**FLOOD EVENT ELFORD - WEEKEND 16TH / 17TH November 2019**

**DRH was woken at 1.55am on the 16th by Dick and Jack Cowley who informed him of the flood rising rapidly on The Beck. There was a power cut and the pump needed because of recent rain had stopped working and the trapped water from Green Brook was flooding The Beck. DRH notified the Environment Agency and attended the scene with Dick and Jack. Water was half way up the paths to the bungalows. DRH decided to wait for half an hour to see if the power returned and to discuss the position with the EA engineers who came from Fradley within 20mins to review the position. DRH had asked for the generator as identified in the Village Flood Plan to be provided urgently. Engineers had ordered reserve pumps. The power was restored just before the engineers attended site and the pump automatically restarted. DRH reported the change and confirmed the pump was working but we did not know if it would clear the flood before inflicting damage as it had been attended all the previous day by the EA who had a back-up pump to control the peak flows. In the event the water began to fall without a reserve pump being needed. At each stage of the recovery the EA reporting people were kept informed and the engineers did arrive on site to review the status of the Pumping Station as requested. They maintained the call for the back-up pumps to attend as Western Power said that whilst they had restored the power the underlying problem had not been completely resolved. In the event the PS restored service without anyone suffering flooding, the risk level was constantly monitored as per the Flood Plan.**

**The event was overseen and monitored thanks to the fast actions of Dick and Jack Cowley so our thanks to them. The process tested our own resilience within the village and showed that we need to get a clear and efficient means of getting a generator to site as per our Flood Plan as the better option for back up last night was a generator to restore power rather than reserve pumps which cannot seek to match an operational PS. Again the village should be very grateful to the work of the EA in Elford as they are having to work with a very confined facility managing big flows with a very large pump – not in any way easy! The PS is constantly being refined as opportunities present themselves and continued investment occurs by the EA. Their staff had attended the PS throughout the previous day (10 staff in all over the day) to ensure The Beck was kept low / clear of flood water. The early morning problem power outage and was completely beyond their direct control and an additional problem to the Friday work but they managed it professionally and effectively for us all and we should be very grateful considering it was done against a backcloth of Warwickshire being under water and their resources being stretched past breaking point across the region..**

**The whole exercise was managed and controlled by 3.30am and has generated improvements to be put in place to improve future responses. We will have better bespoke pipework for the reserve pump at the PS at all times and it has identified that access to an adequate generator has to be sharpened up at times of severe flooding. So whilst the situation las night could have passed unnoticed as it happened we did get real practice in managing a flood event and we have identified improvements that can be put in place, our thanks to Dick and Jack Cowley for their timely reporting and for helping with refreshments for the EA staff throughout Friday and the later event.**

**DRH - 17/11/2019**