Sandbags for Parishioners – Report to Council 3rd July 2024 11th Sept Update

The EWG together with volunteers from the Green Group have discussed how we might develop a meaningful practical and deliverable response to future flooding in the parish.
Recent experiences show that we need to be prepared for both winter and summer flooding events. The aim is to provide a deployable sandbag response to protect properties at imminent danger of flooding.

The EWG is in touch with the Herefordshire Council Flood Response Team and will attend a meeting of volunteer groups in July.

Project proposal:

1. Identify properties most at risk based on recent experience, with a particular focus on those who are most vulnerable and least able to respond themselves. An initial foot survey has been carried out by the team and a map of the parish showing properties at risk is being prepared. Parishioners will also be invited to contact the team through the Parish Magazine and village facebook page.
2. Procure and deploy sandbags in advance of flooding to those vulnerable properties and maintain two or three local bases in the village at strategic points for an additional rapid response. Locations to be agreed.
3. Create a volunteer team to fill and distribute sandbags in advance of potential flooding and as an immediate response where practicable. Distribution in advance is the main focus, but we also aim to recruit an emergency volunteer team with suitable vehicles.

Costs:
Initial proposal is for 200 sand bags.

https://sackmarket.co.uk/products/hessian-sandbags-unfilled
200 hundred ~~hessian sandbags £164.00~~ Polypropylene bags x200 £76
https://materialsmarket.com/checkout/baskets
Bulk sand delivery 3x850kg bulk bags £189.74
https://www.bin-shop.co.uk/sandbag-filler-pro?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwvb-zBhCmARIsAAfUI2uEXyudiuUHh8YFXGs3DWlf1RJ_8GrFOpJtaezztematBEvlquGdfgaArPGEALw_wcB
Sandbag filling gadget £38.74

Total: ~~£393 incl. VAT~~ £300 (although this could be £60 less if VAT reclaimable by Parish Council)
All other costs: labour, fuel and equipment will be donated by volunteers
Similar to the Thermal Camera project, the service will be offered to parishioners with an optional financial contribution. This could provide funds to replenish and expand stocks.

Timing:
Target timetable to achieve initial deployment in Oct 2024/Nov 2024.
- Advertise the service, recruit a team across July/Aug Sept/Oct
- Refine target properties plan in July – August Sept/Oct
- Procure sand and bags in Sept Oct
- Start deployment in Oct/Nov

The council is requested to approve:

- Moving forward with the formation of a volunteer team and sharing information with parishioners
- Approval of funds to purchase initial stocks of bags and sand