

**Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council**  
**Notes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**at the Methodist Community Centre at 7.00 pm**

**Present:**

Councillor M Allen  
Councillor B Blanchard  
Councillor S Hadley  
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)  
Councillor J Keeton  
Councillor P Marshall  
Councillor M Moody  
Councillor S Sloan  
Councillor A Smith  
Councillor S Tyers  
Councillor Mrs K Walker

**Members of the Public:** 14 members of the public  
Councillor Mrs Michael & County Councillor Laughton  
John Miller (Chairman) & Robert Brown (Senior Engineer) from the Internal Drainage Board

**1 Apologies for absence**

There were none.

**2 Presentation by the Internal Drainage Board**

The role of the Internal Drainage Board was explained by Mr Brown.

It was explained that the Board have a model that has looked at the Bulham Lane drain and Cuckstool Dyke. A survey of the water courses and local area had also been undertaken. The Board then take all that information and run a field of probable scenarios, for a 1 in 75, 100 and 200 flood event. This then gives the projected flood outline that would be seen for these rainfall events.

The Board had looked at installing an area along the B1164 to store water.

It was now considered that a flood storage area was not the best solution and the Board were currently looking at:

- widening and improving the profile of the Cuckstool Dyke.
- widening and improving the profile of the Bulham Lane drain
- installing a number of smaller local flow control structures
- locally raise some banks and install flood walls
- re-lay the culvert at Palmer Road

The current timeline was:

- modelling Sept to December 2024
- results available early 2025
- Jan to August 2025 preparation of funding bid and detailed design
- potential construction works Nov 2025 to Dec 2026

Mr Brown advised that a record of properties that had flooded internally, together with any photographs, would help with the funding bid.

Councillor Laughton advised that the problem would be meeting the cost benefit analysis. The concern was that funding would not be achieved as it was more difficult to get the funding if this route was used.

The Chair referred to the significant flood events that occurred in 2018. Since that time the Parish Council, and the community, had been waiting for a holding pond and nothing had happened on that, albeit that extensive works along Bulham Lane appeared to have been successful.

The Cuckstool Dyke repeatedly floods Mill Close and there were concerns from the community that there was simply too much water entering the village. The Chair referred to a dyke system to the south of the village that is not used and that was empty when others were full.

Mr Brown advised that, in terms of funding, there were indicative allocations already. Evidence speeds up that process. If 10 separate properties flooded in a community then the Board can access additional funding.

There was a cash allocation in the capital programme for works in Sutton-on-Trent and there was also the provision for taking a loan to fund works.

If there were problems with the sewage pumping station then the Board can sometimes get funding from Severn Trent to assist. Additionally, if the Parish Council made a financial contribution too, that also lends weight to the application as it is seen as something the community want. Mr Brown was confident that the Board can get funding for the improvements that are being proposed.

The Chair thanked Mr Brown for his presentation and opened up the meeting for questions from residents.

Matters raised were:

- Could two holding ponds be built, rather than one? It was the Crow Park side that floods not Bulham Lane side. The culvert under Grassthorpe Road holds water back.
- Why is the community waiting from 2018 to 2026 for any kind of action?

Mr Brown advised that gathering evidence to get the funding takes time. There will have been additional projects come in that have to fit into a capital programme. Any works have to be planned right and be justifiable.

- What has changed with the modelling as it was understood funding was approved?

Mr Brown advised that baseline modelling had been done and two FSR done through the software. The Board first looked at an FSR away from the B1164 and then brought it closer to the highway so new modelling had to be done. The amount of water being held back is under reservoir threshold which keeps it in an affordable position.

- Would widening increase the flow or hold the water?

Mr Brown advised that widening is to hold. Other intention would be to introduce flow control holders. In terms of the size of the pumping station, it is over-sized but it is how water is presenting itself. There was a problem during the early storms but that was now fixed.

Unless get rid of the water before it gets into the dyke. Pumping station can't cope with the volume of water.

No water that flows over other side of A1. Worse thing would do is flood fields.

RB if increase amount of water trips over into the Reservoir Act. Can look at a storage area over other side but don't think will make any difference.

Would be interesting to see modelling. Would have to be some surveys done.

Carlton Mill Drain is running into the Cuckstool and that is a problem. If use other dykes that are empty that would help the situation and take pressure off.

? raise levels of pump so no pressure on the outfall

Explanation given on how pumps are sized. Has to work to a one in 75 year event.

- What is the design for an area covered by solar panels?

Mr Brown advised that, in terms of moving from permeable to a development, then that was controlled through planning control and there should be restrictions on discharge rates. Increase in water for solar panels but should be infiltration and control for water coming off fields. In terms of if have water landing on permeable areas then will see typically 50% less run off than from a developed area. If something moves into development will see 50% more run off in terms of volume.

Aware current recommendation to spare people moving out of homes. What would recommend to protect properties.

RB – could look at property protective schemes.

Resident – have temporary pump back.

## **2 Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were received and noted.

## **3 Chairman's Report 2023/24**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

## **4 Other Reports**

### **i) District Councillor**

Due to lack of time, Cllr Mrs Michael's report was given during the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

### **ii) County Councillor**

Due to lack of time, County Councillor Laughton's report was given during the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

### **iii) Any Other Reports**

None to report

## **5 Any Other Matters Relating to the Parish**

There were none.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_