



Wyre Making Space for Water meeting
Minutes of meeting held Thursday 28 May 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
Lewis Dobson (LD)	Engineering Apprentice, Wyre Council
Mark Cook (MC)	Highways Operations Manager, Lancashire County Council
Martyn Dugdale (MD)	Assistant Flood Risk Engineer, 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
Nigel Morris (NM)	Flood Risk Management, Lancashire County Council

Via Teams:

Christopher Whiteley (CW)	Wastewater Services, United Utilities
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Apologies:

Lorah Cheyne	Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council
Charlie Pass	Conservation and Engagement Officer, Wyre Rivers Trust
Andrea Dennison	Assistant Emergency Planner, Wyre Council
Rachel Crompton	Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council
Tom Myerscough (TM)	General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust
Michael Roddy (MR)	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 19 February 2026 were agreed.

Matters arising:

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

PL reported that there has been no further update on the proposal to construct a wetland area behind Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall to reduce the threat from localised surface water flooding. The scheme remains on hold 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. TM to provide an update to the Flood Forum in June.

Action - TM

Stanah pumping station:

GK confirmed that he had chased the transfer of the pumping station from Wyre Council to the EA with the EA Estates Team but there are no further updates on the issue. CG confirmed that he was not aware of any issues – the transfer has been agreed by Wyre Council Estates Team, but the legal transfer is still outstanding.

The issue with the soft-start function of screw 1 has been resolved and both and screws are fully operational.

PL noted that Thornton FLAG have asked that the new camera monitoring the screws be repositioned slightly to give a better view of the sump. GK said that this was not a problem – PL to put the FLAG in contact with GK to agree any changes to the camera positioning.

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 still remains on the maintenance schedule and that he has asked his contractor to price to undertake the works.

Norman Close, Thornton:

PL reported that he had spoken once more with the maintenance team from Morrisons about the cleaning of the full length of the watercourse adjacent to the store. They are looking at alternate contractors to undertake the works but are looking to get this completed by the end of the summer. PL noted that UU have reported issues with their attenuation tanks off San Drive not being able to discharge properly due to restrictions in the system and he will continue to monitor the site and liaise with Morrisons on any works.

Action - PL

Springfield pumping station:

PL confirmed that he had 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. There was no further update on this issue.

CG reported that he has received a quote to upgrade the station to modern standards and is looking for funding to allow the works to be undertaken.

Action - PL

Garstang flood barrier:

GK confirmed that works to repair the east gate of the barrier remain on course to begin in the next week or two. He hoped to be able to report the start of the works by the Flood Forum on 11 June.

CG asked whether any works were planned to be undertaken on the west gate at the same time - GK replied that the west gate has been inspected recently and no issues had been reported.

White Carr Lane, Thornton:

PL reported that McDermott Homes have now provided a quote to revise the hydrobrake installation on Meadow Gate; a discussion is now required to agree how any works will be funded.

PL reported that he had not yet inspected the attenuation pond on the site to confirm whether it has been cleared but would do so in the next week and report back to the Flood Forum on 11 June.

Action - PL

Hollins Lane, Forton

PL reported that officers from LCC and Wyre Council have been investigating the flooding to the rear gardens of a number of properties on Hollins Lane. Investigations have shown that the connection of the new MCI Development to the local drainage system is flawed but that the private culvert into which the site drains is in a very poor condition.

Discussions have taken place with residents and MCI Developments, and an estimate has been obtained to replace the culvert over a 100m length. Further discussions are required to agree any works and funding for those works.

Action - LCC / WBC

Blocked gullies:

PL noted that works have been undertaken to clear highway gullies in Hambleton, including Kiln Lane, Market Street and Stoney Lane. MC replied that LCC have cleared the blocked gullies reported by Hambleton FLAG and continues to strive to respond to similar reports from the public.

UU rising main, Fleetwood:

CW reported that works are continuing to replace the foul rising main in Fleetwood. He was not personally involved with the [scheme](#) so was unable to provide any further update on its progress.

Fleetwood Road North Culvert (Royles Brook):

GK reported that he has a meeting booked for next week to liaise with the Culvert Team to investigate the culvert under the road. He noted that levels in Royles Brook were notably higher on the upstream side of the culvert than the downstream and did not appear to be dropping.

Flooding to Park Lane, Preesall:

PL asked whether there was any update on the works to clear the highway drainage on Park Lane. MC confirmed that the works were completed and no further works were planned. He said that LCC (Highways) have not received any further complaints of flooding in the area. While he acknowledged that works have been undertaken to clean out some of the gully connecting pipes, PL noted that previous reports had suggested that there were extensive restrictions of the pipes by tree roots and these needed to be cleared. MC replied that LCC would respond to any further flooding incidents should they happen.

Hall Gate Lane, Preesall:

PL asked whether there was an update of the investigative works on Hall Gate Lane, Preesall where water is running down the hill. MC said that he was not aware of works but would find out and report back to the Group.

Shirley Heights, Poulton:

PL asked whether the reported blocked drain on Shirley Heights has been cleared. It was noted that the drain had been found to be private, and the landowner informed of their responsibility to clear it. CW was not aware whether this had been done yet but would check and confirm later.

Action - UU

A585 culvert cleaning:

PL reported that he had spoken with National Highways to discuss the cleaning of culverts under the A585 Amounderness Way. He confirmed that NH have had a change of personnel and he would be contacting them to ensure the clearing of the culverts has been completed.

Action - PL

4. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS:

Wyre Council:

- PL noted that there had been little or no rain since the last meeting and no new issues had been raised. Works has been undertaken to resolve issues raised in the Issues & Actions log and as updated previously in the meeting (above).
- CG informed the meeting that the works to install a rock toe to protect the existing concrete revetment, and to install new beach control rock groynes on the beach at Cleveleys and Fleetwood are now complete. Further works are planned to widen the promenade from Café Cove to Rossall Promenade later this year. The site compound on Jubilee Gardens will be removed and the park reinstated early 2027.

- CG said that Wyre Council is continuing to work on the Morecambe Bay Strategy that seeks to tie in coastal issues and drainage of the hinterland into the Bay. The group is looking to identify the main issues and draw up a strategic document and action plan. He asked that Members raise any issues they may have along the coast to forward these to him for inclusion in the strategy. He said that he would provide a full update to the upcoming Flood Forum.

Environment Agency:

- GK reported that the EA would be undertaking further works on White Carr Lane, Thornton-Cleveleys; he has agreed with residents to remove several trees that line the watercourse to improve access and allow desilting works to be undertaken. The intention is to remove the trees after the breeding season is over and to desilt the remaining section of the watercourse next summer. He noted that the land is owned by McDermott Homes and said that he would need to contact them for consent to undertake the works.
- GK confirmed that the maintenance team are currently working to maintain main river watercourses in the Borough.
- GK reported that the EA have completed a dive survey on the outfall on Broad Fleet watercourse, Pilling, to confirm the condition of the headwall. He confirmed that the headwall is not quite in alignment and extra seals are required to be fitted. He explained that the EA only have a four-week working window from 15 July to the end of August to undertake these and similar works to the outfall at Mill House Pool, although priority will be given to Broad Fleet. He added that there would be some limited desilting works in front of the outfall.
- CG asked whether there were any plans to work on the pumping station at Cockers Dyke, Preesall. GK replied that this still remains outstanding.
- DA reported that after the last storm event, approximately four weeks ago, there had been a significant volume of rack in the river which has been collecting on the trash screen by the Millenium Green, Garstang. He said that the EA are looking to remove it.
- GK reiterated that the works to the east gate on Garstang barrage remain on track to be undertaken this summer.

LCC Highway Authority:

MC reported the following works.

- The highway drainage system at Fowler Hill Lane, Forton has been cleared after reports that the land at the intersection with the A6 was badly flooded. The drainage was found to be damaged by tree roots.
- Works are in progress to clear blocked highway drainage on Stoney Lane, Forton. Again, this is caused by extensive tree root ingress and expected to take all week to clear.
- Works are also ongoing on Blackpool Road, Carleton, to clear the highway drainage system close to the crematorium.

- MC said that LCC have a meeting next week to go through highway budgets and plan works for the rest of the financial year. PL noted that several issues have been raised by the FLAGs (to be discussed later) – MC asked that these be sent through direct to him for consideration.

LCC (Flood Risk Management):

- MD reported that there were no outstanding drainage issues not previously discussed.
- MD noted that NM has been working with the In Bloom Groups in Catterall and Garstang about rainwater harvesting.

United Utilities:

- CW reported that, with the exception of the replacement of the Fleetwood sewer, there are no significant works being undertaken by UU in the Borough.
- CG noted that UU need to publish the [Drainage Water Management Plan \(DWMP\)](#)
- GK reported that operatives from the EA have noted that the bridge to the Water Treatment Plant at Churchtown is in poor condition and lots of masonry is missing. CW acknowledged this and agreed to pass on the information to the correct department.

Wyre Rivers Trust:

1. There was no representative from the Trust in the meeting, and no report had been received. CG noted that the Trust are organising a meeting on 15 June at Over Wyresdale Parish Hall to celebrate the achievements of the Wyre NFM Project. This will be a presentation by TM followed by site visits to the various project sites. All are welcome to attend.

5. ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGs:

PL reported that he had met up with Preesall FLAG 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 2026-04-02 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.

The following points were raised by Churchtown FLAG

1. Garstang Barrage Repair:

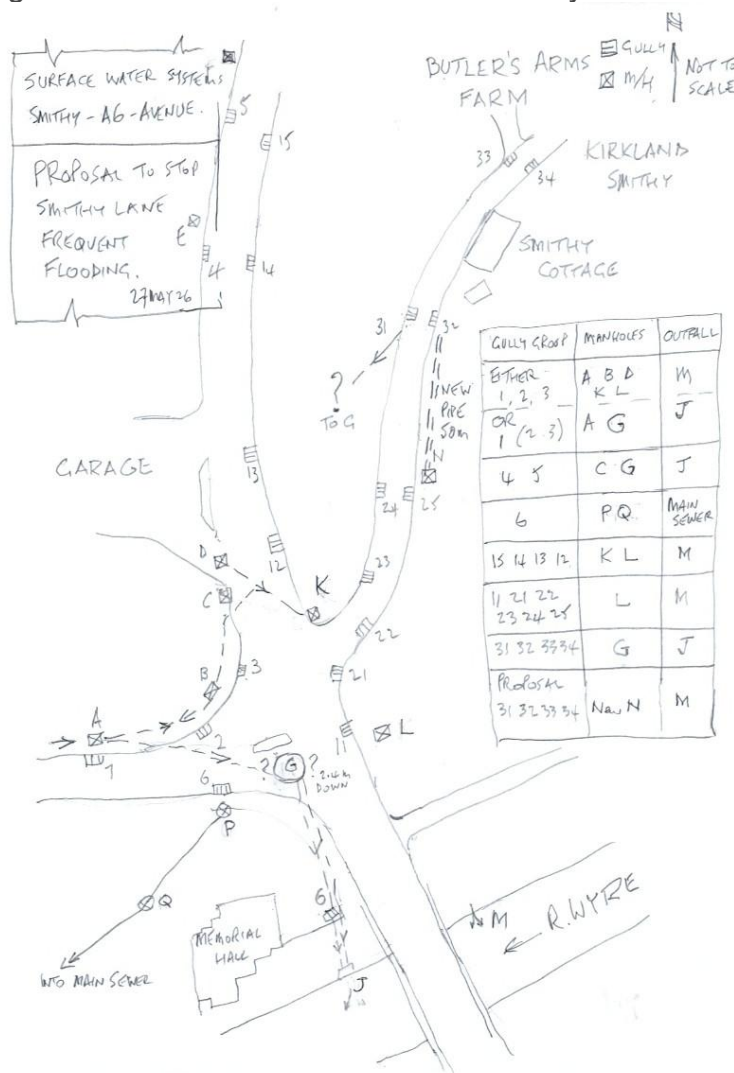
The East Gate should be repaired this summer? Since 2022 its effectiveness has been limited. If the West Gate should fail, the river would then be out of control. *The EA have confirmed that works are planned to start w/c 8 June – they will provide an update at the Flood Forum on 11 June.*

2. A6 Gullies:

Something more than gully cleaning is needed on the A6 system where investigations by JC Jetz identified some root blockages and action taken. Blockages have re-occurred as evidenced by surface water not being taken away via the gullies on the A6. Higher up the A6 one very wet area of field on the east side appears to be fed by surface water from the A6. The BP Garage drainage has however been working recently. **LCC (Highways) to check and clear gullies as required.**

3. Smithy Lane:

Churchtown FLAG suggests that a new pipe could eliminate Smithy Lane flooding by joining the last of four gullies in front of Smithy Cottages to the newer gully system near A6 junction, discharging into river north of A6 Bridge. Presently, the gully in front of Smithy Cottage follows an unknown line of a pre-1927 pipe beneath the Garstang By-pass to an outfall behind the Memorial Hall. This line has not been traced but it was cleared three years ago when jetting from the Avenue hit a junction or buried manhole somewhere beneath the A6/A586 junction and released 40-minutes worth of water and debris that discharged from the outfall behind the Memorial Hall. The Avenue surface water has drained away ever since then and the Smithy Lane surface water drained away for a while, but the resumed flooding of Smithy Lane now indicates a blockage or breakage in that connection which is over 100 years old.



This proposal would need a few dye tests first to make sure that water from Gulleys 23, 24 25 discharges at M ,or even J.

LCC have recently undertaken cleaning of the highway gullies on the north side of Smithy Lane as requested by the FLAG. MSfW Group to investigate route of highway drainage from Smithy Lane to the River Wyre with Churchtown FLAG.

4. A6 Surface Water into Smithy Lane:

This is a separate problem that needs to be addressed by clearing blockages and making repairs to the A6 system itself so that it operates as designed with appropriate frequency of gully cleaning. *LCC (Highways) to investigate.*

5. Green Wood Penstock:

The pumping out of Green Wood out of the Ainspool Lane basin has so far kept the flood water out of the houses, but it does not prevent closure of the Lane and the flooding on the A586, nor does it ease the anxiety of residents. It also comes at a cost to WBC several times each year for pumping, when a permanent solution is available as proposed by the CFLAG that could be easily installed and tested to see if there is any upstream risk to property. *Further discussion is required with the owner of Green Wood to agree installation.*

6. Flap Valve at Ainspool Bridge:

Some work has been done by LCC Highways on the road drainage outfall to the NW of Ainspool Bridge. Is this now working? *MC confirmed that this remains outstanding.*

Cleveleys FLAG.

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

Garstang FLAG.

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

Great Eccleston FLAG.

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

Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGs

Issues raised by the FLAG:

1. Highway flooding on Cutts Lane:

Flooding of the highway caused by blocked highway drains. *LCC have visited the site and confirmed that gullies are clear but unable to discharge to the watercourse due to a blockage downstream. Cllr Bowen has spoken to the landowner who confirmed that all watercourses and culverts have been cleared, but that the problem appears to be a blockage in the culvert under the highway further downstream. LCC/WBC to liaise with landowner to confirm location of the culvert and clear as required*

Action - LCC/WBC

2. Highway flooding on Mill Lane:

A further complaint has been received that the highway gulley outside Rachel Villa on Mill Lane remains blocked and is flooding the road. The resident who had initially reported it has claimed that a wagon had been to the site but had driven passed it. *MC replied that the contractor had found no blockage in the gulley but had checked and cleared a number of blocked gullies downstream. He said that LCC has responded a number of times to complaints at this location but had found nothing amiss. He agreed to look into this further*

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 18 May 2026.

Issues raised by the FLAG:

1. The slot channel on Sandy Lane remains blocked. This has been reported to LCC (Highways) but is still outstanding. *MC said that he would ensure that this was looked at.*

Action - LCC (Highways)

2. A vehicle has driven into the timber fence at the side of Green Lane watercourse at the bottom of Cart Gate. This requires repair. *PL said that this fence had been installed by Wyre Council and he would arrange for it to be repaired.*

Action - WBC

3. Concern has been raised by Cllr Rushforth that the culvert under Lancaster Road is blocked and causing flooding to Gaulters Lane. *This has been checked several times previously and no blockages found in the culvert. It has been noted that the downstream side of the culvert is heavily silted and the water depth look low, while the upstream end is regularly maintained and the water depth is significantly higher. The watercourse downstream of the culvert would benefit from dredging works. PL agreed to take a further look to see whether conditions had changed.*

Action – PL/LCC (Highways)

St. Michaels FLAG

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

1. Maintenance of the flap valve behind The Grapes:

The flap valve that discharges into the River Wyre from behind The Grapes needs to be inspected / cleared to ensure that it operates correctly. The Grapes tide flap needs checking and the silt removing. After 8 years LCC and WBC must have determined who is responsible for it. *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.*

CG asked that PL check with the Land Registry for ownership of the land on which the flap is located.

Action - PL

2. Flooding to Rawcliffe Road between Hudsons Farm and Turnover Farm:

The FLAG reports that the highway drainage system is back feeding when the river is high and flooding the length of Rawcliffe Rd. It is assumed that there is an issue with the flap valve which needs testing.

GK confirmed that the EA have removed a large willow tree that was located next to the outfall to allow access to the flap valve located on the river embankment. He said that residents are of the opinion that there is a fault with the outfall flap that is allowing water from the river onto the road, but that the flap has been inspected, and no defects had been noted. He asked that LCC (Highways) inspect the flap valve to ensure that it remains watertight when closed. MC asked that GK forward a location plan so that this could be checked.

Action - GK / MC

3. Highway flooding to Blackpool Road:

The FLAG reports that a section of Blackpool Road, adjacent to the mini roundabout to the south of St Michaels Bridge regularly floods. The flooding here has become very dangerous with vehicles contravening the keep left signs to avoid it. The FLAG claim that repair works to the tidal flap have made the flooding worse and that this is a serious danger to road users; they ask that UU fit a new river tide flap fitting this summer. *It is considered that the tidal flap is operating correctly and that flooding to the highway occurs when the river is up and the tidal flap closes. CW agreed to raise this with MR on his return from leave.*

Action - UU

Thornton FLAG

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting; however, a brief report was received ahead of the meeting.

Issues raised by the FLAG:

1. Nothing new to add since the last report – issues from February 2026 remain.
2. The FLAG remains concerned that the water level upstream of the culvert on Fleetwood Road North (Royles Brook watercourse) remains high while levels downstream are low.
3. New camera at Stanah screws needs swinging 20 degrees or so to Starboard to capture the screws, otherwise it doesn't really give us much information other than water in the sump. *GK agreed to look into this and adjust as necessary.*

6. UPDATES TO ISSUES & ACTIONS LOG:

The Issues & Actions log has been updated as of 02 April 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 following the next Flood Forum.

7. NEW ISSUES:

No new issues were raised.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business issues were raised.

9. NEXT MEETING:

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

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 336 468 279 890 88

Passcode: g8nS2eP2