

CAPEL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Flooding Panel Meeting held virtually at 18:30hrs on Tuesday 18 April 2023

Present:

Committee: Cllr C. Mackonochie (CM) (Chair), Cllr A. Saunders (AS) Cllr T. Sawyer (TS), Mr. D. Hulme (DH), Mr. P. Derbyshire (PD)

Flood Wardens: Mr R. Harris (RH), Mr R. Hollamby (RHOLL), Mrs M. Forster (MF)

External Attendees: There were none.

In Attendance:

Louise Goldsmith (Clerk), County Councillor Sarah Hamilton, Cllr. H. Patterson

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	ADMINISTRATION: Intention to record the meeting – Noted.	
243	1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Peter Waring (EA) Matt Gauntlett (EA), Denise Haylett (TWBC), Max Tant (KCC), Earl Bourner (KCC), Rob Crumbie (S E Water), Mr T. Sanderson, Mrs. L. Assirati.	
244	2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 November 2022 be signed as a true and accurate record.	CM/Clerk
245	3. APPOINTMENTS/CHANGES TO COMMITTEE AND WARDENS. None to report.	
246	4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES NOT COVERED IN CURRENT AGENDA: None to report.	
247	5. PRESENTATIONS At the end of the meeting CM presented some statistics on future changes to summer and winter temperatures given by UKCP (UK Climate Predictions). The predictions show an increase in river and groundwater flooding during the winter over time. By 2070 projections suggest that rain will come in high intensity/tropical type storms. The BBC and the Met Office have collaborated and have developed a website where you can enter your postcode to see how predicted climate changes will affect where you live. The aim is to try and get the message across to individuals to not be complacent and embrace climate change.	CM
248	6. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT/UPDATE Peter Waring, Senior Flood Risk Advisor at the Environment Agency has advised that the EA will be in the village this week to undertake some Post Installation Assessments on some of the properties in the Flood Resilience Scheme. The contractor, Watertight, have already issued full instructions on maintenance and how to deploy the barriers and the EA has also now produced an explanatory leaflet to assist residents. CM has circulated a copy of the leaflet to the Flood Wardens. Peter Waring has advised that in the event of any damage or maintenance issues, residents should contact Watertight directly. CM reported that some residents are	

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	<p>leaving the barriers up permanently. CM will ask Peter Waring whether leaving the barriers up permanently is advisable.</p> <p>Matt Gauntlett from the Environment Agency sent the following report. The scheme has made very good progress over the last 6 months with all 49 eligible properties having had measures fully installed. Measures include items such as demountable barriers for doorways and low windows, passive flood doors, automatic closing airbricks, non-return valves, sump pumps and puddle pumps. We are now at the stage of carrying out post-installation assessments (PIAs) with our contractor Watertight International and their independent consultants RAB Consultants. This involves going around every property to ensure measures have been installed correctly and that homeowners understand how to deploy them where required. This is also an opportunity to identify any issues with installation and rectify them whilst Watertight International are in the area. At the same time as PIAs, we are also carrying out wet testing on a number of properties to test the install of the full range of measures across the scheme. Later this year we will also look to carry out a mock flood exercise to enable homeowners to test and practice the deployment of their measures. Members of the Environment Agency and Watertight International will be on hand during this event to answer any questions homeowner may have as well as help with the deployment. We will be in contact with homeowners later this year regarding this. Lastly, we would like to thank Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and in particular Denise Haylett for her support on the project and their significant funding contribution towards the scheme.</p>	CM
249	<p>7. KENT COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT/UPDATE 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.</p>	
250	<p>8. KENT HIGHWAYS REPORT/UPDATE Earl Bourner, Asset Manager for Drainage at KCC has agreed to investigate the drainage issue at Catts Corner. Earl Bourner has advised that all the gullies on the strategic network will be cleansed this year, and it was noted that KCC are taking more of a risk based approach to the minor network with a 3 year programme to cleanse all gullies within Kent. CM advised to report any blocked gullies on the portal.</p>	CM/EB
251	<p>9. SOUTHERN WATER REPORT It was noted that John Mealey is the new Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Kent and was expected to attend the meeting. The Clerk has requested an update on any works planned to the attenuation tank in Forge Close. It was due to be cleansed on the 6 April 2023.</p>	Clerk
252	<p>10. SOUTH EAST WATER REPORT CM advised that Rob Crumbie is the new Head of Communications at South East Water. Mr Crumbie, who has only been in post a few weeks, has agreed to send an written update on the reservoir operations in the area.</p>	
253	<p>11. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Report/Update See item 6.</p>	

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254	12. FLOOD WARDENS REPORT/UPDATE CM was very pleased to report that it has been a very quiet period.	
255	13. PARISH FLOOD SOURCES/RISK AREAS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Postern: Nothing to note. b. Culvert - Goldsmid Hall – Tudeley: RHOLL reported that there are no real issues at the moment but would like to discuss at some point the clearing of the stream which runs under the railway as this can back up and cause flooding. RHOLL agreed to send some photos of the issue to CM. c. Alders area including culvert - Orchard Cottage: Nothing to note. d. Alders Stream Trash Screen B2017: CM has asked Peter Waring for an update on how the EA is getting on with the redesign of the trash screen. e. Queens Head/Pendore area: Nothing to note. f. Centre of Five Oak Green: The issues experienced in January involving Southern Water has now been resolved. g. Attenuation Tank, Forge Close: Meant to be cleaned April 2023. h. Kings Head Cottages: Nothing to note. i. B2017 by Capel Grange Lodge: Nothing to note. j. Stonecastle: Nothing to note. 	<p style="text-align: center;">RHOLL/CM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CM</p>
256	14. GENERAL – ROAD GULLIES RH reported that there are issues with the gullies from Catts Corner to the roundabout at the end of Five Oak Green Green. CM agreed to report this to Earl Bourner at KCC. AS has reported the blocked gullies outside Brampton Bank. AS has been advised that the gullies would be cleansed as part of the cyclical cleaning which was due to take place in March 2023 but they remain blocked. CM will report this to Earl Bourner at KCC.	<p style="text-align: center;">CM</p>
257	15 NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM There was no report.	
258	16. OTHER ITEMS MF reported that the ditch by the penthouse path is not draining away properly. CM and DH to check the plans to prevent this issue.	<p style="text-align: center;">CM/DH</p>
259	17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 20 November 2023 18:30hrs	

The meeting closed at 18:54hrs

Signed:

Date: