



The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden

Joint Parish Council

Working for the Benefit of the Residents of Henley-in-Arden

Clerk: Gill Bailey clerk@henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk

Flood Alleviation – Ullenhall Brook Management Group

Present: See Attached

Apologies: Mary Halliwell

Cllr Crathorne began by introducing himself, the Chair of the JPC, Bill Leech and the Clerk, Gill Bailey.

Cllr Crathorne went on to say that the residents living adjacent to Ullenhall Brook in Glenhurst Road who may have riparian rights, along with those living in Warwick Road who may be affected by the stream had been invited to an informal meeting.

Cllr Crathorne said that he had prepared a short presentation and everyone was welcome to participate as and when they wished to contribute to the discussion with their concerns and observations. Cllr Crathorne advised what the responsibilities of both the JPC, as owners of adjacent land to the brook were as well as those residents in Glenhurst Road and Warwick Road. Everyone present seemed to be happy that the JPC took the lead on the project.

Cllr Crathorne said that there was a document entitled 'Living on the Edge' which was a guide to the rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership and which was available to download at www.gov.uk by searching 'Living on the Edge'.

A Parishioner asked what riparian rights were and Cllr Crathorne responded by advising that they are the rights of people who own land that runs into water, such as a stream, river etc., and a riparian owner is a person who owns land that runs into a river. He went on to advise that riparian owners should keep the banks clear of anything that may cause an obstruction and increase the flood risk, either on their own land or downstream if it is washed away. It is also the responsibility of a riparian owner for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees etc., growing on the banks.

A Parishioner who said that he and his wife lived on the corner plot in Glenhurst Road and had been advised that they would need to maintain the area of land that they owned running into the Brook and it cost them approximately £3,000 every five years or so to employ contractors to dig down, dredge the ditch and dig a drainage channel alongside the land that they owned.

Cllr Crathorne asked if those present and residents who were not able to make the meeting and who may be affected by the flooding of the Brook would be amenable to forming an Association, along with the JPC. He went on to say that he envisaged a simple formula for calculating the cost of maintenance on an annual, per metre basis. He said that the Chair and he attended the Flood Forums which were run in conjunction with WCC.

- A Parishioner advised that there were no non-return valves on the Warwick Road side of the Brook and the Clerk was asked to report that fact.
- A Parishioner advised that it had been a pretty close situation in November with the potential flooding of a number of properties alongside the Brook and the river. Cllr Crathorne confirmed that the JPC had an Emergency Team ready in such a situation and also residents who were 'river/brook watchers' to advise of any potential issues.
- Cllr Crathorne said that the idea would be to use a registered contractor/hydrologist and the JPC would go out to tender in the usual way. Following a discussion it was agreed that on-going maintenance on an annual basis may be more cost effective than employing a contractor every five years or so.

- A Parishioner pointed out that youngsters from the Warwickshire College utilised the banks by the School as a picnic area in the summer and they left a lot of debris and rubbish in the brook/river which caused a potential obstruction.
- It was agreed that a Steering Group be formed from one resident of Glenhurst Road, one resident from Warwick Road and a Cllr Crathorne.
- A Parishioner asked how it would work if you were tied into an agreement if you were to sell your property in the future. It was agreed that an agreement could not be compulsory; however, new owners could be identified and contacted after they had moved in and informed that membership of the group was reliant on goodwill, although there may be one of two property owners who did not/could not contribute.
- It was agreed that the JPC would pay a proportion of the costs as they owned Littleworth Field which ran alongside the brook/river.
- A Parishioner mentioned that she had been in touch with Michael Green at WCC who was the Flood Risk & Water Management Manager and questioned whether Mr Green could enforce payment of a contribution towards maintenance costs.
- A Parishioner asked what would happen if a property was rented and it was agreed that normally speaking the landlord would pay the costs.
- A Parishioner mentioned their concerns about the banks and trees over the erosion of banks and trees alongside the brook/river. It was agreed that expert advice was needed for both an emergency situation, as well as routine maintenance issues which were identified.
- Cllr Leech confirmed that the JPC was focussing on flood alleviation during the next fiscal year and it may be possible for a Steering Group to apply for a mini grant from the JPC to help with set up costs. He went on to say that the JPC was looking at the flow from the River Alne being diverted into the old Carp Ponds near to the Mount and there were some grants available from outside agencies.
- It was agreed that Cllr Crathorne, Maggie Motherwell and Jonathan Chamberlain form a small Steering Group which would feedback into the wider association.
- The gulleys from Warwick Road to the traffic lights and the Hub Bridge, as well as New Road were blocked with leaves and the Clerk was requested to mention this to the JPC maintenance man and ask him if he would clear the gulley's. Ms Motherwell also mentioned that the gulley opposite her property was also blocked.
- It was agreed that initially contact between members of the group could be emailed.

Meeting finished at 8.30 pm.