

Wantage Flood Group – Meeting Agenda and Notes

Date: Tuesday 14th April 2026

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Venue: The Beacon, Wantage

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

ACTIONS

- **[Group]** to develop list of items for funding, to share with Wantage Town Council and Grove Town Council including:
 - o Publicity
 - o Store for equipment (Wantage – sheds)
 - o Flood mitigation equipment including sandbags / hydrosnakes, etc.
 - o Insurance (Barry will share examples inc. personal indemnity and public liability)
- Update Terms of Reference based on discussion (AGM, name) **[Vicky]**
- Group set up and constitution – check wrt due diligence what is needed (set up account, insurance, etc) – the Hanneys Flood Group could help with this **[Vicky]**
- Ock Catchment Partnership grants (20/4/26) – Barry will report back and share any opportunities with the group; and will offer his support with drafting grant applications **[Barry]**
- Contact Grove Parish Council to share draft flood response plan and how to put in place. Also link with our wish list in terms of equipment, etc. **[Vicky / Matt / Gid]**
- Share primers / background info used in other meetings to inform communications planning **[Barry / Colin]**
- Share Big Green Week video and information on flood wardens **[Keith]**
- Report back from Hanneys working party and advice **[Vicky]**
- Contact Climate Officer at VoWH District Council (Kim Hall) [Barry will make an introduction]
- Work up a draft flood plan for Wantage based on Grove example **[Pip and Mel]**
- DONM: 12 May **[Vicky]** to ask Louise to help with room, etc]
- Future actions / discussions
 - o Plan for an event **[Group]** to discuss at next meeting based on work done between now and next meeting; proposal to hold around June and to link to Wantage and Grove Extravaganza]
 - o Develop a who's who contact list – ask Hanneys Group for advice **[Vicky]**

NOTES

Welcome and Introductions

Outstanding action to have Chairs from public – Wantage and surrounding areas. Gid has put up his hand as a Chair for Grove. Richard will support for Wantage.

Recap of previous discussions including Barry and Colin’s update on the work of the FFRG.

Discussion on the remit of the Group including events, communications, and having clear roles and responsibilities.

Confirmation of Group Structure

Terms of Reference agreed pending tweaks:

- “Wantage and Grove Flood Group” agreed as name for pragmatic reasons.
- Updates could be made annually or by agreement amongst the Group at our meetings. Include an AGM as part of the meeting cycle.

Related points:

- A bank account is needed for grant funding (and we’d need to track spending, etc) – Metro bank does offer this and has a branch in Newbury. NB Lloyds has a community account which the Town Council uses.
- Roles and responsibilities – tbc.
 - o For reference: FFRG – Colin is Scientific Advisor; Jackie Edwards is Finance Director, website admin, compliance officer; Barry serves as Chair.

Event Planning and Community Outreach

Possible event for schools. Colin has been approached by a primary school. (NB Jo Harvey from the Wantage Mix has also been in touch). Topics could be aligned with the curriculum - how flooding occurs (geology and hydrological cycle), what is in flood water, what you should do if there is a flood. Colin could consult with Jude at the Letcombe Brook project.

Helpful to have a bank of evidence / resources to support outreach and engagement. Barry and Colin have an overview of resources including primers and overview of the local geology.

Helpful to draw up a list of who is responsible for what and who will do what, e.g.:

- Brook obstruction – EA (needs to give permission as they are responsible for large rivers), landowners, Jude Vernon (Letcombe Brook Project)
- Gully clearances – OCC (Jenny Hannaby has been of support here)

We need to be mindful of local landowners, farmers, and be as inclusive as possible – try not to take a party line. We also need to not show houses in any videos or photos because of implications for their insurance.

Broader awareness raising ideas:

- Targeted outreach to specific areas likely to be affected by flooding (Louise and Iain have compiled a list)

- Communications. Valuable to have an overview of why group exists, our local areas, clear overview of plans, what we've been doing, and how people can get involved, a clear call to action. Join the group and / or sign up to get updates.
 - o local papers inc. Penny Post and Clarion
 - o Facebook
 - o Stall in Victoria Cross forecourt – take inspiration from the Big Green Week stall and activities. Kim Hall at the Vale is a Climate Officer – and good at outreach.

Keith is a flood warden and notes that there is a meeting happening soon where they're looking for more flood wardens. He can share more information.

Keith also writes an article on 'Just one thing to save the planet' on the Wantage Town Council site. He's also taken photos and video which have been shared with the County as a video. Louise will be using this at the Big Green Week where the Council has a booth. This could serve as inspiration for our event(s).

Flood Plan Review

Proposal was to work up generic versions for both Grove and Wantage (top level), with additional plans created for streets / areas susceptible to flooding and with specific circumstances (e.g. Mill Street, Cane Lane) Agreement to share draft plan for Grove with Grove Parish Council and to work up a version for Mill Street and Wantage for discussion next time.

Next Steps and Date of Next Meeting

- 12 May [Vicky to ask Louise to help with room, etc]