

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY GROUP

Thursday 28th July 2016

1. Present:- Brian Roberts, Bill Harrison, Tony Bruun, Kevin Barker and Ian Uffindell
2. Apologies:-Jonathan Rumens
3. Meeting Purpose:- To introduce Kevin Barker to the group and to talk him through where we are as a CEG, and current and future plans for the group

Brian welcomed Kevin to the meeting and gave background information as to how the group came in to being as a 'sub-group' of CAWS. He explained how the group fitted with other such groups in Wiltshire, with Wiltshire Council itself, support from MWPC, and how 'emergency' covered a wider range of 'events', and not just flooding issues, although this was the most recent such event. Brian also explained how as a community we now had this responsibility due to lack of funds within Wiltshire Council.

Tony explained how SSE were willing to support CEG volunteers through grants for equipment purchases from their 'resilience' fund. Lists of equipment purchased and stored locally had already been forwarded to Kevin Barker by Tony, along with a copy of The Emergency Plan.

Brian then discussed the use of the Reading Rooms as an 'operational centre' in the event of an emergency, the support of the RR committee in this respect and enabling the group to have a permanent cupboard in which to store documentation etc., and the support of MWPC in the installation and funding of a telephone line and internet connection in the RR, as well as funding the hire of the RR for CEG meetings.

Brian then handed over to Bill Harrison who went through the Emergency Plan highlighting key points within each section, and explaining how this was developed from a template provided by Wiltshire Council.

At this point Kevin Barker was introduced to the meeting providing details of his background as a serving army officer, and his experiences of being involved in real life emergencies, and in planning emergency exercises to 'test the theory' of an Emergency Plan, and its effectiveness in practice.

A round table discussion then took place covering most if not all the issues raised within the plan, practicalities in running a trial or test exercise, including the possibility of a 'table top' exercise. It was recognised that in a real life situation, going through a detailed plan step by step could be time consuming and that a simplified version would be helpful and that this would focus on the immediate locality and need.

Kevin raised a number of questions and observations in respect of the current emergency plan document and on which he will provide further feedback, along with other thoughts and proposals for the group to consider.

Kevin was also made aware of the meeting on October 13th to update villagers in respect of the work of the group to date, the Atkins report, and proposals to protect the villages in times of potential flooding.

4. Next Steps:-

Kevin Barker to provide feedback as above, to suggest ways of providing a simplified step by step plan in an emergency, and to provide an idea of how a test exercise might run.

Jonathan Rumens to be asked to test the effectiveness of the proposed 'telephone tree'

Brian and Ian Uffindell to agree the sighting of the CEG cupboard in the RR

Tony and Brian to work on a suggested programme/agenda for the October meeting

Brian, Tony, Bill and Jonathan to agree a date for the next CEG meeting.