



WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Council Office, The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Town Clerk: Julia Evans 01235 763459

www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Notes from Flood Group meeting held on 30th May 2025 at 2pm in the Hanney Room at The Beacon.

Councillors Present:

I Cameron (Chair), J Hannaby, K Morris, S Third and C Walters.

Others Present: B Gooch, C Lloyd, C Manvell, R Shackleton

In attendance:

Julia Evans Town Clerk
 Louise Brown Communications Officer

		ACTION
10	Apologies for abence. Judith Verdon and Jo Harvey.	
11	<p>Planning for Public Meeting The meeting was scheduled for 22nd July at 7pm. There was a discussion about discharge from the sewage works which it was felt had insufficient capacity.</p> <p>IC noted that people would come to the meeting with questions about flooding local to them and would be looking for answers. BG suggested steering clear of climate change. There was a discussion on ecology assessments at Letcombe Brook.</p> <p>IC noted that we need to highlight the problems and identify the immediate solutions. There was a discussion on solutions to the A417 flooding near Mellors.</p> <p>There was a discussion on Hanney Flood Group. JH felt that we needed people who could take action. It was noted that the flooding scenario in Wantage was different to Hanney. We need to highlight what action can be taken now.</p> <p>BG noted that an accurate flood map was required.</p> <p>IC felt that an explanation on the drainage system was required. There was a discussion on monitoring. ST felt that a summary of the essential points was required and we should not be engineering solutions at the moment.</p> <p>IC felt that we needed to be ready to deal with future issues</p>	

	<p>and we should try and identify potential flood areas. People could be asked for their experiences of local flooding.</p> <p>KM noted that we needed to communicate with the public. He is monitoring flooding and was ready to raise the alarm if flooding was predicted.</p> <p>The Letcombe Brook Project needed to be at the meeting.</p> <p>CW pointed out that the meeting was not to produce solutions and we should be careful not to raise expectations. Historic evidence was required and information on how the public can report flooding issues.</p> <p>JH noted that education and self help was crucial. People needed to know how they could help themselves. BG stated that people also needed to know where to report problems. A standard reporting format was required which could be posted on the website. CM to devise a report.</p> <p>There was a discussion on sandbags. BG noted that the point of the meeting was to get people signed up to help.</p> <p>LB to develop a campaign to promote the meeting. There was to be a poster, an item in the next newsletter, information on the website and on social media. It was suggested that a report and slides from the meeting could be sent out to other parishes. It was agreed to pay for advertising in Round & About.</p> <p>BG noted that the momentum needed to be maintained after the meeting. LB suggested that people could be encouraged to sign up at the meeting and afterwards.</p> <p>BG noted that information was required to educate people, KM stated that the Council could act as an enabler.</p> <p>There was a discussion on planning policy. The conclusion was that we could not focus on this aspect of the issue as it was outside our control.</p> <p>BG suggested that Hanney Flood group could train volunteers.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>LB</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Meeting Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) IC to facilitate the meeting. b) BG to give a presentation on the broader flooding issues. c) JH/Jane Hanna to speak about action that was taken at Harcourt Road and Humber ditch. d) CM to give a talk on flood group activities and setting up a flood group. e) A panel to be available for people to ask questions. The panel to comprise the speakers above plus Councillors, officers (see below) and Olly Glover. f) Displays to be provided on: 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Letcombe Brook - JV b. KM's powerpoint presentation c. Local geology and why there is flooding – CM d. RS – water engineer g) Refreshments to be arranged. 	Clerk
13	<p>Invitees</p> <p>Claire Mills – OCC</p> <p>John Backley – VWHDC</p> <p>Letcombe Brook officer</p> <p>Cadets and Scouting association to see how they might be able to help.</p> <p>A selection of businesses – to be determined. BG suggested Williams.</p>	
14	<p>Outcomes of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Information gathering b) List of people to help - ST suggested sending round a form. 	
15	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>LB to send out a proposed date for a virtual meeting.</p>	LB

Meeting closed at 15.55.
