

**Meeting to review Flooding issues in the village**

*The meeting of the Parish Planning sub-group had been convened by the Parish Meeting Chair to review the information provided by the Somerset County Council Flood & Water Management Team. Invitations had been extended to those most likely to be affected should a flood occur on the scale of the previous, 1998, major flood incident.*

**Present:** Paul Chadwick; Romy Smallwood, David Colman, David Ash

**Apologies:** Ned Newton, Penny Newton, Dick & Caryl Joyce, Jen Richards

The full report & map received from SCC in late 2021 after their CCTV investigations of the underground section of the village drainage culvert was reviewed. This was very detailed (& lengthy). SCC had drawn attention to not being able to fully survey one part of the culvert, below the Old Shop, due to the camera being unable to pass an obstruction.

The summary from SCC indicates that there is no evidence that the condition of the culvert in 1998 was responsible for the flooding at that time and it may have been more influenced by the land use upstream generating considerable flows.

A review of the images from elsewhere in the channel, below the road running across to the Old Wheelwright Cottage and through the Stones builders yard, also indicated various cracks and imperfections in the underground channel, possibly where inflow pipes entered or there had been slight shifts/changes in the alignment of the pipework carrying the water. The meeting felt that these deformities could potentially trap debris and reduce the water flow over time.

There could also be concerns about whether baffles or mesh shields were in place further upstream above the Old Shop to stop debris such as twigs, small stones and larger items floating down the stream and entering the culvert, thus possibly contributing over time to an underground blockage.

Those present felt that with Global warming there is the likelihood of an increasing frequency of exceptional weather conditions leading to excessive rainfall. There may also potentially be some further deterioration in the culvert. The combination of these factors may result in the stream and culvert being inundated at some time in the future.

The meeting concluded that for those most at risk, and for all along the stream with riparian rights and responsibilities. it would be useful to take further advice from the County Council to establish a set of actions that could now be taken to reduce the possibility of a flooding incident. SCC may be able to offer advice, guidance and inform of any assistance that might be available, and of their own duties.

**Next step:**

The Parish Meeting Chairman would contact the SCC Flood team to request they arrange a meeting in the village hall to better inform and advise interested parties.