

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

Version 3 including HCC Supplement

20 March 2023 at 2pm

Present:

Hart District Councillors (HDC)	Cllrs Blewett, Butcher, Dorn, Forster, Makepeace-Browne, Southern
Hampshire County Council (HCC)	Cllrs. Collett, Davies, Glen, Parker
Environment Agency (EA)	Neil Landricombe (NL)
Thames Water (TW) Carley Mason)	Nikki Hines, David Harding (DH(TW)) (sub
Hart District Council (HDC)	Alex Jones (AJ), Daniel Hawes (DH), Claire Lord

The meeting started at 2.03pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from:

James Holt, Susanna Hope, Vicki Westall and Carley Mason

2. Minutes & Action Table of 10 October 2022

The minutes were agreed.

Action Table

Alex Jones gave an update of the items on the Action Plan,

- 39) **Crookham Park Enforcement** – AJ informed the meeting that HCC had a meeting with Cllr Axam and Cllr Parker in November 2022. A further meeting with the developer was held in January. The developer had recently supplied HCC with ‘as built’ drawings and this is currently being reviewed. HDC confirmed progress was slow with regard to the damp courses.
- 55) **Webbs Corner** - It was confirmed that phases 1&2 have now been completed, which have improved the situation. However, funding for the gullies and ditches and other highway drainage improvements, which are part of phase 3, has not yet been secured.
- 58 & 59) **Flood Warning Area** – It was confirmed that the monitoring for Fleet Brook was installed and is now working, it was hoped that the Crondall monitoring

would be installed in the near future. It was commented that it was a shame that it only monitored levels and not velocity.

- 61) **River Blackwater Modelling** - It was confirmed that there had been contact with the BVCP and all items were still ongoing.
- 62) **Flood Risk Management Plans** – NL confirmed that these were all complete and had been published. He agreed to share the links after the meeting.
- 63) **Kingsway Flooding Issues** – This was reported on later in the meeting.
- 64) **Catchment Management Plans** – It was confirmed that this item was completed, and the links have been shared.
- 65) **Lodge farm Planning Application** - The meeting was informed that the pre-application had been assessed, consulted publicly and responded to at Officer level. The Officer advice detailed a number of in-principle issues and conflicts with the development plan which would prevent Officer support at present. There are no current pre-application discussions or formal planning matters logged with the Council at present.
- 66) **Future Meeting Structure** – This was discussed in AOB
- 67) **Hartley Wintney Fire Station** – AJ updated the meeting, stating that as HDC doesn't have the machinery to clear the ditches and culverts, a request for quotes had gone out and he was currently awaiting responses. Cllr Southern asked for the work to be carried out as a priority.

Cllr Davies asked for various items to be added to the action plan.

- **Chatter Alley** – The sewer at the entrance to the school was flooding, he asked for Thames Water to deal with this as a matter of urgency.
- **Under the Railway Bridge between Phoenix Green and Winchfield.** – The road regularly floods. It was stated that this may be due to a neighbouring ornamental lake overflowing or the soak away from the M3. It was uncertain who was responsible.
- **A30 Between Phoenix Green and Murrell Green** – A weir kerbstone has become blocked forcing walkers to walk in the road.
- **Bracknell Lane and A30** – The culvert under the road needs jetting as its blockage is causing the road to become flooded.

3. Impact of Storms since last meeting

As there had been no significant storms there was nothing to report.

4. Status Updates

4.1 Environment Agency Projects

NL gave an update on the Fleet Flood Alleviation Scheme. The EA are continuing to engage with the Parish and Town councils and was looking at engaging more with the community. It was explained that lots of modelling work has been done and lots of options have been looked at. Currently the preferred option is "Property Flood Resilience", however this option does not improve the banding and therefore does not unlock any funding. It was explained that different funding options would need to be explored.

NL explained that the projects in Mill Lane (North Warnborough), Zebon Copse, Crondall, Yateley, Griffin Stream (Hook) and Eversley & Lower Common had been bundled together for reporting purposes and once they had been redacted the reports would be made available.

- Eversley & Lower Common and Zebon Copse

These 2 projects are progressing slowly as there is not enough information available about the flooding risk and modelling is very expensive.

- Yateley

A Threshold Sensitivity Survey has been commissioned to calculate the actual risk. It was explained that the survey only looked at flooding that actually occurred inside the properties not in garages, outhouses, or the road outside. The meeting was told that AJ would receive this report once it had been finished.

- Crondall and Mill Lane

Both projects looked likely to progress and further details would be shared when the reports were finalised.

- Griffin Stream

NL stated that they were still looking for funding to do some modelling on this project.

4.2 HDC Projects

AJ updated the meeting on the various ongoing projects.

- Mill Corner – The project is not progressing but is included within the EA Mill Lane project.
- Kingsway and Phoenix Green - The project board is looking at these projects. It has been decided to take them to Cabinet in the summer for update and possible review as they have been ongoing for some time. Concern was raised that

Cabinet may decide that the projects were no longer viable. Reassurance was asked for, that the currently ongoing projects would deliver the agreed deadlines as a minimum if the decision was going to be made to stop the projects. It was stated that the reports were going to Cabinet as part of a new more formal project plan.

AJ told the committee that since the last meeting, to try and stop the flooding, Thames Water had looked at the sewer, the Environment Agency had been looking at modelling the levels of the river and Network Rail had cleared the ditches and culverts that were accessible at Kingsway.

- Hawley Hill – It was reported that there was a lack of evidence around flooding, so smaller solutions like making more use of the balance pond were being explored.

4.3 HCC Projects

As there were no representatives from HCC at the meeting AJ provided updates on behalf of HCC officers. Disappointment was expressed about the lack of representation from HCC officers, and it was agreed that an email should be sent to the relevant managers asking that this did not occur in the future.

It was stated that the Catchment Management Plans published in July 2022 were going through an update and would be ready May 2023.

4.4 Thames Water Projects

DH (TW) gave an update to the meeting, but his information was limited as he was attending on behalf of a colleague.

- Blackwater Valley River – Thames Water had been conducting surveys and talking to residents. The main problem appeared to be the raised level of the river. However, there were also issues with pipes under the railway line becoming silted up and surface water soaking away into a collapsed pipe.

It was reported that residents were concerned that once the properties were protected then the flood prevention measures would be stopped.

DH(TW) confirmed that surveying was continuing and there would be modelling of the river and its tributaries in summer 2024. A query was raised as to whether the river could be dredged to lower its level, alleviating the flood issue. The meeting was told that dredging would only be a temporary solution and it would be better to find a long-term solution and that dredging could also cause ecological issues.

The question of ownership of the collapsed pipe was raised and who would be responsible for repairing/replacing it. It was stated that if it was part of the public

sewer then the responsibility would sit with Thames Water, however, it was felt that before the pipe was repaired the situation of where the water was going should be solved.

5. Parish Flood Forum

AJ explained that there had been issues getting all the Parishes to one meeting, it was felt that maybe those not attending do not have flooding issues. AJ stated he was engaging with the Parishes on an individual basis. It was suggested that a Teams meeting with all Parishes should be arranged to try and discover why Parishes aren't engaging.

6. Forward Water Situation.

The meeting was told that there had been a lower-than-average amount of rainfall in February and March. This meant that although the Groundwater Level Indicators were at normal or just below normal levels if there wasn't a significant amount of rain in the next few months the area may be put into a drought. The importance of water conservation was discussed.

NL also told the meeting that the Soil Moisture Deficit was below average, which meant that any rain that did fall would run off.

Discussion took place around issues being experienced in Crondall. Although the manholes and sewers were lined last year there is thought to be a problem at the pumping station.

7. AOB

Cllr Southern asked for it to be confirmed that The Fire Station at Hartley Wintney, The junction of Bracknell Lane and A30 and The weir kerb stone by Victoria Hall were added to the action plan.

Cllr Parker asked for the meeting to acknowledge that the committee has been in place for 20 years this year.

Discussion took place around the format for meetings in the future. It was felt that a hybrid meeting would be the best format going forward.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was set as Tuesday 26th September 2023

The Meeting closed at 3.53pm.

Supplement to minutes of Multi-Agency Flood forum Meeting, 20th March 2023

Update from HCC

4.3b Flood and Water Management (FWM) Team- FWM are not leading on any ongoing Flood Alleviation Schemes in the Hart area, but we are contributing to the various Environment Agency and Hart District Council's Flood Alleviation Schemes as a key stakeholder. In the case of the Kingsway FAS, Hampshire County Council are contributing financially to the scheme.

4.4 Local Flood and Water Management Strategy (LFWMS)- This has been completed and published for some time (since 2020). [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(LFRMS\) | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#). Our Catchment Management Plans (CMPs) have come out of the LFWMS. These plans have identified 66 Priority Areas across the 18 river catchment in Hampshire with supporting policies. The Draft CMPs were sent out for consultation in July 2022. The draft plans can be viewed here: [Catchment Approach to Flood Risk Management | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#). We are currently updating these plans following the comments received and the final plans are expected in May 2023.

Action Table

39- Crookham Park enforcement - A meeting was held between the County Council, Cllr Axam and Cllr Parker in November 2022. A further meeting has been held with the developer in January. The Developer has recently supplied the County Council with 'as built' drawings and supporting information and this is currently being reviewed.

55- Eversley- Webbs Corner- Please can Flood and Water Management be removed from this action. Flood and Water Management have delivered Phases 1 and 2. There is the potential for highways drainage improvement works, but this would require Highways successfully securing further funding for a separate phase 3.