

Wantage Town Council – Flood Group Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 7th October 2025

Time: 11:00 AM

Held via Teams

Present:

Cllr Iain Cameron – Mayor of Wantage and Town Councillor

Barry Gooch – Chair of the Future Flood Resilience Group

Louise Brown – Communications Officer for Wantage Town Council

1. Review of Outstanding Items

The group reviewed the previously circulated document compiled by Barry Gooch and Clive Manvell, highlighting key matters requiring clarification.

2. Group Structure & Reporting

Cllr Iain Cameron confirmed that the Flood Group would operate as a standalone group, rather than report directly to the Climate Emergency Committee.

The primary focus of the group will remain on flood preparedness and response, to ensure the group remains topic specific it will not take on other emergencies.

3. Group Leadership

Cllr Cameron expressed a preference for a non-council member to eventually lead the group but confirmed he is happy to chair the group in the interim, until the group is more established and able to select its own leader.

4. Partnership & Authority Engagement

Emphasis was placed on the importance of establishing connections with local authorities.

The group may not always be the first responder during flood events, so cooperation with relevant authorities is essential.

Example: Use of The Beacon in an emergency would require prior contact with the owning council.

5. Community Flood Plan

One of the first tasks for the group will be to develop a Community Flood Plan.

Clive Manvell has previously shared Hanney's plan, and templates are available via The Flood Hub and the National Flood Forum (NFF).

Action: Louise Brown to download and review available templates for discussion at the group's first meeting.

6. Funding Opportunities

Cllr Iain Cameron confirmed that a budget has been allocated for the Flood Group.

Should additional funding be required, this can be discussed with the Town Council.

Barry Gooch noted that external funding may also be available via the Environment Agency or private organisations such as banks. This may be worth exploring in future.

7. Equipment & Storage

Barry Gooch advised that Hanney is well-equipped for flood response, and Wantage may benefit from a similar setup.

Storage constraints were noted, and Cllr Iain Cameron asked Louise Brown to raise this with the Town Clerk to explore possible solutions.

8. Next Steps & Initial Meeting

An initial meeting of the wider group (those who expressed interest at the previous public meeting) is to be arranged.

Date agreed: Thursday 23rd October 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: The Beacon

Actions: Louise Brown to book The Beacon.

Louise Brown to circulate these meeting minutes to councillors and relevant members of the Flood Group.

Louise Brown to draft a proposed agenda for the initial meeting and send to Barry and Cllr Cameron for review and approval.

Once all agreed: Louise Brown to email those who expressed interest at the previous public meeting, inviting them to the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 12:00