

## **PARISH COUNCIL - Village Pond**

### **Zoom meeting - 28 July 2021**

#### **Present:**

Phil Brown

Ian Petchey

Ann Ward

#### **Spring**

Pond fed by spring dependent on weather, it has held for the last 9 months probably due to the wet weather this year. It is not known how and where the spring leaches into the pond. Climate change may mean water is retained as we are likely to get much wetter weather in future.

Phil involved a hydrologist at the time and considered installing a pump from the spring in order to keep the water level up but this was not pursued due to concerns over noise pollution – seems there was no way of cloaking the noise.

#### **Overflow pipe**

There is an overflow pipe running into the river under the road. It was suggested that maybe the pipe could be raised so that it only lets out water when there is a danger of the road flooding.

At the entrance there is a wet area to left where pond overflows. At the side of the river bank there is a brick plinth. Last time a bridge was installed but it may have rotted now. To find the pipe: at the natural entrance point to the pond on the right the pond has a lip on it and there is a bridge and the pipe connects the two.

#### **Pond depth etc.**

Depth of pond varies but there is a very deep layer of silt at the bottom making it difficult to assess. Also not sure how much space there is around the pond to site picnic benches.

#### **Water quality**

Phil expressed concern that the pond may not be able to sustain wildlife due to chemicals leaching into the pond from the surrounding estate land. Phil suggested it would be useful to test the purity of the water preferably after a dry spell.

#### **River Kennett**

When asked about why river runs dry Phil says that there has been a history of it throughout and he mentioned a long dry spell from 1900 to 1918. Phil thinks that there are a series of fishing lakes up river which take water.

Also in 1969/70 flood prevention work was carried out to clear the base of the river and deepen it but the Environment Agency ruptured the riverbed near the bridge at the Affleck and it is very clear to see the water level dropping at that point.

Beryl Audus is one of the longest residents of the village and she may know more about the history of the river.

#### **Kingfishers**

There used to be kingfishers on the Kennett but only in winter when they would come down from the salt marshes. The banks near the Armstrongs' house would be a very suitable place for them to live.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

1. Meeting with Jonty from the Estate.
2. Appeal for volunteers to join the Dalham Wildlife Group to help with clearing the pond.
3. Carry out some initial investigations of the pond area:
  - a. Inspect overflow pipe.

- b. Where is spring and how does it feed pond?
  - c. How much space is there likely to be around the pond once cleared?
- 4. Trace river up to source and find out where water is being taken out.
- 5. Contact Environment Agency and any other institutions for information/advice.