

BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL
FLOOD ADVISORY GROUP

Notes of meeting held at Buckden Village Hall on 8th August 2025

1. Present: Aidan Joy (chair) Anne Howell Jones Martin Hassall Gordon Wyatt Liz Olding John Thelwall Dave Sinclair Natalie Bartlett.

2. Apologies: Scott Kitson, Lou O'Connor

3. Notes of last meeting:

The notes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.

4. Flood events since last meeting:

There had been flooding in the vicinity of 50 Silver Street in July during a very heavy downpour. The house nearly flooded. It was reported that the drainage grill outside the house is clear but one further along Silver Street is blocked with debris. It is possible that the drain under the road is also blocked. It was agreed that investigation of the state of the drain by CCTV is necessary and that the blocked grill needs clearing.

Actions (2): AJ

(Post Meeting note: Ticket regarding block drain has been raised on the Highways site)

5. Flood Response Plan:

AJ reported that the County flood team have made some comments about it. He will amend and recirculate.

Action: AJ

Once the flood plan is approved this will release further funding for flood mitigation measures. It was agreed that buying sandbags should be a priority. Absorbent “snakes”, although “one time use” should also be considered. Air vent blocks and waders are other useful items.

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 possibility of flood proofing properties. It may be that we should get a consultant to report on how this can be done. This might be expensive but sellers of flood proofing equipment might fund it free of charge.

No decision was reached on this.

AJ asked that if any member has any more ideas, to let him know.

There was a discussion about who is registered for EA Flood Alerts (a flood is possible) and Flood Warnings (property flooding possible). Residents in the Marinas/Flours Mills area are generally registered, whilst those on Taylors Lane are not.

6. Water Quality:

Alex has resigned from the group. NB has done a very basic water quality test in the river, but this only tests for bacteria, not chemical run off. There is no restriction on run off anyway.

NB to liaise with MH and take it forward with Anglian Water. **Action: MB & MH**

The main concern is discharges from the Buckden water treatment works. MH reported that the EA has responded to him about these discharges. The response mainly seemed to be that they are investigating several issues and will report back as and when these investigations are complete. This should be viewed as a positive movement.

7. Report on LLFA meeting:

AJ reported that there are now funds available to improve watercourse investigations.

It was agreed that we should identify critical drainage areas in the village and incorporate these into the next Neighbourhood Plan, although the Environment Agency says we don't have any. There is money available from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The RFCC also has oversight of the work of the Environment Agency.

8. Flood Groups Chairs' Meeting:

AJ reported on this meeting which was held in May. The one takeaway was to have a downstream flow monitoring point for the river. It is very unlikely we will get one.

It is useful to have the Buckden Flood Advisory Group know to the EA Incident Room as this will add us to the information circulation links. MH was of the opinion that we should try to build strong relationships with local farmers and land owners. The object is to persuade them to change their farming practices to improve flood mitigation measures. It was felt that this is a Parish Council matter, rather than the Flood Group's.

9. AOB:

1. The Taylors Lane culvert is still full of silt. AJ reported there are contractual issues for HDC and it may get done in the autumn.
2. The next neighbourhood Plan. AHJ alerted the meeting to the need to respond quickly to the HDC consultation process which is due to happen in October/November this year. The response time is likely to be quite short.
3. AJ went quickly through the first report from the LLFA's consultants about flooding in Buckden. A number of their suggestions for flood mitigation are unworkable or unrealistic, but some have merit.

AJ then outlined his plan for the in person walkabout survey scheduled for the morning of 11th November. Points which he particularly wants to explore are upstream storage of water from Taylors Brook and slowing down the waterflow in the brook in periods of heavy rain.

MH warned that the Marinas area is out of the scope of the walkabout area, but AJ said he hopes to persuade them to include it. (Post meeting note: A successful walk about was completed covering all areas. A separate set of notes will be prepared)