

**A Record of the Meeting of the
Sampford Brett Emergency Response Volunteers Committee
A Sub-Committee of Sampford Brett Parish Council**

**6pm, Monday, 30th March, 2026
Sampford Brett Village Hall**

Attendees:

Martin Blazey, Clive Brooks, Paul Burnett, Richard Crabb, Brian Martin (Chair), Dave Martin, Phil Swan, Jon Toulson, Martin Harris, Guy Kennett, Simon Tremlett.

Apologies:

Amanda Boyd, Richard Bulpin, Leone Martin, Al Pilkington, Alex Pilkington, Tracey Skinner (Vice Chair), Jan Swan, Stephen Voller

Brian welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and being so supportive to the community. He reiterated that by being formalised as a volunteer group and having two minuted meetings a year as a Parish Council sub-committee, then the registered volunteers are covered by the Parish Council insurance.

1. Approve record of last meeting - 27th August 2025

The record of the last meeting had been circulated to all volunteers immediately following that meeting. The approval of this as a true record of the meeting was proposed by Phil Swan and seconded by Martin Blazey and unanimously supported.

2. Actions arising from last meeting:

There was a proposal that this group changes its name from *Sampford Brett Flood Response Volunteers* to **Sampford Brett Emergency Response Volunteers** and that the title of *Flood Warden* becomes **Emergency Response Coordinator**. This was unanimously approved at the meeting on August 27th, 2025 and was ratified by the Parish Council on September 10th, 2025.

3. Events since the last meeting:

There were no emergency events since the last meeting. There was a muddy overflow of the village stream on Manor Farm Lane on January 27th, and also a significant rise in the Doniford Stream river level resulting spilling over onto fields north, but mainly south of the A358. Brian showed rainfall and water level data covering the period since the last meeting. This included a month by month rainfall summary and the water level data from the gauges in the village stream and the Doniford Stream. The rainfall in the period from August 2025 to end March 2026 was 684.5mm (26.9in), which is very similar to the same period in the previous year (a 5.5% increase).

Sampford Brett RAINFALL Monthly Data September 2025 to March 2026

MONTH	RAINFALL (mm)	RAINFALL (in)
Sept '25	73.4	2.9
Oct '25	51.8	2.0
Nov '25	69.8	2.8
Dec '25	167.9	6.6
Jan '26	178.0	7.0
Feb '26	110.3	4.3
Mar '26	33.3	1.3
TOTAL	684.5 mm	26.9 in

Acknowledgement:

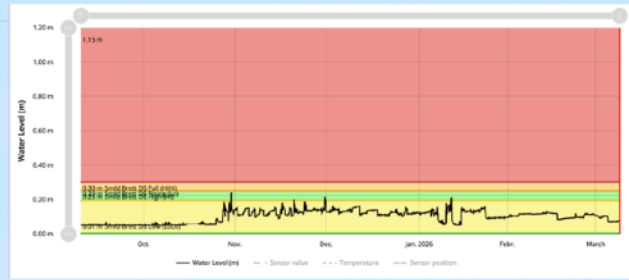
Data from Phil Swan's weather station (some data missing from Dec & Jan infilled from nearby stations)

Same period in 2024/5 = 648.3 mm or 25.6 in

Village Stream Height over last 6 months



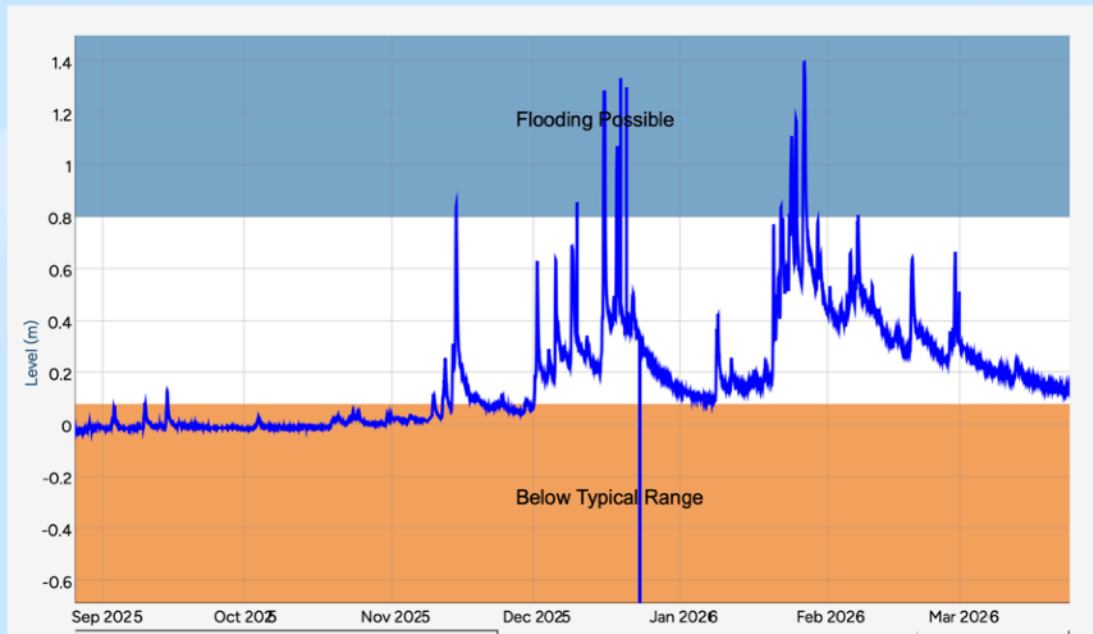
Upstream Gauge (US)



Downstream Gauge (DS)

Doniford Stream River Levels from Sept 2025 to Mar 2026

Gauge located near the petrol station, just north of the A358



4. Updates to Emergency Plan:

Brian pointed out a few key updates to the parish Emergency Plan. The plan is a 'live' document, as it can be updated at any time. Copies of the plan and the two appendices were sent out prior to the meeting:

4a. Community Emergency Plan:

This attempts to cover all possible emergency situations. It was updated in December 2025 and is published on the Sampford Brett website.

The key updates include Section 4, 'Activating a Community Emergency Response'. This covers the triggers, communication, what we can do before the event, first step actions, stand down and recovery, what we do if there is more than one type of emergency event at the same time (referred to as 'concurrency') and anticipating a prolonged emergency. Additionally, the list of potential emergencies has been expanded to 18 scenarios, from flooding and power cuts to terrorism. For each one there are comments of frequency, potential impact, trigger and actions required.

4b. Emergency Flood Plan:

This document is Appendix 1 of the Emergency Plan focussing on potential flooding events. It was updated in December 2025 and published on the Sampford Brett website as an edited version with sensitive personal data removed.

The difference between property 'resistance' and 'resilience' was again highlighted, and also the different categories of weather and flood alerts and warnings: Yellow/Amber/Red weather warnings and Flood Alert/Flood Warning/Severe Flood Warning. Volunteers were again advised to familiarise themselves with general safety practices as outlined in the Plan.

4c. Emergency Communication Plan:

This is Appendix 2 of the Emergency Plan, written to cover events which might cause the prolonged loss of both mobile phone signal and internet. It was written following the impact of Storm Darragh which struck in early December 2024. This Appendix was updated in December 2025 and published on the Sampford Brett website as an edited version with sensitive personal data removed.

This Appendix includes a table of those parishioners who have useful equipment or facilities in the event of a communication and/or power outage. This covers such things as generators, gravity-fed Rayburn/Aga type cookers, wood-burning stoves, open log fires, portable gas stoves and amateur radio operators. Between us we need to make this as comprehensive as possible. The table will be blank on the website version to protect personal data. Brian showed the current status of this table and passed around a form for further additions.

5. Strategy for Potentially Vulnerable Parishioners:

This was briefly addressed at the last meeting. It is important that we have a good idea of those parishioners who might be more vulnerable than others in the event of an emergency, or even at any other time. They might live alone and they might have special medical or mobility needs. This could include some couples or families. It is useful to know whether there are family members in the area, or good friends/neighbours who might have a house key. Are they checked on regularly by family, friends or care services?

The issue of collecting and holding personal data was discussed, and the inherent problems of keeping this data safe and up to date. This issue had been discussed at the last Parish Council meeting on March 11th, when it was concluded that we should take advice from the Village Agent.

So that we, the Emergency Volunteers, are best prepared right now, a provisional list of names and addresses and a location map has been prepared, which excludes sensitive personal data.

7. Date of Next Meeting:

To be decided.

BAM 31.3.2026