

Kidlington Parish Council

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

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Minutes of the Flood Meeting

Held at Exeter Hall at 10.00 am on Monday, 12 May 2025

Present: Cllr David Bett – KPC, Cllr Lesley Mclean - KPC, Tony Brummell - CDC, Lewis Purbrick - OCC, Artur Mielczarek - OCC, Cllr Fiona Mawson - KPC, Cllr Ian Middleton - KPC, Cllr Dave Konanuwa - KPC, and Jake Morley – Thames Water

In Attendance: Clerk – Sarah Kearney

Apologies from: Cllr Linda Ward - KPC and Vanessa Bowler - OCC

1. **Actions from last meeting: updates to be discussed**

Cllr Betts started the meeting by asking whether they could start by going through the actions from the last meeting:

Valve Chambers – Queen’s Avenue of the Pocket Park

There was an in-depth discussion regarding the number and locations of valve chambers in the area. It was indicated that there are three known valves: two located in the pocket park at Queens Avenue/Cherwell Drive and the third one in the Garden of 1 Watermead. There was also mention of a possible fourth valve chamber, though its location remains unknown at this time. It is believed to be downstream of the Bicester Road bridge, which will not drain any part of the catchment that floods.

The conversation then shifted to the operational status of the valves. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) confirmed that they have inspected two of the valves in the pocket park. Both were found to be functioning correctly and performing as intended. OCC also reassured attendees that there are no blockages present.

As the valve in the pocket park is both on the highway drain then it was felt that we had the responsibility of OCC. **Action: AM to confirm**

The third valve chamber, located on private property at 1 Watermead House, still requires inspection to ensure it is not blocked and in good working condition.

Thames Water agreed to do this by liaising with the property owner to arrange access for this inspection. The meeting felt that, as this was a TW public surface water sewer that it was the responsibility of TW. **Action: JM would check**

Highway Drain Maintenance

OCC confirmed that some of the drains in the area have been cleaned. A request was made for confirmation of which drains have been cleared and when the remaining drains will be addressed. OCC responded that there is a schedule in place for clearing drains across the towns and villages.

Action:

- **AM to send a copy of the drain clearance schedule.**
- **AM to confirm which drains on Mill Street have been cleared.**

2.

Mill Street and Mill End

This was discussed in relation to the valve chambers and drainage matters noted above. An additional issue was raised concerning a **water leak on Mill Street**, which was reported to Thames Water over a month ago. However, no remedial action has yet been taken.

A resident, who is currently unwell and on a water meter, is concerned that the unresolved leak may be contributing to an increase in his water bill. It was requested that **JM from Thames Water** investigate the matter and arrange for an engineer to inspect and resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Action:

- **Clerk to provide Thames Water with the full address of the property where the leak is occurring**

3.

As discussed above in Actions

4.

Garden City

The Section 19 report is currently in draft (question is this draft it says on their schedule that it is completed and published form. LP OCC reviewed the recommendations.

It was noted that the foul and surface water pumping station in the area is operational, featuring four pumps, three of which were functioning throughout the rainfall. However, due to the significant amount of rain during this time, the pumps struggled to keep up with the volume of water flowing through them, although they remained in operation.

Action:

It was agreed that Thames Water, OCC, KPC, and CDC would meet to identify the pumps located in Garden City and Morton Avenue. JM suggested David Strickland was the person to deal with this form, TW, but he would check and email SK. This meeting aims to enhance understanding of the differences between foul water and surface water, as well as how the pumps are managing the capacity of water, they are processing. It would also look more widely at technical actions that could be taken in other aspects of the report recommendations. KPC to set up a meeting when the TW representative knows.

Additionally, it was highlighted that groundwork is necessary for the culverts and ditches along the canal, as well as at Stratfield Brake and Stratfield Brake Farm. CDC has been granted access to investigate these areas to determine which ditches and culverts are blocked and assess how much needs to be cleared. This work is expected to take place around the end of August, and OCC will report back to KPC.

There was also discussion about involving the Canal & River Trust (CRT) in addressing some of these issues, as their assistance will be needed for resolution.

TB agreed to contact them again to say we are considering ditch clearance upstream and need to identify urgently if there is a problem with the Canal siphon ahead of work upstream.

5. Oxford Road

The gullies and drains need to be cleared, and this work is currently being carried out by OCC. Additionally, some road surfaces require inspection, as they are lower than the drains. This design flaw prevents water from flowing into the drains during rainfall.

6. Kidlington Flood Plan

Clerk has been given the template by Paul Mann and will start working on this as soon as possible.

7. Kidlington Funding Application form

Action:

- **Clerk to arrange a team meeting with Lewis Purbrick – OCC, Cllr David Betts, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Dave Kanonuwa, to go through this.**

Meeting Finished: 12.00pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 27 August from 2.00pm