**CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL**

# Minutes of a Flooding Committee Meeting held in Capel Village Hall at 18:30hrs on Monday 21 NOVEMBER 2022

**Present:**

**Committee:** Cllr C. Mackonochie (Chair), Cllr A. Saunders, Cllr T. Sawyer, Mrs L. Assirati,

**Flood Wardens:** Mr A. Smith, Ms M. Foster, Mr R. Harris,

**External Attendees:** David Warden National Flood Forum, Peter Waring, Senior Flood Risk Advisor at the Environment Agency, Denise Haylett, Head of Facilities & Community Hubs TWBC.

**In Attendance:**

Louise Goldsmith (Clerk), Cllr. H. Patterson

| Minute No. |  | Action |
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|  | **ADMINISTRATION:** Fire Exits, Fire Meeting Point, Mobile Phones, Sanitisation measures, intention to record the meeting – Noted. |  |
| 226 | **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Max Tant (KCC), Earl Bourner (KCC), Matt Gauntlett (EA), Mr R. Hollamby, Mr T. Sanderson |  |
| 227 | **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 March 2022 be signed as a true and accurate record. |  |
| 228 | **3. APPOINTMENTS/CHANGES TO COMMITTEE AND WARDENS.** None to report. |  |
| 229 | **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT COVERED IN CURRENT AGENDA:**  **221 (b) Culvert - Goldsmid Hall,Tudeley:** At the last meeting the Flood Warden reported that the length of stream where it emerges from the culvert and goes under the railway bridge continues to flood the road. The Flood Warden has since sent some photographs which demonstrates that over time the road has widened meaning that the gullies are no longer at the edge of the road and the excess water is bypassing the gullies. The Flood Warden has suggested that the obvious mitigation is to increase the number and size of the drains on both sides of the stream. An immediate and cheaper solution would be to install ‘road liable to flooding’ signs. This issue and the suggested remedial works will be discussed with KCC.  **222:** It was noted that the drain on the corner of Sychem lane/Tolhurst Road has been cleared today. The drain on the corner of Sychem Lane and Rochester Place needs to be checked to see if it has been cleared.  **224:** In response to a query raised at the last meeting about the amount and timeframe in which rain fell in the area on the 1 August 2021. Cllr. Mackonochie advised that 44mm of rain fell over 12 hours. | **CM/Clerk** |
| 230 | **5. PRESENTATIONS** None to receive. |  |
| 236 | *The Chair proposed and it was agreed to take agenda item 11 next*  **11. TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT/UPDATE**  Denise Haylett from TWBC advised that the Five Oak Green Flood Resilience scheme has been making good progress over the last few months during the construction phase. To date the EA have installed measures at 42 properties around the village with only a handful left to complete. The remaining few properties will be completed over the coming months as some properties were last minute sign-ups to the scheme and the EA are awaiting manufacture of their measures |  |
| 231 | **6. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT/UPDATE**  Peter Waring, Senior Flood Risk Advisor at the Environment Agency  explained that there are just four properties needing works, two are yet to be started and both are on on Nortons Way. Works to the other two properties have been delayed due to additional requests from the occupier. Hopefully works to two of the properties will be completed by Christmas. The EA expect that some homeowners may need to report some snagging issues and would like to actively encourage them to come forward. Peter Waring advised that the EA will undertake a post installation assessment to check that everything is fit for purpose. The EA is also currently undertaking wet testing at a select number of properties on the scheme and will carry out more wet testing over the next few months. The EA have to wet test 10% of the properties on the scheme. Peter Waring suggested that if any residents require any further help or instructions on how to use or deploy their measures that they should get in touch with the EA.  Though disappointed with the time it took for the remedial measures to be installed Mrs Assirati expressed her appreciation to the EA for the works undertaken to her home.  *18:42hrs Denise Haylett left the meeting*  Actions from previous meeting   * The Flood Warning Scheme has been delayed and is now expected to come online next summer * Gauge board on Alders Stream – This will also be implemented next summer when the new Flood Warning Scheme is planned to go live for the catchment. Further updates from the project team about the location of the gauge board will follow in the coming months. * Alders Stream Trash Screen B2017 – The scheme has been delayed due to an issue with the previous contractor and the EA has only just appointed another contractor. The area has been cleared several times. Cllr. Mackonochie advised that investigation works are being undertaken by the EA with a view to redesigning the trash screen. * Vegetation clearance within Alder Stream has taken place and will continue as required.   Concern was expressed about the fact the trash screen has been redesigned and replaced several times. CM suggested that the proposal is now to install a two-stage screen which will be bigger and hopefully more effective. Peter Waring advised that the process has been a learning curve and that the EA has had to review the design of the trash screen as more is understood about the flows of the water in this area. Peter Waring agreed to find out more about the design and construction of the proposed new trash screen.  Cllr. Patterson asked Peter Waring for his thoughts on how the stream held up on the 3/4 November 2022 when there was a substantial amount of rainfall in the Moat Farm area and how close the area was to being flooded? Peter Waring explained that the intensity of the rainfall and also how saturated the ground is can affect whether an area floods or not. On this occasion the ground was still quite dry following a long spell of no rain so there was no risk of flooding. |  |
| 232 | **7. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT/UPDATE** CM advised that Max Tant, Flood Risk Manager at KCC has advised that KCC has nothing to report but would be happy to receive any enquiries/concerns to do with surface water. CM suggested directing any enquiries to the Clerk. |  |
| 233 | **8. KENT HIGHWAYS REPORT/UPDATE**  Earl Bourne, Asset Manager for Drainage at KCC and Fiona Green from the Drainage Team has advised that the gullies are scheduled to be cleansed in December 2022 and that if any gullies are causing an immediate danger to the highway or properties to get in touch with the Contact Centre who will arrange urgent cleaning. At the JTB meeting on the 3 October 2022 it was reported that further works are on the system to complete survey work from Sychem Lane to Badsell Road. Earl Bourner has since advised that the surveys are now fully completed and no further works are required at the moment. Earl Bourner has also raised a job to get a gulley cleansed, jetted and flood tested outside a cottage in Badsell Road, (Kings Head area), which has flooded from the road in the past. The drain is possibly blocked with concrete. |  |
| 234 | **9. SOUTHERN WATER REPORT** There was no report. CM reported that Tim Sanderson has been in touch with Southern Water regarding the attenuation tank at Forge Close and has been advised that it will be cleaned in April 2023 which is consistent with the promised 18 month cleaning cycle. |  |
| 235 | **10. SOUTH EAST RIVER TRUST REPORT** There was no report. |  |
| 237 | **12. FLOOD WARDENS REPORT/UPDATE** CM reported that the very dry summer has meant there have been very few issues. However, in August a dam was created with flood bags in the Alders Stream which had to be removed. The culvert was checked numerous times by the Flood Wardens and EA during the heavy rainfall on the 3 and 4 November 2022. There has been an interesting pattern to the amount of rainfall recently with 43mm of rain recorded in 24 hours on the 3 November 2022 and 14mm the next day. On the 16 November 2022 there was only 28mm of rain and 23mm on the 17 November 2022 demonstrating that the ground is getting more saturated but thankfully they are currently no real issues at the culvert. However, on both occasions there was a discharge from the sewers outside Forge Close which appeared to be clear. CM tried several times to contact Southern Water to report this issue but the phone calls were annoyingly cut off. The Clerk and CM will raise concerns about reporting issues with Southern Water. | **CM/Clerk** |
| 238 | **13. PARISH FLOOD SOURCES/RISK AREAS:**   * 1. **Postern:** Nothing to note.   2. **Culvert - Goldsmid Hall – Tudeley:** See item 4.   3. **Alders area including culvert - Orchard Cottage:**   Nothing to note.  **d.** **Alders Stream Trash Screen B2017:** See item 6.  **e. Queens Head/Pendore area:** Nothing to note.  **f. Centre of Five Oak Green:** Nothing to note.  **g. Attenuation Tank, Forge Close:** See item 9.  The Flood Warden had to put the flood warning signs out on  the 3 November 2022 during the heavy rainfall.  **h. Kings Head Cottages:** Nothing to note.  **i. B2017 by Capel Grange Lodge:** Nothing to note.  **j. Stonecastle:** Nothing to note. |  |
| 239 | **14. GENERAL – ROAD GULLIES**  See item 8. |  |
| 240 | **15 NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM** David Warden National Flood Forum, was pleased to report that the Kent Flood Action Forum met in October 2022 in person for the first time and it was the first meeting for several months. The Kent Flood Forum is attended by Flood Action groups across Kent and will be meeting again on the 1 December 2022 online to discuss their strategic objectives and any commonalities. David Jordan invited everyone to attend the virtual meeting on the 1 December 2022. The BRIC Project, (Building Resilience in Communities), has organised an online seminar on the 24 November 2022 to discuss cross channel collaboration to reduce the impact of flooding. David Jordan agreed to send a link for this event which is also being recorded. People can sign up to attend or to receive a copy of the recording. |  |
| 241 | **16. OTHER ITEMS** CM reported that Climate Change is now more than ever topical following the weather patterns over the last year. CM went to on advise that in 2022 we have had the greatest extremes of weather ever recorded in Kent. In February 2022 there was the first red storm warning in Kent and in July 2022 there was the first red heatwave warning in Kent. There has never been a red weather warning in Kent so two in one year is very concerning. |  |
| 242 | **17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**: 20 March 2023 18:30hrs |  |

*The meeting closed at 19:08hrs*

Signed: ……………………………………………. Date: ……………………………………….