

Protocol for the use of pumps during flood conditions

I have had a meeting with Martin Hill and Jack Wiltshire (Highways site agent for MSA) to discuss the use of pumps during flood conditions. It has been agreed again with Martin Hill to be confirmed in writing that Milborne St Andrew will have unfettered access to a high capacity pump in the event of any flooding that directly threatens any house. This pump will be set up and monitored by Highways and would be sanctioned in conjunction with the Flood Warden and Martin Hill (or similar representatives). The Parish Council need to be aware that setting up would take time and would be costly for DCC and therefore needs to be used judiciously.

I have also attended the annual Flood Warden's seminar in which the need for a village flood plan was discussed. Flood Plans are an integral part of the emergency response procedures throughout the country and involves all the agencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance, EA and CC) and are coordinated by one centre. For reference there are 3 levels of response, Bronze Silver and Gold and all are to deal with various levels of threat to life. The first response command officer will want to be briefed by the Flood Warden about at risk residents, where people would be evacuated what the problem is what has been done etc.

It must be clearly stated that depending upon other emergencies, flooded homes, roads or shops will **NOT** constitute an emergency and that it is up to individual homeowners to protect their property and for villagers to formulate a Village Flood Plan and act together.

Excepting that an evaluation will be conducted after every flood event, I therefore ask for the Parish Council's approval and adoption for the following procedures to be used during any future flood event and for it to be published in the next Reporter magazine.

Flood Plan Milborne St Andrew

- **A Flood Group is formally established**
 - to monitor drains/ roads and contacting Dorset for You to arrange for debris removal and gulley clearance as required
 - be aware of vulnerable people near each flood member and to inform the Flood Warden in the event of flood
 - to encourage helpers in the event of a flood
- **Home owners are reminded that**
 - it is entirely their own responsibility to protect their homes against water ingress and to have their own flood plan and to use any equipment provided by the EA under the PLP scheme or sand bags. Sand bags must be collected in good time and not left until there is an imminent problem
 - by registering with the Environment Agency they can receive Flood warnings by text or telephone. Flood warnings can also be viewed by searching either the BBC or EA websites for "Live Flood Map"
- **Riparian owners are reminded**
 - to keep their banks and river bed clear each September.
 - The EA are working closely with the riparian owner at Manor Farm to ensure that the section below March Bridge is kept clear but does not contravene any water vole regulation.
 - Wessex Water will also be maintaining their outflow north of the village to avoid silt and water surge contamination.
- **The Flood Warden will**
 - liaise with the Emergency Command Officer in the event of a major incident
 - liaise with all the authorities to ensure the roads and gullies are cleaned at least once year and in good time for the winter
 - monitor the water table height and to receive real-time information and, when appropriate, any warnings likely to cause flooding will be passed to the Flood Group and known vulnerable homes contacted.
 - arrange for a quantity of sand to be made available on the Village Hall car park and for a quantity of hessian sand bags to be available in good time for collection each year. Sand will be located on the Parish Hall carpark and home owners are to obtain any hessian bags **before** winter and to hold in readiness. Residents are reminded to collect them in good time and store them until needed.
 - arrange for the positioning of traffic calming signs to be erected as directed by Highways.

- liaise with DCC Highways for the provision of our high capacity pump and as agreed by DCC would be sanctioned in conjunction with the Flood Warden and Martin Hill (or similar representatives).
- It will be sited directly opposite the shop and water discharged directly in to the culvert via the Old Farmhouse gardens.
- A pump will only be provided in the event of any home or business building being DIRECTLY threatened with water ingress. The flooding of gardens outhouses sheds etc or the road would **not** be considered urgent and on their own would not be considered justification for the provision of a pump.
- If a house is directly threatened with flooding, home owners are urged to inform the flood warden or Chair of Parish Council as this will help in making the correct decision for setting up the pump.
Home owners are to be assured of the discretion of the Flood Warden or Chair and that any information given WILL remain confidential.
- conduct a joint continuous risk assessment with highways so that the use of the pump will not threaten other properties.
- **If necessary, the pump will be turned off.**
- The use of sand bags on the public footpath between Chapel Street and The Causeway may be required in any spate conditions and residents are asked not to use this cut through during this period.
- Unless the water levels are too high the pump will be turned off at night and removed as soon as possible after the waters have receded.
- **The Parish Council** in conjunction with NDDC will coordinate the clear up afterwards

Concern was expressed about the manner in which motorists placed themselves and residents in danger by driving through floods. Please could the council discuss/decide on how they wish the flooded road situation to be handled. You may wish the village to be part of the 'Road Closure' plan currently being trialled by DCC. Residents trying to control traffic especially in the dark without Hi-Viz jackets or signs are placing themselves at high risk of collision and as such should be discouraged. I would remind the Council that the Police do NOT have the authority to close roads and there were clear commercial difficulties for the shop last time but many houses and pedestrians were directly intimidated by selfish drivers.

I also ask that once the Flood Plan has been agreed, a formal letter of thanks is sent from the Parish Council acknowledging the three home owners who have given permission for access to their properties for setting up the pump. Also, in order to clarify our procedure and avoid the past problems to write formally to Martin Hill, Brian Richards and Andrew Gill detailing our procedures and to thank them for their past and anticipated future help in this matter.

May I also ask that the council give consideration to the purchase of one or two sand bag fillers as described in previous meetings and a Hi-Viz waterproof jacket for the Flood Warden.