HURSLEY PARISH FLOOD PLAN

Introduction

Hursley village and certain areas in the Parish are occasionally affected by both groundwater flooding and flash flooding. Groundwater flooding occurs when groundwater levels rise more than 43m above the Environment Agency's datum point. Previous groundwater flooding events have taken place between December and April. Flash flooding is caused by rainfall exceeding the capacity of the storm drains and can occur at any time. The affected area is limited to Main Road and South End Close and Pitt. The purpose of this plan is to detail precautions that may reduce the severity of any flooding event and which need to be routinely carried out, and the steps that should be taken if flooding occurs. It is based on experience of dealing with the particular patterns and consequences of flooding in the village.

Flood Management Group

Hursley Parish Council has established a Flood Management Group (FMG) to deal with both proactive and reactive responses to the flooding threat.
The FMG consists of:

James Hanna	(Chair)
Eleanor Bell	(Past-Chair)
Martin Waldron	
Richard Baker	(Ditch & Drainage Warden)
Michael Arthur	(Ground Water Warden)
Gina Main	
David Sturgess	(Pitt Representative)
Simon Kerry	(Scientific Advisor)

Every flooding event is different and the FMG will respond according to the exigencies of any given situation. There are, however, trigger points in terms of the annual weather cycle, ground water levels as measured by the Environment Agency, and the appearance of ground water at low points in the village, each of which will require the FMG to carry out specific actions as follows:

The FMG will meet each **September/October** to:

- Check that the maintenance schedule (Appendix B) has been completed;
- Consider whether the Parish Council should be pressing for preventative measures such as the lining of drains;
- Review the Flood Plan and make any recommendations to the Parish Council for updates and amendments;
- Make recommendations to the Parish Council regarding preventive measures and any purchases of equipment;
- Make contacts with the agencies listed in Appendix D to ensure that names, numbers and mutual expectations have not changed;
- Check with Dol[hon that the drains are clear;
- Update e-mail addresses of vulnerable properties;
- Consider the general level of awareness about the undesirability of discharging cooking fat into the foul water system.

Otherwise the FMG will meet as required.

Trigger Events

Should the likelihood of flooding increase, the FMG will react to the following trigger points:

Trigger 1 - Environment Agency reports ground water level at 42m above datum

- Make contact with vulnerable properties by e-mail or by visiting if e-mail is not available;
- Check all drains and gullies;
- Issue general advice about activities likely to cause blockages;
- Seek volunteers as necessary through village social media.
- Southern Water have stated that, at this point, they will endeavour to place on standby a suitable portable pump. The flow in the sewers will be monitored and if it threatens to cause wastewater flooding of property or restricted use of sanitation facilities, Southern Water will advise the Environment Agency that a pump is to be brought on site and an emergency discharge of dilute wastewater is likely to be required to protect property. The operation of the pump will be subject to the prevalent conditions and meeting the requirements of the Regional Protocol and Guidance Note on Surcharging Sewers, jointly agreed by the Environment Agency and Southern Water in September 2002.

Trigger 2 - Water appears in the dell at 2 South End Close and, shortly thereafter, in the Dolphin cellar

- Provide urgent warnings and offers of assistance to vulnerable properties;
- Begin to liaise with the authorities listed in Appendix A.

Trigger 3 - occurrence of flash flood or widespread groundwater rising in cellars

In the event of a major flooding event, precise effects are unpredictable so FMG will need to react flexibly. However the FMG will, as a minimum:

- liaise with the Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and Southern Water emergency support groups to enable them to advise and assist affected property owners and to encourage them to carry to fulfil their responsibilities as set out in Appendix A;
- monitor the effects of rising groundwater levels on essential services (highway access and drainage, electricity, gas, telecommunications, water and sewage) and properties in the village;
- maintain a close watch on more vulnerable residents in the high-risk areas of the village – no list is maintained, but rather using our collective knowledge to help here;
- keep people informed of what is going on and act as the focal point for the local media when appropriate;
- co-ordinate the provision of help for householders having to move furniture and other personal effects out of harm’s way;
- disseminate information about any grants or rebates available to householders to offset losses caused by the flooding.

Appendix A

Authorities Involved

The organisations and authorities likely to be involved during a flooding event in Hursley and their primary responsibilities are listed below:

Environment Agency

- issue groundwater level information
- receive and record details of all flooding incidents
- monitor the situation and advise other organisations
- deal with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and own structures
- respond to pollution incidents
- advise on waste disposal issues

Hampshire County Council

- co-ordinate emergency arrangements
- maintain safe conditions on the roads (HCC Highways)
- put flood warning signs on the highway (HCC Highways)
- organise road closures and traffic diversions (HCC Highways)
- clear blockages on highway drainage systems as appropriate (HCC Highways)
- take action to protect property from flooding by water from the highway where there is a failure of the highway drainage system, subject to other network priorities (HCC Highways)
- provision of temporary shelter (prepared rest centres) and welfare services
- provision of public information

Winchester City Council

- assist HCC in their coordination role
- flood warning dissemination (by local agreement with Environment Agency)
- emergency assistance (s138 LGA 1972) - provide sandbags
- clear blocked watercourses etc. (land drainage act powers)
- environmental health issues - pollution
- blocked road channels & gully gratings - street cleaning
- emergency planning support groups
- provision of portable toilets where necessary

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service

- rescue
- respond to all emergency incidents as required
- assist the populace where a need is identified and the use of fire service personnel and equipment is relevant

Southern Water

- emergency over-pumping or tankering at pumping stations
- clearing blockages in public sewers and outfall grills
- repairing burst sewage and water pumping mains
- take action to protect property from flooding by water from the public water mains or discharges from the public sewerage systems

Electricity, gas and telecommunications providers

- attend to emergencies relating to their service at properties which put life at risk as a result of flooding
- attend to flooding emergencies at their own service installations
- preserve supplies. Failure of electrical supply to those using pumps could have serious consequences

Appendix B

Maintenance Schedule

Gullies

These are cleaned by HCC annually in October. This includes all locations e.g. Port Lane, Meredun Close, Collins Lane, but not Pelican Court which is cleaned every three years (2019, 2022, 2025 etc.). The soak-aways in South End Close are cleared on demand. Ensure the gullies in Pitt are checked.

Pipework

This not regularly inspected or cleaned but HCC will respond if problems are reported.

Roadside drainage ditches: Poles Lane and A3090 between Hursley and Standon

Landowners will ideally work with the FMG to ensure the ditches are maintained and clear of annual cuttings, and for the culverts beneath entrances leading onto their land from Poles Lane to be regularly inspected. However, HCC dug out all of the ditches at their own expense in 2016. The enforcement authority is HCC. HCC is responsible for maintaining culverts beneath the road but will only do so where a blockage is reported.

Foul Water System

This is the responsibility of Southern Water. It is believed that they do not carry out any regular maintenance actions other than in relation to the pumping stations in Main Road and South End Close. However, in 2015, they invested £80,000 to survey and repair 80m of sewers and seven manholes in the Meredun Close, South End Close and Main Road areas of the village following the record-breaking wet winter of 2013/14. A particular problem in the past has been blockages caused by accumulations of cooking fat emanating from households and businesses. A programme of promoting public awareness to reduce discharge of cooking fat into the foul water system needs to be maintained.
In late 2023/ early 2024 persistent high groundwater levels resulted in the village water system being subjected to frequent tankering by Southern Water. This is to stop excessive build up of fluid in the wastewater drainage as so avoid overloading of the system and so ensure waste does not escape through manholes or into homes (through drains and waste water pipes).
Call to action: Early engagement with Southern Water, based upon rising groundwater levels (using the trigger points in Trigger Point 1 to 2 above, plus using the forecasted weather (e.g. likelihood of a further significant rise in groundwater level). We should ensure that Southern Water update us with as much lead time as possible so as to communicate this to the village – this will include an update on any potential traffic measures deemed necessary by Southern Water.

Flood Management Group Actions.

September - check Poles Land ditches and culverts and contact landowners if maintenance is required
Check culvert under Poles Lane and contact HCC if maintenance is required
Check whether the soak-aways in South End Close needs clearing
Check the collection chambers at the top of Poles Lane
Review measures to reduce discharge of cooking fat into the foul water system
End of October - check that gullies have been cleared.
Annually contact Southern Water to see if the pipes near both pubs are clear of fat build-up
Pitt Maintenance schedule – regular checking of the ditches/ gullies and ensuring the drain is not blocked.

Engagement with the Community regarding Cellars/ Pumping
Timely engagement with the community is a significant value add and important service provided by
this group. This takes place at Trigger Point 2.
This is ideally to be conducted by 2 members of the FMG and no specific advice should be issued about turning on/ off pumps – this is up to the homeowner/ occupier alone. Most of the village that have cellars are more than aware. As ever, courtesy and politeness is required at all times during these visits.
Assistance: we can offer safety measures such as cones to help highlight any pumping across the pavement/ road and where any manhole covers have been moved to enable pumping into the drainage system. Given the water quality that comes through the cellars, this generally should be pumped into the overflow drains and NOT the wastewater (as previously explained this system can become overloaded and so we wish to avoid adding to this system). Michael Arthur also has some flexible pipe that can help with connecting fixed pipe work and avoid having running water over pavements, as we have recent experience of circa minus 6 degrees Celsius weather while water was being pumped across the pavement. Generally speaking though, the cellar water immerges warmer than that of outdoor ambient temperature (meaning it is less likely to freeze and if well directed we can seek to avoid and freezing on the pavements/ roads.

Appendix C

Flood Risk Areas

The following are the **Flash** flooding risk areas in Hursley village:
Main Road – Highway and cellar flooding.

The following are the **Groundwater** flooding risk areas in Hursley Parish:

Main Road (North End), Port Lane and Collins Lane – Cellar flooding; threat to ground floor rooms.
Main Road (South End) – Cellar flooding; threat to ground floor rooms; toilet and wastewater problems.
South End Close – Garden flooding; sewage contamination.

Pitt – Road surface water run-off and the drainage system being clear

Poles Lane, in early 2024, suffered quite extreme flooding leading to the main road being shut down and multiple vehicles being left stranded in deep water once people had driven through and the engines stalled. The FMG should liaise with the Parish Council and local authorities to provide communications to the village (via social media and the village Whatsapp group).
Anderson Moores, the Veterinarians based on Poles Lane, suffered severe flooding at their entrance, causing issues with people dropping off/ picking up their beloved animals. The FMG should reach out in the event of this flooding to offer assistance via messaging for volunteers with suitable vehicles that could transport animals through the floods to waiting owners.

Appendix D

Communications

Ground Water Level Monitoring & Analysis
Simon Kerry, our in-group scientist (albeit not a hydrologist) will provide, supported by others in the group, a view on the data and a short analysis. This will form the basis of the communications to the Parish.
<SIMON to add what metrics/ KPIs he would like to propose we include>

Communication Approach
The FMG should update the community on a quarterly basis on:

- Current ground water levels/ Metrics *AS ABOVE – TO be completed*
- Update on the monthly rainfall during that quarter
- An update on trends/ estimated future quarter rainfall
- Any advise or recommendations based upon the current/ ground water predicted scenarios
- Actions taken by FMG/ Parish Council
- Actions taken by wider authorities and Southern Water

The methods used should be:

- Hursley Living publication
- Hursley Friends Whatsapp group
- Hursley Facebook group
- The chair is to initially draft and then this is to be shared with the wider FMG for comment prior to publishing.

Appendix D

Contacts list

Hampshire County Council (HCC) contacts

Main Desk	01962 840 222
Emergency Office	01962 846 846
Highways Engineer HCC	01489 897501 / 01489 891038.
Highways Support	01962 794719
Environment Agency Floodline:	0345 988 1188
Flood & Water Management Team	01962 846730/ 845479

Cllr Eleanor Bell	01962 775521	OR 07876230600
Cllr Jan Warwick	01962 775840	
(Hampshire County Councillor)	07717104236	
Cllr Brian Laming (District Councillor)	01962 862487	

Sand Bags from WCC/HCC 01962 840222

Flood Defence equipment from Blue Pages - an independent directory of flood protection products approved by the National Flood Forum. www.bluepages.org.uk 01299 403055

Emergency numbers

British Gas	0800 111999
Electricity Emergencies	105
South Electricity	0345 070 7373 or (SSE Power) 0345 071 9710
Southern Water	0330 303 0277
Environment Agency (District)	0370 850 6506

Parish Council Contacts

Elizabeth Billingham (Clerk) 07512 600039 or clerk@hursleypc.org.uk
David Killeen (Chairman) 07834 128494

HCVA Contacts

Richard Baker (Chairman) 07766511487
Pitt Residents' Association Nick Molden 07765105902

Hursley Flood Management Committee contacts

Cllr. James Hanna	07444 859807
Cllr. Eleanor Bell	07876 230600 or 01962 775168 or 07734 051006
Mr. Michael Arthur	01962 775157 or 07780 802880
Mr. Richard Baker	07766 511487
Cllr. Martin Waldron	01962 775309
Ms. Gina Main	07808 792169
Mr. David Sturgess	07989 419607

Meeting Record

Previous meetings not captured here. First noted from 10th Nov 2023. Contact the Parish Council for further details if necessary.

Meeting Held (When & Attendees)
10th November 2023
Chair, Ground Water Warden, Ditch & Drainage Warden, Eleanor

- Standard steps were reviewed and discussed
- Proposed updates to flood plan were discussed
- Richard presented his Report on the Ditches in Poles Lane
- Sewers were pumped by Council in Oct