

## WYRE MAKING SPACE FOR WATER MEETING

Minutes of meeting held Thursday 25 May 2023  
at Wyre Civic Centre.

### Present

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Carl Green (CG)            | Wyre Council (WBC) (Engineering)                  |
| Paul Long (PL)             | Wyre Council (Engineering)                        |
| Harry Grundy (HG)          | Wyre Council (Engineering)                        |
| Lorah Cheyne (LC)          | Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management) |
| Brian Birkett (BB)         | Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management) |
| Robert Brooks-Taylor (RBT) | Environment Agency                                |
| Phil Wylie (PW)            | United Utilities (UU)                             |
| Jake Hilton (JH)           | United Utilities                                  |

### Apologies

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Rachel Crompton     | Lancashire County Council (Flood Risk Management) |
| Mark O'Donnell (MO) | Lancashire County Council (Highways)              |
| Pippa Hodgkins (PH) | Environment Agency                                |
| Tom Myerscough (TM) | Wyre Rivers Trust (WRT)                           |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

PL welcomed everyone to the meeting. JH (Risk Analyst at UU) introduced himself to the meeting.

RBT confirmed that Graeme Kellott would be returning for the Flood Forum on 8 June, after taking up a temporary post in the Environment Agency. RBT will be leaving the MSfW Group at this time.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted as above.

## 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 23 February 2023 were agreed.

### Matters arising:

- i. Thornton Gauge boards - PL noted that the gauge boards promised for Thornton have yet to be installed. RBT replied that the EA have the new boards but currently do not have time to install them due to other work commitments. RBT promised to have these installed at the earliest opportunity, but noted that this may be some time away. PL asked that the new boards be tied into ordnance datum when installed.

**Action - EA**

- ii. Drainage, School Road, Thornton - PW confirmed that UU have now blocked off the hole in the pipe at 104a School Road, Thornton, and would monitor the adjacent watercourse to see whether there were any changes to flooding in the area. He noted that any changes were unlikely to be noted during the summer months, due to low flows in the surface water drain.

**Action - UU to monitor**

- iii. Hillylaid Pool, School Road, Thornton - PL asked whether the EA had removed the concrete block from Hillylaid Pool (to the rear of Baines School, School Road, Thornton) - RBT was unable to confirm, but agreed to check and update the Group.

**Action - EA**

- iv. Culverts under the A585 - PL reported that he had received no update on works planned by National Highways on the culverts under the A585 Amounderness Way. He will raise this further with NH.

**Action - PL**

- v. Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston – BB reported that LCC have been looking at the outfalls on Moss Side Lane, Great Eccleston. He noted that there is a query as to whether the flap valves are sealing correctly, adding that LCC would discuss this with a technical company to investigate further.

- vi. Carr Lane, Hambleton - PL reported that LCC have located the position of the highway drainage in the field opposite Queensland, Hambleton. The pipe was found to be in poor condition with a number of collapsed sections. LCC have provided a new and larger 225mm diameter pipe and the landowner has installed this. It is hoped that this new and larger pipe will resolve much of the flooding issues on the highway outside Queensland and Birkdale. LCC are to monitor the area over the coming months.

**Action - LCC**

- vii. Hambleton Flood Defence Scheme - RBT reported that the Hambleton Flood Defence Scheme has been delayed a little and would now be issued to the July Planning Committee. He also reported that there would be a public presentation of the scheme on 22 June at the village hall. Details will be published in advance of the presentation.

- viii. Garstang Flood Barrage - RBT reported that the EA are continuing to work on repairing the Garstang Barrage gate. He reported that works are planned to remove the gate from site at the end of August / early September and it will be refitted as soon as it is repaired. He reported that the biggest issue is providing a suitable crane pad to support the crane. While the gate is off site, the gap would continue to be filled with stop logs.

- ix. High Street, Garstang - PL reported that works have been undertaken on the highway drainage pipe discharging from High Street, Garstang to the River Wyre. He confirmed that contractors working for LCC have located a collapsed section of pipe and have undertaken works to repair it. While the repairs to the damaged section have been completed, LCC have yet to undertake a full camera survey of the pipe to ensure that there are no further issues further downstream.

- x. Springfield Pumping Station, Fleetwood - PL confirmed that Wyre Council is looking to hand over ownership of the Springfield pumping station at Cala Gran, Fleetwood to Haven, but there had been no further movement on this since the last meeting.

PL asked whether there has been any further consideration of the council's suggestion that a connection between Springfield and Copse Brook watercourses be made to resolve local flooding issues. RBT replied that the EA has not considered such a connection as part of its business case for the outfall of Copse Brook at Jubilee Quay, Fleetwood and it would need to be looked at as a separate scheme. CG said that linking the pumped Springfield system to the gravity Copse Flood system made a lot of sense and needed consideration. RBT considered that such a connection might produce significant biodiversity net gain; he would discuss the proposal with colleagues.

**Action - RBT / EA**

- xi. Fleetwood Quay outfall - RBT confirmed that a temporary (five-year life) repair has been made to the tidal flap on the headwall at the outfall. Plans are being drawn up to relocate the flap to the outside of the headwall as part of the major works to be undertaken within Jubilee Quay.
- xii. St.Michaels flooding - BB confirmed that the LCC (FRM) are continuing with the Section 19 Report for St.Michaels; this will be published as soon as it is completed.
- xiii. Wyreside caravan site, St.Michaels – PL noted that St.Michaels FLAG has asked for an update on this matter. BB confirmed his previous report that LCC would not be taking any further action re the building over the watercourse adjacent to the caravan site.
- xiv. Sefton Ave., Poulton - PL confirmed previous report that he had been in contact with Wain Homes who had confirmed that they own the land to the rear of Sefton Ave – no further correspondence had been sent or received and no actions have been reported. PL to pursue this again with Wain Homes

**Action - PL**

- xv. Sunnyside Terrace, Preesall - PL reported that that these works were still outstanding and there had been no further action since the last meeting. He confirmed that he had spoken to the site developer and was still pursuing consent from the landowner to undertake the work.

BB reported that he has received a complaint from a local landowner re the pumping operations undertaken by Wyre Council which he would address separate from the meeting.

- xvi. The Avenue, Churchtown - PL reported that he had spoken to the FLAG about clearing/surveying the drain from the gully on The Avenue to the River Wyre, downstream of Kirkland Bridge. Further investigation works by LCC (Highways) are required to determine the condition of the pipe and how it connects to the existing system. PL agreed to raise this with MO and update the FLAG.

PL further reported that the FLAG had requested LIDAR data for Green Wood and asked whether the EA could make this available. RBT said that this data should be available and he would look into providing this to the FLAG.

**Action - RBT**

- xvii. Royles Brook School, Thornton - BB confirmed that works planned for Easter had not been undertaken; he has held further discussions with the school and agreed that the works will now be undertaken during the summer holidays.

BB also confirmed he had spoken with residents that the private watercourse to the west of the school needed additional works. He was investigating whether the local surface drainage discharged through this pipe or not.

It was agreed that LCC (FRM) would report back once works have been undertaken this summer.

#### **4. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

##### **i. Wyre Council**

- PL confirmed that he had met with Churchtown, St.Michaels, Thornton and Preesall FLAGs in the last few days and had received reports from Churchtown, Great Eccleston, Preesall and Thornton (see FLAG updates). The Issues & Actions log has been updated (see Appendix A).
- PL reported that no works to clear gullies in Hambleton have been undertaken in the last few weeks. It is hoped that this work will be restarted on 10 June and once completed, similar works will be undertaken elsewhere.
- CG reported that he and PL had recently attended a meeting at Pilling Village Hall with representatives from the EA, Morecambe Bay Partnership and local farmers regarding the 'Our Future Coast' project ([Our Future Coast \(formerly Eco-CoBS\) | Engage Environment Agency \(engagementhq.com\)](#)) CG will present a brief update on the project at the upcoming Flood Forum.
- PL reported that he had tracked down the owners of the watercourse behind Northumberland Ave and contacted them to ask that the watercourse be cleaned out. RBT noted that the watercourse is identified as main river (Burn Drain) and maintenance works would be undertaken by the EA – he would look into this matter.

##### **ii. Environment Agency**

- RBT informed the group that the EA is currently short staffed and has cut back on the routine maintenance that is carried out on the main river watercourses. He confirmed that priority watercourses and assets are still being maintained.
- RBT confirmed that the level survey of watercourses in Thornton is still planned for next year; tenders for the work have been sent out for interested parties to price for the works.
- PL noted that he and RBT have been invited by Thornton FLAG to undertake a walkthrough of Hillylaid watercourse from New Lane to Belvedere Road – RBT confirmed that he was aware of this and would be happy to attend. PL would try and set this up with the FLAG

**Action - PL**

- RBT confirmed that contractors would be on site on Kiln Lane watercourse in August/September to clear the outfall from Rydal Road, Hambleton. PW said that he understood that there is not a connection from Sherbourne foul pumping station into the culverted watercourse and any foul debris by the outfall was likely to be from cross connections from private foul sewers to the watercourse. He added that he would be attending the site on 1 June to confirm this.

### iii. **LCC Highway Authority**

- MO was unable to attend the meeting. No report was submitted in his absence.
- PL confirmed the works at Carr Lane, Hambleton and High Street, Garstang (as Previous Minutes above)

### iv. **LCC (Flood Risk Management)**

- BB reported that LCC (FRM) discussed the issues causing flooding issues on and around Broad Oak Ave., Garstang. He confirmed that LCC do not consider that the watercourse to the east of the site is the source of the issue. It is considered that the volume of water in the manhole, combined with the low level of the property, is the contributing factor into the flooding. The main focus of attention remains on the pumping station on Fairfax Close that discharges towards Broad Oak Ave – he wondered whether this was causing a problem during heavy flows and again asked UU whether they had any records of when this station was operating during the time of flooding to help them identify the flooding mechanism.
- BB reported that he has continued to investigate the surface water drainage in Preesall, around Rosslyn Ave. He reported that there are two outfalls, one of which requires work, and a second one to the north, which appears to run south towards the first. LCC have been unable to confirm whether the two pipes connect to form a single outlet to Wheelfoot watercourse, and further investigation is required.
- BB reiterated his concern about a small section of culverted watercourse behind School Road, Thornton, which Network Rail have previously considered daylighting due to its poor condition. He reported that he has recently been in contact with NR to ask what their proposals are for this section of culvert. He is still awaiting a response.

### v. **United Utilities**

- PW reported that UU have now installed a stopper in the hole in the surface water pipe adjacent 104a School Road Thornton (Issues & Actions ref 19/14). While it remains unclear whether the hole was designed to discharge from the pipe to the watercourse during storm conditions or from the watercourse to the pipe (and hence to Hillylaid Pool), the area will be monitored to see whether stoppering it has a positive effect on flooding to School Road.
- PW confirmed that UU would be undertaking further investigative works on 1 June on the Sherbourne Road pumping station, Hambleton, to help resolve the issue of sewage at the outfall into Wardleys watercourse from Rydal Road. He confirmed that there is no connection from the combined system to the watercourse and that the works would look at the outfall and check for any illegal cross connections.

- PW reported that UU are looking at options to replace the manhole covers on A588 Carr Lane – these are being lifted whenever the combined sewer surcharges and present a hazard to road users.
- PL asked UU whether there was any information about combined sewer overflows (CSOs), which have been in the news recently. PW said that the north-west area is to receive funding to investigate issues with CSOs as part of the national drive to remove them. He added that, once the national policy had been drawn up, he would give a presentation to the Flood Forum on this matter.
- PW reported that there are no plans to install any further units as part of the Dynamic Network Monitoring (DNM) scheme. He added that he has requested funding to undertake a flow monitoring scheme in Hambleton to help determine where the excess water in the combined sewer is coming from.

#### vi. Wyre Rivers Trust

- TM was unable to make the meeting. An update of the works being undertaken was provided.
- Wyre Catchment NFM Project (delivery April 2022 – Mar 2023)
  - Approx. 10ha woodland created
  - 3.3km of bunded hedge planted
  - 136 small leaky barriers constructed
  - 27 large leaky barriers constructed
  - 0.2ha ponds created
  - 406m Riparian Buffer Strip created
  - 0.6Ha Grassland conversion (permanent pasture to rough pasture)

Further wide scale works are planned for this year as part of this project.

- Works on King George’s playing fields, Thornton are planned to start in July 2023. Updates will be provided as available.

## 5. ISSUES FROM FLOOD FORUM AND FLAGS

PL noted that the Issues and Action log has been updated to reflect recent works and additional requests for actions. (An updated copy – 6 June – is attached as Appendix A)

### FLAG Reports:

#### Churchtown FLAG

PL met with the FLAG via Teams on 24 May 2023.

The FLAG had raised a number of queries in advance of the meeting and these were addressed at the meeting.

#### Issues raised:

- 1) Is there any news on whether a penstock can be fitted in the LCC manhole on the A586 to prevent flooding in Ainspool Lane?

- PL replied that no decision can be made on this proposal until the sale of Green Wood has been completed and LCC/WBC can liaise with the new owner.
- 2) Drains from the end of the Avenue and from Smithy Lane are not working. They require another round of investigation with CCTV and location probe to find out pipe locations and connections and why the system is not working. Previous investigation in winter have been hampered by weather and established only partial information. Spring and Summer is the ideal time to investigate. The CFLAG cannot even carry out its own dye testing because the gullies and pipes are all blocked.
- LCC/WBC have agreed to undertake a further inspection of the drains to confirm location and condition. Date of inspection to be confirmed with the FLAG.
- 3) Selective plots of LIDAR levels would be very useful for the CFLAG (a) to better verify the minor effect of installing the penstock to protect Ainspool Lane, (b) to work out the contours and natural drainage paths in the field between Ainspool Brook and the houses in Ainspool Lane to help spot the location of the leakage under the flood embankment when the Ainspool Brook is at high water level and (c) to find out what flood protection exists for Arnwood House on the south bank of the River Wyre where the slightly raised access road is the only defence from the main river.
- EA have agreed to supply LIDAR data to the FLAG (see Matters Arising)

### **Cleveleys FLAG**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting.

### **Garstang FLAG**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting.

### **Great Ecclestone FLAG**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting.

### **Issues raised:**

1. The highway drains on the A586 that take water from the cycle path have been cleared out by LCC or Wyre but every time the grass is cut the cuttings are not removed and these find their way into the grids and can lead to standing water.
  - PL noted that this issue had been reported here, and at other locations, previously and that the maintenance teams have been instructed not to allow cuttings to block drains. He will reconfirm the message to the grounds teams.

### **Hambleton & Stalmine FLAGS**

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting.

### Out Rawcliffe FLAG

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting.

### Preesall FLAG

PL met with FLAG on 22 May

#### Issues raised:

- 1) Sunnyside Terrace flood alleviation scheme – the scheme remains on hold pending consent from the owner of the land proposed for the wetland granting consent for the works.
- 2) The FLAG suspects that there is an issue with the culvert under Lancaster Road; the watercourse at Lane Ends Farm is full but across the road it appears empty.
  - LCC to inspect the condition of the culvert under the highway and report back to the FLAG.
- 3) Concerns remain about the capacity of the Pilling Lane pumping station.
  - PL reported that EA are investigating this with a view to undertaking works to improve the station.
- 4) Request for additional CCTV at Lane Ends Farm to provide coverage of the Lancaster Road / Sunnyside Terrace junction.
  - PL to investigate if this can be provided.

PL reported that a complaint has been received that they may be a collapsed culvert on Hackenshall watercourse, Preesall. The complaint also noted that no maintenance is being done on the watercourse, despite it being registered as Main River. RBT confirmed that the EA did not undertake maintenance on the watercourse and that this should be undertaken by the riparian owner. PL to contact the riparian owner (NPL) to investigate this.

### Pilling FLAG

No meeting held ahead of the MSfW meeting.

### St Michaels FLAG

PL met with the FLAG on 23 May.

#### Issues raised:

- 1) There have been no flood incidents since the last meeting
- 2) Update required about the Rivermede project – the survey has been done but the project leader has since left. Has the project been abandoned? Can EA provide an update?
  - RBT reported that the EA have undertaken an inspection behind Rivermede to look at replacing the gabion baskets and adding in-banking drainage. He said that the scheme is still going ahead but is being reassessed following a high estimated cost. RBT will respond directly to the FLAG to update them on the new proposals.



- 3) Several complaints about the new housing development on Garstang Road have been received. Complaints relate largely to the surface water drainage – where does it discharge?
  - PL replied that this is thought to discharge in the River Wyre through the Rowan Water mobile home park. This will need to be checked and confirmed.
- 4) The FLAG are under the impression that LCC will clear the outfall east of the bridge. They claim that Rachel Crompton authorised this.
  - BB said that he was not aware of this – confirmation will be required from LCC as to whether or not they will undertake works.

### Thornton FLAG

PL met with the FLAG on 20 February; The FLAG had raised a number of queries in advance of the meeting and these were addressed at the meeting.

#### Issues raised:

- 1) Photos below taken behind the Tarnbrook Park estate. There are blockages to the north of Tarnbrook Park and also on phase 2 of the Dicky and Moore development which they are no longer developing so the land is the responsibility of NPL.
  - PL to contact NPL to discuss this and other flooding issues.
- 2) The tributary under Fleetwood Rd North south of the Iron Horse pub needs clearing on the east side of the road where it goes towards the Tarnbrook estate.
  - This site is currently the subject of a planning application for housing – clearing of watercourse will be covered as part of the construction and maintenance works.
- 3) Also on the Springfield System a developer was looking at alternative discharge options to alleviate the Cala Gran area of surface water. Any updates?
  - This is currently being discussed with the Developer – alternate discharge routes have been suggested and are being investigated by the Developer.
- 4) Is there a resolution to the Cala Gran taking ownership of the pumps on their land?
  - No update on this at the moment. Wyre Council is currently looking at making improvements to the station.
- 5) Are there any updates regarding the proposed connection between Springfield Brook and Copse Brook watercourses?
  - No update on this at the moment. The outline proposal has been made to the EA but no detail on land ownership or consent to discharge has been looked at yet. Works would likely be dependent on points 3 and 4 above.

- 6) Royles Brook School excavation work is now put back to the summer holidays. Is this still the situation?
  - Yes, Works have been postponed to the school summer holidays.
- 7) The footpath which fills with rainwater opposite the Coop on Fleetwood Rd Nth is still requiring raising to stop pedestrians having to walk in the road. LCC, Mark O'Donnell.
  - PL to raise flooding around the Springfield Drive area with NPL, who are responsible for the land to the rear of Springfield Drive.
- 8) Any update on the proposed site visit to Hillylaid Pool between New Lane and Belvedere road culvert with the EA. This is the area where a targeted desilt has been proposed.
  - Date to be agreed with EA/WBC/FLAG
- 9) The proposed site visit to the Breck Development on the old ICI Power Station site is still outstanding. This was to look at the surface water drainage system and the new culverts. Is this a problem or is the phase in the construction process not sufficiently advanced.
  - Date to be agreed with EA/WBC/FLAG
- 10) Royles Brook on Woodlands Ave. The homeowner has been visited by the EA and branches removed. We have been told by the home owner that the home adjacent to hers on the other side of the dyke has been visited by the EA and they have been told of their riparian responsibilities regarding dyke maintenance. Apparently nothing has been done and vegetation from their side is now completely across the dyke touching the opposite bank. Can another visit be scheduled and an inspection undertaken to look again at the issues.
  - EA to arrange further visit.
- 11) There are only two cameras working on the EA camera system in Thornton. One is the D Fit camera showing the new gauge board and the visibility is excellent. The other is the Brookfield Ave camera at the rear of number 67. There is lots of vegetation in the picture and no visible gauge board. The Bay Horse camera is no longer visible. Is it under maintenance and will it be back in operation in the future
  - Bay Horse camera is online. Vegetation at Brookfield Road has now been cleared allowing gauge board to be read.

## 6. UPDATES TO ISSUES & ACTIONS LOG

The updated Issues & Actions log – 06 June - is attached at Appendix A

## 7. NEW ISSUES

Issues raised by FLAGs (above) added to Issues & Actions log

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

RMT reported that the EA are undertaking trials using a large drone to carry out inspections of assets in the St.Michaels and Catterall basin areas. The Artificial Intelligent Asset Management Programme uses a drone to video and analyse data to identify remote areas that may require maintenance works.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

31 August 2023, 10am start in person at Wyre Civic Centre and via Teams - Details to follow.