

## **Minutes of Flood Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom 7.30pm**

### **Attendees:**

(CO) Chris Oakes (Sub-Committee Chair Person & representative of Parish Council)  
(NC) Neil Coston (Sub-Committee Member & representative of Parish Council)  
(JC) Jason Coward (Sub-Committee Member & representative of Parish Council)  
(GF) Gilly Foulds (Sub-Committee Member)  
(AM) Andy Minturn ((Sub-Committee Member)  
(JN) Julie North (Sub-Committee Member)  
(LB) Lisa Bidwell (Sub-Committee Member)  
8 Members of the public from 5 households

### **Apologies:**

Clive Rich (Sub-Committee Member & representative of Parish Council)

### **Meeting started at 7:40**

1. Owner of Hollyfields updated the committee on his actions thus far. Grip has been found which connects Hollyfields to Wateringpit Lane which they dug out so water now flows into Hollyfields ditch. Found plastic 4 inch pipe which may connect bungalows from Fairview down to Wateringpit Lane to Hollyfields. It is currently blocked and attempts will be made this weekend to clear it. Pipe has been located coming out of ditch and looks like it takes a right angle under road towards ditch. This will be traced properly this weekend and hopefully it will be rodded through to check if clear. Follow up at next week's meeting. In 2 weeks' time, Hollyfields owner has meeting with Highways Aylsham Depot. GF asked if he could mention other issues in village.
2. A Wateringpit Lane resident has contacted the committee to complain about the mud left behind after the flood. Jason asked if Highways were responsible and it appears that they are but that it will be a lengthy wait to get things sorted. It was discussed that although residents are welcome to report these issues directly to Highways, they have a large backlog of work currently so it may be some time before this is cleared. It will also keep happening until the pipes/ditches are sorted. It was suggested that, in order for the road to be cleared quickly Wateringpit Lane residents get together a 'Working Party' in order to clear this, in the same way villagers recently cleared the overgrown paths. GF will discuss this with the resident.
3. GF hasn't had any update from Manor Cottages. The farm adjacent is still flooding and pumps are on continuously. GF asked CO if we have any responsibility for the dual carriageway which is suffering from heavy flooding. It was suggested to contact Simon Shaw, Chairperson of Scottow Parish Council as this is under his remit.
4. A resident of Groomsmere Court told of overflowing manhole covers and they have had to lift the covers in order to be able to flush their toilet – which all ends up on the lawn. They have Anglian Water coming out tomorrow to disinfect their lawn but will ask if they can also pump out all manhole covers of the Court leading up to the road as they're all full and spilling over. Failing that they may look to get together with other residents and purchase a tanker to come and pump out drains.
5. GF reported that residents of Market Close (Orbit Housing) are unable to flush their downstairs toilets and have 'bubbling up' manhole covers. A representative from Anglian Water came out to them and visited the pumping station. He said it's working fine but not having any effect as it's simply overloaded.
6. All agreed it was acceptable to send a letter from the Clerk on behalf of the Flood Committee to the following requesting immediate and long-term assistance with our efforts:  
Mark Ogden (Flood & Water Manager) Community & Environmental Services Norfolk County Council  
Councillor Nigel Dixon  
Councillor Duncan Baker

7. The owner of Fairfield updated on their progress. They located pipe on the front of their property which is thought to be broken. The hope is to be able to pipe this straight under the road into the ditch rather than go across to Hollyfields. They have employed the services of a professional who has also mentioned the inadequacies of the drainage ditches on the field at the end of Wateringpit Lane which backs onto Fairfields. Parts have been filled in over the years and other parts are overgrown, hence the incredible amount of water overflowing out of what ditch is there (maintained by Fairfields) and flooding their garden. Fairfield have written to the owners of the fields to ask if they can reinstate their ditches. It was noted by Committee Members that it may be difficult to do any ditch maintenance at the moment, given the condition of the land, but it is hoped they will cooperate. LB asked CO what is the next step should land owners show an unwillingness to cooperate and CO advised it would go the Flood Team at County who will contact them. Should they still not cooperate, legal action may take place. It was agreed generally that this would be a last resort and much effort would take place to engage owners positively.
8. LB asked CO if there was any progress regarding Orbit. It is understood that having looked at the deeds, the council are positive that the Orbit ditch is theirs to maintain. They haven't yet contacted Orbit with this information. It was agreed that we would present this to them via the Clerk on behalf of the Flood Committee. LB also asked CO if the previous Clerk left any information on previous contact details for Orbit as so far we're not being given a sole contact. CO said he would ask the new Clerk to go through the files.
9. Owners of 'Stepping Stones' s investigated man-hole at the end of Rose Barn driveway; no evidence has been found of a pipe coming out and entering the ditch. There is a pipe coming from the houses on the opposite side of the road but it doesn't seem to come out the other side. CO talked about a previous repair being done on this pipe. It was agreed to pump out the ditch and manhole in order to have a good visual of what's there this Sunday morning.
10. JC requested that Committee members were a 'mouthpiece' for residents to ensure they're fully informed on what the Flood Committee is doing and to ensure it is used solely to give information to residents. If they wish to give us information another channel should be used.
11. Owner of St Kew raised concerns that if the pipe is fixed at Fairfield, he's concerned the water will flood into his garden which has had its ditch filled in by a previous owner. Fairfield owner assured that there is currently a bung on the pipe holding the water which will not be removed until the pipework ahead is sorted. Both St Kew and Fairfield stated they would like the pipe from Fairfield to simply go straight under the road into the ditch.
12. A number of people asked if there were any grants available to help home owners with the cost of reinstating their pipes/ditches. It was agreed this should be investigated by all.
13. GF reiterated the need to get contact details of Area Managers and senior members of staff within Anglian Water. She pointed out we could suggest to them the use of a tankering company within our own village rather than sending tankers from other counties.
14. Various members of the public explained how unhelpful they felt the service was from Anglian Water. There hasn't been a tanker sent for 3 weeks and residents now have raw sewerage on the gardens and are unable to use their facilities. Very worryingly there is raw sewerage getting into our surface water ditches which is then flowing into the river at Coltishall. JC suggested we send correspondence to the Environment Agency as they may have powers to assist us with ensuring Anglian Water do more for us than is being done at present.
15. There was concern over residents which may be alone, vulnerable, affected by flooding/sewerage issues and not

know about the action we're taking. It was decided to organise a leaflet drop around the village which will a) get us talking to people who might otherwise not know the Flood Committee has been set up and b) give us a good idea of the amount of residents affected when talking to Anglian Water.

### **Actions**

#### **1. Hollyfields:**

- a. Asking Highways prior to meeting in 2 weeks if they will consider looking out our other issues (proposed pipe going straight from Fairview to ditch under road & assessing pipe under road by Rose Farm Barn)
  - b. Ascertaining if pipe has been discovered which connects bungalows to Wateringpit Lane
  - c. Attempting to clear pipe from Hollyfields to ditch
2. Gilly to discuss with resident at Wateringpit Lane about the possibility of getting together a 'Working Party' to clear mud on road
  3. Clerk to send email on behalf of Flood Committee to Simon Shaw, Chairman of Scottow Parish Council requesting information on action being taken regarding historic flooding of dual carriageway.
  4. Lisa to devise letters requesting assistance to county council, Orbit Housing (attaching copy of Deeds), Anglian Water and Environment Agency. Clerk to proof and send.
  5. Owner of Stepping Stones to meet with Gilly on Sunday morning to pump out and investigate the pipes near Rose Farm Barn.
  6. Update the Flood Committee Facebook page with minutes; also publish on Village website and the noticeboard
  7. Chris to ask Clerk to search files for any contact details the previous Clerk used for Orbit.
  8. All members to investigate grant options for home-owners to reinstate/repair drainage network on their own property.
  9. Form to be devised and circulated around village. Celeste, Julie & Lisa offered to assist with this. Forms to be returned to a box left at a confirmed location
  10. Julie to contact Environment Agency by phone (Clerk to send email also) to notify them of raw sewerage getting into the surface water system, therefore the river.
  11. Next meeting arranged for Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm

**Meeting ended at 9.30pm**