

# Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of interested parties concerned with the flooding of Tidmarsh with Sulham parish, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 in the village hall.

## **In attendance:**

Councillor Steve Webb  
Councillor Colin Pawson  
Councillor Jon Chishick  
Councillor Jonathan Pearson  
Councillor John Haggarty  
District councillor Tim Metcalfe  
Andy Coulson-Phillips, BBOWT  
Stuart Clark, WBC  
Kay Lacey, Pangbourne Flood Group  
Stephen Billyeald, Pangbourne flood warden  
Clive Loveridge, Tidmarsh Parish Council consultant on flooding  
George and Gillian Davidson, Tidmarsh residents  
Sima Elliot, Tidmarsh resident  
Sarah Bosley, Tidmarsh parish clerk

## **Apologies**

Councillor Mike Broun

## **1. Background**

Cllr Colin Pawson chaired the meeting. He gave a brief history of previous flooding incidents in the Pang Valley and the reports that followed each.

## **2. Pang Valley Flood Risk Management Plan**

Stuart Clark spoke about the plan, which lays out the roles and responsibilities of different parties, for flooding issues. The plan contains actions, which will be built on in the coming months. He said that all flooding events were different and the plan is now there to be adapted in whatever way the interested parties see fit. Actions can be added and SC can advise on that. EA will also come to the forum meetings. A lot of progress has been made since the last big flood of 2007.

He said overspill was always inevitable but it was about controlling where the water went.

SC must now produce a report on all the flooding events across the district this year and he asked the parish council to highlight all issues on a map of the area he would leave with them.

Kay Lacey said she had been getting feedback and early information, which is a real benefit to Pangbourne. She said that the parishes working together would benefit everyone and give the group a better standing to work from.

The group then went through the plan itself in detail.

Action points raised were:

- Resurrect the Tidmarsh flood plan
- Appoint a Tidmarsh flood warden
- Need to work through the ditches between the Pang and the Sul. Which are critical and which can be left as they are? Are there areas that would make good flood storage and can they be formalised as such? Need a controlled release of the water to prevent flooding in Pangbourne.
- Who owns and maintains the sluices at Moor Copse? It is on BBOWT land but not listed on its asset register. Andy Coulson-Phillips said BBOWT was happy to take guidance on what to do with it. It appears to have been damaged recently, as it has been in the past. It is key to preventing flooding for some residents.
- Create a document, detailing who does what, with what sluice and when. Needs to be a joined up approach to working all sluices in the area.
- Clerk to check on Localism Act and the power it gives parishes to spend on flood alleviation schemes.
- Communication channels in the village need to be formalised.
- There needs to be a more formal mechanism for road closures when there is a flood, as the signs were largely ignored.
- Pangbourne are very willing to help Tidmarsh create the relevant documents and establish a flood group.

### **3. Pang Valley Flood Forum**

KL said that working with a number of parishes within the area to form the forum gave the group more weight to make changes. It is a way of bringing all the agencies together. The first meeting is on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2014, at 7pm in Pangbourne Village Hall.

Two representatives per parish is adequate, so Tidmarsh need to decide who will attend. A flood warden, if the role is created, would be a sensible choice.

SC said he hoped to restore the natural workings of the Sul, Pang and the natural ditches. There are only two things to do with flood water – store it or divert it. Need to look at maybe landscaping the area to keep the water away from the houses.

### **4. Parish annual assembly**

The issue of flooding will be the main topic of conversation at the annual parish assembly, which is held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. CP to get details to Jenny Cope tomorrow to get into the next parish magazine. Notices will be put up in the noticeboards immediately to ensure maximum exposure.

### **5. Close of meeting**

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

**Date**

**Signed**