asked for an update on inspection of the culvert under Calder Ave. PL reported that this works is still outstanding as the contractor is having difficulty accessing the culvert due to consistently high water levels preventing access.
- Victoria Road East (east of Morrisons roundabout)  
The highway drainage on the north side of the road spills out of the gullies and into the gardens of several bungalows. LCC have previously cleared the gullies, but the FLAG has asked whether the connecting drains have been cleared or checked for potential blockages.

MO confirmed that the gullies have been cleared, however, there are no current plans to inspect the connecting pipes.

## **6. UPDATES TO ISSUES & ACTIONS LOG**

The updated Issues & Actions log – 23 August 2024 – accompanies these minutes.

## **7. NEW ISSUES**

CG raised a complaint from a resident on Norman Close about the state of the watercourse adjacent to Morrisons store – he asked that a letter be sent to Morrisons to have the watercourse cleared.

ACTION - PL

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No matters raised

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

28 November 2024, 10am start - in person at Wyre Civic Centre and via Teams - Details to follow.