Notes from Hawbridge Flooding Meeting Friday 12th January 2024

Held at Feli's Restaurant 11am

In attendance:

District & County Cllr Linda Robinson

Chairman of Stoulton Parish Council Andrew Morris

Head of WCC Highways Barry Barnes

Head of Engineering Wychavon Martyn Cross

Drainage Engineer at Wychavon Andrew Fell

15 Parishioners

Clerk

Cllr Morris opened the meeting to discuss the flooding incident in Hawbridge on 20th October during Storm Babet where seven properties were flooded internally. Parishioners were puzzled as to what caused the flooding since they had not incurred such a flooding event since the flooding alleviation in Hawbridge was installed in the early 2000's.

Mr Fell explained that there are two sensors which set off alarms for possible flooding in the area, one measuring the overflow at the bottom of the field and the other when the culvert hits capacity. By the time the alarms had set off and the engineers were onsite the flooding had already been and gone very quickly.

Parishioners explained how that day the water rose and fell very quickly (within an hour) to suggest something was blocking the watercourse and the water seemed to be coming from a different direction. It is normally by Feli's where the high levels show first but this time not.

The drainage engineers checked the watercourse immediately after the flood but found nothing to suggest there was a restriction in flow (however it could have been dislodged already).

Only two possible causes of the flood according to Wychavon engineers:

-Something causing a blockage immediately downstream of Inglewood House

-Sheer volume of water been higher (The rain gauge at Pershore that days showed highest levels of rainfall since 2008)

Actions:

-Wychavon inspect the watercourse 4 times a year. Will reinspect when water levels have droppped

-Residents inform the Clerk/ Wychavon of any abnormalities/obstructions ongoing to resolve asap

-£500 Grant immediately available by completing a form for those flooded internally. Their details will then be in the system to apply for a £5000 grant but this takes longer.