

Flood Prevention in Lamyatt

Background

In May 1998 a small number of houses in the lower part of the village were affected by an amount of flooding due to the failure of the village culvert/gully which takes water from the Creech Hill watershed and springs down through the village. As a consequence works were carried out to the culvert/alignment to ensure that it was unlikely to happen again and at the same time there was a change of farming practise on the hill so that the pasture land would retain much moisture, rather than increase run-off. Subsequently the farmer has agreed not to use the hillside for crops and will return it to pasture for 2020 and beyond. An inspection of the culvert to check all is well is still awaited (Feb 2020)

(02/08/2019) Flood prevention discussions

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May, concern was raised about the possibility of changes in agriculture on the hill resulting in more run off in the event of exceptional heavy rain. The flood of May 1998 had caused disruption and major problems to a number of houses along the main village road. It was agreed that we look into ensuring that the system installed following that previous flood was up to scratch.

Consequently, with the help of the District Councillor, Michael Gay, a site meeting has recently been held attended by Caryl Joyce who had first hand knowledge of what happened last time, Paul Chadwick as Parish Meeting Chairman, and the Flood Risk representatives from Somerset County Council. The District Councillor also attended. The meeting was useful to ensure that the officers understood the nature of the problem last time, and could better review what actions had taken place and what might need to be done now. We anticipate some follow up work by the Council to investigate whether the underground culverts are still operating efficiently, and other actions to help mitigate any problems that might arise. We hope to be able to report back on all this at the next Parish Meeting in Autumn.