

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

26 September 2023 at 2pm

Present:

Hart District Councillors (HDC) Cllrs Axam, Blewett, Clark, Dorn, Makepeace-Browne, Southern

Hampshire County Councillors (HCC) Cllrs Collett, Davies, Parker

Hampshire County Council Vicki Westall (VW)

Highways Agency James Holt

Environment Agency (EA) Neil Landricombe (NL)

Thames Water (TW) David Harding, Carly Mason

Hart District Council (HDC) Alex Jones, Daniel Hawes, Claire Lord

The meeting started at 2.03pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from:

HDC – Cllrs Coborn, Delaney, Woods, Worlock

HCC – Susanna Hope

Thames Water – William Neil

2. Minutes & Action Table of 20 March 2023

A request was made to alter the previous minutes.

With reference to 4.3 HCC projects

The minutes should be changed to “It was reported that there was a lack of proof that the failure of the balancing pond to collect water was adding to the flooding in Kingsway to Christchurch drive, so smaller solutions like making more use of the balancing pond were being explored.”

This change was agreed.

3. Action Table

A request was made that all situations of flooding could be reported using the Online reporting forms, as this would help to build a picture and allow for prioritisation of issues. It was confirmed that it was not necessary to give personal details when reporting flooding.

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

39) Crookham Park Enforcement

The meeting was informed that although initial engagement had been positive with the developer's new agent, this engagement had not continued and so HCC was now seeking legal advice on how to proceed.

Discussion took place around whether this should be raised at the upcoming Parish council meeting. It was agreed to take the discussion offline.

55) Webbs Corner, Eversley

There was no update, it was suggested that the amount of flooding had reduced, however, there was a concern about the danger in the winter when the flooding iced over.

61) River Blackwater Modelling

There was discussion about not being able to find a copy of an old river topographical survey that had been carried out. It was commented that this was disappointing, but not surprising as the survey was carried out over 15 years ago.

The meeting was told that work on the current survey had been taking place over the last 6 months. It takes time because it is a large catchment area with 27 tributaries, however it should be finished within a few weeks. Once the survey is finished it will be used in relation to the model to verify what is happening.

A query was raised as to what work was being done on the weir near Eversley. It was not certain who was doing the work, so NL agreed to do some research and report back.

63) Kingsway Flooding Issues

This was reported on later in the meeting.

66) Future Meeting Structure

There was some discussion around this prior to the meeting start and although views differed it was felt that currently a virtual meeting was of more value as it meant that more agencies could attend.

67) **Hartley Wintney Fire Station**

The meeting was informed that HDC had cleared the section of the ditch that ran alongside the cricket pitch and that the golf course had cleared their section. This, in addition, to Hampshire Highways clearing the culvert under Mount Pleasant Road, means that the water was flowing much better now and so the flooding risk had been reduced.

It was confirmed that maintenance on the ditch would now take place on a regular basis.

68) **Isolated Issues**

- Chatter Alley – The meeting was told that some surveys had been carried out and that Thames Water’s asset management team is looking into how best to solve the issue.
- Under M3 bridge Between Phoenix Green and Winchfield – The meeting was told Hampshire Highways was aiming to carry out work this financial year.
- A30 Murrell Green - The meeting was told Hampshire Highways was aiming to carry out work this financial year.
- Junction of Bracknell Lane and A30 – The meeting was told that investigative work was being carried out by Hampshire Highways to find a solution to this issue.
- Tile Barn Bore Hole – The meeting was told there was no update, but a written one would be provided by the Environment Agency.

There was some discussion around other isolated issues, to bring them to the attention of Hampshire Highways. It was also mentioned that incidents like this should be reported directly to the relevant authority.

3. Impact of Storms since last meeting

As there had been no significant storms there was nothing to report. However, it was noted that during recent heavy rain fall several properties at Kingsway, Blackwater were impacted and had to pump water away. Fortunately, no water entered the houses.

4. Status Updates

4.1 Environment Agency Projects

- **Blackwater Modelling.** It was confirmed that the Blackwater remodeling was on track for a delivery late 2024/early 2025. It was explained that it would be useful as it would give a better representation of risk. It was also explained that the model could also be used identify the flooding risks in Frogmore and whether there are any flood alleviation options available.

- **Fleet.** The meeting was told that consultations with stakeholders were still on going and the current leading option was that of a property flood resilience scheme. It was confirmed that the lead officer for this project was Brian Roberts.
- **Cron dall.** The Flood Warning Improvement scheme in Cron dall was discussed. The meeting was told that the project was due to be launched in November 2023 and that there would be leaflets sent out and a drop-in session to engage with the community in October. The meeting was told that at the drop-in session there would also be the opportunity to discuss Flood Alleviation scheme. It was mentioned that there had been an issue with the current flood sensor in Cron dall, but this had now been resolved.
- **Initial Assessments.** It was explained to the meeting that in order to be eligible for aid funding, projects must have a cost benefit ratio of 1 or more. It was reported that among the current projects being investigated only 2 had a cost benefit ratio of more than 1, and so only these would be looked at with a view to implementing a Flood Alleviation scheme. These were Cron dall and Yateley. Discussion took place around other, smaller interventions that could take place and by whom. It was suggested that in some instances that parishes could undertake some of the required work. NL and VW agreed to meet with parishes to discuss how parishes could get involved.
- **Eversley.** A query was raised around whether this project would be progressed. The meeting was told that in order for a scheme to be eligible for funding it had to prove that the introduction of the scheme would move the properties into a different risk band. Unfortunately, this was found not to be the case in Eversley. Discussion took place around the importance that should be placed on the effects of flooding on infrastructure and not just properties. The meeting was told that one of the biggest issues was that there was no flood model, and therefore the extent of the risk was unknown and so assumptions had to be made when calculating the cost benefit ratio. The meeting was assured that closing a project did not necessarily put an end to it completely and that projects could be reopened.
- **Flood Risk Management Plans.** It was confirmed that the plans were now on the government website ([Thames river basin district flood risk management plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114144/Thames_river_basin_district_flood_risk_management_plan_-_GOV.UK.pdf)).

4.2 HDC Projects

It was explained that a paper on the three Hart flood projects went to Overview & Scrutiny in August 2023 and was going to Cabinet for decision in October 2023. Subject to the Cabinet decision, in summary the position on the three projects is as follows:

- **Mill Corner.** The meeting was informed that subject to Cabinet approval this project will be closed, however discussions around alternative solutions were on going with the Environment Agency.
- **Phoenix Green.** The meeting was informed that subject to Cabinet approval, remodeling will take place to understand the current flood risk as the Dilly Lane development has had a major impact on the initial findings and altered the flood risk to Phoenix Green.
- **Kingsway.** It was confirmed that Kingsway continued to be the area most at risk in the district and therefore, subject to Cabinet approval, Hart would be continuing its work there.

AJ confirmed that HDC would also continue to support the Environment Agency and Thames water in their projects.

4.2 HCC Projects

- **Projects.** It was confirmed that HCC didn't have any schemes running currently in Hart District however it was working with EA on the Fleet Flood Alleviation Scheme as well as the Kingsway project.
- **Catchment Management Plans.** The meeting was informed that the suite of plans had now been published and were available on the HCC website ([Hampshire Catchment Prioritisation \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk)). Using these plans HCC have been able to do a prioritisation exercise and will be able to move forward and create some action plans which will look at both Flooding reduction and Flood resilience. As part of the project, the meeting was informed that, HCC had also produced 11 more planning policies which would ensure that planning applications proposed in priority areas took flooding into consideration. These can be found at the back of the Catchment Plan document.
- **Flood and Water Management Act.** It was confirmed that early in 2025 schedule 3 of this act would be brought into force. This would mean that the inclusion of sustainable drainage systems would have to, by statute, be part of any future developments and would provide more options for SuDS adoption.
- **Highway Authority.** It was reported that the cyclical drainage programme was on-going and that all assets would be cleansed by the end of April. The meeting was also told that Highways were currently delivering a drainage improvement scheme in Beaulieu Gardens, Blackwater, which aimed to reduce the surface water flooding issues there.

4.3 Thames Water Projects

The following report was read out to the meeting on behalf of Thames Water

- I note that Action 4.2 includes two known locations to TW – Kingsway and Mill Corner. We have been in active discussion with these schemes with the LLFA and other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). For Kingsway our Engineering and

modelling teams have been looking into this and doing some surveys. We are waiting for the engineering output for this study.

- Mill Corner was identified as a good partnership led opportunity and Engineering were beginning to look into this but has been recently paused due to budget constraints.
- These partnership opportunities will continue to remain on the partnership opportunities lists for Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP), we will continue to work in partnership from a resource/data sharing perspective where relevant.
- Our PR24 Business Plan is due to be submitted to Ofwat on the 2nd of October 2023, with the final termination back from Ofwat (on our business plan) due back in December 2024. Until we have some decisions back on this, we will not be able to confirm what our Asset Management Plan 8 (AMP8) plan for hydraulic flooding will be.
- The agenda lists Surface Water Management Plan under TW. We do not have SWMP's in TW. But we do have a current performance commitment for 'connected area removed in hectares' by SUD's. The Surface Water Management Programme is managed by Engineering and the funding for this current AMP (to March 2025) is committed.
- In terms of the DWMP, not a great deal has changed since the last update. We published our final DWMP strategic plan in May, which is available on our website. In terms of continuing to develop partnerships, the DWMP lists the priority partnership projects. We have been asking the DWMP team what the mechanism is to progress these. TW are currently looking at available resource and what may be required to support the development of these schemes.

5. Parish Flood Forum

The meeting was told that the next meeting was going to be in November and that discussion with the parishes was going to take place with reference to changing the format of the meetings, possibly making the meetings smaller so that the parishes could engage more with the agencies.

6. Forward Water Situation.

The meeting was told that 42% of the average rainfall had been recorded in September, and that there had been no groundwater/increase in groundwater at the indicator sites. Comment was made about the possibility of leaf fall in Autumn causing issues for the trash screens, however the Environmental Agency were monitoring this and would clear the trash screen if there was a substantial rain fall.

Discussion took place around whether it was necessary to keep this item on the agenda. It was agreed that it should be. It was explained that if people wanted more information, they could sign up for flood information at the Environment Agency website.

[Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was set as March 2024, the exact date to be agreed on early in the new year.

The Meeting closed at 3.56pm.