

Parish Council Flood Policy for the Parish of Great Bedwyn

Date: December 4th, 2023

I. Introduction

In recognition of the potential flood risks faced by the Parish of Great Bedwyn, the following Flood Policy has been established to safeguard the community and enhance our preparedness and resilience. This policy outlines our commitment to promoting sustainable self-help through information sharing, conducting regular safety checks at vulnerable locations, and maintaining a stock of sandbags for distribution to key points of vulnerability.

II. Priorities

1. Promoting Sustainable Self-Help through Information Sharing

- a. **Connection to Local Groups and Contacts:** - Establish and maintain connections with local groups and contacts involved in flood response and resilience. Where possible facilitate information sharing among residents.
- b. **Access to Past Information and Good Practices:** - Ensure that information regarding past flood events, response strategies, and good practices is easily accessible to residents. Ensure that the flood plan – a key section as part of the wider emergency plan - is well-maintained, kept up-to-date, and easily accessible.
- c. **Linking to External Resources:** - Identify and maintain a comprehensive list of external resources related to flood management and response. Make external resources easily accessible to residents through the Parish Council website and other communication channels.

2. Maintenance of Vulnerable Locations

- a. **Quarterly Safety Checks:** - Inspect the existing three “vulnerable locations” quarterly to assess vulnerability. Document inspections and where necessary take appropriate actions to address identified issues.
- b. **Weather-Related Safety Checks:** - Respond promptly to weather forecasts predicting heavy rain (over 25mm) by conducting safety checks at vulnerable locations. Implement necessary measures to mitigate potential risks – including post event.

3. Small Sandbag Distribution and Resourcing

a. **Stock of Sandbags:** - Maintain a small stock of up to 50 sandbags for emergency use. Monitor and replenish the stock as needed.

b. **Distribution to Key Points of Vulnerability:** - Continue to identify key points of vulnerability within the Parish. Establish a distribution plan to ensure swift deployment of sandbags to these points as and when necessary.

III. Flood Safety Officer Appointment

a. **Role and Responsibilities:** - Appoint a Flood Safety Officer responsible for implementing and overseeing the flood policy. Conduct regular safety checks at vulnerable locations and respond to ad-hoc forecasts. Clear points of vulnerability if required during inspections. Ensure the accessibility and distribution of the sandbag stock to key points of vulnerability.

IV. Review and Ratification

This Flood Policy will be presented to the Parish Councillors for review at the Safety Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, December 4th, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

V. Conclusion

The Parish Council remains committed to safeguarding the community against the impact of flooding, and this policy aims to provide a structured and proactive approach to flood management. The cooperation of all residents is essential in ensuring the effectiveness of these measures.