

Notes of Mudford Flood Information Meeting held on Thursday 8th August 2024 at 19:00hrs

Led by: Councillors (Cllrs) Stephen Bartlett and Robin Bowring, Kay Mackenzie.

In Attendance: Petra Galloway – Parish Clerk, and 25 members of public

19:05hrs Meeting Started

Cllr Bowring opened the meeting and explained that Mudford Parish Council recognises that traffic and flooding issues are primary concerns of the parishioners.

Cllr Bowring mentioned a meeting with a Hydrologist who might be providing advice to the parish council on the housing developments (Primrose Lane and Sockhill), but he might be also able to provide advice on West Mudford Rd flooding.

The purpose of the meeting:

- To explain why a flood group is needed.
- To explain and discuss different forms in which a flood group can be established.
- To explain the main objectives of the flood group, what can the flood wardens and volunteers do.

Kay Mackenzie took over the facilitation of the meeting.

[Cllr Bartlett presented an Emergency Volunteer slides \(Source EA\):](#)

Under the Civil Contingency Act 2004:

- Category 1 (Core) Responders: Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance service, HM Coastguards, Local Authority, NHS Service Trust and Public Health England, Environment Agency, etc.
- Category 2 (Required to Assist) Responders: Electricity and Gas distributors, Sewerage and water undertakers, Network rail, highways, train/airport operators etc.
- Non-category: Flood/Community Emergency volunteers, Voluntary search and Rescue, RNLI, Military

What category 1 and 2 responders do:

Police: Command and coordinate other agencies however, they do not go into the water. Request evacuation but cannot force people to evacuate. Maintain outer cordon.

Fire and Rescue: Control of inner cordon & rescue. Pump where risk to life only and do not provide power or generators.

Local Authority: Information & Warning, Provide rest centers and social care. Lead agency for recovery. Do not provide sandbags.

Environment Agency: Warn and inform. Do not provide sandbags.

What Community volunteers do in an emergency:

- Follow Community Emergency Plan procedures safely
- Monitor Flood warnings
- Report flooding to the Incident Hotline (Rivers and Sea), or to Somerset Council / Highways
- Flood Warning Duty Officers (FWDOs) might contact you
- Pass information to FWDOs via the Incident Hotline
- Pass info to incident commander – face to face or Police 101

Examples of different flood groups including Chew Magna, Martock and West Somerset Flood Group:

Each group establishes the needs of the community, some cover large areas, etc.

Risk and Hazards:

Unsafe structures, fast flowing water, people trapped in cars, trapped livestock, debris, trip hazards/underwater hazards, open drains, sewage and pollution, rats, leaking fuels/poison, anger/stress/anxiety, hypothermia, flood tourists, etc.

What volunteers **cannot** do:

- Enter area that has been cordoned off
- Perform the job of emergency services

Flood Volunteer PPE:

Hi-viz jacket clothing, steel toe capped shoes, head torch, hand sanitizer, etc.

Emergency plans:

Include:

- Flood warden contact and cascade list
- Details of emergency responders
- Vulnerable people and what support they might need
- Equipment availability/location
- Location of hotspots and hazards
- Details of emergency centers

Need to be reviews regularly and activating practiced.

Parish Clerk presented how a Flood Group could be formed

3 main options have been identified:

1. A community led group, separate from the Parish Council:
 - Information how to form this type of group available from the Flood Hub: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/community/>
 - The group would have its own constitution, bank account, liability insurance etc.
 - Advantages: Potential higher longevity, not dependent on parish council's decisions, can join other similar groups.
2. A committee of Mudford Parish Council (MPC):
 - Would have to adhere to rules such as advertising the meetings and agendas (as per Mudford Parish Council Standing Orders)
 - Would lead a group of volunteers.
3. A working group (of volunteers) supported by MPC:
 - Connected to MPC but not led by it (as option 2 would be)

Options 2 and 3:

- Covered by the MPC insurance but the extent would depend on what would the group want to do.
- Might not be as flexible.
- Dependent on MPC, councilors who lead or support might resign or be voted out.
- Grey area in law – Parish councils and their duties and powers.
- Risk to the council if a liability issue arises.

Discussion:

All present agreed that forming an independent group (the first option) is more viable and therefore preferable.

Priorities for Mudford Flood Action group discussed:

- Mitigation and coping with the realities of flooding
- Information distribution, community help (listening, reassuring, providing information and advice).
- Control of vehicles and road closures (focus on road safety).
- Ditch clearance.
- Drain mapping.
- Potentially installing gauges on Mudford Bridge.
- Furniture moving in one or potentially two houses only.

Next steps:

Schedule a meeting to establish the group aims/objectives

- Form a committee and constitution.

- Admin: Bank account, treasurer.

Ask for a grant from Somerset Prepared (details available on MPC website).
Liaise with surrounding parishes e.g. Marston Magna, Chilton Cantelo and others.

Actions:

- Clerk to put information including notes from the meeting on MPC website.
- Clerk to contact volunteers who kindly signed up to be a part of the group about the next steps and a future meeting date/agenda.

21:00hrs End of the meeting.

DRAFT