



**MINUTES OF THE HANNEYS FLOOD GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

**Tamarisk, East Hanney, 18:30**

**Present:** Clive Manvell, Phil Manvell, David Stubbington, Ann Stubbington, Paul Sayers, Kay Sayers, Jane Taylor, Jim Taylor, Ian Green, Dickon Green, Marion Mantle, Tim Glass, Andrew Wastie, Peter Miller-Smith, Lamorna Zambellas, James Smith.

**Apologies:** Clive Fewins, Keith Chisholm, Meryl Chisholm, Adam Kozlowski, David Blomley, Richard Paterson, Mark Bradfield, Richard Clayton, Adrian Bodimeade, Mick Mantle, Alastair Johnson, Denis Houldey, Peter Mothersole

**Matters arising from the 2022 AGM:**

The Chairman commented that no news or updates had been received from the Imperial College team on the progress or otherwise of developing **water level monitors**.

**Mapping project:** This important project may be resurrected having now found a volunteer with the necessary IT skills. Richard Clayton is currently reviewing the documentation and U-Tube demonstration.

**Annual maintenance:** This was successfully trialled in July last year and will be tried again in August or November this year when the longer and warmer days make this task easier.

**Chairman's Report:** See separate document on the website.

**Working Party Photographic Report:** See separate document on the website.

**Letcombe Brook Project:** See separate document on the website.

**Finance Report:** See separate document on the website. The accounts were adopted by the members present at the meeting. Thank you to James Smith for reviewing the finance documentation and reporting all in order. Adoption of the Accounts: Proposer David Stubbington: Seconder Philippa Manvell.

**Election of Officers:** The Constitution requires 4 Officers – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Currently and re-elected for 2023-2024.

Chairman: Clive Manvell

Vice-Chairman: David Stubbington

Treasurer: Jane Taylor

Secretary: David Blomley

**Review of Risk Assessment:** No alterations were tabled for the HFG Risk Assessment which was updated in previous years to take account of the pandemic and presence of Wiesel's disease in waterways harbouring rats.

For the record the annual lifejacket inspection and safety checks will be undertaken during the next maintenance session in August or November. The equipment inventory has been updated with recent additions.

#### **AOB:**

**Damaged bank below the Iron Bridge.** The Chairman outlined that the damaged rendered by some dog owners and their pets to the east bank below the Iron Bridge renders the village vulnerable to flooding. The Chairman has raised the matter with EHPC the riparian owner and responsible for this land. Work is needed in conjunction with the EA.

A retaining wall approaching Lower Mill appears to have collapsed, not certain if this will cause problems in future. In any event it is the responsibility of the owner of Lower Mill, Philberds Manor.

The retaining wall supporting the footpath below downstream of the newly built bridge joining Halls Lane to Cow Lane has been undermined. This is a footpath regularly used by walkers and again is the responsibility of the riparian owner, Philberds Manor.

**First Aid Course.** This first aid awareness course run in January 2023 was highly successful with 16 people taking part, led by Marion Mantle.

#### **Future.**

**Team Leaders.** More of the volunteers need to be trained up to be able to run working party sessions. This includes identifying tasks and any liaison necessary, knowing what and where the equipment is available, organising people via the website newsletter, safety briefing, undertaking the task safely, returning equipment cleaned and lubricated, sharpened and repaired where necessary and feeding back a successful report via the website newsletter. Having more people with the knowledge and experience necessary should enable a seamless succession plan to be developed.

**Training of Volunteers:** There is a clear need to have volunteers trained in aspects of the Flood Group's activities. Some training has periodically taken place with the deployment of flood barriers around the Community Shop and HWMH. There are other areas to be considered in conjunction with the Emergency Team volunteers. The Hanneys Flood Group are integral to the Emergency Plan with specialist flood prevention and response activities and training should be under the auspices of the Emergency Plan.

**Communication Channels.** Recent events in March highlighted a need for a better organised communications system to alert volunteers to incidents and subsequent exchange of information during such incidents. David Stubbington volunteered to set this up, possibly with a Flood Group What's App alert group for initial communications and then using the walkie-talkie radios in the field. All volunteers present indicated a willingness to have a What's App on their mobile phones. **Action DS with James Smith.**

**Thanks:** On behalf of the HFG the Chairman thanked Jane Taylor for managing the accounts with James Smith overlooking the annual report; Mark Bradfield for his direction and support with working parties, Adam Kozlowski for running the HFG website, Phil Manvell for undertaking the phosphate and nitrate sampling and the river fly monitoring project with Stella Brecknell, David Stubbington, Ian and Dickon Green for towing the trailer, EHPC and WHPC for the annual funding and the 29 volunteers who have turned out this past 12 months.