

Minutes of the Meeting with Severn Trent Water, Environment Agency & Derbyshire County Council Flood Team held on Monday 8th of December 2025 at 10am at the Parish Council Meeting Rooms, Blind Lane Breaston.

1. Present:

Hannah Hallett Severn Trent Water
Riki Albuery Severn Trent Water
Rob Harrison Environment Agency
Komal Bukhari Environment Agency
Alex Back Derbyshire County Council
Sam Morgan Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Graham Fisher Breaston Parish Council
Cllr Catherine Salt Breaston Parish Council

2. Apologies:

None.

3. Declaration of Members Interests –

To enable any Councillors to indicate any items on the agenda in which they have a personal or pecuniary interest in accordance with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct –
none

4. Dispensations –

To report on and consider any requests for dispensation in accordance with s31 of the Localism Act 2011
none

5. Riparian Responsibilities –

There is a need to have a clear understanding of who is responsible for what and where. Mixed messages are often misinterpreted leaving the Parish Council to try and explain to residents what they are responsible for and what they're able to do themselves.

a. Land north of the village:

- Hills Road Estate
- Longmoor Lane/Holly Avenue
- Risley Lane

b. Land alongside the Goldenbrook/Golden Stream/Silver Brook

Particular problem areas:

- South of Firfield Avenue/Sawley Road
- Marlborough Road/Belvoir Close/Draycott Road (adj 61)
- Holmes Road Estate

c. Street Drainage issues across the Village

Particular problem areas:

- Risley Lane between Longmoor Lane and Wards Lane (Cavagna Issues) Drains reported by residents near to old library
- Rectory Road/Perks Park
- Stevens Lane between the junction with Main Street & Blind Lane.
- Draycott Road opposite the junction with Marlborough.

d. Sawley Road

- Ditches and drainage near to Croft Engineering.

The Clerk presented a number of photographs and videos of the areas of concern in the village. Cllr Fisher explained that the Parish Council often received reports from concerned residents and that clarity was needed on where responsibility lies for water courses in the parish. Mixed messages were a problem and work undertaken by the authorities to some sections of land but not in others led to confusion.

RH/KB/AB/SM agreed that all land and property owners where ordinary water courses and main rivers (Golden brook) passed through were responsible for the maintenance of the water course on their land. Also land and property owners who had a boundary with an ordinary water course or main river would in general have responsibility for the watercourse from their bank to the middle of the watercourse.

The clerk reported that often residents were unaware of their responsibilities and that it would be beneficial if a letter could be drafted by EA/DCC to all properties with riparian responsibilities alerting them of the fact. It was clear that limited numbers of residents viewed the Parish Council's website or Facebook page so would not always be aware of information provided by the Parish Council. Concerns were raised over the posting out of a large mail drop. The clerk suggested that the letters could be passed to the PC and that Cllrs and volunteers would help with hand posting. Could a generic version of this letter then be publicised to all residents via the PC website and Facebook page?

Land ownership to the north of the parish was also discussed and who had powers to encourage farmers and other landowners to carry out maintenance work to the watercourses in their ownership. It was clear that all agencies have the same problem in that they can alert landowners/residents to the work that needs to be undertaken but unfortunately do not have the powers or resources to take action to insist on the work being done. Severn Trent Water have a new team with members who work specifically with farmers (in relation to water courses on their land) could they help?

Hills Road Estate

The clerk explained the current position in relation to the Golden Stream between houses on Gregory Ave/Hind Ave/Spring Close/Western Mere Close and the land owned by Peveril Securities. A quote was being secured for the clearance of the watercourse, and the information would be shared with the relevant landowners and residents in due course. Currently waiting for some information from Filer Williamson (Peveril Land Agents) and hope to finalise before Christmas – concerns were reported that the Parish Council does not have the resources or the powers to manage such projects.

Longmoor Lane/Holly Avenue

Issues faced by residents and the Parish Council during Storm Babet were discussed and it is clear that the maintenance of the highway ditch is key in preventing the problems seen in 2019/2023&4. A works order has been raised by Hicham Rakkaa who had made further enquiries with Simon Rogers. AB confirmed that he would check in with his colleagues to see what progress had been made.

Risley Lane

Maintenance of land north of the village has a knock-on effect in flood conditions with water running south through all of the hot spot areas in the village. The highways gullies on Risley Lane had been highlighted as causing problems on Risley Lane/Rectory Road and Wards Lane in poor weather. Photos and videos were viewed. AB suggested a new report be submitted. In flood conditions if gullies are being overwhelmed the best course of action is to make a report on the DCC report it system, issues in listed hot spot areas can

then be expedited. Clerk to make new report for the gullies between Longmoor Lane and Rectory Road on Risley Lane (Subsequently entered FS Case no: 771854663). Similar issues on **Blind Lane** were discussed and RA reported that it might be possible to put a camera down the main STW drain in Blind Lane to see if the gully at the entrance to Duffield Close was connected to their system. **Stevens Lane** had also seen unprecedented highway ponding in September 2024; highways gullies had been checked and cleared at the time.

South of Firfield Avenue/Sawley Road

The issues of garden flooding and concerns raised by residents in relation to a fence erected at a property on Holt Croft Close were discussed, it was unlikely that garden flooding would warrant any action, however the fence which cause problems in flood conditions were actionable. Clerk to share details with officers from EA/DCC.

Marlborough Road/Belvoir Close/Draycott Road

Desilting of the Golden brook was discussed and work originally programmed for desilting to the rear of properties on Marlborough Road had been pulled due to biodiversity concerns and a lack of internal flooding in the area, it was still hoped that some work could be undertaken and officers were investigating the best way to carry out work without causing biodiversity issues. Work north of this location to the rear of properties on Delamere Close was still on the list of tasks, issues of biodiversity were causing a hold up. All such work has to be balanced risk/cost/biodiversity.

Adjacent 61 Draycott Road

The EA team confirmed that the blocks which had come out of the wall into the Goldenbrook would be removed by them to prevent issues downstream. The damaged wall would have to be repaired by the homeowner.

Sawley Road – near to Croft Engineering

The clerk reported that John Vilas (DCC – now retired) had inspected the site and confirmed that the ditches in the area didn't go anywhere. RA reported that the property owner had a pump on site which was used in flood conditions. It was not clear if anything had been done during the recent work in relation to the Witches Oak Treatment Centre RA to investigate. It was confirmed that the water table is extremely shallow in this area.

6. Possible proposed development

Concerns have been raised in relation to any future development of numerous plots of land around the village all part of development land banks. AB/RH confirmed that all development now has a new and stringent set of regulations which MUST be passed. All development must have sustainable drainage and water leaving the site must do so at levels better than current.

7. Summary

All agreed that no infrastructure was designed to deal with climate change, there were limited resources available to maintain or improve infrastructure and it was extremely difficult to forecast weather conditions and how systems would cope. This year the heavy rainfall in Storm Claudia had not seen the same levels of flooding as in previous similar storms. The very dry summer had helped somewhat but wasn't the only reason for the systems coping. The speed in which rain falls, and volume is impossible to predict. Environment Agency infrastructure installed since 1997 when the organisation was formed is now old and there aren't sufficient resources to replace. Even older STW infrastructure was similar however older Victorian systems coped very well considering their age.

RH offered to come along to give a presentation about their work and then a visit to the Lagoon to show how it all works which might help the PC fielding questions from residents. The Clerk to liaise on a date for the proposal.

Cllr Fisher thanked everyone for attending and providing an informative session. Clerk to circulate the meeting notes for approval.

The meeting closed at 11.20am