

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL

FLOOD ADVISORY GROUP

Notes of meeting held at Buckden Village Hall on 1st December 2025

1. Present: Aidan Joy (chair) Martin Hassall, Gordon Wyatt, Liz Olding, Dave Sinclair, Anne Howell-Jones, Natalie Bartlett, Brendan Henry, Claire Ayto

2. Apologies: Lou O'Connor, Scott Kitson.

3. Notes of last meeting:

The notes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.

4. Flood Events of 13-15th November

The issues resulting from the high rainfall overnight on 13-14th November were discussed, including recommended follow-up actions. These are captured in a separate Consolidated Event Report.

The impact of additional developments on the surface water and sewage systems was discussed, in particular the ongoing proposal for additional housing on Silver Street. Martin H to highlight the Flood Group concerns to John Thelwall. **Action MH**

5. CCC Flood Kit Grant

The catalogue of items available for ordering from the CCC Flood Team was reviewed. Suggested items include:

Manhole Lifting Keys

Drain rods (only if not already in store)

Storage Box x 2

Nitrile Gloves – various sizes

Drag Rake

Not in the catalogue, but considered desirable:

2 Additional Pumps (potentially suction pump)

Long extension lead with RCD

AJ to complete order form. **Action AJ**

6. CCC Flood Chairs Meeting – Key issues

Flood groups have been asked to highlight their key 2-4 issues for discussion at the next Flood Group Chairs meeting, with the intention of creating a Top 10 list.

Buckden key issues identified as:

- a. Drain condition: significant issues experienced with systems unable to handle rainfall volumes. What can be expected, can a condition survey be completed at key locations?
- b. Reporting and escalation process: in particular issues involving multiple agencies
- c. Lack of notification of drain clearance has been highlighted previously. Results in cars blocking drains. No reporting of which drains have been cleared.
- d. Sewage and Surface Water capacity: existing systems unable to cope. New developments will exacerbate problems if capacity is not expanded

7. Water Quality Testing

NB reported on water testing, undertaken to date. High levels of ammonia, phosphates and nitrates have been found, particularly following reported discharges from Buckden Treatment works. Additional information requested from Anglian Water.

8. AOB

NB highlighted a grant scheme which could provide funds for various projects, including the Taylors Lane attenuation pond. Some overlap with Green Infrastructure (plastic extraction, water butts). NB to distribute information. **Action NB** To be discussed at next PC meeting **Action AJ, AHJ, MH**

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2nd February 2025