

Kidlington Parish Council

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

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Minutes of the Flood Meeting

Held at Exeter Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 27 September 2025

Present: Cllr David Bett – KPC, Cllr Lesley Mclean - KPC, Tony Brummell - CDC, Lewis Purbrick - Cllr Ian Middleton – KPC, and Calum Miller – Local MP

In Attendance: Clerk – Sarah Kearney, and many residents from around Kidlington

1. Introduction to the Meeting

Cllr Lesley McLean opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and explained that the meeting had been requested by residents of Garden City but was also advertised to all residents of Kidlington who have been affected by flooding, allowing the wider community to attend and share their concerns.

Cllr McLean made it clear that Kidlington Parish Council does not hold authority for dealing with flooding problems and that responsibility does not sit with the Parish Council. However, she stressed that the Council is willing to act as a point of contact and to negotiate between the different organisations involved, to ensure that Kidlington residents receive the help and support required in relation to the flooding situation.

2. Introduction to responsible officers in the room

Cllr McLean introduced the panel of speakers for tonight's meeting, explaining that they would go through the agenda items and then open the floor for questions and answers from the residents.

3. Background to the flooding situation in Kidlington and the wider area

Kidlington Parish Council has been organising flooding meetings with the relevant authorities to try and address the flooding issues affecting Kidlington, particularly in areas such as Oxford Road, Garden City, Mill St / Mill End, Cherwell Avenue, and others.

Cllr David Betts – Chair of the Flooding Group – gave a brief outline of the work that has taken place so far. He explained that at the last meeting in May, representatives from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Cherwell District Council (CDC), Kidlington Parish Council (KPC), and Thames Water were all present to discuss the situation and agree on actions.

The minutes of that meeting are available on the Kidlington Parish Council website, under the **Environment** section, within **Flooding in Kidlington**.

Matters discussed at that meeting included:

- The Queen's Avenue valve chambers
- The OCC highway drain maintenance programme
- Mill Street and Mill End chambers and wider drainage matters
- The Garden City S19 was published May 2025 - [S19-Report-Kidlington-Garden-city-v1.0-May-2025.pdf](#) (currently in draft form)
- Oxford Road gullies and drains

- Development of a Flood Plan, which Kidlington Parish Council will be leading on

4. **S19 Reports already released**

Lewis Purbrick from OCC explained that the Section 19 Flood Investigation Report for the Garden City flood incident on 23/24 September 2024 has now been released to the public domain. This was provided to the residents who attended the meeting, and if you require a copy, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk at clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk. It will also be published on the KPC website, also available on Oxford Flood Toolkit - [S19-Report-Kidlington-Garden-city-v1.0-May-2025.pdf](#). There will shortly be another Section 19 report covering Oxford Road and Mill Street/Mill End.

Lewis Purbrick also explained that OCC works very closely with Tony Brummell from CDC, looking at flooding within all the different parishes, as well as working alongside other authorities.

OCC also collects a large amount of data on flooding and urges residents to always report flooding issues to them so that they can build up this information.

www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com – Lewis also highlighted the Flood Toolkit available on this website, which provides helpful facts and guidance.

[FixMyStreet](#) – It was also reminded that any issues which might cause flooding should be reported on [FixMyStreet](#), and residents are encouraged to take photos when submitting a report.

Gullies / Drainage Maintenance – OCC stated at both the May meeting and again at this meeting that there is a maintenance programme for the whole county to clean all gullies and drains. Kidlington is currently scheduled for this to be carried out in February 2026, but as mentioned in May, this is too far away, given the flooding problems already experienced in some areas of Kidlington. It was noted that some sections of Kidlington, including Mill End, have already had drains cleared.

5. **Responses to S19 reports released**

Please refer to the report for detailed information. If you haven't received a copy, please feel free to contact clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk or see the Kidlington website under Environment, under Flooding

6. **Flooding Grant which Kidlington has been rewarded**

OCC had submitted grant forms to all parishes, allowing them to apply for funding of up to £25,000. Kidlington Parish Council completed and returned the application form to OCC and was awarded the full grant of £25,000. The grants will pay for the specific elements agreed.

Please see the notes of the online meeting held between OCC and KPC regarding the funding. The grant will be used to cover the following:

- Drainage/Watercourses Mapping System for Kidlington
- Equipment (pumps and barriers)
- Natural flood control (e.g., ditches and planting)
- Waste and silt removal tools
- Pumping Plan – CDC is looking into this for Garden City and Mill End
- Any remaining funding to be spent on equipment

OCC has also advertised for Flood Warden roles in all parishes. If you are interested in helping with this and becoming a Flood Warden, please contact floodmanagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk further details.

7. **Water Butts – rolled out for some Garden City Residents**

OCC has partnered with Thames Water and Cherwell District Council to launch a scheme that provides and installs free water butts for selected residents in Kidlington. The areas that will receive information about this initiative include Beech Crescent, Hazel Crescent, Laburnum Crescent, and South Avenue. Kidlington Parish Council has contacted OCC to explore the possibility of extending this scheme to other areas in Kidlington that have also experienced flooding, and OCC has agreed to look into it.

8. Question and Answer – residents were able to ask the Flood Group questions and receive answers, and if they were unable to answer any questions, they would take this away for action.

Question: Many residents had concerns about the drains being blocked, and they had been cleared out for years, and now blocked with silt and weeds.

Answer: As mentioned in the minutes from the May meeting, OCC was asked about the timeline for cleaning and clearing the drains of debris. It was clarified that drain cleaning has not been consistently performed. However, a program has been developed to ensure the cleaning of all county gullies is completed by 2025/26.

Question: A resident from Cherwell Avenue stated that she had concerns about the flood wall, which was at the back of her garden, and this hasn't been serviced since the wall was installed for flood defence to stop water from the Cherwell River breaking its banks and flooding the whole of Cherwell Avenue and Queens Avenue. It was also asked whether the river could be dredged of silt, as again this is something which isn't done anymore. It was also stated by the residents that when they opened the flood gates, this then had a massive effect on the River Cherwell and caused the flooding at Cherwell Avenue many years ago.

Answer: Tony Brummell was surprised to discover that the flood defence wall had not been maintained since it was installed. It was emphasized that the responsibility for these maintenance works lies with the Environment Agency, rather than Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) or Cherwell District Council (CDC). This issue needs to be addressed with the Environment Agency.

Regarding the floodgates in Banbury, a CDC officer explained that there were no gates to open, which means this issue could not be the cause of flooding. Additionally, they mentioned that it would take approximately 72 hours for the water to reach Kidlington from Banbury.

Calum Miller also mentioned that the Environment Agency's current policy is to avoid fully dredging rivers, as this can affect water flow and potentially lead to additional problems.

Question: Thanked the Parish Council for holding this meeting but felt that it would have been nice if it had been published better, as she only heard from her neighbour about the meeting.

Answer: It was stated by the Clerk that this meeting was advertised on Facebook and KPC noticeboards.

Question: Two residents expressed concerns about the Sustrans work taking place at St. Mary's Church, across the Richard Branson Land. They were worried that the construction was disrupting existing pipes and raised concerns about how water would be managed in this flood-prone area. The workers indicated that water would drain into the ditches; however, these ditches, which have been in place for years, have not been cleared and are currently full, making them ineffective for drainage.

The residents mentioned that they had heard many long-term solutions proposed, but no immediate actions were being taken to address the flooding issues. They wanted to know what would be done to resolve the current problems.

Answer: Sustrans was conducting some work recently. Kidlington Parish Council (KPC) had no involvement in this project; they only received an email informing them about it the day after it was closed. KPC emphasised that they understand the residents' concerns regarding flooding. However, they reiterated that the responsibility does not fall on the Parish Council. Nonetheless, they are working to ensure that other authorities take these issues seriously and that necessary actions are taken rather than leaving problems unaddressed.

Flooding, exacerbated by climate change, will require a long-term approach to problem-solving, as we need to identify and address the issues going forward. In the meantime, short-term actions can be taken by residents as well as the relevant authorities.

Question: A resident raised concerns about car drivers who speed through flooded areas, which causes additional damage to homes. Could a delegation from the OCC be arranged to put up signs encouraging drivers to slow down when passing through water, or to block off the road entirely?

Answer: This was a good question, and we didn't have the answer to this. KPC would take this action and speak further with OCC to determine whether this could happen and whether signs could be put up. OCC does have a protocol for providing signs to enable Parishes to warn drivers of flood water and close roads if necessary.

Question: A resident inquired about Council Tax and explained that he had been flooded out of his home, forcing him to rent another property while repairs were underway. He noted that, under current law, residents who own two homes are obligated to pay Council Tax for both properties. However, many felt that

this law is unfair to those who, due to flooding, had to temporarily move out and rent another place during the necessary repairs.

Answer: Calum Miller said that he felt this was a good point and would take this for further discussion at Parliament.

Question: A resident inquired whether properties that pave their front gardens should be prohibited from doing so or required to use permeable products that allow water to soak away.

Answer: CDC officer stated that this would have to be a planning item, and not sure whether they could do this or not.

Question: A resident inquired again about short-term advice and whom to contact when they need help and guidance. Could we also arrange for a tanker to come and remove the water?

Answer: Residents are encouraged to refer to the OCC toolkit for advice on preparations before winter weather arrives. It was confirmed that the KPC is in the process of creating an emergency action plan, which will be available on the website once completed. This plan will hopefully include the necessary items for winter readiness.

If any questions have been missed in these notes, KPC would like to apologise, and please feel free to send them to clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk, so that we can add them to these notes.

The meeting concluded with Cllr McLean stating that KPC, OCC, and CDC are attentive to your concerns. Please be patient as we work through these issues, and we will keep you informed through the KPC website.

Kidlington Parish Council would like to thank Lewis Purbrick and Tony Brummell for attending the meeting and giving advice to all the Kidlington residents.

Meeting Finished: 9.15 pm