



Wyre Making Space for Water meeting
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 19 February 2026

PRESENT:

Civic Centre:

Carl Green (CG)	Assistant Director of Engineering, Wyre Council
Paul Long (PL)	Senior Engineer, Wyre Council
Ryan Hirstwood (RH)	Engineering Apprentice, Wyre Council
Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Martyn Dugdale (MD)	Assistant Flood Risk Engineer, Lancashire County Council
Lorah Cheyne (LC)	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council
Pippa Hodgkins (PH)	Flood & Coastal Risk Management Advisor, Environment Agency
Graeme Kellott (GK)	Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency
Daniel Archer (DA)	Asset Performance Team, Environment Agency

Apologies:

Andrea Dennison	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Lewis Dobson	Engineering Apprentice, Wyre Council
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Tom Myerscough (TM)	General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust
Mike Roddy	Network Performance Technician, United Utilities

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 27 November 2025 were agreed.

Matters arising:

Formation of water storage ponds by Wyre Rivers Trust (WRT):

PL informed the Group that TM has provided an update on the two wetland schemes at Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall and adjacent to Millfield School, Thornton. The Preesall scheme remains in doubt as the landowner has placed restrictions on allowing his land to be used to locate the ponds as he wishes to develop the land himself. The landowner has proposed a joint planning application with WRT. TM is continuing to discuss the scheme with the landowner but for now the scheme remains on hold until such time that it can be agreed.

The scheme at Millfield School is also in some doubt, as LCC are now proposing to expand the school and to use the land itself.

Stanah pumping station:

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

CG noted that there is a Portfolio Holder report being considered soon to confirm the decision to hand over the operation of the pumping station to the EA.

GK confirmed that the installation of a camera to monitor the screws at Stanah is still pending but it is expected that this this will be in place before the next Flood Forum. He confirmed that a camera would be provided for Wyre Council to install on Royles Brook and this would also be available to view online.

RH reported that the electrical meter had been changed at Stanah on the previous Friday.

GK confirmed that there remained an issue with the soft-start function of the pump 1 and the pump was currently unavailable. A new replacement fuse is required to resolve the fault and was expected to arrive in the next few weeks. Pump 2 remains fully operational.

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 and that he is looking for an alternate contractor to undertake to works.

Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston:

MD confirmed that the case still resides with LCC Legal Team and there is no update on this matter. The issue remains who is responsible for the retaining wall and flap valves opposite Almonds Farm which allow flood water to drain off the highway and into the fields.

GK confirmed that the EA undertook emergency works following the flooding in 2015 to resolve flooding issues on the road but noted that LCC (Highways) is responsible for the road and local residents are responsible for the fields.

PL noted that the main flooding issue on Moss Side Lane was flooding of the road caused by the overtopping of Whites Brook watercourse. This makes the road impassable and cuts off several properties for days at a time.

GK noted that there have been no reported issues of flooding since 2019 and this was limited to flooding of out buildings.

CG said that the main issue in this area was flooding to the A586 through the headwall of Whites Brook watercourse and this needed to be monitored to ensure that the main highway remains open and safe to use.

Derby Crescent, Inskip:

PL reported that he had spoken with UU and they are looking at improvement works to the sewage pumping station to improve flow rates. This is a specific UU issue, and no further action is necessary from the MSfW Group.

Stricklands Lane, Stalmine:

PL reported that there have been no further flooding incidents on Stricklands Lane. The proposed works to daylight the culvert to the east of Glenelg have not yet been undertaken by the landowner, but this is unlikely to cause an issue to the adjacent property or to the highway. No further action is required.

PL noted that, despite prolonged heavy rainfall at times, there did not appear to be any surcharging of the mains sewer on Stricklands Lane, Carr End Lane or Carr Lane for over a year and he queried whether works had been undertaken to reduce flows through the pumping stations to resolve flooding. As there was no-one from UU present at the meeting, he would raise this with them direct.

Action - PL

Norman Close, Thornton:

PL reported that he had spoken with the maintenance team from Morrisons about the cleaning of the full length of the watercourse adjacent to the store. They had reported that a quotation for the work had been received but was considered too high. They are looking at alternate contractors to undertake the works. PL will continue to monitor the site and liaise with Morrisons on any works.

Action - PL

Springfield pumping station:

PL confirmed that he has previously been in contact with Haven Holidays, owners of Cala Gran Holiday Park, regarding the possibility of them taking over the operation and maintenance of the station. The Grounds Manager has agreed to discuss this further with their pumping contractor and National Manager and to report back soon. There was no further update on this issue.

Action - PL

Garstang flood barrier:

GK confirmed that works to repair the east gate of the barrier remain on course to begin in June 2026.

White Carr Lane, Thornton flooding:

PL confirmed that Wyre Council have provided residents with sandbags and barriers in case of any future flooding; these were being stored at residents' properties.

PL reported that he had been in contact with McDermott Homes about the costs to revise the hydrobrake installation on Meadow Gate, but this remained outstanding still. He agreed to chase this further before the Flood Forum.

Action - PL

MC confirmed that the fence at the junction of White Carr Lane and Warren Drive has been repaired. He added that LCC had not undertaken the work, and it was presumed that the developer of the site had undertaken the work.

MC confirmed that the culvert under Norcross Lane had been inspected; he noted that works had been recently undertaken (presumably by the EA) and no further action was necessary.

GK confirmed that further works are required on Warren Drive to fully complete the desilting works. An application has been made for a further road closure and works are expected to be completed in April 2026.

PL reported that he had met with Highways England to discuss the cleaning of culverts under the A585 Amounderness Way. A brief inspection of the culverts at New Lane and Amounderness Road West confirmed that works were required, and HE agreed to clear these. PL to liaise with HE and ensure works are completed as soon as possible.

Action - PL

Hollins Lane, Forton

PL reported that officers from Wyre Council had dug down in the private garden adjacent to the site and located a misconnected joint in the culverted watercourse which was leaking out water. It is proposed that an access chamber is placed over the misconnection to prevent the leak and to allow access both upstream and downstream of the fault. PL to liaise with MCI Developments to stop the flow from their site to allow the works to go ahead.

Action - PL

4. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS:

Wyre Council:

- PL said that he had received a number of complaints from FLAG members about blocked gullies. It had been noted that these had been reported on the Love Clean Streets app and marked as complete when no work had seemingly been undertaken. MC replied that this is a quirk of the LCS app that completes work when it is added to the LCC work programme. He added that they would be cleaned as reported although they would be a delay between when the app noted the work complete and when the works were undertaken.

- PL added that he had reported a number of blocked gullies in Hambleton direct to LCC and these too appeared to be outstanding. MC replied that he was aware of these and said that these would be completed at the earliest opportunity.
- PL noted that there has been significant prolonged and heavy rainfall over the last few weeks, but despite this there have been no further reports of any flooding in the borough
- CG informed the meeting that Wyre Council is working on the Morecambe Bay Strategy that seeks to tie in coastal issues and drainage of the hinterland into the Bay. He said that the council is working with local farmers to look at drainage issues, with the EA as part of the Fleetwood and Hambleton Flood Defence schemes and is looking at nature-based solutions to issues around the Bay. Currently the group is looking to identify the main issues and to seek solutions with partner agencies in the longer term.

PH said that she is currently looking at identifying all the nature-based projects that are going on with Lancashire and would be interested in discussing the strategy further. CG replied that there are a number of such schemes within Wyre, including works being undertaken by WRT.

- PL noted that UU are planning to survey Copse Brook watercourse as part of their plans to replace the rising main from the Fleetwood wastewater treatment works. UU have sought a licence from the EA to undertake the works, but this was still outstanding. PH confirmed that she had spoken with UU and would chase this up to ensure the works could go ahead.

Environment Agency:

- GK confirmed that the EA have been removing lots of trees that have fallen in watercourses to reduce the risk of blockages. He added that there is a large tree on the highway bridge near Scorton that needs to be removed.
- GK reported that the EA are looking to inspect the culvert under Fleetwood Road North. He added that the EA have not inspected this for a while and noted that watercourse levels upstream appear to be higher than expected. The EA need to contact Tesco to get access to the culvert. PL agreed that upstream levels did appear to be high but doubted whether this was caused by an obstruction in the culvert. CG suggested that the water levels were taken downstream of the culvert and compared to those upstream to determine whether there is any significant difference. GK to arrange for this to be undertaken.
- GK asked whether the land opposite The River Wyre Hotel had been passed back to Wyre Council after the bypass construction works. This land had recently been cleared of fly tipping but appears to have a vehicle compound on it. The EA are concerned that the works would restrict access to Main Dyke and wish to contact the contractor for further information. CG confirmed that UU are undertaking works to their pumping station in this area and passed on contact details to GK.
- GK reiterated that the works to the east gate on Garstang barrage remain on track to be undertaken this summer.

- The maintenance works for 2026/7 are currently being priced up and the programme would be produced soon. GK asked whether Wyre Council wanted a copy off the programme; PL replied that it would be useful to share this with the Flood Forum so that everyone was aware of the works being undertaken by the EA and could be reassured that works were being planned.
- GK confirmed that further desilting works are planned for White Carr Lane in the next few weeks to complete the full length of the watercourse. PL confirmed that the majority of works agreed with the residents on White Carr Lane have either been completed or were in the process of being done.

LCC Highway Authority:

MC reported the following works.

- Works have continued to clean out the highway drains reported on the Love Clean Streets app. A gulley wagon is currently being employed two or three days each week specifically to deal with reported blocked gullies. MC noted the additional gullies in Hambleton that had been recently reported by PL and said that these would be addressed.
- A survey of the highway drainage on Park Lane, Preesall has just been undertaken to determine the cause of the flooding of the road. The connecting pipes appear to be heavily restricted by tree roots and need to be cleared. LCC are awaiting quotes to undertake the works and will carry out repairs on the near future.
- Investigative works have been undertaken on Hall Gate Lane, Preesall where water is running down the hill. MC said that he was not aware of the specifics but would find out and report back to the Group.

PL reported that he and Hambleton FLAG had checked the highway drainage on Kiln Lane following recent flooding of the road. The drainage appears to be running well to the watercourse north of the road, but the watercourse would benefit from clearing over approximately 20m of its length to allow the water to freely flow. This has been discussed with the landowner who has agreed to clear the watercourse once the ground adjacent to it has dried sufficiently for tracked vehicles to access.

GK noted that Rawcliffe Road, St Michaels is still flooding; it is thought that this is discharging from a highway drain due to a flap valve not sealing properly. MC said that he would get someone to check this.

Action - LCC (Highways)

LCC (Flood Risk Management):

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

United Utilities:

There was no representative from UU present at the meeting, and no report had been received.

5. ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGS:

PL reported that he had met up with Preesall and Hambleton FLAGS and received comments from Churchtown, Thornton and St.Michaels FLAGS on flooding issues

PL noted that the Issues and Action log had been updated to version 2026-02-16 to reflect recent works and additional requests for actions. These items were reviewed individually later in the meeting.

The following reports were received from FLAGS.

Churchtown FLAG.

At the CFLAG Meeting of on 3 Feb 26, the following points were raised for the MSfW Meeting

1. **Garstang Barrage Repair:**

Again, the CFLAG sought confirmation of the completion date of this vital repair to the East Gate, after four years exposed to the risk of any failure of the identical West Gate, when the only backup would be what the Catterall off-line barrier could alone provide. *As mentioned above, the works remain on track to begin in June 2026.*

2. **Flood Events:**

Several flood events in Smithy Lane, relieved by lifting the sewer manhole cover, occurring after heavy rain but regardless of the river level at the time. *LCC have previously cleaned the highway gullies on Smithy Lane (Old A6) but would take another look to ensure that they are clear.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

3. **Ainspool Lane Flooding (East of Ainspool Brook)** – Whilst the Landowner of upstream Green Wood refuses to give permission to try the suggested low-cost solution of a gate valve in the manhole in the footpath of the A 586, a stand-by pump has to be set up and operated whenever Ainspool Lane and the A586 starts to flood, arriving from the last gully before the Ainspool Lane entrance which has a level 10.35 AOD. The actual water level in Green Wood is still quite low and unnoticed when this happens, but every time it rises above 10.35 m AOD, pumping is needed.

4. **Flap Valve at Ainspool Bridge** - Reported to the MSfW group several times, where water from the Brook was coming back up the outfall and lifting the manhole lid to the NW of the bridge, indicating that the flap valve was not working. Difficult to access as it is close beside the bridge. *LCC have met with FLAG representative to inspect valve.*

5. **Ainspool Field** – CFLAG continue to monitor whenever there is daylight flooding to identify location of rising water.

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. Will benefit the Ainspool situation.

7. **CJ Jetz Final Report** – The second of two emails entitled Works A6/A586, sent to RMW by Paul Long on 25 Sept 2025 has one zip file that seems to contain the information needed to know exactly what was done around Oct/Nov of 2024. This was

an investigation for LCC of surface water lines followed by details of some repair work, after which surface water problems in the Avenue, at the BP Garage and on Smithy Lane were all resolved. The Avenue and BP Garage remain good, but the part of that system serving Smithy Lane is not now draining the surface water away.

The zip file holds (a) a video file of internal pipe footage, (b) a Word file report extracted with great difficulty, (c) a map likely from an office plotter, shown across 6 pages and cannot be printed at home and (d) a PDF showing very detailed information that looks like it belongs to the earlier CJ Jetz reports of the section Ainspool Bridge up to the A6. The key is (c) the map. Would it be possible before the Flood Forum to produce a print of it, or a home printable file so we can link together with the map the details of work done Oct/Nov 24 described in this second CJ Jetz report. Everyone can then see where what was done and exactly where and hopefully work out what is likely to have failed again, causing the recurring flooding of Smithy Lane. *Copy of all documents unzipped and sent, as requested.*

Cleveleys FLAG.

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

Garstang FLAG.

Issues raised by the FLAG

1. The attenuation pond on the Nateby Crossing development is looking more like a lake; I seek assurance that it is draining as it was designed to perform. Following the fatality we had earlier this year with people jumping into the River Wyre, (which has going on for years I know) I can see this being an attraction. *The Developer has now connected the attenuation pond to the surface water pumping station and water levels have now dropped to 'normal'.*
2. What is the latest news regarding the Garstang Basin Gates? *Works remain on track to be undertaken from June 2026.*
3. Joe Lane, Catterall
 - sewer collapse/blockage. *UU are currently on site replacing foul sewer damaged by developer.*
 - sewage in attenuation pond due to cross-connections. *UU have written to two properties that have undertaken home improvement works and are discharging foul or dirty water to the surface water system.*

Great Ecclestone FLAG.

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

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGs

PL attended FLAG meeting on 12 February 2026.

Issues raised by the FLAG

1. Kiln Lane gullies – particularly adjacent to the Pines – resulting in flooding to road during heavy rainfall. *Reported on LCS and PL has sent email to LCC – works are still outstanding. MC replied he would get these cleaned at the earliest opportunity. PL reported that he and FLAG members have inspected the outfall from Kiln Lane to the watercourse and all is running. It was noted that the watercourse was in need of clearing and this was raised this with the landowner/ He will undertake works once the adjacent ground has dried out so as to prevent damage to the field.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

2. Market Street – large number of gullies blocked – water is running down the road to Carr Lane. *MC agreed to look into this further and undertake works as necessary.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

3. Blocked UU surface water drain from Salt Marsh Close. *PL has passed this to UU and a works order has been raised to check this and clear as necessary.*

4. Flooding to Stoney Lane (blocked gully?) *PL inspected this and confirmed that road is flooded. There is a highway gully mapped in the middle of the flood so it is assumed that this is blocked. MC to check this.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

5. Mill Lane – blocked gully outside Rachael Villa – road is flooded. *PL has reported this to LCC and they will check and clear as required.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

6. Highway drainage at junction of Sandy Lane/Church Lane discharging against the flow – any plans to rectify? *MC was not aware of this but would look into.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

7. Blocked gullies outside recreational park entrance on Church Lane. *PL confirmed that these are blocked and water is flooding onto Church Lane. MC to look into and clear as required.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

Out Rawcliffe FLAG

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

Pilling FLAG

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

Preesall FLAG

PL attended FLAG meeting on 16 February 2026.

Issues raised by the FLAG

1. The FLAG remains concerned about a number of trees on the side of the watercourse to the rear of Sunnyside Terrace which are in danger of falling and some tree trunks are

still in the watercourse. Reported that since the last meeting a number of these had fallen and subsequently removed, but there remained several more which remained at risk.

2. The slot channel on Sandy Lane remains blocked. This has been reported to LCC (Highways) but is still outstanding.

Action - LCC (Highways)

3. A vehicle has driven into the timber fence at the side of Green Lane watercourse at the bottom of Cart Gate. This requires repair.

Action - WBC

St. Michaels FLAG

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting. The FLAG sent a note of reported issues for consideration.

1. Has LCC checked all the manhole covers opposite the church? *It is assumed that this related to highway gullies and flooding to the A586 during heavy rain. It is noted that the A586 floods on this corner when the River Wyre is high as they are unable to freely discharge – this includes flooding to the roundabout at the junction with Hall Lane. UU have checked the outfall into the river and confirmed that the flap valve is working correctly.*
2. The flap valve that discharges into the River Wyre from behind The Grapes needs to be inspected / cleared to ensure that it operates correctly. It is requested that the EA confirm its condition and how they plan to maintain it in future. *The flap valve has been confirmed several times as being private and not the responsibility of the EA to maintain. MC confirmed that LCC had checked this before Christmas and it was clear and free running.*

Thornton FLAG

Issues raised by the FLAG

Royles Brook System. (inc. Calder feed)

1. When does this upgrade project start and what is the timescale? *Wyre Council is currently inspecting all pumping stations with a view to upgrading them all to modern standards. Inspections have been undertaken and a report on recommended works is expected soon.*
2. The Calder Culvert desilt is planned and Riparian connections investigated. Riparian owners need to prevent backflow of any private drains. Camera survey identified around six connections, have the residents been contacted and informed about the connections yet? *These works are on hold and now unlikely to be undertaken by Wyre Council. Works are likely to be passed back to residents to undertake – no correspondence has been sent to date. PL to write to residents to advise them of the culvert and their responsibility to maintain it.*

Action - PL

3. The pumping station pumps are the only way for water to pass through the station due to constant high levels downstream. This was still evident in a Summer drought and is believed to be due to downstream siltation holding up the level. Woodlands/Sandyforth

is the suspected area. Also evident were unusual water volumes coming into the station requiring the pump/s to run daily. *Downstream levels are lower following desilting works to Royles Brook watercourse but are higher than expected upstream of Seniors. The EA are looking for a potential blockage in the culvert under Fleetwood Road North*

Hillylaid Pool

4. Location 31DD Various branch obstructions with a tree encroaching into the dyke. Photos previously supplied. This is on New Lane just down from the rail crossing. *The EA have been made aware of this.*
5. 29 and 30 CC. Numerous obstructions which require removal. Access to the area quite poor. We had to cut back undergrowth to gain access. *The EA have been made aware of this. Work has been undertaken to clear undergrowth behind Woodland Ave.*
6. Outfall into Hillylaid Pool at the rear of 104A School Rd. Pictures previously supplied. Water only a few inches deep in the dyke with 1/3 of the culvert under silt. Area around this outfall requires desilting. *The EA have been made aware of this and are looking to arrange works with external contractors with equipment capable of accessing the watercourse in this area.*
7. 25 CC Fallen brickwork and concrete across bottom of dyke still requiring removal. Royles Brook. EA say low priority, but it will catch debris and eventually restrict. *The EA have been made aware of this.*

Woodlands / Sandyforth Ave

8. King Georges field flood scheme works really well but we have noticed the water is very slow to flow down Woodlands Avenue. This regular higher than historically level shows at the Seniors debris screen. The culvert under Fleetwood Rd North may also need checking for silt build up? *The EA have been made aware of this and plan to check the culvert under Fleetwood Road North.*
9. Location V16. Our team gained access to Royles Brook behind one of the homes which the EA (Graeme Kellott) also visited. Work is still required to clear vegetation and fallen tree branches in this area. *The EA have undertaken work to clear undergrowth behind properties on Woodland Ave.*
10. Woodlands Ave location V18. Obstruction in the dyke, branches etc. Photo supplied. *The EA have undertaken work to clear undergrowth behind properties on Woodland Ave.*
11. Location W16. Small island with reeds etc in the middle of the dyke requires clearing. *The EA have been made aware of this.*
12. Location 14X. Fallen branches across the dyke adjacent to the Sandyforth car park. *The EA have been made aware of this.*
13. We are unable to check the condition of the dyke between locations 15X and 16X as it runs behind the houses. Could you please confirm if this section has been inspected as part of the EA programme. *The EA have been made aware of this.*
14. Any update on the installation of telemetry at the D Fit camera location. As we have discovered over the years waiting for the Stanah Pumping Station to start automatically

on high levels is too late to alleviate high levels in the Hillylaid Pool and Royles Brook dykes up stream. *DA confirmed that there is a camera on the grid but there are no plans to install telemetry at this time. GK said that the EA may look to change the on/off levels to improve its operation once they take over ownership of the station.*

15. How will the Centurion Park drainage ditch be maintained as the developer is now the riparian owner and is there a plan to install a brick chamber on the east side of the culvert under the road to allow clear access for Lancashire County Council Highways Division to maintain the culvert under Fleetwood Rd North. If no prior forethought has taken place can the planning department ensure that work is undertaken to remedy this situation. *Maintenance will be the responsibility of residents and be carried out by a Maintenance Management Company.*

Stanah Area

18. Any update on the camera installation work at the Stanah Pumping Station from the EA and possible time scale for the work to be completed? *This is planned to be installed by the EA soon.*
19. During exceptionally high tides last year, the concrete tank from the screws was full and water wasn't exiting to the river. Any updates, what did the investigation find? Is there a robust system for ensuring that the PS discharge flaps don't get silted closed over the drier summer months? *No updates as yet.*

White Carr Lane

20. The surface water attenuation scheme at the Meadow Gate development is not functional. Water passes straight through the Balancing Ponds and directly into Royles Brook. The Optimum Hydro Brakes appear to be over sized and do not attenuate. Will this be put right as the Brook is already overloaded and floods out onto the lane? *The drainage system works as designed and approved at planning stage. There is an opportunity to reduce outfall rates by around 200 l/s and these are being considered with the Developer. The proposed changes are being costed by the Developer – once this is agreed then any actions will be considered.*

Wordsworth Avenue / Royles Brook School

21. Still further investigative work to undertake. *United Utilities have been unable to establish where the local surface water discharges. They have concerns that connecting their system to the pond on Royles Brook School could result in foul being discharged to the local surface water network. Currently there are no plans to resolve this issue.*

Additional Issues.

The long-standing blockage at the junction of Anchorsholme East and Royles Brook on Marsh Farm. I believe the EA were attending to this, any updates please. This could have an impact on the water levels in White Carr Lane although would restrict volumes coming into Thornton. *The EA's contractor is unable to complete this work due to access issues – the EA is considering using a private contractor with specialist plant to access the blockage.*

Victoria Road East (East of Morrisons roundabout)

The highway's north side floods the gulleys and eventually flows across the footpath and into the gardens of around six bungalows, this then flows north and into the Calder basin. The tarmac footpath is dipped at each driveway entrance allowing rainwater to leave the highway and into the adjacent gardens. LCC have confirmed the gulleys clear but has the main section been proven which takes water away to Four Lane Ends?

We did mention if it was possible to raise the footpaths just like Mark did on Fleetwood Rd North opposite Bourne News. Any proposals for this issue ? *There are no plans to raise the pavements at this time.*

There are still issues on Lawsons Road with its junction with Briar Road. We are not sure if this was as a result of the dykes being full and that the levels were not reduced prior to heavy rain on the 23 July 2023. Has there been any investigation work in the area to check for blockages. House/houses on Briar Road continue to be threatened with internal flooding. *The drainage system in this area has been inspected several times and no issues have been found.*

Can the protocol for force running the Stanah screws be improved to capture all heavy rain periods and not just those deemed to have a Met Office warning? Recent full system conditions have been after normal persistent rain and not just rain warnings. The system now seems to fill quicker and become full with less rain. Run proactively before the recent heavy rain spell. *Stanah pumping station discharges water by gravity at all times and there is no need to run the screws to reduce levels for the majority of rain events. For forecast heavy rainfall when watercourses are already full running the screws can help create volume in the network that may be beneficial. The decision whether or not to run the station will depend on the state of the watercourses, the predicted rainfall and the state of the tide.*

We are very aware of the increasing problem with siltation in both Royles Brook and Hillylaid Pool. Many silt surveys done by the EA. Did the EA do a risk assessment when they elected to cease the routine desilting programme? *This has not been discussed with the EA.*

Are the EA monitoring/measuring the consequences of not desilting?

I appear to be the only person collating data to measure the system's declining resilience?

We did some sample silt depth checks around the system in 2022 and based on an average depth of 0.6m and width of 2m came up with the following silt volumes which are taking up valuable storage capacity. This will continue to increase, at what point will the EA restore this capacity?

Approx. Silt volume of Royles Brook including the feed from Calder and Hillylaid Pool from the tee with Horsebridge = **11,934 m³**. If Springfield were to be included too then this increases to **13,794 m³**. These are approximations but give an idea as to how much impact the silt is now having on system performance and probably explains why we now appear to be less tolerant of prolonged rain periods compared to decades ago when the system was better maintained by Wyre Council.

6. UPDATES TO ISSUES & ACTIONS LOG:

The Issues & Actions log has been updated as of 16 February 2026.

Most issues had previously been discussed earlier in the MSfW meeting but PL ran through the outstanding issues and updated the Group on progress. The log is to be updated further prior to the Flood Forum.

7. NEW ISSUES:

PL reported that a local councillor has reported an issue with the surface water drainage on Shirley Heights, Poulton. Both the EA and UU have been made aware of this and have inspected an outfall into Horse Bridge Dyke. A resident has attempted to clear a blockage in the outfall, which have improved the flow a little, but further works are required.

Action - UU to remove blockage.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

No further issues were raised.

9. NEXT MEETING:

28 May 2026, 10am start - in person at Wyre Civic Centre and via Teams - Details to follow.

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 338 744 691 707 18

Passcode: 2UF66co3