

## RESILIENCE & EMERGENCY PLAN SUB COMMITTEE

### NOTES OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING

26th February 2025 7.30pm Holme Culterham Hall

**Attendees** - Chair - Deb Muscat, Ann Yarnold – Notes, Caroline Oldham, Brian Bailey, Lynda Bailey, Tracey Connolly, Gavin Connolly, Benjamin McIntosh-Ormerod, John Molyneux, Gary Warn, Lucy Stevens, Linda Houseby.

**Apologies** – Andy Ridge, Rodney Armstrong, Sue Donachy.

1. Welcome – Introduction – Deb Muscat.
2. What have we done since the last meeting?
  - i) Deb explains development of the Resilience Plan which is now version 6.1.
  - ii) Caravan sites, school and other local services have been contacted and are aware of the plan.
  - iii) We are now registered with local resilience forum and also Cumbria Council Resilience team.
  - iv) Funding and grants also being sought for hall. Deb has also gathered information about funding for resilience measures i.e. equipment etc.
  - v) The latest version of the plan will be uploaded onto the Parish Council website for public information although all personal details will be redacted in line with GDPR.
3. The Plan
  - i) Deb explained key points in the plan and feedback is to be sought over the next month prior to formal ratification by the Parish Council.
  - ii) The plan includes personal, business, county council and local responsibilities and does not replace emergency service responsibilities.
  - iii) It was felt that a village hall representative would be very useful to join the core Parish Resilience Steering Group and Brian Bailey kindly offered.
  - iv) Ben McIntosh-Ormerod will also be a representative on the Parish Resilience Steering Group given the importance of the pub response in recent outages.

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- v) Village Hall will become the hub and place of safety and/or shelter. It will also be the place of coordination for the duration of any emergency.
- vi) Comms Plan is in development and will need further updating with information and agreement after this meeting.
- vii) Parish Leaflet is also in development. FaceBook page also being developed alongside useful information on the Parish Council website.
- viii) Deb gave a brief explanation of the importance of GDPR and Link Volunteers will not have contact details shared publicly.

### **4. The recent storm and power cuts - Feedback**

People present summarised their experiences from a recent 2-3 days power outage.

- i) Most people were inconvenienced as many had log burners, gas fires and hobs and some had generators. However some difficulty was experienced by people with no source of heat and whose only power source was electric.
- ii) One person reported a dislocated and a moderate head injury when retrieving flying debris outside.
- iii) Most people were prepared with batteries, candles etc.
- iv) Vulnerable people reported difficulties where was no gas supply.
- v) Sterilisation of babies equipment and bottles was problematic although a time consuming work round was possible with old fashioned boiling of equipment.
- vi) North West Electric were very difficult to contact to alert them to direct problems i.e. pole was down and damaged.
- vii) Mobile reception was problematic.
- viii) Pub was severely affected in many ways - out of action and severely affected business with intermittent nature of power cuts. Approx 10K lost with knock on effects. Pub was being used as first port of call, people knocked on door and people turning up ad hoc expecting food. Electricity Board published pub number without proper permissions.
- ix) Poor information from Electric North West on their site regarding when power was on or off. Vulnerable people were also given different messages.
- x) Generally, a mixed picture throughout the parish

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- xi) Two days appears to be the limit before external intervention is needed.
- xii) North West Electric 08001954141 – Appeared to be a quicker number for those who knew about it.

### **5. Community Link Volunteers**

- i) What is the reasonable expectation for a community volunteer? These are new roles developing from previous work in the pandemic.
- ii) Every area within the parish will be covered by a Link Volunteer who will be responsible for checking their area for problems and feeding back to the group.
- iii) Then check again 24 hours later for the duration of the emergency.
- iv) This is just about assisting with support where needed; generally being a good neighbour.
- v) A Communications Tree will be set up to assist this and it will be published within the plan. This is to enable information and messages to be passed to hub and acted upon where required.
- vi) The people at the meeting then reviewed the parish map (see box at end of these notes) and most areas are now covered by a Community Link Volunteer and a Deputy. Many thanks to the people who have volunteered for these roles.

### **6. What's next?**

- i) Communications – Uninterruptable Power Supply can be used but this still requires power. Whatever is used requires power and therefore a generator with fuel is needed or another source of power.
- ii) Power to village hall is currently problematic during an outage and the use of a generator is not simple given the requirement for servicing, access, fuel and safe use.
- iii) Managing expectations was discussed at length especially regarding the pub.

The Parish Council would like to formally thank Ben, Carl and the pub staff for their hard work and perseverance in providing warmth, beverages, and food when able, under very difficult conditions, especially during the recent outage. A generator would be a huge advantage for the pub but funding will be needed as this is not part of their business plan although that are happy to remain a food and safety hub.

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iv) Issues with North West Electric –

- (1) Many issues with response and communications. Also at what point do NW electric come in and physically help. No indication of timeframe for future responses and currently their response does not appear fit for purpose.
  - (2) People are being asked to prove the length of time they were off (when claiming payments) as North West Electrics own records are not accurate.
- v) The Parish Council will formally ratify the resilience plan at the April 2025 meeting with the following formal meeting being held in November where any updates can be discussed.

### 7. Actions

1) Update the resilience plan	The current plan at todays meeting is Version 6.1. Ann Yarnold will update the plan and share redacted Draft Version 7 on the Parish Council website. Hard copies will be shared with Link Volunteers. Final Version to be presented to April Parish Council meeting for final sign off. Timescale – mid April 2025
2) Talk to North West	Deb Muscat and Ben Timescale – By end of April 2025
3) Feedback to local Resilience Forum	Deb Muscat Timescale – By end of April 2025
4) Draft the leaflet and share it with Link Volunteers for further distribution.	Ann Yarnold will draft a leaflet which is to be presented to April Parish Council meeting for information and sign off. Timescale – mid April 2025 – once ratified by Parish Council
5) A further meeting is planned for the Community Link Volunteers and a full pack of information will be given to each.	Ann Yarnold Timescale – end of April 2025

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Link Volunteer Areas – volunteers have been identified for the following areas.

*(Names of individuals have been redacted on the public document for data protection purpose.)*

Area	Community Link Volunteer/contact	Deputy Community Link Volunteer/contact
Mawbray - Mawbray Cote, Mawbray Yard.		
Mawbray – West End – Albert Cottage up to and including Margaret Thompsons.		
Mawbray – East End – upper part of village by pub and Hailforth		
Salta		
Beckfoot incl. Bank Mill		
Edderside, Old Kiln		
Peletho incl Lowsay Farm		
Newtown, incl. Cowgate		
Goodyhills incl Plasketlands and Jericho		
New Cowper		
Tarns – Low Tarns, High Tarns and Overby.		
Aikshaw		