



# SEAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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A meeting was held at Seavington Millennium Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February to gain feedback from residents regarding the flooding in the villages during the recent heavy rain on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The flooding was located on the main road through the village with properties at the bottom of Davids Lane being either flooded or close to flooding. There were also properties in Townsend (at the bottom of Scotts Hill) which were flooded and pumped out by the fire brigade. Properties were flooded at West Street corner as well as a home in School Lane. Numerous gardens and hardstanding areas within the village were also waterlogged.

Strong feelings within the two villages indicated that there must be an action plan so that this does not happen again. Key points raised by residents in the villages included:

- Drains throughout both villages require cleaning and jetting (this has not been done properly for many years)
  - Cleaning of the drain pot underneath the cover.
  - Jetting between the drain pots to allow water to flow in the pipe network.
  - Any soil or debris removed from the drains should be put to the righthand side of the drain so that the hedge cutter doesn't simply push it straight back down into the drain.
- Drains from the A303 Ilminster bypass empty into the fields. It was therefore felt that National Highway Agency should be helping with the flood problem.
- The Parish Council is prepared to obtain quotes for the drainage works, however they would like to know from Somerset Council the liability of this. Should the private contractor find a damaged drain or break the drain during jetting who will be responsible for the repairs. If Somerset Council are unable to agree to be responsible for the liability, then subsequently the Parish Council will not be able undertake any such works.
- The flood alleviation scheme which was installed in 1995 requires maintenance (was SSSC now Somerset Council).
- Local landowners to reinstate ditches and push the flow of water away from the villages.
- Farmers must take steps to prevent water from running off their land.
- The ditch which runs at the back of the Pheasant houses in Water Street, takes drainage water from the new houses at Falcon Close, could this be extended so that it flows into the drain at the top of the playing fields.
- Mapping of the drains within the village this will allow Parish Council/residents to observe and report to Somerset Council any problems.
- A303 (Ilminster bypass) traffic was diverted through Seavington. Vehicles were then causing a wave of water which was subsequently pushed into houses. It was felt that this was unfair to divert the traffic due to the flooding within the village.
- Residents wish to set up a petition to give momentum to argument for funding from Somerset Council.

The Parish Council has committed to review these suggestions and put forward a strong case to Somerset Council for any remedial work to be done.