

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH FLOOD COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY ON TUESDAY 23 March 2021, 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs G Parker & J Cansdale; P Hodge. Part of meeting: H Causer; P Jones & J Scott; D Collyer
IN ATTENDANCE: G Pettitt (Parish Clerk); J & C Somerville & S Mills (Dinder Trust)(part)

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN: E Boot

02. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.
- 2.2 There were no requests for dispensation.
- 2.3 There were no grants for dispensation.

03. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC Not required.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME Those present will contribute within the meeting.

05. MINUTES OF CPC FLOOD COMMITTEE HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of 24 February 2021 are approved.

06. PROGRESS REPORTS AND FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

- **Statutory Authorities** - Cllr Parker reported that no new updates had been received.
- **Parishioners** See item 7.
- **Wider Community** - C Somerville noted maps from 1895 & 1960 (Annexes 1 & 2 to minutes) that detail a mill, mill pool and weir at the westerly end of Crocombe, which are now gone; the lack of which may have contributed to the increased speed and flow of the river. The gradient is 1:90, which may have contributed to wear on Townend Bridge.

07. FLOOD HUB EVENT

- Cllr Parker reported receiving observations from four villagers prior to the 20 March Flood Hub. Nine others provided supporting information at the Hub including anecdotal knowledge of ground water ingress in some Long Street properties.
- Concerns were raised about rubbish in the river including foliage and garden waste. An east end villager regularly removes tyres and similar waste and provided a video of the 2020 flood.
- Regarding the new reservoir on Jacks Lane - concern was expressed as to where the overflow would run. P Hodge has emailed Mark Boardman at Bristol Water and reported that flow from the reservoir is approximately 2 mill ltrs per day, while the river runs normally at 30 mill ltrs per day and in flood at 100 mill ltrs per day. The reservoir should never overflow; it will be drained down regularly, perhaps every 2 years. The overflow is in place in case the electronics fail. It is a controlled reservoir of treated water.
- **Collation of information received:** Cllr Parker will collate the information, mark up the map and feed back to A Lambart at Somerset County Council. As Covid restrictions are lifting it was agreed that 6 members, (Cllr Parker, D Collyer, P Hodge, H Causer & P Jones), would meet 31 March to discuss the map before posting to Somerset County Council.
- The group would like to thank Vryan and Peter Graham for their support in offering the spot outside the George for the Flood Hub.
J & C Somerville and S Mills left the meeting at 19:36.

08. FLOOD PLAN REVIEW

- The meeting made a start at identifying amendments to the Flood Plan.
- Committee would like to explore whether a Flood Telemetry device could be provided to aid the flood warning system. Questions raised included: Would Somerset County Council provide this? where is the warning directed - to Flood Wardens? P Jones will look into this.
- Some discussion of triggers that could alert Flood Wardens to standby for action: a gauge downstream of Jacks Bridge; the level reaching the arches of Jacks Bridge; recent weather warnings; local knowledge.
- Maintenance - Jacks Lane gutter needs clearing but fills regularly with flotsam.
- Flood Wardens - preferably those who are unlikely to be experiencing flooding: P Hodge, E Boot, J Boot possibly, J Cansdale, J Scott, H Causer. Also P Graham, though his property may be affected. C Stonehouse to be contacted.
- Area numbers to be removed - Wardens will be deployed where needed.
- Flood Mitigation Day for Flood Wardens - training and equipment check once or twice a year. H Causer recommended all Flood Wardens read A Guide to Community Flood Wardens - attached Annex 3.
Wardens to have a grab bag, torch, hiviz jacket, 1st Aid kit, gloves, screw driver for pumps in the Emergency Bin.
Do not put oneself in danger: the Council public liability insurance covers volunteers when working on the Council's behalf - the Clerk will enquire of insurance company whether insurance covers ad hoc help on the day from members of the public who have not been previously identified as council volunteers.
- **Flood Warden Roles:**
 - Monitoring local area for blockages in river and gullies
 - Making local residents aware of who to contact
 - Checking equipment
 - Check online suggestions and circulate
 - Be aware of what is available in the Emergency Bin
 - Immediate support for those in need.
- The Flood Plan will be passed by Emergency Services for review. Meeting noted that advice is that the Council may store and use 'Road Closed' signs in the event of a flood. New Traffic Cones are needed.
- Extra sand required for those unable to store or who live in areas not normally flooded - Thrupe Lane run-off is worsening.
- Everyone will contribute suggested revisions to the Flood Plan before the next meeting.

09. MEETING SCHEDULE Meeting schedule agreed on the understanding it is provisional - the following meeting will be confirmed at the end of each agenda.

CLOSE

The next meeting will be held remotely on **Tuesday May 4 2021 at 7pm**

Signed

Date

Actions

- Investigate Flood Telemetry devices - P Jones
- enquire whether insurance covers ad hoc volunteers in event of flood - clerk
- New Traffic Cones - clerk
- Sand - ?
- Contribute to Flood Plan review before next meeting - everyone. Gail will collate.