

**Meeting commenced 7.00p.m.**

**Chaired by Fiona Kenward**

### **Update from Last Meeting**

Fiona reported that the £5000 grant which was thought could be available on production of receipts, is only be available when a major flood incident is declared by the government. Ulcombe's flooding was flash flooding rather than normal risk flooding and therefore does not qualify for this grant. She would discuss further with our MP, Helen Whately. All residents affected by flooding were asked to keep receipts of costs incurred. Photos and videos of the floods should also be kept as evidence .

### **Flood Assessment**

The parish council had hoped to commission a flood report. Only Ambiental had replied, and their estimated costs for their Environmental Assessment for both the West and East catchment areas would be £12,000 plus VAT. There would be a further cost of anything between £20000-40000 for surveys of the watercourses.

KCC are in talks with the South East Rivers Trust, with a view to adding Ulcombe to ongoing flood projects in the area. Fiona will discuss how the project might work with SERT once the partnership has been confirmed.

It was suggested that Ambiental should be asked to investigate if they could use already published survey information to reduce costs. The parish council will revisit this.

William Tassell advised that he had received consent to divert the water course on the west side of The Street opposite Chapman's Place to go across the field to the stream further west on the Church Farm side. This would reduce the volume of water behind the Street Farm area. He was also looking at remedial measures for the east side of The Street and also for the flood problems in Eastwood Road from Kent Liveries to Windmill Hill and Knowle Hill.

Fiona thanked Sean Charlton for his work in removing trees and vegetation by the stream behind the houses in The Street.

Sean said that the east side of the stream was higher than the west side by the gardens, and the stream itself was narrower and shallower at the lower end than higher up the hill. Residents may need to take action to remedy these problems.

As part of their ongoing investigations KCC will look at the possibility of enlarging the pipe under the road by the school.

### **Flood Warden Training and Flood Resilience Group and Plan**

There is a free online flood warden training programme scheduled for 6/10 and 9/11 from 7-9pm.

Anyone interested was asked to contact Fiona after this meeting. Details of the training can also be found on the parish council website.

Ulcombe residents can be involved in putting together the Ulcombe Community Resilience Flood Plan. There will be also be a representative from the parish council.

### **Residents' queries**

No timescale for a survey was yet known, but the Fiona would contact KCC regarding the involvement of the South East Rivers Trust.

It was suggested that the gravel footpath between the school and Manor Cottages had been built up and should be lowered by about 1 foot to allow water to flow from The Street to the field behind. A barrier alongside the houses would help protect them. The stream alongside Manor Cottages was overgrown and apparently had been narrowed. This needed to be looked at in any survey.

Fiona asked residents to report online to Kent Highways any drainage clearance requests and to keep a record of report numbers.

Eastwood road residents asked for an assessment of their flooding problems, particularly their wish for deeper ditches, parallel to the road, to stem the force of the surface water flow pouring down through the orchard on to the lower lying road. Like the residents in The Street, they also wanted an assessment of the feasibility of having many more drains and larger diameter pipes in the road to take flash flood water.