



**Wyre Making Space for Water meeting
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 29 May 2025**

1. PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Lewis Dobson	Engineering Apprentice; Wyre Council
Ryan Hirstwood	Engineering Apprentice, Wyre Council
Martyn Dugdale (MD)	Assistant Flood Risk Engineer, Lancashire County Council
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Daniel Archer (DA)	Asset Performance Team, Environment Agency
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Flood & Coastal Risk Management Advisor, Environment Agency

Teams:

Lorah Cheyne (LC)	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council
Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Tom Myerscough (TM)	General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust

Apologies:

Carl Green (CG)	Assistant Director Engineering, Wyre Council
Andrea Dennison	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Ruth Kennedy	Planning and Permitting Team, Environment Agency
Ben Rogers	Lancashire County Council

The meeting was held as a combination of live event and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

2. Introduction:

PL welcomed all to the meeting and all introduced themselves.

3. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

4. Update from Wyre Rivers Trust:

TM provided an update on works being undertaken by the Wyre Rivers Trust.

- [Wyre Catchment Resilience Programme funding](#), which is part of the national NFM programme, is continuing and expected to be completed in March 2027. TM confirmed that the Rivers Trust has now delivered 100% of the NFM in the Wyre area – that is 70Ha of NFM and 30Ha of woodland, with a further 16 Ha to be provided this winter. He added that the project will outperform what was originally programmed.
- As part of the works, outline designs have been produced for the new wetland areas behind Millfield School, Thornton and behind Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall (see Appendix A)
- It is proposed to construct a number of water storage ponds on the Millfield School site with a network of anastomosed channels which will take water from Hillylaid Pool and reducing water levels by an estimated 50-60cm. The ponds will hold some water in them at all times and provide additional storage during a flooding event. The design has yet to be confirmed, and the plan will need some minor adjustments following discussion with LCC (as landowner). GK asked that the ponds on the eastern side of Hillylaid Pool be repositioned to allow maintenance access – TM will look at this and make sure access is made available
- The plan for Sunnyside Terrace has been drawn up in discussion with the landowner and has included space for any future development as a glamping site. The site will include areas of wetland and ponds, as well as a boardwalk on the existing public footpath through the site. The landowner has been consulted on the final proposals, and a response is awaited. Should the landowner be agreeable, a start date of September is still possible, subject to consent from LCC.
- Other schemes in progress include works on the Ainspool watercourse in Churchtown and at Myerscough College, Bilsborrow. Once the final proposals for these schemes are complete TM will share with the MSfW Group.

5. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 25 February 2025 were agreed.

Matters arising:

Stanah pumping station:

GK confirmed that the transfer of the pumping station from Wyre Council to the EA is still ongoing. It remains to be completed soon.

PL reported that a glazer has been appointed to replace the specialist glass panels broken when a brick was thrown through the building skylight. As this is specialist

glasswork and located in a hard-to-get area, the cost of repairs has been very high. GK confirmed that finance is available to replace. PL to forward details of the cost to GK.

Springfield pumping station:

PL confirmed that he has yet to chase up the possibility of Haven Holidays, owners of Cala Gran Holiday Park, taking over the operation and maintenance of the station. While they have expressed an interest in this, nothing has yet been confirmed.

Garstang flood gate:

GK reported that plans remain on hold until finance has been secured. PL noted that Wyre has been advised that money has been raised to undertake the works this year. GK replied that this had not been relayed to the team undertaking the works – he will check and report back once he knows more.

Thornton siltation survey:

PL reported that Royles Brook PS has been pumping regularly throughout the last couple of months, despite there being no rainfall. Concerns have been raised by Thornton FLAG that the station may be silted up on the downstream section of the station preventing normal gravity discharge through the non-return valve. PL confirmed that the station has been checked, and no issues were noted. He added that works to desilt the station (both upstream and downstream of the pumps) are planned for this summer. PL asked that the EA take a look at the siltation levels between the pumping station and the culvert under Fleetwood Road North for any issues.

White Carr Lane, Thornton flooding:

PL reported that McDermott Homes have confirmed that their modelling has shown that a significant reduction in the discharge rate from their Meadow Gate site is possible. They have reported that a 60% reduction in the maximum surface water runoff from the site could be attained by the installation of a new hydrobrake. While this is noted, further discussion is required as to the cost of the revision and who would pay for the works.

GK confirmed that EA will be undertaking desilting works on White Carr Lane later this summer; currently expected in August.

MC confirmed that LLC (Highways) are looking at repairing/replacing the fence at the junction with Bescot Way and White Carr Lane – he queried whether this was the responsibility of LCC as it was installed by the developer of the Bescot Way site. He added that he would be inspecting the fence soon to determine what, if any, works were required by LCC.

Foot bridge at Catterall flood basin, St Michaels:

GK confirmed that the new bridge has now been installed, the old bridge has been removed and works are being undertaken to tidy the site. It is expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

PL asked whether a visit to the Catterall flood basin by the Forum members could be accommodated later in the year. GK confirmed that this would be possible.

Intersection of Royles Brook and Anchorsholme Road East watercourse:

GK confirmed that this work remains outstanding due to difficult access issues. He confirmed that the work remained on the list and would be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Inskip flooding:

PL confirmed that an inspection of the flap valves on Woodplumpton Brook watercourse to the north of Preston Road was undertaken on 11 March 2025 and no issues were noted. He added that both the Parish Council and Cllr Salter have raised further queries re the flooding in Inskip, although this appears to be outside of Wyre. Further discussion with the Parish Council may be required, particularly with regard to flooding from the highway.

Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston:

MD confirmed that the case still resides with LCC Legal Team and there is no update on this matter.

School Road, Thornton:

MD confirmed that there had been no further correspondence with Network Rail on the proposal to daylight the culvert to the rear of properties.

Action – MD

Rosslyn Ave / Pilling Lane, Preesall:

PL reported that he and MD have yet to carry out an inspection of the watercourse from Preesall Park to Rosslyn Ave. PL reported that Cllr Rushforth has raised an issue with trees in the watercourse and has been in touch with the owners of Willowgrove Park on this matter.

Action - PL / MD

Derby Crescent, Inskip:

PL reported that no action had been taken on this issue as it remains a UU (Preston) issue.

Stricklands Lane, Stalmine:

PL reported that works have now been completed to reline the culverted watercourse alongside Ambleside and to daylight the culvert to the south of the property. While this was private property, the works were financed by UU and LCC. Since completion there has not been any significant rainfall to confirm whether the works have been successful in reducing the highway flooding issues and preventing flooding of the property. The site will be further monitored

Norman Close, Thornton:

PL reported that he has not yet revisited the site to see whether the works promised by Morrisons has been undertaken. He will check this and raise any issues with the store manager.

Action - PL

6. Updates from Members:

Wyre Council:

PL noted that there had been little correspondence on flooding issues due to the recent prolonged dry period. As such, no new flooding issues have been raised, and this has allowed time to focus on some of the outstanding issues. He confirmed that he has received correspondence from the FLAGs (see below) – these issues were discussed – comments added to the FLAG reports below.

Environment Agency:

PH reported that the proposed compensatory works at Out Rawcliffe (as part of the Hambleton defence works) are now planned to start in September 2026 with the main scheme starting in 2027.

PH reported that works on GK confirmed that routine watercourse maintenance works will continue this year without the delay suffered last year as a new contract was agreed.

GK reiterated that works to repair the flood gate at Garstang remain on hold – he was aware that Wyre Council had been informed that funding for the work has been confirmed and that the works would be undertaken this year. He agreed to investigate this further and to provide clarification at the next Flood Forum.

LCC Highway Authority:

MC reported that the new cyclic policy of cleaning all gullies in the county is being drawn up and will start soon. In the meantime, any reported blocked gullies will be cleared whenever possible.

The current cyclic programme of cleaning gullies is currently under way in Wyre, with gullies in Fleetwood, Cleveleys, Thornton, Poulton, Over Wyre and Pilling having been recently cleaned. Works are now moving to Garstang and Forton.

PL asked whether LCC were looking to clear the culverts on White Carr Lane to coincide with the works planned by EA. MC replied that he was not aware of this but would ask the question and report back.

LCC (Flood Risk Management):

MD reported that the surface water drainage issue on the Hollings Green estate on Hollins Lane needs to be escalated. It is considered that the developer has connected the new system to the incorrect drain and works are needed to remedy the situation. He requested that PL and the Wyre Planning Officer be available for a site inspection and potential enforcement action. MD noted that the emergency cable for the hydrobrake on the site has been cut, although the hydrobrake appears to be working normally.

Action - MD / PL

United Utilities:

No representative from UU was present at the meeting. No report was received.

7. 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 B)

The following reports were received from FLAGS – responses are shown in italics

Churchtown FLAG.

Meeting held with FLAG on 8 May 2025.

1. **Flood Events** – Nothing in last quarter. When dry spell breaks, it is expected that Smithy Lane will be flooded by surface water from A6. JC Jetz investigation report to LCC already requested. *Report forwarded to FLAG. Blocked gullies on Smithy Lane and A6 reported to LCC.*
2. **Ainspool Lane Flooding (East)** – Awaiting permission to install penstock solution to hold flood water back from entering Ainspool Lane and A586. Meeting with landowner on 24 Mar 2025 explained everything about the ‘experimental’ approach to solving this problem by checking if there is a significant adverse upstream effect, in which case the penstock can be reopened immediately. No response to date. *Further email sent to landowner 3 June 2025 for update.*
3. **New Flood Route Ainspool Lane (West)** – Reported to the last MSfW meeting where the necessary action is to repair or restore the flap valve to the road drainage pipe entering the Ainspool Brook at the NW corner of the Bridge. *Not yet checked the outfall into the watercourse.*
4. **Ainspool Field** – CFLAG to monitor whenever there is daylight flooding to identify location of rising water.
5. **Garstang Barrage Repair** – We understand that the repair to the East Gate hinge could now be completed before the next flood season. Is there a date programmed? *EA to report to Flood Forum*
6. **Upper and Mid Wyre NFM Project** – is underway with one component for the Ainspool Sub-Catchment that will benefit Churchtown by slowing down storm flows to provide Churchtown with a greater margin of safety from flooding.

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. No report received.

Great Ecclestone FLAG.

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

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS

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

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

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

Pilling FLAG

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

Preesall FLAG

PL attended FLAG meeting on 19 May 2025.

Issues raised:

Green Lane Watercourse:

The FLAG raised a query about the condition of the culverts underneath Green Lane – whether they had been recently checked and are running free. *GK will ask his maintenance team to take a look next time they are in the area.*

Lancaster Road culvert:

The FLAG remains concerned about the differing water levels either side of the culvert and have asked that the MSfW Group investigate this. *PL to arrange visit to investigate*

ACTION - PL

Sandy Lane crossing:

An update on connecting the new watercourse on the west side of Sandy Lane to the east side is requested; *PL said that he would investigate this and report to the next Flood Forum.*

ACTION – PL

Sunnyside Terrace watercourse:

It was reported that a number of trees had been uprooted on the embankment of the watercourse behind Sunnyside Terrace – PL confirmed that this has been reported to the Environment Agency in case the watercourse was blocked, or flow was restricted. GK confirmed that the EA have visited the site but noted that there is too much debris for them to remove. Responsibility for removing the trees resides with the landowner – *landowner to be requested to remove debris and allow watercourse to flow.*

Combined sewer overflow by 1 Sunnyside Terrace:

The FLAG has asked for details of a chamber in the rear garden of 1 Sunnyside Terrace – *this is shown on UU records as a CSO; query to be forwarded to UU for details.*

St Michaels FLAG

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

Thornton FLAG

No meeting held in advance of the MSfW meeting. No report received.

8. Updates to Issues & Actions Log:

The updated Issues & Actions log, 28 May 2025, was considered and updated. The new log, 04 June 2025, accompanies these minutes. Most issues have been discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. New issues:

PL reported that residents of Sea Dyke Cottages, Knott End have reported damage to the toe beams on the river defences. This has been inspected by EA and WBC but not considered to be concerning. EA to monitor.

10. Any Other Business:

GK reported that the EA are planning to install a camera on the screws at Stanah pumping station this summer. He agreed that the camera will be made public access so that residents can view it on line.

GK reported that the main culvert under Garstang Cricket Club has been cleaned. He asked whether the works to clean the private culvert connecting to it from High Street had been completed. PL confirmed that LCC had undertaken repair and cleaning works to the culvert; he added that the manhole outside no 2 High Street did not have a sump on it and was susceptible to silting up. He suggested that LCC check that this remained clear and operating correctly. MC to check this.

ACTION - LCC (Highways)

11. Next Meeting:

21 August 2025, 10am start - in person at Wyre Civic Centre and via Teams
- Details to follow.

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