

Kidlington Parish Council

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

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Notes of the Flood Meeting

On the Teams meeting on Wednesday, 18 June 2025

Present: Cllr David Bett – KPC, Cllr Lesley Mclean - KPC, Tony Brummell - CDC, Lewis Purbrick - OCC, and Cllr Dave Konanuwa - KPC

In Attendance: Clerk – Sarah Kearney

Kidlington Flood Funding Report

Meeting Purpose:

To review how flood funding from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) will be used to address flood issues in Kidlington, specifically in Mill Street, Mill End, Queens Avenue, and Garden City.

1. Flood Warden Role

- The Parish Clerk confirmed that the Flood Warden vacancy was advertised in the Kidlington Newsletter (March).
- It will now also be shared on Facebook to increase visibility.
- Aim is to have a local volunteer ready to coordinate flood responses.
- Letter drop to be arranged in likely affected areas to ask for volunteers.

2. Flood Response & Emergency Planning Discussion

- Letters should be sent to homes in flood-risk areas with advice and contact details. OCC to provide advice and documentation, KPC to arrange local delivery.
- We could consider emergency items like sandbags and portable pumps being placed around the village for public use, queries around responsibilities and assessment of need in an emergency situation.
- Sandbags are not ideal long-term — they are assumed contaminated and create disposal issues, staffing could be problematic.
- A local emergency plan is being drafted, focusing on Mill End and Garden City. (Clerk)
- Areas like Kidlington, Yarnton, and Begbroke are set for gully cleaning in February — a requested was made for this to happen sooner due to winter flooding concerns.

3. Drainage & Canal Maintenance

Garden City Project:

- New pipeline to be installed under farmland to direct water to an outfall (OCC/CDC).
- Culvert near the River Cherwell will also be cleared (OCC/CDC).
- Work will be timed with other council projects to save money (OCC/CDC).

Canal & River Trust:

- Trust urged to do regular maintenance, as slow flow affects upstream water flow.
- Legal rules around land ownership make enforcement difficult in some places.
- A plan is being reviewed for silt removal in Shipton, but action is limited where land rights prevent access.

4. Funding & Priorities

- OCC has provided a **£25,000 grant** for immediate flood work. Initial rough plan suggested funding for:
 - Equipment (pumps, barriers).
 - Natural flood control (like ditches and planting).
 - Waste and silt removal tools.
- Funds are inadequate for all projects — the following projects are prioritised.
 - Kidlington has secured long-term funding (up to 25 years) for ongoing infrastructure work
 - Pumping plan – CDC consultant to design pumping solution for Garden City and Mill End. (OCC agreed payment to CDC for works)
 - Pump systems in Mill End and Garden City.
 - Mapping of watercourse ownership across the area.
 - Any funds remaining to be spent on equipment.

5. Pump System Planning

- A plan is being developed (CDC/OCC) to place pumps in appropriate specific areas to manage floodwater.
- Garden City - canal bypass to help move water.
- Mill End – Cherwell bypass to help move water.
- Flood water is generally considered to be contaminated (fowl) and pumps will need to be appropriate.
- Consultant is looking at:
 - Feasibility and positioning of systems.
 - System plan and implementation scheme.

6. Drain Mapping & Legal Issues

- A full map of local drainage and watercourse systems is required to show responsibilities.
- Current records are incomplete, which makes coordination difficult.

- Mapping is being done in three stages:
 1. Public drains (maintained by the council) (to be provided by CDC/OCC/TW).
 2. Private or hard-to-reach drains (TW).
 3. Cross-check with ownership and risk data to guide future maintenance.

Summary

- Key areas for action: Garden City, Mill End, and flood-prone streets across Kidlington.
- Short-term: communication, and emergency plan.
- Long-term: new pipeline, pumping systems, and full drainage mapping.
- Funding is tight, so work will be phased, starting with the most urgent issues.

Summary of the funding situation from OCC:

Oxfordshire County Council have agreed up to £25,000 towards flood reduction measures in Kidlington as part of their Priority Action flooding funding for 2025/26. In discussion between the parish, district and county council we have agreed this funding will be used in a phased way to first investigate the feasibility of pumping plans at Garden City and Queens Avenue, to alleviate surface water flooding and then, if feasible, implement these plans including the purchase of pumps. This plan will be incorporated into the Parish Council's emergency plan.

This is in addition to work OCC are funding directly or via the district council to maintain the culvert south from Garden City, and the ditches beyond into which it feeds. And works to reinstate a flood relief channel to the rear of The Moorlands.

Meeting Finished: 3.00pm