

Wantage & Grove Flood Group

Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at The Beacon, Wantage

Attendees:

Gid Hammond (GH)	Chair
Richard Cleaver (RC)	Minutes
Cllr Keith Morris (KM)	Wantage Town Councillor
Barry Gooch (BG)	Chair of Future Flood Resilience Group (FFRG)
Colin Lloyd (CL)	Member of FFRG
Plus 4 members	

Apologies for absence

Vicky Gardner (VG)

1. The meeting acknowledged the considerable work undertaken by VG since the meeting in April
2. It was agreed that GH, VG and RC meet separately prior to the next meeting to review progress to date and identify the key issues to progress.
3. Mel has produced a draft Flood Resilience Plan for Mill Street for general discussion. RC asked that she e-mail this to VG for distribution to maintain document control discipline.
4. BG will issue a list of locations in the area that are known to flood.
5. KM suggested that for Flood Warden checks, this should comprise pairs of people to monitor Wantage and Grove (one pair for each).
6. The condition of Letcombe Brook was discussed. It was noted that the amount of sediment in the pond under the mill at Mill Street leaves only about 200-300mm above the water level to the building. BG pointed out that boreholes in the area may have an effect on the hydrology of the brook and that he is trying to find out more about the boreholes.
7. The Expression of Interest has been submitted and acknowledged. The next stage is awaited. It was noted that there is a need to find storage space for the equipment required by the group. It was suggested that the store formerly used by the street cleaners could be used. Any storage facility needs to be unaffected by area flooding.

Wantage & Grove Flood Group

8. The means of notifying people in the event of flooding was discussed. Ideas included a WhatsApp Group, local radio, other social media. A procedure for disseminating information when a flood occurs needs to be written and distributed.
9. The meeting discussing the Hanneys Flood Group and BG agreed to issue information about this. The Group has a website, <http://www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk> which, it should be noted, is unsecured. BG has sent the Hanneys Emergency Group structure chart to GH, VG and RC together with a copy of the report, The Future Climate in South Oxfordshire, for wider circulation.
10. CL reported that he had installed four water gauges of the 14 total. These operate by sending data over the 3G/4G network but the system may have problems with low signal strength in the areas where they are fitted. The units' default setting is to send data every 24 hours but this needs to be reprogrammed to hourly transmission. RC requested an area map showing the location of the gauges.
11. CI advised that there is a need for a hosting computer service for the gauges. This will have a cost of £49 a year. It may be possible to use the hosting service for other group data requirements. CL will progress this.
12. BG is producing a report on the problems at locks Lane. A CCTV survey has been carried out which shows that the drainage pipes are sufficiently constricted by limescale that this blocks the passage of the camera. Thames Water are carrying out the survey.
13. BG will introduce the key group members to the local flooding engineers at Vale of the White Horse.
14. The date of the next meeting was agreed as 7th July 2026 at 7.00pm.