

**Minutes of the Meeting of Thames Water, Environment Agency, Hampshire  
County Council with Hart District Council Members**

**11 October 2021 at 2pm**

**Present:**

<b>Hart District Councillors (HDC)</b>	Ambler; Axam, Butcher, Crampton, Dorn, Smith, Southern, Worlock (Chairman)
<b>Hampshire County Council (HCC)</b>	Cllrs. Collett, Davies, Glen, Parker Keith Thompson Susanna Hope
<b>Environment Agency (EA)</b>	Neil Landricombe
<b>Hart District Council (HDC)</b>	Alex Jones, Rebecca Borrett

**1. Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman introduced Alex Jones to the group. Alex has joined HDC as their Flood Risk Management Officer. Alex confirmed apologies had been received from:

Vicki Westall (HCC); Sarah Edmunds (Thames Water); Carley Mason (Thames Water); Philip Sheppard (HDC); Councillor Coburn (HDC); Councillor Crookes (HDC); Councillor Delaney (HDC); Councillor Kinnell (HDC); Councillor Quarterman (HDC)

Councillors Southern and Dorn expressed concern that the Project Work Programme, due from EA in the weeks following the last meeting, had not been received until the start of the current meeting.

**2. Minutes of 22 March 2021 and Action Table**

Councillor Collett proposed the minutes of the previous meeting were correct and this was seconded by Councillor Dorn.

**Action Table**

- 2) **Steering group for Fleet and Sandy Lane Ditch** – ongoing. Neil Landricombe felt this action required amending. The scheme is making good progress, but a steering group does not reflect where EA are now. A public meeting would be possible in the future as the scheme progresses. Councillors felt it important that the right community engagement was held, at the right time. Councillors also expressed concern at the apparent lack of action by EA, year on year. Neil explained the funding bidding process and the six-year rolling programme used by EA and confirmed for the areas of Crondall, Yateley and Frogmore a bid would be placed in May 2022.

Neil went on to explain in Hart progress has been directed to Fleet and for watercourses 9/10 were now modelling for flood risks, and EA are talking to key partners about options, costs benefits and analysis. Neil confirmed the EA are now in a place where a lot of funding is available and more government money now available, so they will eventually get to all the areas.

Neil confirmed if members had further questions from the work programme to contact him and he would provide them with a response this week.

Councillors requested a work programme be created, with each key project broken down into main phases, set out on a timeline. **Alex will speak with Councillor Dorn to create a template for this.**

- 39) **Crookham Park/Naishes Lane** (HCC lead with HDC) – (SH) – HCC have been trying to build a case of the impact on residents but there have only been two direct reports to HCC, the last in January 2020. HCC will still progress with enforcement, but their case will not be as strong without demonstrating a detrimental effect to residents.
- 44) **Planning** - The Chairman to discuss with the Head of Place, the attendance of a planning representative at the next meeting of the forum.
- 45) **Processes** - potential strengthening of Flood and Water Management Act powers (HCC) – Susie clarified they can enforce against works done without consent, things like culverts and filling in a ditch, but not on banks or floodplain. They can also enforce against lack of maintenance but are unable to make people provide a betterment. This only applies to work done after they received powers in 2012. Also, these powers relate to structure and not to volume or quality of water.

Councillors questioned how many prosecutions had been made since 2014 when the team was established. **SH to find out the actual numbers year on year since 2014.**

- 51) **To make 101 aware of the Hart sandbag procedures** - Alex confirmed procedures were reviewed and issues were identified that as 101 is a nationwide scheme this may not work for all residents. However, police that work within the HDC building are aware. It was felt if there was a serious risk this would be a 999 issue, not 101. Alex also confirmed he had been working with the Communications Team around preparing for flooding in winter and the website and various communication platforms for the sandbag procedure would be updated in the next week.
- 53) **Fleet FAS** - Alex and Phil met with Brian Roberts a couple of months ago and a lot of watercourses in Fleet area were surveyed. Progress is being made with the EA and is ongoing. Neil added a lot of work is happening in background and

this is a partnership project, and now looking at modeling options and will then resume engaging with partners.

### 3. Impact of Storms since last meeting

No update.

### 4. Status Updates

#### 4.1 Environment Agency

Neil confirmed looking at total remodeling of the Blackwater catchment, from Aldershot to Swallowfield and all rivers that run through Blackwater, Frogmore, Yateley. This will take 1-2 years to complete, with the potential for slippage. This information will then be used to inform projects in the Blackwater catchments, including Yateley, Frogmore and Blackwater areas at that time. Mapping will then be used to update the flood map.

With regards to capital schemes, modeling is currently being done for Fleet with a view to future engagement towards the start of 2022, with feedback and options.

In relation to Griffin Stream in Hook and Mill Lane in North Wanborough funding has been secured for writing an initial assessment. An officer meeting will be set up in November to discuss the initial and there will be a clear recommendation about how we go forward on these two projects. We have also bid for funding for next year.

Councillor Davies asked if the River Whitewater was being remodeled. Neil explained EA are currently sorting consultant resource to write the initial assessments to draw all data and information they currently must look at high level. Councillor Davies declared a direct pecuniary interest in River Whitewater as holder of the fishing rights, but his reason for asking is that the bulk of Hart is River Whitewater, not Blackwater.

Councillors asked if for future meetings a slide presentation could be available to summarise the vast volume of information from the EA. **NL to produce a presentation for the next meeting in March.**

#### 4.2 HDC projects

[a] Mill Corner, North Wanborough - Alex advised there had not had much progress since last meeting. Legal are rewriting the agreements to be signed by the landowners to progress this.

[b] Phoenix Green – Grant approval number and letter from EA received last week which enables further progressing in terms of starting the process to draw the funding needed to progress the project for Phoenix Green. Requirements will need to be put in place between Hart, the contractors and property owners.

Once in place we will work with the Communications Team to prepare documents for residents.

[c] Kingsway – Very similar to Phoenix Green, but still waiting grant approval number before can progress. As a general update, the scheme will not stop the flooding issue, but should help the residents with flooding. Problems highlighted by residents were investigated by Thames Water and no issues with the pipe condition I the foul sewer were found. They are unable to survey the surface water sewer at moment as levels very high throughout the network. The river level is too high meaning it is backing up into and causing a knock-on effect.

Working with EA and TW to look at other solutions such as holding water back in upstream areas. Funding application for Hawley Hill Pond to store water rejected so waiting for feedback from Surface Water Management Project Team at Thames Water.

Councillor Collett asked if Alex could brief him offline on how water is getting from the pipe under the railway line down to the river. Councillor Collett also raised concern regarding the pumping station and pipework. Alex advised misconnections had already been identified and were being investigated.

#### 4.3 HCC projects

[a] Highway Authority - Webbs Corner – Susie updated waiting for outcome of a tender to appoint a contractor. The plan is for two culvert crossings and some minor ditch works. Waiting to hear back from Hart planning team as the ditch works are on the ground of a grade one listed building. Hoping to deliver late 2021 early 2022.

[b] Local Flood and Water Management Strategy - Susie advised an updated strategy was published in November 2020. Underneath are the catchment plans, an assessment of the flood risk across each of the 18 catchments in Hampshire. Susie hopes to send a link in the next couple of months so everyone will be able to access the catchment plans

#### 4.4 TW projects: Thames Water were not in attendance to update the Group.

Updates provided by email: Funding for lining works in Crondall have been approved with date to be confirmed and subject to ground water levels.

Thames Water are investigating the foul water flooding issues at London Road/Holt Lane, Hook.

Councillor Collett had wished to raise two schemes with them to try to arrange site meetings, one being Foxley Close in Blackwater where a road is flooding and apparent sewage seeping into the road. Highways have checked the gullies and drains and found all ok and state their system is ok, but it keeps happening.

Councillor Dorn raised a local issue that had been pursued for some time in terms of lining sewer pipes along a street inundated with groundwater in later autumn to start of spring. Despite the promise to deal with it this was not happening.

Alex was asked if he could be able to provide the correct contact details for Thames Water. Councillor Dorn advised he did have a direct link to the CEO, who he could contact directly if absolutely necessary.

## **5. Update on Parish Flood Forum (HDC)**

Alex advised the group this was meant to run last Monday, but no responses were received apart from Hook so meeting cancelled. The next session will run early next year, and same process will apply. Alex confirmed a meeting was held separately with representatives from Hook, and together with Susie, Neil and TW discussions and actions were taken forward regarding Holt Lane.

## **6. Forward Water Situation (EA)**

Neil did not have information to hand in the absence of Thames Water, but presumed ground water levels are relatively dry at moment but moving into winter storms weather so looking at that for the coming months.

## **7. Any Other Business**

Councillor Axam asked for the groups help regarding gardens flooding in The Verne and identifying which organisation would be responsible. Susie and Alex will visit the properties in a few weeks to try to identify where flooding issue originating.

Councillor Davies asked who was responsible for clearing a soak away where there is localised flooding between Phoenix Green to Odiham, where it goes under M3. **Keith Thompson to investigate, identify location and determine responsibility for clearing.**

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be on Monday 7 March 2022 at 2pm.

As normal with the minutes, there will be a post-meeting note added for the responses of the various agency partners.

Meeting ended 16:11pm