Bloxham Flood Group.

Arranged by Bloxham Parish Council.

Meeting 4. Jubilee Hall Meeting Room Wednesday 16 April 2025

Present: Neil Hegarty Chair (BPC), Dave Bunn (BPC), John Lloyd (Emergency Planning Support), Sarah

Reay (Resident), Jerry Wood (Resident),

Apologies: Nic Rayner (BPC), David Green (Bloxham Feoffees), Tom Smith (Bloxham Feoffees) Tim Seton (Bloxham School), Keiron Mallon (County Councillor), Richard Farmer (Resident)

No	Action or Note	Owner
1	 Update on Actions. The update of the village emergency plan is nearly complete – and when complete it will be issued onto the BPC website. It will include:- The updated list of 'Safe' locations and their relevant keyholders who can be contacted during a village emergency The information that has been already circulated by this team – particularly on the recommended form of hydrosack protection bags, and the flood resilience material that is available on the "FloodMary" website (https://floodmary.com). There was further discussion about whether the Parish Council should hold a small stock of hydrosacks – and it was felt that there were very significant challenges on being able to effectively use such a stock. It was again emphasized that residents must take the actions for the primary defence of their properties – including holding their own hydrosacks. 	Info / JL
2	 Updates from County Council & Highways. The village road drains were cleaned as reported last month. As noted, the Drainline team said that any drain (on their action streets) that they were unable to clear or unable to access because of parked cars, they were reporting to OCC for action. We need to find out who within OCC are responsible for following these up as we know that it includes at least one critical drain on the High Street. This will be raised to the OCC Highways engagement team, and we will see whether Drainline can advise further. We need OCC and Drainline to be working with a regular cleaning \ drain maintenance plan. The Blue Dye test due has been carried out and we are waiting for the report. Tony Brummel advised on 3 April that the Section 19 report would be ready "soon". We will follow up with Tony immediately after Easter to see if we can get a better idea of when it will be issued as it is a key document in setting the immediate actions needed to mitigate against a recurrence of the flooding the Courtington Lane, Workhouse Lane, High Street zone. 	NH (KM – any thoughts?) NH to pursue Info NH
3	 Environment Agency Update. NH has met with Jake Wallington – a village resident who does digger & building work, and Jake is able to clear the silt/soil from the outlet (downstream) side of the Little Bridge Road bridge. We need to link with Tom Smith about a grabber truck to take the waste away so that we can get this actioned. 	NH/TS

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4	 In response to the FOI request asking for information on drain line sizes and ages within the village, Thames Water have managed to produce an extensive excel spreadsheet which is absolutely incomprehensible. It is clear that this spreadsheet would not be used internally at Thames Water, so it is not clear why they have sent it to us. We will rephrase our request to try to make it idiot proof. 	
5	 "Slow The Flow" There has been considerable progress since our last meeting. Through Jerry's discussions on the Evenlode scheme we were able to link to a number of key people and resources who may be able to help us with a Natural Flood Management (NFM) Scheme. Jerry and Neil held a Team's meeting on 26 March with:- Giles Stother - Land Adviser, Catchment host – Cherwell & Ray, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) Steve Haywood – Thames 21 (River Trust) - Rural Solutions Programme Manager 	Info
	 Tom Hall – Natural England, NE Cotswolds Farmers' Cluster Matt Wood – Environmental Agency, Catchment Co-ordinator There were four key action points from these discussions:- They may be able to help us run a "Flood Resilience Workshop" for the village. We can investigate holding an evening session in September probably in the main hall at Jubilee. This could include talks from property flood resilience (PFR) specialists, the parish council, OCC, Natural England, BBOWT and/or Thames21 - rivers trust. It was noted that the EA has a flood resilience engagement advisor who might be able to offer some help around flood resilience. We can investigate what support he can offer. 	NH to look at availability of Jubilee in Sep
	 There is a contact at OCC who may be able to see if an NFM opportunities scoping exercise could be funded to create a longlist that we could take to the workshop and seek feedback from the community. Subsequent to the meeting Steve Haywood has pulled together all the inputs to complete a funding proposal application to an Oxfordshire flood fund, and this has now been submitted. It was seen as important that the land owners do not see this as just as the Parish Council trying to drive specific actions, but rather as an initiative of multiple bodies to try to improve the overall management and condition of the agricultural land which will also benefit the village. Natural England regularly engage with landowners to see if they will undertake NFM measures, and also help them identify funding opportunities. So we have proposed that they identify and contact local land owners to start a discussion on NFM on their land. It will be presented from the perspective of the Cherwell Cluster, Catchment Partnership and Bloxham Flood group. The Parish Council will stay 	NH to raise in upcoming Teams meeting

	engaged as we represent the community of affected people - the reason for the communication in the first place.	
6	Any Other Business.	
	 The next BPC / Bloxham School Liaison sessions is due to take place in the week post Easter – and will address the proposal for TS and DB to walk the culvert/ drainage ditch to discuss any thoughts they may have on potentially increasing still further the effectiveness of the system. 	DB
	• At our first meeting Jerry offered to pull together a flood information leaflet that could be a mail drop to every residence in the village. He repeated the offer, and it was agreed that he should move forward on this, and that the "Parish Council" would review and ok the content, and pay for the agreed printing. The leaflet will reflect our current understanding of and position on all the issues we have covered, and we will mobilise a team of volunteers for doing the door to door deliveries.	Info / JW
7	Date of Next Meeting: It was agreed that the date of the next meeting should be set	NH
	by the availability of the Section 19 report – so we will look to find a suitable date	
	when either we know when it will be issued, or after it is.	