

MEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting April 2013

Flood Scheme Review

The past year has seen the highest level of rainfall in 20 years, one reported incident of a property being flooded, significant learning and improvement of procedures and, as a result of earlier surface and flood water management initiatives, a revision of Parish Council longer-term plans.

The Flood Wardens have put in considerable man-hours of monitoring, drain clearance and general back-ground work which has ensured that despite the rainfall there have not been more incidents of flooding.

November 2012 Floods

It was the first serious surface-water flood of the winter. Debris from the combination of autumn hedge flailing, dead leaves and maize harvesting blocked the sump thus preventing the water level to rise and the sensor to activate and initiate the siren and auto-dialler.

- Despite the danger the Wardens learnt that it was essential to keep the sump grid clear enough to allow water in to the sump
- The siren activation level was set too high and gave no advanced warning
- The Auto-dialler needed to be activated before the siren so that the Wardens are alerted early and able to take precautionary action
- The Emergency Officer should be added to the auto-dialler
- Marker posts are needed at each storm drain manhole grille so that their position can be identified in the dark and under flood water

All the above have been actioned other than the last item.

January 2013 Floods

- There appears to be an increased level of surface water coming down the east valley side and causing problems to the rear of the main street eastern properties.
- The pressure/force of this water, where it enters the storm drain north and south of Colecroft Cottage and below Colecroft Farm, is thought to be the cause of storm water rising out of the drain between Colecroft Cott. and The Hollies.
- An extra drain and grille in to the storm drain is needed at the foot of Policemans' Hill to allow the excess surface water from Stockland and Furley roads, Chestnuts driveway and the roadway from Clarence Farm to enter the storm system and not cause surface water flooding along the main street.
- The pipe from New House Farm entrance to Hallendale tends to block with stones. An angled grille (similar to that outside Red Lion and The Folly) is needed at the top end and, if possible, a larger diameter pipe or open drain installed.

The Parish Council are requesting permission from the land owners to walk the fields above and to the east of the main street to ascertain the current state of ditches.

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These items have been addressed with Environment Agency, District and County Council officers. Item 3 is expected to be addressed in the current year EDDC budgeted plans. The others are beyond current likely finances. The EDDC have agreed that they will try to liaise with SWW when they put a camera down the the main street sewer and check that there are no blockages or constrictions in the storm drain.

Long term Plans

Experience over the past 2 years has suggested that the combination of:-

1. Challenger Farm separation of clean and dirty water with the creation of a clean water pond and surface field storage
2. New House Farm separation of clean and dirty water with clean water bund and soak away
3. planting of filter strip above Bonds Lane with hedging and fencing
4. closure of Bonds Lane and consequent overgrowth of brambles and nettles etc

has resulted in a massive reduction of stones and hard-core being dumped in the sump, causing blockage of the storm drain and subsequent flash flooding.

Therefore, the Parish Council can no longer justify the expenditure of re-landscaping the field above Bonds Lane to store and/or divert water in to the small chalk pit.

However, should there be an application to build further residences at Challenger Farm then it may be necessary to re-consider the creation of a storage/holding pond to handle the consequential increased surface water.