

Worplesdon Flood Forum

Fairlands Community Centre Car Park, GU3 3NA

Friday 6 July 2018 – 10.30am – 12 noon

MINUTES

1. Attendees:

The Rt. Hon. Anne Milton – MP for Guildford
Ms Katy Fielding – Surrey Wildlife Trust
Mr John Morley – Wood Street Resident/Ex. Thames Water Environmental Engineer
Dr Alan Dillon – Fairlands Resident
Ms Carley Mason and Hannah – Thames Water
Mr Jason Lewis - Surrey County Council
Mr Ben Crampin – Surrey County Council
Cllr Nigel Mitchell – Worplesdon Parish Council & Worplesdon Flood Forum
Cllr David Snipp – Worplesdon Parish Council
Cllr Pauline Snipp – Worplesdon Parish Council
Cllr Lisa Wright - Worplesdon Parish Council
Mr Peter Trevena – Groundsman, Worplesdon Parish Council
Mrs Gaynor White – Clerk to Worplesdon Parish Council
Mrs Victoria Fear – Assistant Clerk to Worplesdon Parish Council

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Cllr David Elms – Guildford Borough Council, Councillor for Worplesdon
Mr Geoff Fowler – Guildford Borough Council
Ms Rachel Hopkins – Environment Agency
Mr Lawson Aldred - Resident
Mr George Allen – Surrey County Council
Mr Patrick Giles – Surrey County Council (Engineer)
Cllr Paul Cragg – Worplesdon Parish Council
Cllr Keith Witham – Surrey County Council
Cllr Bob McShee – Guildford Borough Council, Councillor for Worplesdon
Mr Steve Knight – Jacobs Well Resident
Mr Cyril Mitkov – Thames Water
Mr Tim Gamble - Merrist Wood

2. Introductions:

Mrs White welcomed everyone to the walkabout. Those present at the meeting introduced themselves.

3. Southern Corner of the sports field, Fairlands

Mrs White explained that it is at this particular corner the main drainage ditch for water coming from the Hog's Back, i.e. Blackwell Farm, is readily visible and accessible. The implications of this particular ditch becoming constricted were highlighted by drawing attendee's attention to the previous flood events which have flooded out the doctor's surgery, pharmacy and community association hall.

On close inspection it was confirmed that one culvert which cuts straight underneath the playing field from this bend, has been blocked off and a small amount of vegetation has grown across it. This culvert was also inspected from the other end, at Item 5.

Whilst inspecting the ditch it was visually apparent that the ditch running along Quakers Way and Gumbrells Close is exceptionally overgrown and requires clearing.

WPC to undertake a leaflet drop, and if no action 4 weeks after the leaflet drop, SCC will do a letter. WPC to escalate, if necessary, using Flooding Enquiries email address.

4. At the corner of the recreation field, the impact of the land-grab from a Quakers Way property was discussed. The land grab has resulted in a ditch being infilled, and paving slabs and compost bins paced on top. SCC are still evidence gathering at this stage.

SCC to continue investigations.

5. Bridge at far side of recreation field [edge of woodland]

The culvert which was previously noted as being blocked was clearly visible. SCC agreed that it would be a viable option to use their camera to establish the feasibility of unblocking the length of the culvert, feeding in the camera from both ends, to determine if tree roots have damaged the integrity of the structure.

It was highlighted that this would require FLGCA consent.

SCC to investigate further.

6. Ineffective drainage ditch neighbouring horse field

It has been suggested that the water which lies in this particular ditch exacerbates the flow of water into the pond area which neighbours, and subsequently runs over, Aldershot Road.

SWT to investigate further but suggested the possibility of re-digging the ditch to encourage the water to flow away from the area, and, if at all possible, dig a trench to fill the pond which has the pond-dipping platform within it.

7. Culvert which passes underneath Aldershot Road

A grille/trash screen would prevent debris from impeding the flow of water. It was noted that the left-hand bank of soil has subsided across the culvert opening, blocking approximately 30% of the flow.

BC (SCC) and KF (SWT) to discuss suitable action but will consider bank reinforcement at the same time as digging out the soil which is currently impeding the flow.

8. Culvert (grille W1/1)

A tree was noted to be blocking the flow of water.

SWT to address.

9. Structures across the watercourse located at the rear of properties on St Michael's Avenue

Some of the structures appear to be subsiding into the path of the water.

SWT to check the integrity of the structures over the watercourse.

10. Manhole behind Fairlands refuse/recycling area

It was noted that, despite the ongoing dry conditions, there was a significant, constant flow of water through the chamber beneath the manhole cover.

Thames Water to determine if they have any involvement. If no involvement, Peter Trevena and John Morley to investigate further.

Mrs Milton, Mrs White and Mrs Fear thanked the officers from SCC, Thames Water, and SWT not only for attending the meeting but also for their ongoing commitment to resolving flooding within the parish, and also thanked all of the residents for their continuing support and assistance.

Meeting closed 12.18pm.