

STAPLEHURST EMERGENCY HELP TEAM
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22 June 2015
at The Free Church, Staplehurst

Present: Andrew Watson (Chairman), Geoff Barber, Jason Bardell, Joan Buller, Anne Finlayson, Bob Howse, Peter Jeffery, Barbara Keel, Donna Maxa, Pam Payne, Bill Piper, Chris Ralph, Laureen Rodwell, Rory Silkin, Peter Spearink, Emma Wilson, Craig Wilson,

Apologies: Sue Bassett, Erika Lock,

Chairman's Welcome and Remarks: Andrew welcomed us all.

Erica reported by email that she had attended a KALC conference the previous week at which Staplehurst was cited as an excellent example of a parish with its own Emergency Plan. It is one of only two with "excellent" plans in the whole country!

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and signed.

Matters Arising:

Peter Jeffery reported that he had located all the vulnerable sites in Staplehurst except two. They are now identified (though even Southern Water had been unaware of one).

Work is in progress on the updating of the Plan.

All telephone numbers should be with Sue Bassett.

Agenda:

Andrew reminded us of the Flood Wardens' training on 17th July. Andrew himself is now fully trained, but he reminded us that the role is about preparedness, not about dealing with actual floods. His direct responsibility is to KCC.

Anne and Sue are currently updating the Plan (with Andrew as onlooker). The Staplehurst Plan is based on the Template provided by KCC.

At the moment they are just awaiting the telephone information.

Andrew spoke of preparedness - preparedness for an unexpected problem. There is a need for reactions to be instinctive, e.g. to identify accommodation. He felt that there is a need to semi-formalize the role of deputy. Anne suggested that the telephone tree needs to reflect that but not other roles in the Team since flexibility is needed.

Rory suggested that there should be a map on the back of the telephone tree. Specific meeting points need to be identified.

The person with the telephone must nominate a meeting place - preferably as near as possible to Sobell Lodge (where the equipment bags are stored).

It was suggested that we need a second equipment bag - which may be held at the Free Church.

Peter Spearink mentioned that Green World may soon be unavailable as a Rest Centre. The Cricket Club was suggested as suitable as a Rest Centre.

It was felt that the Team needs to work through the Plan again to familiarize themselves. Craig will help prepare this, and will go through it as a refresher/training exercise at the September meeting, preparatory to the October exercise. (Agenda)

Any Other Business: .

Geoff Barber pointed out that the description of SEHT's role on the Parish website suggests a function which is at odds with the sort of emergency outlined in the Emergency Plan. Thus the telephone number accompanying the description invites people to phone in for help with issues more appropriately handled elsewhere.

Ensuing discussion emphasized that we should anyway be really be awaiting a call to action from the KCC Duty Emergency Planning Officer .

Andrew thinks that the Electricity Board should have our number so that we can help them if able. Nevertheless MBC may be more relevant in most cases. UK Power Network companies have a list of vulnerable people. The Gas Board should have one also.

The next exercise will be held on a Saturday in October, following the 17th September meeting.

Rob Wiles will deliver the scenario.

Andrew will contact Care Homes alerting them to the forthcoming exercise.

Date of the Next Meeting: 17th September 2015

