

## **RYDE MONKTONMEAD FLOOD ACTION GROUP**

Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> Flood Meeting

### **Call of Order**

A meeting of RYDE MONKTONMEAD FLOOD ACTION GROUP was held at The Simeon Arms on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.

### **Attendees**

Karen Lucioni – Chair, Keith Herbert – Southern Water working on storm overflows, Vicky Spencer – Environment Agency, Carole Urquhart – Secretary.

### **Approval of Minutes**

First meeting so minutes to approve.

### **Apologies**

None

Meeting called to attention at 6pm by Karen Lucioni, Attendees introduced, business Rep introduced as Jenna & Alex from Monkton Arts (who were not in attendance).

Karen elected as Chair for 1 year.

Ways to communicate with the residents discussed as Website, shelf for news at The Simeon Arms, leaflets through doors, phone calls to vulnerable.

Discussed terms of reference for the flood group, ways to keep in touch and contact info as above.

Flood Defence Grants, information is starting to become available and we will keep you up to date on this, it is quite complicated and volunteers will be able to help you through this hopefully more information next meeting. We are investigating a Build Back Better Scheme that covers flood defences.

John Ball Associated are doing the Section 19 report and will be with us at our March meeting, we think they are doing The Environment Agency report but this will be checked as conflict of interest. Vicky will let us know who is doing E.A. report when she knows.

The Section 19 report from 2020 will be on the Facebook page. We can look at it and see if the recommendations were done and if not why.

Vicky will be looking at the wording of Flood Warning that may include that the flood gates will be put in place.

To get support for this group from Emergency Planning Dept and invite them to next meeting.

Make emergency plans for our area.

We are making a work plan for flood prevention. Everyone will be able see what they can

and cannot do regarding flood resilience as we are in a conservation area. Vicky has previous experience with this and has offered her help.

Responsibilities Southern Water – Fowl combined with surface water systems, Environment Agency – groundwater flooding and river flooding, Highways, Isle of Wight Council – gullies etc, Overall and coordinating all – Local flood Authority that is Isle of Wight Council. This will go on the website.

Colin has requested various information regarding the flooding from The Environment Agency under The Freedom of Information and has not received a reply. Vicky is looking into this for us and we hope to have the information shortly.

Bob Seeley has obtained a copy of how the Monktonmead flood defences should work it does say part and this is a very confusing document. This will go on the website.

Dan has done some calculations and thinks the rec should hold 30,000 cubic metres of water and with only two boards in only 10,000 metres were contained. His point was that we may have the solution to our flooding already if only they were implemented correctly.

Jason has a few questions that keep being asked, he would like to send them to E.A. and Southern Water just to clear these issues.

We then elected a small sub group to meet and continue the good work and report back to the main larger group every few months.

### **Time Meeting Adjourned**

7.45pm

### **Date of Next Meeting**

### **Keith Herbert's Report.**

Sustainable drainage first. What we're looking to do with the Isle of Wight Council is have sustainable drainage. So what that means is systems that almost replicate the land that was there before we altered it. Rather than have the water raised off the road, race off the driveway into the highway going into our system caused the flooding that you saw in West Hill Road, we put in things like rain gardens where the water soaks into a big tank underground, or swales, which effectively are just a ditch by the side of the road or tree pits if you install these things on mass they have huge attenuation and storage underneath. So that's what we're trying to do is get a series of aggrieved designs where you look at an urban setting like West Hill Road or East Hill Road and you say, if you could intercept that flow there with a rain garden or you can put a tree there you could make it a little bit more rural and the water doesn't need to race down the bottom of the hill. So that's what we're working with, with the Isle of Wight Council and we're about a week or so away of signing a memorandum of understanding where we have a series of adoptive designs and we go out and install these things on mass. That's one we were doing it for the purposes of storm overflow reduction. If you look at the recommendations of the previous section 19 reports it is to install sustainable urban drainage and it's coming into law for new development, so any new development that comes in has to do this. Its mandatory through section three of the flooding act, but we want to work with the Isle of Wight council or anyone who's got large impermeable area to slow down that flow. Because we don't want water in our system. EA doesn't want it hitting their rivers just like that. So that's what we're doing. We've had an interagency meeting where we've walked over the catchment looking at some of the points of interest and got a list of actions there. We've given all the data to the section 19 report that we've asked for from the council. So all instances of flooding, the maintenance of our systems, the operation of our systems during the flooding event. And then in terms of the people who have reported flooding to us, we are case managing each customer but also investigating the root cause of their flooding which is most likely going to be hydraulic overload. And when that happens, it ends up on our internal flooding register. And you know, it sits there awaiting a capital scheme. I know, heart of hearts, I can't see it attracting a capital scheme, given the number of properties and that's one of the frustrating things about the Isle of Wight. All the big companies and agencies use cold hard metrics to look at internal flooding cases and whether or not it has a big capacity increase. And we always lose out to areas like Portsmouth & Brighton where you could get several 1000 properties off the flooding register in a relatively small scheme. So back to the point that we've got here about influencing decision makers. I think that's a really good point to keep on there to try and say, look, it can't keep happening. We need to do something. And I think that's that's pretty much everything to update.

The massive tank put in at the bottom of East Hill Road, it's actually a 1 million litre tank, which should mean that it would help stop flooding from the sewer network, what feeds into it is enough for a rainfall event of up to 60 millimetres in 24 hours.