

Flood Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7pm at the Beacon

Attendees:

8 Members of the Public (MOP)

Cllr Iain Cameron (IC) – Mayor of Wantage and current Chair

Cllr Keith Morris (KM) – Wantage Town Councillor

Barry Gooch (BG) – Chair of Future Flood Resilience Group (FFRG)

Colin Lloyd (CL) – Member of FFRG

Louise Brown (LB) – Communications and Events officer

Welcome & Introductions

IC welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves, stating where they live and how flooding affects them as some MOP had not attended before. It was noted that the group was officially formed at the last meeting.

IC confirmed he had contacted Chris McCarthy (Chair of Grove Parish Council) to ensure he is aware of the issues and the formation of the group. IC will continue to keep Chris updated.

IC re-emphasised that the group's purpose is to bring people together and focus on active, practical steps that can be taken during flooding events, with guidance from BG and colleagues.

While IC is happy to remain engaged, he indicated he would like to hand over chairing responsibilities going forward.

FFRG Update – Barry Gooch

BG provided an update on work completed since the last meeting:

- **Monitoring & Data**

New radar gauges are being installed; results will be shared.

Three scientific “bucket” rain gauges are already operational, and gauge data will now automatically update onto the website.

BG thanked Wantage Town Council for a recent grant towards their work.

A new dashboard has been added to the website (BG explained how to access and use it).

- **Research & Information**

A paper on modelling small catchment flooding (written by CL) has been published on the website. It explains the different flood models and their applicability.

“Notable UK Weather Events” section created, mapping storms and major weather events since 1970.

- **Mill Street**

Identified as a high flood-risk area due to excessive water being funnelled in.

A meeting was held on 11th February with relevant organisations. Issues were reviewed on site and several action points were agreed.

BG ran through these action points and expressed interest in holding a similar meeting for Cane Lane and invited the MOP's who lived on Cane Lane to share their details to assist with this.

- **Sewage Spills**

Four locations identified where sewage is entering the community rather than being directed to the sewage treatment works.

Actions from this update: BG to send full report to LB, who will distribute to the group.

Future Plans & Funding

IC proposed the idea of organising a larger event to help with recruiting more members to the group. Agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

Flood prevention measures were discussed and Hydro snakes were suggested as a preferable alternative to sandbags due to easier storage and handling.

KM confirmed he has recently trained as a Flood Warden and explained to the group what this involved.

Governance & Group Structure

IC confirmed himself and LB would need to step back from chairing and minuting the minutes and asked members if any of them would like to take on these roles.

Mike Eltham (ME) and Gideon Hammond (GH) both volunteered as possible Co-Chairs and Vicky Gardner (VG) mentioned she was unable to take on a huge role due to other commitments but was happy to put together a draft Terms of Reference document and define the roles needed within the group.

The group discussed:

Encouraging participation from other high flood-risk areas.

Publicity ideas, including highlighting raw sewage issues as a strong awareness factor.

Hosting a recorded virtual session to share online and reuse for awareness.

Using local flooding photos in social media posts.

Action: VG to draft a terms of reference and share with the group.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 14th April

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Lockinge Room

LB unable to attend this meeting but VG to take notes.

Meeting closed at 9PM