

Redbourne Parish Council

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Notes of the Redbourne Flooding Update meeting held at 12 noon on Friday 2nd October 2020, via a Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Ward Councillors: Cllr Neil Poole
Cllr Trevor Foster

NLC Officers: Chris Ramsbottom - Head of Service Assets and Infrastructure
Alan Drury - Drainage Project Manager
Sam Cross - Highway Development and Strategic Flood Risk Manager
Mark Drust - Flood Risk & Surface Water Engineer
Mike Brown -

Redbourne Parish Council: Cllr Lynn Wainwright, Chair.
Holly Hanson, Clerk to Redbourne Parish Council

1 member of the public attended

Cllr Poole opened the meeting stating that the purpose of the meeting was to give a detailed update of works to date and progress going forwards on the Redbourne scheme.

Cllr Wainwright stated that she knew of only 2 effected residents who had been invited to the meeting. Cllr Poole responded that 5 residents had been invited, and Sam Cross clarified that these were the residents whose homes that had been internally flooded.

Sam Cross gave some background to the current scheme stating that the initial 2012 Pell-Frischman report did not place Redbourne in a priority category for remedial works, but in light of the re-occurrence of flooding in 2019, Redbourne had now been prioritised.

The phases of works were outlined, with a progress update on each:

- 1) Trash Screen/headwall at B1206
Several meetings have been held on site with the landowner to discuss permissions, removal of section of wall, tree clearance etc.
Tree clearing works are programmed for early October.
There is now an approved design for the Trash Screen, which will be more open and more maintainable.
- 2) Redbourne upstream Storage Area
4,500m³ of capacity is required upstream of Redbourne to allow for a consistent low-level flow through the Village.
There is significant overgrowth of the current holding pond, and vegetation clearing, and tree felling is required (subject to a Forestry Commission License).
A topographical survey will be conducted following vegetation removal, to assess capacity, however it is the opinion of Officers that there will not be sufficient capacity to meet the 4,500m³ requirement.
The proposed area of upstream storage is covered by Forestry Commission License, a further meeting is arranged to discuss options regarding this area

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- 3) Proposed downstream channel near Emmerson House
A relief channel that is easy to maintain will be provided alongside Emmerson House to allow water to leave the Village

Officers are satisfied that the outcome of these works will be successful.

Cllr Poole asked for an explanation around the catchment area.

Sam Cross explained that the original 2012 model focused on Redbourne, however further investigation has revealed that the water is coming from much farther away, so the catchment area has been expanded up to the Kirton Lindsey Boundary.

Chris Ramsbottom stated that communication with residents and updates from NLC have been lacking, but that a lot of work had been happening behind the scenes, that Redbourne had no knowledge of. He went on to apologise for the lack of information and updates, and committed to monthly updates going forward

Cllr Wainwright expressed frustration at the lack of information and communication but welcomed the commitment to monthly updates going forwards. Cllr Wainwright stated that on the evening of 7th November 2019, water was being pumped overnight, resulting in there being little evidence of the level of water in the village when Cllr Poole attended the following morning. Cllr Wainwright asked for clarification of how the flow of water had been measured. In addition she asked if Officers had seen resident photographs of the event that were submitted to NLC, going on to state that residents had not been consulted during the process of the scheme, and this local information may have been useful in the decision making process.

Cllr Wainwright referred to the earlier statement that there was some doubt from Officers that the full 4500m³ storage capacity could be achieved.

Sam Cross confirmed that Officers had seen resident photographs. It was also clarified that if topographical study revealed that the full capacity could not be achieved with the holding pond then they would look at dynamic ways of achieving it.

Cllr Poole offered reassurance stating that historical lack of maintenance and silting up of the holding ponds had resulted in major issues, but that this was being rectified, and if capacity could not be found, they would look at ditch storage and a bund if necessary.

Cllr Wainwright asked who would be responsible for maintenance of the ponds and ditches going forwards.

Sam Cross stated that it was dependent on location, the holding ponds are situated on NLC land, so maintenance is the responsibility of NLC. Elsewhere, it would be the landowner's responsibility.

Mike Brown confirmed that the holding pond was listed as a Critical Asset, so it would be a priority to keep it clear and maintained on a regular basis.

Chris Ramsbottom cited that NLC response to area wide flooding in November 2019 had been excellent in general and reassured that Redbourne was now top of the list for remedial measures.

Cllr Foster stated that Cllr Wainwright's frustrations were matched by Ward Councillors, highlighting that it was an appalling situation for residents to be in being nervous every time rain falls. Cllr Foster cited that COVID-19 was primarily responsible for the lack of public meeting, however progress had been impressive despite COVID-19. He stated that he hoped that lessons could be learned from this with respect to communications, and that it could be more efficient in the future.

Chris Ramsbottom stated that it was hoped works would commence at the end of October, with tree felling taking place prior to this, however he was aware that residents needed to see a full programme of works with timescales. There will also be a comprehensive maintenance schedule to accompany the remedial works, with Redbourne top of the list to be protected in case of flooding before works are complete.

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The importance of the three phases happening in the correct order was highlighted to avoid remedial works causing additional flooding elsewhere.

The next update would be in three weeks' time with the aim of having the vegetation clearance and tree felling complete by this time, and upstream capacity calculated.

Cllr Foster reiterated the importance of communication with residents going forwards, as residents had been subjected to a year of no information and no knowledge of works behind the scenes. Lack of communication together with fear of re-occurrence has caused the biggest issue.

The member of the public seconded these comments and stated that a monthly update would be very welcome.

The member of the public cited that there had been no mention of the culverts around the Village, and that these contributed to flooding issues. It was stated that many of these were of bad design and were blocked and in need of clearing.

Alan Drury reported that there had been a 'jetter' in the Village recently, that site visit had taken place, and that these would be included as part of the programme.

The member of the public also asked if the Pell-Frischman report had taken into account works that needed to take place at Emmerson House to improve the flow of water? This point could not be confirmed, but the resident would like clarification.

Actions Arising:

A second meeting to be scheduled for 3 weeks' time

Agenda and update report to be circulated ahead of the meeting for public consultation.

Exact circulation list to be collated

Clarification of works required at Emmerson House

Notes of this and future meetings taken by Redbourne Parish Council to be published to residents