

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL
FLOOD ADVISORY GROUP

Notes of meeting held at Buckden Village Hall on 17th October 2025

1. Present: Aidan Joy (chair) Martin Hassall Gordon Wyatt Liz Olding
John Thelwall Dave Sinclair.

2. Apologies: Lou O'Connor. Belated apologies were received from
Scott Kitson and Natalie Bartlett.

3. Notes of last meeting:

The notes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.

4. Flood events since last meeting:

None.

5. Flood Response Plan:

Some further changes were suggested by GW. AJ will amend and
recirculate.

Action: AJ

The flood plan has been approved by the County flood team and this
has released further funding for flood mitigation measures. AJ has
bought absorbent “snakes” and bags and 4 radios. As the shed is now
at capacity AJ will ask AHJ if further equipment can be stored in the
Handymens’ shed. He will also buy some more torches. **Action AJ**
GW suggested checking the condition of the pump hoses as they are
subject to considerable wear. AHJ said she would ask the handymen
to do so.

Action: A HJ

There was discussion about the problem of air bricks under the units
at Millside Marina. They allow flood water to come into the space
under the units. Although it does not cause the units to be damp, it
takes a long time to dry out and is very smelly until it does. There was
discussion about ways to prevent this but it was concluded this is
outside the remit of the Parish Council Flood Advisory Group.

There was a debate about buying more radios so that Flood Alerts and Flood Warnings could be passed on. There are issues about secure storage and how to communicate to the residents.

6. Water Quality:

In the absence of NB this was postponed to the next meeting.

7. Report on the Multi Agency walkabout:

AJ reported that this had been very useful. Another one will be organised, possibly with Atkins, the consultants, in attendance.

The walkabout went everywhere. It was noted that the Taylors Lane open culvert is still (now even more so) blocked with silt and weeds.

Action by HDC's contractors is promised – sometime!

It is confirmed that the lake at the Towers is spring fed and that no watercourse feeds into it. (Post meeting note from JT – the water level in the lake is very low.)

No action has yet been taken to investigate or remedy the blocked drain near 50 Silver Street. This has now been reported at least 3 times. Hilary Tandy is trying to get it actioned.

Taylors Lane brook west of the A1: there is sufficient room in the ditch for the water flow. It was agreed the banks and sides need “grips” cutting into them at intervals to direct surface water coming off the fields into the ditches on each side of the road. It is on the County Council “to do” list.

MH reported he has met Nick Massy of HDC which has been given a grant from the Combined Authority. This may enable HDC to put in one or more attenuation basins to the west of the A1. The problem is that the money has to be spent in the current financial year. Given the pace at which HDC moves, it is unlikely they would identify possible locations, reach agreement with landowners and get the work done in that time.

AJ is to do a map showing the 2 possible sites that have been identified. He will email this to the Church Commissioners' agents' Savills and ask if the CC own the land. MH and LO will also try to find out the ownerships of the sites. **Action: AJ, MH, LO**

It was agreed that any action regarding The Towers Lake sits better with the Biodiversity Group of the PC.

8. **AOB:**

AJ suggested an annual walking inspection of flood risk points would be a good idea. This was approved. It should cover the Taylors lane watercourse from the top of Taylors lane to the bridge at Silver Street; the watercourse from the Towers to the Valley; the stream from The Osiers to the Valley; and Diddington Brook. **Action: AJ and MH for the first three and DS and NB for the last.**