



VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN – BALTONSBOROUGH (Adopted April 2025)

INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for an emergency plan

In the past two years we have had numerous periods of significant flooding and one prolonged power cut caused by high winds. Thankfully, the vast majority of people have been able to cope with these incidents and didn't require any additional support. However, in the future we do not know when and how severe weather will affect us, and as such we ought to be prepared with a basic plan to ensure, as far as possible, the safety and well-being of all villagers. This plan is likely to have its greatest impact when conditions conspire to create 'The Perfect Storm'.

2. Scope of the plan

This is a basic plan, designed to provide information and where necessary support during any future extreme weather events. We all have responsibility for our own safety and decision making, but shared information and making support and a place of safety available form the basis of this plan.

3. Existing resources and local action

Village Stores

Assuming that the shop is able to stay open, short-term needs can be met without the need to leave the village. A prolonged period of extreme weather/power loss, will ultimately limit the shop's ability to meet the needs of villagers (supplies, fridges and freezers etc)

Village Hall

With the solar panels and battery, the village hall will be able to provide basic shelter and hot water for a period of time. The use of the village hall should be limited to the most vulnerable or those that have been forced to leave their homes for an extended period as well as people who work in the village or who are passing through and get trapped here. A rota of volunteers will manage the facilities that the hall has to offer.

Car Parking on Higher Ground

Residents whose cars are at risk of floodwater may move them to the upper car park at the Playing Field.

Local Action

As is the case now, local action and support will be a cornerstone of the village's response to an emergency situation. It is assumed that neighbours and families would ensure that those in need are supported. In addition the Parish Council will endeavour to provide back-up where the situation requires it.

TYPES OF EMERGENCY

1. Flooding
2. Snow
3. High winds

4. Power supply failure
5. Wildfires

MONITORS (road conditions)

1. Routes out of village
 - a. Coxbridge (Rob Clapp)
 - b. Butleigh Road (Jacksons)
 - c. Catsham (Nick Llewellyn)
 - d. Lottisham (Vita Hincks)

These people report the depth of water at these locations using the gauges which are located at key points. Individuals will then have to decide if it is safe to pass through these floods. This information will be posted and updated on the PC website and Village Life (the village WhatsApp group)

2. Central coordination

A central coordinator (more likely a small team) will carry out a number of functions

- a) Receive and relay messages via the PC website and Village Life regarding the status of roads and the functionality of resources
- b) Deploy any additional resources available to the village
- c) Liaise with key stakeholders regarding requests and availability of additional resources (generators, tractors and 4X4 vehicles ect)

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Main (Adrian Wotton) and back-up (Roger Pelly) comms hub
2. PC website
3. Village Life
4. Identify the contact details for emergency response co-ordinator in relevant organisations such as Somerset County Council, Environment Agency, Glastonbury Town Council, local volunteers etc.

DRILL

Elements of this plan should be tested before any adoption by the village and tested again on an annual basis with amendments made accordingly.