



Wyre Making Space for Water meeting
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 21 August 2025

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Carl Green (CG)	Assistant Director of Engineering, Wyre Council
Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Lewis Dobson (LD)	Engineering Apprentice, Wyre Council
Ryan Hirstwood (RH)	Engineering Apprentice, Wyre Council
Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Lorah Cheyne (LC)	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County 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

Apologies:

Ben Rogers	Lancashire County Council
Curtis Thompson	United Utilities
Mike Roddy	United Utilities
Phil Wylie	United Utilities
Rebecca Williams	United Utilities
Tom Myerscough (TM)	General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust

1. Introduction:

PL welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2025 were agreed.

Matters arising:

Formation of water storage ponds by Wyre Rivers Trust:

PL informed the Group that he had had a recent meeting with TM to discuss the two proposed schemes at Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall and Millfield School, Thornton.

The scheme at Sunnyside Terrace is now in doubt as the landowner has placed restrictions on allowing his land to be used to locate the ponds. PL confirmed that he has spoken with the adjacent landowner as a fall-back option, but this had been refused. The scheme is currently on hold until such time a location can be agreed.

The scheme at Millfield School is progressing and a revised proposal showing improved maintenance access has been drawn up. TM would be making contact with the EA to progress the works.

Stanah pumping station:

GK confirmed that there is no update on the transfer of the pumping station from Wyre Council to the EA and this remains with the EA Legal Team.

GK reported that the EA have sourced a camera to monitor the screws at Stanah. He was unable to confirm when this might be installed, but hopefully before winter. He confirmed that the camera would be available to remotely view online.

PL reported that the specialist glass panel, broken when a brick was thrown through the building skylight, has now been replaced and the building secured.

GK confirmed that pump 1 has been inspected and is now back online. It is considered that glass from the broken skylight had fallen into the gearbox putting the pump offline while it was checked.

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 remains on the maintenance schedule for 2025 list and would be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

Inskip flooding:

PL confirmed that no obvious defects had been found following the flooding in 2023 and that no actions are planned for this area at this time. 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:

MD confirmed that no further investigation is planned.

PL reported that he had met with the maintenance manager for Willowgrove Park and that the watercourse sections adjacent to the park have now been cleaned and desilted. PL has also been in contact with the owners of the length of watercourse joining this section to the main river leading to Wheel Foot watercourse and is agreeing works to have this section dug out and restored this year.

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. Works on the downstream section of the watercourse are to be undertaken by the landowner and were incomplete at the time of the last inspection. PL confirmed that the chamber within the property has now been piped to reduce the risk of the chamber surcharging and flooding the property inside of the flood gates.

Officers from Wyre Council and UU have met to carry out a walkthrough of the local foul drainage to try and establish where the excess water is originating – it was noted that the length of sewer in question is very short and that flows in and out of the system are restricted by pumping stations located at each end - this means that the source of the excess water is local to the flooded area. Investigation will continue to locate the source.

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

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. He added that the roof of building has been replaced, and a new electric meter installed. Additionally, the station has been inspected with a view to replacing the pumps and electrical system.

Action - PL

Garstang flood barrier:

GK reiterated that plans to repair the east gate remain on hold until summer 2025.

Royles Brook pumping station:

PL reported that, following concerns 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 Royles Brook PS, works have been carried out by Wyre Council on the station. The pumping station has been fully desilted and cleared of debris and the flap valve cleaned and rehung. It was noted that silt levels both upstream and downstream were very high and works are planned by Wyre Council to desilt the full length of the ordinary watercourse later this year.

GK confirmed that he had inspected the main river section of the watercourse, downstream of the pumping station and that some desilting works are planned for September / October, particularly around the intersection with the ordinary watercourse. He confirmed that he had inspected the watercourse downstream of the culvert, on Woodland Ave, and this was in good condition.

GK also noted that there was a large obstruction in the watercourse close to the screen by Seniors and said that this would be removed in the next day or two.

White Carr Lane, Thornton flooding:

GK confirmed that the desilting works planned for 1 September are still on track to be done. MC added that LCC (Highways) have extended the road closure on White Carr Lane and would be undertaking their desilting of the culverts at the same time.

PL reported that he had not recent any further correspondence from McDermott Homes about the costs to revise the hydrobrake installation on Meadow Gate but would chase this with them before the Flood Forum.

GK queried whether the fence at the junction with Bescot Way and White Carr Lane needed to be in place. The fence requires repair and is also a barrier for access to the watercourse by the EA. MC considered that the fence needed to remain in place for safety but considered that it did not have to be as high as currently.

CG asked whether there had been any confirmation from National Highways as to whether the culvert under Amounderness Way has been recently cleaned. PL was unaware of this but would chase with NH before the Flood Forum.

Action - PL

Foot bridge at Catterall flood basin, St Michaels:

GK confirmed that the works are now fully completed.

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 – to be discussed at the Flood Forum,

Hollins Lane, Forton

PL reported that officers from Wyre Council have been looking at flooding issues associated with the MCI Development. Initial reports were that the developer had misconnected the surface water drainage, but this appears to be incorrect. The inspection revealed that the connections appear to be correct but that there is a leakage in the vicinity of the hydrobrake which is causing flooding to neighbouring properties. Further investigation is required to resolve the issue.

MD confirmed that LCC have been looking at the condition of the downstream pipe and had located two collapses of the pipe that required work. Despite the issues the pipe does appear to be discharging water albeit very slowly.

4. Updates from Members:

Wyre Council:

- PL noted that there had been little correspondence on flooding issues due to the continued 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.

Environment Agency:

GK confirmed the following works have been completed

- South of Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels, repair to embankment slippage undertaken.
- The embankment on the River Wyre, just upstream of Inskip Brook has been repaired.
- The embankment at Rivermede, St Michaels has been repaired.
- The two river outfalls at Yoad Pool and Wild Boar, Churchtown are planned to be completed this September
- The collapse of the embankment at White Brook has been repaired.
- Watercourse maintenance works by the EA internal workforce are on schedule while works by the external contractor has just started. PL asked whether there are any plans to desilt Hillylaid Pool, particularly close to the outfall from 104 School Road – GK replied that parts of the watercourse, close to Breedy Butts has been desilted and that he is interested in doing some works close to the outfall but requires a contractor capable of working in this area from a floating platform due to the confines of the watercourse. PL to forward details of the contractor that Wyre Council use for such works.

DA informed the meeting that works are planned to place a new trash screen on Royles Brook, Heys Street adjacent to D-Fit. Works are planned to be undertaken when the adjacent school is closed, to allow access – this is likely to be summer 2026.

PL reported that he had received a complaint from a local resident about the condition of Burn Drain, Thornton that the watercourse is heavily overgrown and not flowing. GK replied that the watercourse is maintained annually and is scheduled to be maintained in the current works cycle.

LCC Highway Authority:

MC reported that the cyclic clearing of highway gullies (approximately 8,900 gullies in Wyre) has been completed.

The new cyclic policy of cleaning gullies in the county is planned to start in September – this involves the regular cleaning of all road gullies at known hot spots within Wyre as well as those cleaned as part of the cyclic programme.

PL reported that flooding of Park Lane, Preesall is continuing despite recent repairs. He said that LCC had undertaken previous repairs to the damaged pipe (dug through by utilities provider) but had noted that the connecting pipes needed cleaning to allow them to flow properly – it is assumed that this work was not completed at that time. MC replied that LCC had recently undertaken some works in the area due to flooding but would chase this with his works team.

Action - LCC (Highways)

MC confirmed that LCC have extended the road closure on White Carr Lane, Thornton to allow them to undertake clearing of culverts to coincide with the works planned by the EA to desilt Royles Brook from 1 September.

LCC (Flood Risk Management):

LC and MD reported that there were no outstanding issues not previously discussed.

CG asked whether money could be available through the Quick Wins scheme or Local Levy for desilting works on Royles Brook or for mapping of surface water outfalls within Wyre. LC said money may be available and any application through the schemes should be made by Monday 15 September.

CG reported that Wyre Council are looking at forming a Coastal Hub looking at resolving water management issues. This is currently being discussed with partner agencies.

United Utilities:

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

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)
- The following reports were received from FLAGS.

Churchtown FLAG.

At the CFLAG Meeting of 7 Aug 25, the following points were raised for the MSfW Meeting

1. Garstang Barrage Repair

This is now the overriding concern for Churchtown and St Michaels after we learned that the repair to the East Gate hinge at Garstang on-line barrage, which failed in 2022, is delayed for another year (2026).

Twice between 2018 and 2022 a gate has completely failed long term within its design life; once with a broken main piston and now the broken hinge. With an easier, lower cost and quicker solution suggested by the CFLAG available, it is frustrating that the evidence from recent years highlights the chance of history repeating itself on the West Gate within the design life.

If this does happen before the East Gate is repaired, the integrity of the whole 1980's Flood Defence Scheme is threatened by a complete lack of control of the River Wyre at Garstang. The only remaining defence would be the relief that can be provided by the off-line Catterall Barrage alone.

2. Flood Events

Nothing in last quarter.

3. Ainspool Lane Flooding (East of Ainspool Brook)

Solution devised by CFLAG requires work inside and an LCC manhole in the A586 footpath and manual operation by Flood Wardens when Ainspool Lane and A586 is about to be flooded, typically three times per year. Landowner of upstream Green Wood refusing to give permission to try this low-cost solution even on an experimental basis.

4. New Flood Route into Ainspool Lane (from West of Ainspool Brook)

Reported to the MSfW group already, where the cause is a missing or broken NRV where the surface water from the west side discharges from the nearby manhole into the Brook to the NW of the Bridge.

5. Ainspool Field

CFLAG to monitor whenever there is daylight flooding to identify location of rising water.

6. Upper and Mid Wyre NFM Project

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.

7. CJ Jetz Final Report – Following the last phase of investigation and repairs by JC Jetz for LCC, there has been a marked improvement of the performance of the pipe systems around the A6/A586 junction. It would be useful to know where the improved performance of the drainage system was due to clearing of blockages, repairs and changes to the pipe system. For instance, the 450mm diameter outfall to the NW of the River Wyre Bridge is now turned into the downstream flow direction and this seems to

have had a big effect. If the same could be done to the two adjacent pipes outfalling into the SW of the bridge behind the Memorial Hall, this could ensure that the unblocking of the pipeline from the other side of the A6 and Smithy Lane will be sustained. The final report will prove the lines of the various pipes that have been investigated piecemeal before this latest round of surveys in 2024.

Cleveleys FLAG.

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

Garstang FLAG

Issues raised by the FLAG

- Hopefully the EA will give us an update in relation to the latest with regards to the repairs/plans concerning the Garstang Flood gates?
- Also, in the light of the recent drowning tragedy in the vicinity of the flood gates at Garstang, a few have mentioned to me that while there are some existing warning signs in place – are these in fact adequate? Should they in fact be more conspicuous and numerous? Although there have not been as many young people swimming in the Wyre in this area since the incident, there have been some observed continuing to do so.
- Rachel Crompton (LCC) has written an article for the September [Focus Magazine](#) regarding hard surface drainage. It is worth those officers dealing with drainage, whatever the source, consider Rachel's words and ensure they are reflected in Planning and Development.

GK reported that UU have installed temporary fencing on land close to the Garstang flood gates to prevent youths from jumping off the bridge into the river. It was noted that in the most recent reports of injury, the barriers had been removed to allow access. GK added that the EA are planning to upgrade the fencing in this area to better prevent access.

Great Ecclestone FLAG.

Issues raised by the FLAG

- Concern has been raised about the potential increase in surface flooding from the new houses on Copp Lane
- The issues with the water treatment plant and the new development
- The village now have community radios for flooding

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS

Issues raised by the FLAG

- The FLAG reports some success in identifying water leaks in this dry weather and having them addressed.
- Sower Carr Lane – an update is requested from LCC (Highways) on the locating of buried road gullies and progress with flood issues on that road. Still an issue towards Carr Lane (A588).

- An update is requested from UU on drinking water low pressure issues reported by residents at times. It is rumoured that the Lodge site off Salt Marsh Lane has tapped into the mains supply causing the issues – can UU confirm the cause of the issue?
- FLAG recently contacted Wyre Council (Environmental Health) about an issue with sewage along Ghants Lane and the public right of way behind (not on mains sewage) - so far no reply has been received. Noted that a significant number of additional lodges are being sited here and there are concerns that this will add to mains water low pressure and sewage issues? Maybe UU need to update systems along these roads together with gulley system?

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 18 August 2025.

Issues raised by the FLAG

- Watercourse rear of Sunnyside Terrace
Concerns are raised about a number of fallen trees in the watercourse. There are some tree trunks still in the dyke although pushed to one side. No action noticed regarding remaining perilous trees apart from plot owner putting his house up for sale. Smaller tree stump and branches still simply dumped up against fencing of no.2 Sunnyside Terrace.
- Green Lane watercourse
Recent hot weather results in very high overgrowth along the watercourse. Is this scheduled for clearing? Water levels are very low resulting in more room for this growth.

PL reported that he had asked Preesall FLAG to check their supply of sandbags before the onset of winter so that any damaged ones can be replaced in advance of any flooding issues.

PL reported that the FLAG had brought up the issue of a blocked slot channel on Sandy Lane. This had been cleaned by LCC (Highways) earlier in the year but was now in need of cleaning again. MC asked that this was put onto the Love Clean Street app, and it would be inspected. PL agreed to put this on the system.

Action - PL

GK agreed to have the maintenance team check the watercourse behind Sunnyside Terrace to ensure that there are no blockages from the tree stumps.

GK reported that the maintenance contractor would be starting watercourse maintenance Over Wyre in the coming week, starting at Grange Pool but including works to Green Lane watercourse.

St. Michaels FLAG

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

Thornton FLAG

Issues raised by the FLAG

- There is a need to desilt Royles Brook watercourse downstream of the pumping station in order to restore gravity flow. The pumping station has now become totally reliant on electric pumping in order to move any water through.

PL reported that residents of White Carr Lane have requested a supply of sandbags to help with future flooding events. These are to be supplied in the next few weeks.

6. Updates to Issues & Actions Log:

The updated Issues & Actions log, 04 June 2025, was considered and updated. The new log, 01 September 2025, accompanies these minutes. Most issues have been discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. New issues:

GK reported that he is looking at an application to raise land levels adjacent to Thistleton Brook watercourse, Little Eccleston to form farming land. It was noted that this area is located within Fylde Council boundaries. PL noted that this watercourse is planned for a large number of properties planned for Wyre Council.

8. Any Other Business:

None was reported.

9. Next Meeting:

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

Microsoft Teams

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