



**Wyre Making Space for Water meeting**  
**Minutes of meeting held Thursday 27 August 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 |
| Lorah Cheyne (LC)   | Flood Risk Coordinator, Lancashire County Council        |
| Graeme Kellott (GK) | Asset Performance Advisor, Environment Agency            |
| Adam Costello (AC)  | Flood Risk Advisor, Flood & Coastal Risk Management, EA  |
| Nigel Morris (NM)   | Flood Risk Management, Lancashire County Council         |
| Michael Roddy (MR)  | Network Performance Engineer, United Utilities           |

**Apologies:**

|                     |                                                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Rachel Crompton     | Principal Flood Risk Officer, Lancashire County Council |
| Tom Myerscough (TM) | General Manager, Wyre Rivers Trust                      |

### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

PL welcomed all to the meeting and all introduced themselves. AC said that he would be acting in place of Pippa Hodgkins following her recent retirement.

### **2. APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were noted as above.

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

The minutes of the meeting of 28 May 2026 were agreed.

#### **Matters arising:**

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

PL reported that he had spoken with TM regarding the proposal to construct a wetland area behind Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall. The 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. TM is discussing options with Wyre Council Planning Dept for a joint planning application with the landowner, although this remains doubtful to be successful.

##### Stanah pumping station:

GK confirmed that the transfer is expected to be complete within the current financial year, although an official handover date has yet to be confirmed. PL noted that he is meeting with representatives from the EA on 17 September to go through operating procedures for the pumping station. CG added that he had discussed the handover with the Council's Estates Team and they are awaiting contact details from EA – GK agreed to forward on contact details to CG.

#### **Action - GK**

PL confirmed that the camera monitoring the screws has now been repositioned to give a better view of the sump and trash screens.

##### Intersection of Royles Brook and Anchorsholme Road East watercourse:

GK confirmed that this work remains outstanding but is planned to be cleared as part of the current maintenance cycle.

##### Norman Close, Thornton:

PL reported that he had been in contact with the maintenance team from Morrisons about the cleaning of the watercourse adjacent to the store. They continue to look for a contractor to undertake the works. PL informed them that works must be undertaken being winter otherwise enforcement action will be taken.

#### **Action - PL**

MR confirmed that UU continue to have issues with their attenuation tanks off Swan Drive not being able to discharge properly due to restrictions in the system.

#### Springfield pumping station:

PL reported that work is planned for a major upgrade to the pumping station, including renewal of the control panel and switchgear. Discussion is still ongoing with Cala Gran, as the main site affected by the pumping station, about them taking possession of the station. CG added that an inspection of the rising main will be required to confirm its condition and route - GK confirmed that he is trying to arrange an inspection.

#### **Action - GK**

#### Garstang flood barrier:

GK confirmed that the gate has been removed and works are being undertaken to repair the concrete structure inside the basin and fit new bracket. He confirmed that the works programme has been delayed slightly and the gate is now not expected to be installed until the end of October.

PL said that he had been asked whether a site visit could be arranged to view the works, particularly for Garstang and communities downstream. GK noted that much of the work is visible from the public bridge, but he is happy to arrange a visit for FLAG members if there is sufficient interest. PL said that he would put this to the FLAGs to gauge demand..

#### **Action - PL**

#### White Carr Lane, Thornton:

PL reported that an order was been raised for McDermott Homes to replace the south outlet (no.3) 355 l/s hydrobrake on the Meadow Gate development with a smaller 200 l/s unit to reduce the surface water discharge rate from the site. The works are expected to be completed in September.

PL reported that he had inspected the attenuation pond on the site and confirmed that works to clear it have yet to be undertaken. He added that he had raised concerns about this with McDermott Homes management.

#### Hollins Lane, Forton

PL updated the meeting on works to resolve the flooding to the rear gardens of residential properties on Hollins Lane. Discussions with residents have suggested that there are two 150mm pipes close to the development and it has been speculated that the surface water from the development may be connected to the wrong pipe, hence the recent flooding. PL added that he has agreed with residents for the garden to the rear of Ashdell to be excavated to show any and all drainage, so that a full and proper decision can be made as to the cause of the flooding and how best to tackle it. This investigation is planned to be undertaken before the Flood Forum, and a further report will be made then.

MD said that it would be interesting to lift a manhole cover on the upstream side of the new development to determine whether the excessive volumes are coming from the pre-existing culverted watercourse (as suspected) or from the new development. PL said that this could be checked when next on site.

#### **Action - LCC / WBC**

#### Hambleton blocked gullies:

PL noted that most works to clear blocked gullies in Hambleton have now been undertaken, including Kiln Lane, Market Street and Stoney Lane. He noted that there was still some

concern with a number of gullies on Kiln Lane which have been buried to the north side of the road. He confirmed that one has been uncovered and marked but needs to be cleared to allow it to run again. MC replied that he would arrange for a gulley wagon to visit next week to clear these – PL added that he would be available to meet the team on site to show them the locations.

**Action – MC / PL**

MR added that the UU outfall into Wardley's Creek has been inspected and both non-return valves confirmed to working correctly.

Fleetwood Road North Culvert (Royles Brook):

GK reported that he has made a bid for finance to undertake a survey of the culvert under Fleetwood Road North in the next financial year. 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 – he said that he was fairly confident that there is a blockage in the culvert but that investigative work won't be undertaken until next year.

Flooding to Park Lane, Preesall:

PL said that Preesall FLAG have asked whether the highway gullies on Park Lane at the junction with Sandy Lane, have been cleared yet. MC replied that he would have the gulley cleaning team check this next week.

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 any works having been done but would find out and report back to the Group.

A585 culvert cleaning:

PL reported that he had not yet contacted 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 continued to resolve issues raised in the Issues & Actions log and as updated previously in the meeting (above).
- Work has started to overhaul pumping stations within the borough. Work have taken place on Royles Brook pumping station to refurbish all the pumps and to install a new cabinet and control gear. Pump no.1 has been removed and refurbished; it is expected to be refitted next week, after which pumps 2 and 3 will be done. The works are expected to be completed by the end of October. Similar works are expected for New Lane 1 and New Lane 2 pumping stations – these are expected to be completed by the end of December.

- CG informed the meeting that the sea defence works 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 is to be removed and the park reinstated in 2027.

#### **Environment Agency:**

- GK reported that the gate on the outfall on Broad Fleet watercourse, Pilling has now been repaired. Work on the outfall at Mill House watercourse, Pilling is in progress.
- GK confirmed that the maintenance team are continuing to maintain main river watercourses in the Borough. Grass cutting has been completed on Royles Brook with work on weed cutting to start soon.
- Works on White Carr Lane, Thornton-Cleveleys to remove several trees that line the watercourse is expected to start soon. The intention is to remove the trees after the breeding season is over and to desilt the remaining section of the watercourse next summer.
- AC reported that the window for applications for Property Flood Resilience funding has now closed and noted that Wyre Council has made a number of bids on behalf of residents. He said that the Assurance Group would be meeting on 7 September to assess the bids and to decide who will get the allocation for the northwest. Finance will be made available in April 2027.

#### **LCC Highway Authority:**

- MC reiterated the main consensus that weather conditions had been such that few issues had been reported since the last meeting. As such LCC have been catching up on outstanding issues and routine maintenance.
- Desilting works are planned for Calder House Lane, Barnace-with-Bonds where the road floods at the junction with Garstang Road.

PL reported that he has met with Cllr Ibison regarding a flooding issue at Albert Terrace, Calder Vale – this is suspected to be a blocked or damaged culvert under the highway. He asked whether MC had made any progress on this issue. MC replied that he was aware of the issue but had not yet looked into this. MR confirmed that an issue with the foul drainage at the same location had been dealt with.

#### **Action - LCC (Highways)**

GK asked whether MC had yet looked at the highway drainage outfall on Radcliffe Road, St.Michaels. MC replied that this remained outstanding, but he would ensure that a member of his team would look into this.

#### **Action - LCC (Highways).**

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

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

#### **United Utilities:**

- MR reported that there are no flooding issues to report within Wyre.

PL asked whether UU had inspected the outfall from Blackpool Road, St.Michaels where it discharges under St.Michaels Bridge. MR reported that part of the pipe had been found to be split and would be repaired.

### **Wyre Rivers Trust:**

- There was no representative from the Trust in the meeting, and no report had been received. PL noted previous comments regarding the formation of the wetland by Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall.

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

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

PL noted that the Issues and Action log had been updated to version 2026-08-24 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. **No Flood Events** at Churchtown in the last quarter
2. **Garstang Barrage** – East Gate lifted out for repair. Can EA now advise on cause of failure, details of repairs and what steps taken to prevent future failures on either gate? *The EA confirmed that works to repair the gate are ongoing and they will provide an update at the Flood Forum on 10 September.*
3. **A6 Gullies** – Seem to be mostly blocked on approach down to A586 Junction. The BP Garage drainage however continues to work. *Details have been sent to LCC (Highways) to check and clear as necessary.*
4. **Surface Water in Smithy Lane** – CFLAG suggestion for a new pipe to link western-most gullies to those close to the A6/A586 junction that discharge into the river upstream of the Bridge. Dye test on 4 June 26 had to be abandoned due to high river level. *PL confirmed that a further inspection is planned for 7 September.*
5. **Slit Drains on the Avenue** – at the back of the footpath are blocked again. *Details have been sent to LCC (Highways) to check and clear as necessary.*
6. **Flap Valve at Ainspool Bridge** – Have LCC Highways made this repair to highway drainage outfall NW of Ainspool Bridge. No high water in Ainspool Brook yet to test this. *PL proposed to inspect this with Churchtown FLAG on 7 September, after Smithy Lane works.*
7. **Green Wood Penstock** – An experimental solution within an LCC manhole on the A586 is available, as proposed CFLAG. Low-cost solution then checked for any adverse effect. *Landowner has been contacted a number of times and has, to date, refused to allow the Wood to be used for further surface water attenuation. PL agreed to raise this issue again.*

8. ***Flood Warden System under Revision*** – The original system was set up in 2016 to deal with a Storm Desmond situation but with the building of the Kirkland Bund, we do not need two wardens for each street. The aim to knock on all doors within one hour was tested once in a near miss alert, confirming that the system worked. Now everyone knows where the sandbag boxes are located and they are no longer kept locked. The telephone tree has been superseded by WhatsApp and after 10 years some wardens have left the village. The main contacts with WBC, EA, LCC remain with the Head Warden and the Deputy, and the map of locations and responsibilities is being revised at the next CFLAG meeting.
9. ***Excellent Infrastructure for Flood Attenuation at Cross Nateby Development - Visit to the Storey / Jones Housing Development hosted by Storey's staff on 23 July***, for a group of FLAG and Council visitors to demonstrate the measures put in place to prevent any downstream flooding. The engineering is excellent and consists of two open attenuation ponds and a small area where large pipes are used, all designed to temporarily hold back runoff water from roofs, drives and roads within the 250-house development. The ponds and pipes then drain out slowly with the help of hydro-brakes and electric pumps, all designed to hold back more than the new excess run-off and more, than the amount flowing off the ground before construction. One safety observation by the CFLAG was that the fencing around the ponds and the central drainage path was quite low and would not prevent a child from climbing over into the water storage areas.
10. ***Institutional Flaw in the System*** - Ultimately the Residents are responsible for ensuring no excess flood water is discharged into the Ainspool Brook and the River Wyre than the pre-construction green-field situation. The Developers are building the system and operating it to start with, and then as the houses are occupied and the land has been finally transferred to the Residents, the chain of command will ultimately be (a) Residents – (b) Estate Management (private) who look after all public areas and the flood attenuation system – (c) NABS? (private company) who actually inspect and maintain the attenuation system – (d) United Utilities – Environment Agency. After any significant storm, Ainspool Brook is already full to capacity over its final section from Kirkland Hall to the River Wyre. Any performance failures in the chain of command (a-d) will lead directly to Churchtown being flooded, with the new Residents liable for causing it, and yet themselves not affected by it. The weakest links are the private companies, either of which could go into administration at any time. A simple chain Residents to UU would provide the assurance for Churchtown and the EA, with UU receiving and ring-fencing 'attenuation' funds via the Residents' water rates. UU with its skilled staff, equipment and a budget could step in if their framework contractor should fail, without the present expectation that the 250 Households could club together and sort out a problem that doesn't affect them.
11. ***EA Appeal for Applicants for Flood Resilience Grants*** – WBC passed on a last-minute request for householders to be considered for some new EA funding to improve their household resilience against flooding. Two residents were approached by the CFLAG and two more contacted the CFLAG following a WhatsApp post by the Kirkland Parish Council and these were passed to WBC within the 2-day deadline. We understand that those households that applied for flood damage repair and flood

resilience grants in 2015 and 2016 would also be included. The CFLAG thought that the four residents who had actively agreed for their names to be put forward should take preference over the passive 2015 and 2016 cases.

#### **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**

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

##### **1. Highway gullies awaiting cleaning -**

There remain a number of highway gullies that remain in need of clearing, including Kiln Lane, Cutts Lane and Mill Lane – the FLAG note that these are being raised repeatedly and ask that these are completed at the earliest opportunity. *MC has confirmed that a gulley wagon team will be on site in Hambleton week commencing 7 September to address all issues.*

**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 17 August 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 that this had been cleared, but a further blockage had been found that would require further investigation.*

**Action - LCC (Highways)**

2. Concern has been raised about the repeated flooding of Jubilee Garage on Lancaster Road since the installation of the pedestrian crossing. Would LCC look into this? *MC confirmed that LCC are aware of the problem and have been in contact with councillors on the matter, which has been passed to the design team to investigate. He added that he would ask the gully team to check the highway gullies in this area.*

**Action - LCC (Highways)**

3. Cllr Rushforth reiterated her concerns about the watercourse levels either side of Lancaster Road being different and the possibility that the culvert is blocked. There is concern that this may be contributing to flooding on Gaulters Lane. *PL confirmed that there are no noticeable blockages in the culvert and water levels are consistent over the length of the culvert. It has been noted that the downstream side of the culvert is heavily silted and the water depth looks 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. GK confirmed that the EA ground team do trim this length of watercourse but do not dredge it. He agreed that the team would check the culvert and photograph it on their next visit.*

**Action - EA**

4. The FLAG reported that highway flooding at the junction of Park Lane and Sandy Lane remains although not as bad as prior to the last maintenance works undertaken by LCC. Further works are required to prevent reoccurrence of the flooding. *MC agreed to look at this issue again.*
5. Concern has been raised by local residents that several watercourses north of Gaulters Lane have been filled in and the water now flows northwards rather to the south. Concerns have also been raised about the raising of local land and these have been forwarded to Wyre Council Planning. *PL agreed to look into the suspected filling of watercourses and report back to the FLAG.*

**Action - PL**

**St. Michaels FLAG**

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting. Since the last MSfW meeting the FLAG has raised a number of issues for consideration.

1. The FLAG has raised concerns about the repeated flooding of Blackpool Road by the mini roundabout opposite Hall Lane. *UU have previously inspected the outfall non return valve and confirmed that this is working correctly. As reported above, a further inspection has been made at the insistence of the FLAG, and an issue has been found with the pipe – this is to be repaired by UU.*

**Action - UU**

2. Concerns have been raised about surface water drainage plans for the development under construction on Garstang Road. The FLAG is concerned that there is no recognised drainage on the site and that the contractor will either look to discharge to the combined drains on Garstang Road or exacerbate flooding by Allotment Lane or by properties adjacent to The Grapes Hotel downstream of the site. *PL has visited the site and discussed the drainage plans with the Developer and Wyre Planning – the Developer has proposed an alternate route for the surface water drainage from that originally approved but which would be acceptable. He has been advised that a revised planning application should be submitted for approval of any changes.*

## **Thornton FLAG**

No meeting was held ahead of the MSfW meeting; however, the FLAG continues to be concerned about the lack of flow in Royles Brook watercourse downstream of the pumping station and a potential blockage to the culvert under Fleetwood Road North.

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

The Issues & Actions log has been updated as of 24 August 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:**

PL reported that UU are looking to reroute the surface water drainage from Raikes Road, Great Eccleston. Currently the drain discharges into UU's CSO into the River Wyre and they are concerned that this is affecting their discharge records as it appears as a CSO discharge rather than a surface water discharge. They are proposing to construct a separate discharge point for the surface water directly into the river.

PL reported that residents on Linnet Ave, Barton have concerns about the state of the watercourse to the south of their properties. They are claiming that a developer to the south of the watercourse is pumping silty water into the watercourse and causing it to silt up. PL confirmed that this is a private issue but has agreed to take a look at the watercourse on 7 September and contact the developer if necessary.

### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

No other business issues were raised.

### **9. NEXT MEETING:**

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

#### **Microsoft Teams**

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