

## South Petherton Community Flood Group Progress Report No 13 – February 2026

This report provides councillors (and residents) with the status of the efforts of the Community Flood Group since the last report to the councillors in January and gives a look ahead to the planned actions of the group and flood related agencies.

### Progress Update

The near flood event on Tuesday morning 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 put the flood groups pre-planning to the test. The flood coordinator and a number of available flood wardens put in a lot of effort working with vulnerable residents on the days prior to the incident. This work helped prepare residents and properties for the worst scenario. With the local catchment already saturated and over 40mm of rain overnight the brook reached the height of the identified trigger points at around 07:30. Available flood wardens were deployed and sent to the locations most at risk. The rain eased and no properties flooded, water did get into some gardens in Hele Lane and St James Mews. Prigg Lane car park just started to flood but soon receded.



Hele Lane, sheep wash and Silver Street bridge on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 08:00



Moor Lane Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2027 07:45

A debriefing of the near flood event took place the following day (28<sup>th</sup> January) to discuss and learn from the incident. Improvements in communication, improved early warnings and when to trigger the deployment of flood wardens will be included in an update of the groups "South Petherton Operational Flood Plan". The event also helped inform the flood warden training material which is being tailored to the specifics of the village and the flood risks.

Two grant applications have been compiled, the main application is to Somerset Prepared to buy proper flood equipment for the volunteer flood wardens, the plan is to have 12 fully equipped wardens. This application is dependant upon a 20% contribution from the community, so the second grant is for the consideration of the parish councillors.

A meeting took place in the month between members of the group, the school head and a member of Somerset Rivers Authority. The plan is to design and deliver some flood awareness for the school children at both the infant and junior schools.

Local security company SES have quoted to install an audible alarm in St James Mews; the alarm would be triggered at the risk of flooding and is deemed necessary due to the poor mobile phone signal in the area and in the event of a power cut.

The Environment Agency have given an exemption to the desilting of the five brook culverts through the village. It's hoped the work can be conducted later this year. A permit is still required to clear silt in open areas of the brook.

The flood group met on 16<sup>th</sup> February to progress various actions.

**Next Steps:**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Meeting with members of the flood group FWAG and the parish council to discuss options for reducing runoff from land at Whitfield Lane.

4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Flood Café, Village Library 14:00 – 15:30.

16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Flood Group Meeting 18:30 Blake Hall

20.02.2026