**21 October 2015**

Notes on meeting held in the Diddlebury Church Hall at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 13th October 2015

In attendance:

Ms Thomasin Sayers                       National Flood Forum (NFF)

Ms Grace Martin                              National Flood Forum

Ms Tabitha Whitcombe                  National Flood Forum

Jane Collier                                       Bouldon

Jonathan Phillips                              Bouldon

Frank Povall                                      Bouldon

Patricia Povall                                  Bouldon

Tom O'Boyle                                    Diddlebury

Steven Ross                                      Diddlebury

Peter Drakes                                     Diddlebury

Sara Thompson                                Diddlebury

Beth Neden                                       Diddlebury

Geoff Neden                                     Diddlebury

Geoff introduced Thomasin Sayers who then explained what the NFF was and how it could assist the Group in Diddlebury Parish.

The NFF recommend the "whole catchment" approach to flooding problems. This is currently being pursued by the Culmington FAG (with whom the Diddlebury FAG liaises) with a team run by Shropshire Wildlife Trust in association with the Shropshire Council and assisted by the NFF.

This starts with a survey of each catchment (which will not coincide with the administrative boundaries of Parishes) and comes up with suggested flood alleviation methods appropriate to each catchment.

NFF can also assist with "soft" services such as

\*             advice on Insurance where past flooding makes this difficult in conjunction with Flood Re

\*             advice on riparian ownership and the resulting responsibilities and benefits

\*             Convening multi Agency meetings to speed up solutions to problems which cross departmental boundaries and subsequent follow up to achieve action.

\*             establishment of ownership of bridges etc and if they are protected in any way

\*             assistance with finding out the ownership of land in each catchment and with early approaches to these land owners to try and gain their support for any flood alleviation measures which might be considered on their land.

\*             assistance with funding of flood alleviation works.

After this presentation, members of the group explained their flooding problems - both physical and those arising from dealing with local authorities and neighbours to get action. Possible alleviation methods were discussed and it was clear that although each situation was unique, one common problem was getting action from local Authorities - in particular Bridges Dept .

It was decided that another meeting would be held on 12th January 2016 at 6.30pm in the Diddlebury Church Hall and before then, all members of the Group would endeavour to produce a list of known problems in their particular areas  -  derived both from personal knowledge and by asking around locally in their vicinity. These would then be marked up on a map which would form the basis for discussion at the meeting. Following this a Flood Action Plan would be drawn up with future action on it being led by the Group, assisted by the NFF.

There was general agreement that the Diddlebury Parish Flood Action Group should be continued with.

G C Neden

16/10/2016

**28 September 2015**

**Stream clearing party Wednesday 7 October at 6.00 pm - meet by the bridge in Diddlebury Village.**

**21 September 2015**

**A way forward for flooding in Diddlebury Parish**

Have you had issues with flooding in your area? Are you frustrated that actions aren't progressing and would like help to address your concerns?

The National Flood Forum have found that working with a local Flood Action Group on behalf of the wider community in finding ways to reduce flood risk is a very effective way to bring about local change.

The Diddlebury Flood Action Group is being supported by the National Flood Forum using a well-tested process that involves partnerships between grassroots communities and the agencies and authorities that manage flood risk.

With this in mind, we are inviting all interested and concerned residents and businesses to come together to become involved in the Diddlebury Flood Action Group to further your worries and concerns and work in partnership to reduce the flood risks in Diddlebury Parish.

**We will be holding a meeting on Tuesday 13th October at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.** We welcome interested and concerned residents and businesses throughout the whole Parish of Diddlebury, or anyone who wants to find out more to come along to the meeting.

If you can't make the date but you're interested, or if you'd like to discuss anything further, please contact me on my email or phone below.

I look forward to meeting you on 13th October.

With kind regards,

Thomasin Sayers

National Flood Forum

07821 295536

thomasin.sayers@floodforum.org.uk

[www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk)

**Click on the link below to view the poster for the FAG meting on 13 October**

[Diddlebury FAG poster (95.77KB)](http://www.2shrop.net/live/images/cme_resources/Groups/g733BAF4E-4C1B-486F-B389-36433652292F/FAG/Diddlebury-FAG-poster.pdf)

**11 September 2015**

**Notes from Meeting with Culmington FAG on 10th September 2015**

Those present:

Hugh Disley                        Chair Culmington FAG

Jayne Disley                       Secretary Culmington FAG

Peter Lines                         Member Culmington FAG

Suki Gregson Smith          Member Culmington FAG

Graham Harding               Culmington PC

Carol Byng                         Culmington PC

Thomasin Sayers               National Flood Forum

Peter Lambert                   Shropshire Wildlife Trust RWER Project Manager

Geoff Neden                      Chair Diddlebury FAG

The meeting was a follow up to previous meetings held to review progress with the survey of land owners in the Culmington Catchment.

The members of the Culmington FAG, using large scale plans provided by Peter Lambert have been referencing each field in the lower part of the catchment and finding out its ownership along with contact details. Peter Lambert has been doing the same in the upper part of the catchment.

Once the land ownership survey is completed, each individual land owner will be approached and the project explained to them. A DVD is being prepared on the scheme at Stroud and this should soon be available for use in publicising the project. Peter will also provide leaflets and posters. Land owners are the key to the project and must be kept fully in the loop and shown what can be done on their land and with their permission to minimise flooding downstream. The Stroud work shows how effective small "soft" changes can be - leaky wooden dams etc.

Peter Lambert's survey will use a "Rapid Ecological Assessment" approach to establish the land uses in the whole of the catchment. This work can be done by volunteers after a little training and with minimal equipment. If Diddlebury FAG participate in this, then the process could be repeated in the Diddlebury catchments in future.

Other items discussed were:

Production of emergency plans.

Individual building protection ideas - air brick covers, tide flaps etc. Mouchel on behalf of Shropshire Council did individual house surveys on request following the 2012 flooding and then prepared Reports with suggestions.

Riparian rights and responsibilities - a booklet entitled "Living on the Edge" can be provided by Thomasin.

Downstream problems can be exacerbated by poorly designed flood protection works.

Under current rules, any new development has to be so designed that the runoff after development is no more than that which would occur were it left as grassland.

Useful features in catchments are :

Belts of trees to help in attenuation of flows off fields into watercourses

Hedges

The fencing off of streams to prevent stock "poaching"

Pasture land use which is preferable from the flood prevention point of view to arable land use

Ponds which temporarily store storm flows.

Geoff explained that the remit of the Diddlebury FAG had been widened at the request of the PC to cover the whole Parish. A public meeting has been arranged for 13th October which will be addressed by Thomasin.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30 pm in Culmington Village Hall on 12th November.

**24 August 2015**

**See extract below of Minutes from the July Diddlebury Parish Council meeting**

090/15 - Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)

Emails had been received from Mr Geoff Neden including a briefing note on a meeting between the Shropshire Natural Flood Management Project and Culmington Parish Council, which Mr  Neden had attended.  These documents and Mr Neden's proposals were considered and supported by the members.  It was felt that the Diddlebury Flood Action/Stream Management Group has too narrow a remit, concentrating as it does on the stream in Mill Lane.  There are flooding issues in Bouldon, Peaton and in several places along the Ludlow road: it was the view of the meeting that the Group's activities should be extended to the whole of the parish.

**22 July 2015**

**Click on the link below to read the briefing note from Shropshire Natural Flood Management**

[Shropshire Natural Flood Management (1398.75KB)](http://www.2shrop.net/live/images/cme_resources/Groups/g733BAF4E-4C1B-486F-B389-36433652292F/FAG/Shrops-Natural-Flood-Management-proj-briefing.pdf)

**20 July 2015 - Update**

**Notes from Meeting with Culmington FAG on 16th July 2015**

Those present:

Hugh Disley                        Chair Culmington FAG

Jayne Disley                       Secretary Culmington FAG

Paul Beaman                     Member Culmington FAG

Peter Lines                         Member Culmington FAG

Suki Gregson Smith          Member Culmington FAG

Graham Harding               Culmington PC

Ruth Webb                         National Flood Forum

Peter Lambert                   Shropshire Wildlife Trust RWER Project Manager

Mike Greene                      Member Diddlebury FAG

Geoff Neden                      Chair Diddlebury FAG

The meeting was called by Peter Lambert to explain the project he is about to undertake in the Culmington Catchment. As this extends into Diddlebury Parish, representatives from the Diddlebury FAG were also invited. Catchment boundaries do not coincide with administrative boundaries.

Peter explained that the scheme is part of the Shropshire Flood Risk Project and involves carrying out a detailed survey of 7 catchments in Shropshire including Culmington from a flood risk and wild life perspective. It will take around 3 years to complete after which a Report with GIS Mapping will be produced showing all the data obtained with its interpretation and recommendations. This information will be useful amongst many other things in locating suitable areas for upstream storage of run off to attenuate flood flows, the type and construction of control structures to achieve this and which types are best suited to the area. The principles established and methods used will have relevance to the Diddlebury catchment. Representatives from the Diddlebury FAG (as well as those from Culmington FAG) were encouraged to take part in and observe the study as it progresses.

The first priority will be to establish land ownership and gain permission for access for the survey team. Local knowledge will be most useful here and local publicity of the survey and its potential outcomes would help by alerting land owners of the proposal and hopefully bringing them "on board".

Ruth explained what she could assist with including nudging other departments to assist (eg Dept of Bridges to clear beneath the road bridge in Diddlebury); convening of multi agency meetings to short cut admin delays; assistance with stream clearance by riparian owners and many other items.

Other matters

Hugh explained what the Culmington FAG had carried out over its 2 year existence  -  a drainage inventory has been completed and drains are now being kept clear; an emergency plan has been prepared in part; streams routes have been walked to find possible run off storage areas; liaison has been established with the Environment Agency and a register has been established of vulnerable property and people.

Geoff did the same for Diddlebury FAG - location of local flood "pinch points"; deciding on remedial measures; obtaining approval to these measures and having them carried out - all with much assistance (financial and technical) from Roads Dept and other Shropshire Council Departments and the Diddlebury Parish Council. Regular work parties are organised to keep the stream bed clear of excess vegetation.

Future plans for both FAG's include providing upstream run off storage areas and clearing/maintaining downstream waterways.

Whilst Culmington FAG covers the whole Parish, Diddlebury at the moment is concerned only with Diddlebury itself.

Like Diddlebury FAG, Culmington  FAG is not formally constituted with officers, Bank Accounts etc. This seemed the best approach.

Ruth is to visit Culmington and Diddlebury to acquaint herself with the areas and investigate possible run off storage areas in the upstream catchments. Also to determine specific other areas where she  can be of help.

Culmington FAG's next scheduled meeting will be on 10th September and Diddlebury FAG representatives are invited to attend.

Action for Diddlebury FAG

Consider need for/advantages of extending Diddlebury FAG or establishing other local FAG's as required across the whole of Diddlebury Parish.

Arrange initial site visit by Ruth and prepare for this.

Think about means of finding out owners of land in the upstream catchment.

Maintain an involvement with the Survey in Culmington.

**Geoff Neden**

**Diddlebury FAG**

**17th July 2015**

**10 July 2015 - Update**

DIDDLEBURY FLOOD ACTION GROUP (FAG)

Notes from meeting held at Culmington Village Hall on 7th July 2015

Present:

Mr Dennis Wilson             Shropshire Council

Ms Ruth Webb                  National Flood Forum Community Resilience Officer

Ms Jayne Disley                 Culmington FAG

Ms Carol Byng                   Culmington PC

Mr Geoff Neden               Diddlebury FAG

The meeting was called by Dennis Wilson of Shropshire Council to introduce Ms Ruth Webb of the National Flood Forum (NFF) to the Culmington and Diddlebury FAG's. Ruth has recently moved to Shropshire where she will be working with the Council on flood related matters.

The NFF is a Charity with no Government funding which acts in a consultancy manner to Local Authorities on a fee paying basis. It is able to assist FAG's with the preparation of Emergency Plans, liaison with other interested Authorities such as the Environment Agency, establishment of catchment wide solutions to flooding problems and advice on possible funding agencies such as the Rivers Trust. It has also worked with Government on the Flood-Re Insurance scheme for flood affected properties.

Ruth would like to meet with all the FAG's in the Shropshire Area to offer advice and assistance at no cost to them.

She would also like to hear from any property owners who have suffered from flooding who she can advise on Insurance matters.

An initial step would be for her to make a site visit and look at local problem areas and also the upstream catchments with a view to locating suitable places to erect leaky wooden dams or other similar methods of slowing down flood flows by means of temporary storage. She would be able to assist with negotiations with upstream land owners. She could also have an input to Parish Plans where flooding may be an issue.

She will attend the meeting which has been called by Culmington FAG be held in the Culmington Village Hall on July 16th at 7.30pm to discuss a project for natural flood management measures for which Culmington Parish has been selected by Shropshire Council. Catchments do not coincide with Parish boundaries so cooperation between adjoining parishes is essential to properly deal with local flooding and Diddlebury FAG will be represented at that meeting.

Ruth is available during evenings and weekends for site visits.

G C Neden

**8 June Update**

As you may have seen, the work on the stream has been completed for this year.

It will now be able to cope far better with future flood events which was the main purpose of the FAG.

The work was carried out by the Shropshire Council and Mr Thomas from Peaton kindly provided straw bales, transport for the surplus spoil and for its disposal at no cost to the FAG.

As the work progressed it soon became clear that the it would not be possible to form the "beach" which was proposed along the south bank at Area "C". This was because the ground comprised very soft silt and contained the roots of the trees planted there. As the digger took out the roots, the soft silt came with them. "Beaches" were formed along the north bank (retaining most of the irises) and between the footbridge and the weir.

The stream is not as pretty as it was before but the new banks will quickly green over and look less harsh by means of natural re establishment of native plant species. It does seem to be favoured by the duck family which is often now seen in the newly cleared area. The work has been inspected by the Environment Agency and they are happy with it.

Next year the other half of the excess gravel in Glebe Farm's garden will be cleared out and in the meantime, I am pressing the Council's Bridges Dept. to clear the excess gravel from beneath the road bridge and if possible to replace the adjacent loose wooden fence posts. I am also chasing the Council to progress the agreed work at Area "A".

We still have around £140 available from the funds allocated by the Parish Council and these will be used in part by hiring Tony Capleton to tidy up the banks, re form the two drainage outlets from the adjacent road, possibly clear the vegetation below the weir and generally titivate the area. Tony has already re planted the shrubs and irises which were taken up and placed to one side by the digger.

An email has been received from the Culmington Flood Action Group. A suggestion made when we were first discussing the flooding in Diddlebury with the Shropshire Council officials was to reduce the amount of surface water arriving in the village by forming "leaky wooden dams" in the rural upstream catchment. These would retain the first flush of storm water and then release it slowly allowing the stream to cope better. This idea was shelved as it gives rise to complications with land owners etc. This sounds to me to be what the Culmington Group might be looking at in their new project and as such could well be useful to Diddlebury.

I recommend that we get together with the Culmington Group as they suggest.

**Geoff Neden**

**6 May 2015 - Update**

We have received confirmation from the Shropshire Council that the works to the stream (Areas "A" and B") will be carried out on 26th and 27th May - weather permitting.

Before that date, we will arrange for the digging of 4 trial trenches to locate the buried BT cable and water pipes in the vicinity using the funds allocated us by the DPC.

Mr Thomas has kindly agreed to provide for the collection and disposal of the surplus spoil and also to provide 6 straw bales to use in the prevention of pollution downstream.

**Geoff Neden**

**26 March 2015 - Update from the Flood Action Group  (FAG)**

**Recent developments are as follows:**

* Diddlebury Parish Council have kindly agreed to allow us a further ?60 bringing our total fund with them to ?150. This can be used to dig trial pits to locate underground services before the clearance work commences and also for weed killer to get rid of the Himalayan Balsam. The weed killer has been purchased and the trial pit digging arranged.
* Cllr Thomas has kindly offered to provide transport to remove surplus spoil arising from the clearance works at Areas "B" and "C" and also somewhere to dispose of it.
* Shropshire Council have agreed to provide us with a digger for 2 days to carry out the clearance works at Areas "B" and "C". They will also provide the necessary signage and cable avoidance equipment. It is hoped that the work will be carried out in late June this year. At Area "B", only half the bed width will be cleared this year as per the Permission we have obtained. The other half will be done next year.
* The work at Area "C" which initially comprised the area from the road bridge to the footbridge, will now continue from the footbridge to the weir.
* Shropshire Council have also agreed to carry out repair works to the road bridge and the associated training walls and also to remove the gravel which has built up beneath the bridge arches. We have requested that as part of this work, they repair/replace some of the adjacent timber fence posts which are becoming unsafe.
* Chris Jackson has agreed to meet with Mr Wilkes and deal with the problem at Area "A".
* **A working party has been arranged for Tuesday 31st March to spray weed killer and keep the vegetation under control. Please come and help from 6.00pm if you are able.**
* Official Approval to all the above work has been obtained with assistance from the Shropshire Council.

Below is a map showing the locations of the various areas referred to above.

We are in contact with Shropshire Council over a date for the work and will keep you informed.

