

Willoughby Flood Groups - Initial Meeting

3 November 2022

Present

Flood Wardens

Kim Taylor
Ant Ray
Brian Hall
Robin Ledson
Val Taylor
Jackie Hesketh
Jim Hesketh

Updating Flood Action Plan

Bert Ogle
Ant Ray
Rachel Settle
Lorraine Walls
Craig McMullen
Hilly Honess
Sue Johnson

Parish Council

Mike Thomas
Maggie Beech

Notes

The following positions were agreed

Chair - Bert Ogle Secretary - Brian Hall Treasurer - Ant Ray

Information and Discussion

- Mike Thomas noted that 99% of flood action groups are independent of their local council.
- Role of flood wardens e.g. putting out flood signs, telling cars to stop at junctions, seeking permission from Highways/the Police to close roads.
- Main causes of flooding in the village - heavy rainfall leading to flash flooding along the roads, rainwater draining across the fields causing the two brooks to overtop, particularly where they meet at the village hall.
- Prevention - possible tree planting, controlling water coming into the village through creation of a holding pond/SUDS arrangement possibly in Hayward Lodge or Willoughbrook on the other side of the A45.
- Action to remove water once flooding has occurred, particularly the need to use a pump to remove water from Lower Street.
- There was a general feeling that there were positive things that could be done to try to reduce flooding and to remove water once flooding occurred.
- Acquiring or creating simple maps to illustrate where the brooks run and key areas prone to flooding, the village sewage system, flood zones in the village.
- The need to identify residents who might need support in the event of flooding.
- All agreed to share their email addresses to facilitate communication.
- All agreed that their names and email addresses could be sent to the National Flood Forum.
- Mike provided Bert with a booklet from the National Flood Forum which contains useful information about where advice and grants might be sought.
- Liaison with the Parish Council - report on progress provided three or four times each year, as well as ongoing informal liaison and support from the council.

Actions

The group agreed that the first step should be a walk around the village to see the layout of the brooks and the key areas where flooding occurs.

- Bert Ogle to arrange the walk.
- Maggie Beech to circulate email addresses for the group to everyone and notes for the meeting.