PART A: Vision Statement

Nettleham Parish Council (NPC) recognises the Beck as a strategic asset both as an attractive feature of the Village and its vital role in flood resilience. NPC's vision is to provide a safe space for informal recreation, to enhance its role in flood resilience and preserve its historic and natural heritage.

To make this vision a reality NPC will seek to ensure the following:

1. Retain awareness of riparian duties and obligations among village property holders on the Beck, providing advice, awareness and support from NPC.
2. Improve the Beck's role in flood resilience where possible.
3. Lobby to end the discharge of sewerage into the Beck in storm conditions.
4. Maintain the Beck's position as a key amenity feature within the village and ensure effective promotion of the Beck as a community resource.
5. Welcome responsible residents and visitors.
6. Take action to combat irresponsible behaviour.
7. Consult stakeholders.
8. Ensure the Beck is as safe an amenity as possible.
9. Provide a well-maintained and clean Beck environment.
10. Promote environmental quality and sustainable maintenance practices along the Beck and its margins.
11. Enhance the biodiversity value of the Beck in line with Biodiversity Action Plan targets and local ecology, and maintain an 'up to date' species and habitat record.
12. Maintain the Beck's historic character.

In delivering this vision we will seek to provide opportunities for increased community participation

Adopted: 17th November 2026
Review: November 2027

PART B: Meeting the vision

Key Aims

1. Insofar as it is reasonably practicable for NPC to do so, to improve and alleviate the risks of the Beck flooding residential and business premises. Insofar as is reasonably practicable NPC will use its limited influence to reduce and stop the discharge of sewerage into the Beck.

2. To protect and improve the native flora and fauna of the beck and its banks whilst improving biodiversity.

3. To maintain the Beck as a pleasant amenity.

4. To interact with residents to increase their awareness, understanding, and participation.

The priority of each aim is in the order listed.

NB: A policy that no works/actions will be undertaken that potentially increase flood risk has been has been approved by Full Council. Where proposals are contentious, professional advice will be taken from an appropriate independent organisation.

It is recognised that the powers, duties and resources of the Parish Council are limited: to meet the key aims will require the willing participation of third parties, most notably, riparian owners and statutory authorities.

Further notes on flood resilience: Any work associated with 'flood protection' will be limited to emergency sandbagging, removal of vegetation, flow checking culverts, clearing culverts and weirs of debris associated with heavy rainfall and/or strong wind.

Lincolnshire County Council are the responsible authority and owners of the culverts. Flow checking of these is therefore essential so that any unseen blockages can be dealt with by them if they are beyond NPC capabilities. As reports have to be via 'Fix My Street' and we have previous evidence of a very protracted process it is vital we report promptly. The FM has primary responsibility for doing this and any follow ups as required.

Objectives for Aim 1

1a For each section of the Beck, (see maps at the end of this document) quantify the flood risks due to construction, vegetation and silt, and continue to formulate guidance for what control of these may be needed.

1b Build good working relationships with riparian owners and stakeholder agencies, including Witham Drainage, Lincolnshire County Council, Environment Agency, Anglian Water.

1c Communicate, encourage adherence and monitor progress.

1d Continue to evaluate what improvements to bridges, weirs and the basic channel depth and width are required.

1e Advocate and lobby for these improvements.

1f Where tangible improvements are achieved, maintain them.

Objectives for Aim 2

2a For each section of the beck, record the existing flora and fauna to serve as a baseline for future improvement.

2b Suggest and evaluate schemes to improve biodiversity. Where appropriate seek advice from third party organisations.

2c Work with those concerned including residents to agree and implement chosen schemes.

2d Monitor the results, and modify schemes accordingly.

Objectives for Aim 3

3a Keep those sections of the beck prioritised for amenity pleasant in appearance and as safe as possible.

3b Keep the Beck as litter free as possible.

Objectives for Aim 4

4a Discuss and communicate with residents in general and riparian owners in particular how the beck can be improved.

4b Encourage riparian owners to cooperate with all objectives of the Beck Management Plan.

4c Encourage voluntary effort to help maintain, monitor and improve the beck.

4d Publicise what is being done.

PART C: Responsibilities

Preamble

A number of agencies will need to cooperate to deliver all the objectives of the plan. This can be challenging but NPC will facilitate this by having a clear organisational structure within the Beck Management Plan.

Since the first Beck Management Plan was written, the working group has been renamed the **Beck and Conservation Working Group, (B&C WG).**

This helps us to breakdown the workload and challenge into two broad groups, whilst accepting there will be some overlap:

1. Essential work

2. Highly Desirable work

Who is responsible for essential works?

The **NPC Facilities Manager (FM)** has primary responsibility for essential work being carried out, in full and on time. The role may be supported by volunteers, but it needs to be recognised that these may not always be available, and health and safety issues may make it more challenging to carry out tasks in the future. It is important the FM has the resources to carry out this work and to ensure this work is completed.

Responsibilities

1. All listed checks will be made to the published timetable which the FM holds.
2. Work required will be prioritised by the Facilities Manager but within the time scale.
3. All work will be completed within the published time scale – **see key essential tasks** below.
4. If the workload or skill set required prevents compliance, the FM has the authority to request support from the B&FR WG or ultimately organise contractors as necessary. It may be necessary to liaise with the Clerk or Councillors but it should not be allowed to delay time scale compliance.

Key essential tasks

1. Checking that culverts at Washdyke Lane, Church St, Vicarage Lane and Brookfield are ***clear and flowing*** on a weekly basis and organising removal of any blockages immediately. During adverse weather more frequent checks should be made as appropriate.
2. Walking the accessible sections of the Beck for which NPC has some responsibility weekly and checking for, rocks/bricks/slabs, debris at weirs and at the same time monitoring activity

by Riparian Owners that may be illegal. The removal of unwanted materials should be organised within one week, whilst potential illegal activity will normally require immediate action. During adverse weather more frequent checks should be made as appropriate.

3. Maintaining the Beck banks to the agreed timetable and standard and reporting non-conformance by Riparian owners.

4. Bi-annually checking the size of the Berms in the Beck (as stated in 'berm maintenance' document, see annex) in terms of maximum width, length and height. Report biannually to the **B&C WG** and/or **Property Committee.**

5. Vegetation growth at Washdyke Lane, Church St, Vicarage Lane and Brookfield culverts will be monitored and not allowed to become established within 2 metres either upstream or downstream (as approved by the Property Committee).

6. Maintaining full records of checks and actions.

7. Making sandbags readily available during periods of foreseeable high risk.

Who is responsible for desirable works?

The **B&C WG** will take primary responsibility for carrying out highly desirable rather than essential works.

Responsibilities include:

1. Focus on meeting our vision.

2. Assisting the FM when requested and whenever practicable.

2. Carrying out regular Beck inspections.

3. Clearing litter from the Beck.

4. Advising the Property Committee and Full Council on matters relating to the Beck.

5. Building relationships with other Agencies and Individuals.

6. Publicising Riparian duties to stakeholders and using the power of persuasion to bring about positive change. Nettleham Beck, as well as being a natural watercourse, is a valued 'Village Amenity' particularly within the centre of the village. NPC in accordance with the Nettleham Neighbourhood Plan and wider environmental issues undertakes to make every reasonable effort to assist all riparian owners and responsible agencies to meet their obligations and wherever possible add value to these efforts.

7. Improving the amenity value of the Beck.

8. Listening to stakeholders and considering their views.

9. Taking measurements of the Beck level at times of high water level.

10. Offering assistance to residents at times of high flood risk.

Description: Beck sections applicable to responsibilities

Note: Left and right banks are when facing downstream

1. **‘S’ Bends to Washdyke Lane (Length B1 on attached plan NPC/01)**

In periods of heavy rainfall and/or strong winds the **B&C WG** will monitor the Beck as and when appropriate and at other times inspect this length a minimum of once every quarter. A report will be sent to the FM. Any actions requiring responses from 3rd parties will be followed up with the assistance of the FM.

2. **Washdyke Lane to Police HQ boundary/1 Kingsway (Length B2 on attached plan NPC/01)**

Washdyke Lane culverts and weir downstream: FM to ensure they are checked and cleared as appropriate following heavy rainfall and strong winds and as a minimum, weekly.

Kingsway side (right bank) Beck to be maintained by NPC Facilities Team for amenity

Purposes – see key essential tasks. NB: A **B&C WG** member may be able to advise and advise with control of weed growing in the Beck.

3. **Police HQ boundary/ 1 Kingsway to Watermill Bridge (Length B3 on plan NPC/01)**

Designated **B&C WG** member to inspect accessible lengths of the beck a minimum of once every three months and formally report back to the parish office.

4. **Watermill Bridge to Vicarage Lane (Length B4 on attached plan NPC/01)**

Weirs and Watermill Bridge (Watermill Lane side), Church Street and Vicarage Lane culverts flow checked and cleared (by Facilities Team) as appropriate following heavy rainfall and/or strong winds, but as a minimum every week. Loose rocks and other material regularly dislodged by Children to be removed - see key essential tasks. The bed to be cleared of weed in coordination with advice from the **B&C WG**.

This length of the Beck is to be maintained by NPC for amenity value and to improve flood resilience. Designated **B&C WG**. member to inspect accessible lengths of the beck a minimum of once every three months.

NB: There are no current plans to introduce more berms or change the status of weirs outside the Church with the use of weir boards.

5. **Vicarage Lane to The Steepers (Length B5 on attached plan NPC/01)**

Riverdale culvert flow checked and cleared (by Facilities Team) as a minimum weekly or appropriate in adverse weather conditions - see key essential tasks.

See length of beck highlighted red on attached plan NPC01 i.e. Riverdale open area – right bank and Village Hall boundary left bank to be maintained asper the specification in Part D.

Designated **B&C WG** member to inspect accessible lengths of the Beck where possible a minimum of once every 3 months.

6. The Steepers to Parish East Boundary (Length B6 on attached plan NPC/01)

Designated **B&C WG** member to inspect accessible lengths of the beck a minimum of once every 3 months and formally report to FM. All work to be reported to the relevant riparian owners and also (if required) to Lincolnshire County Council as the responsible authority for action – i.e. no remedial work carried out or authorised by NPC.

Beck Plan NPC/01

KEY:

B1 'S' Bends - Washdyke Lane

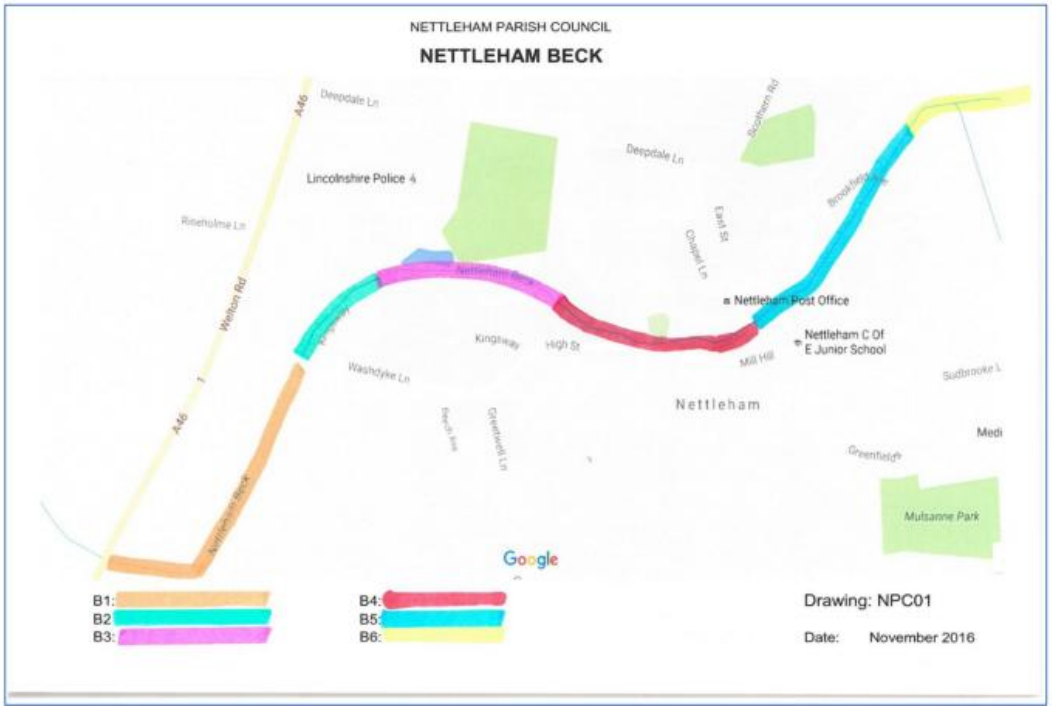
B2 Washdyke Lane - 1 Kingsway/Police HQ Boundary

B3 1 Kingsway/Police HQ Boundary - Watermill Lane

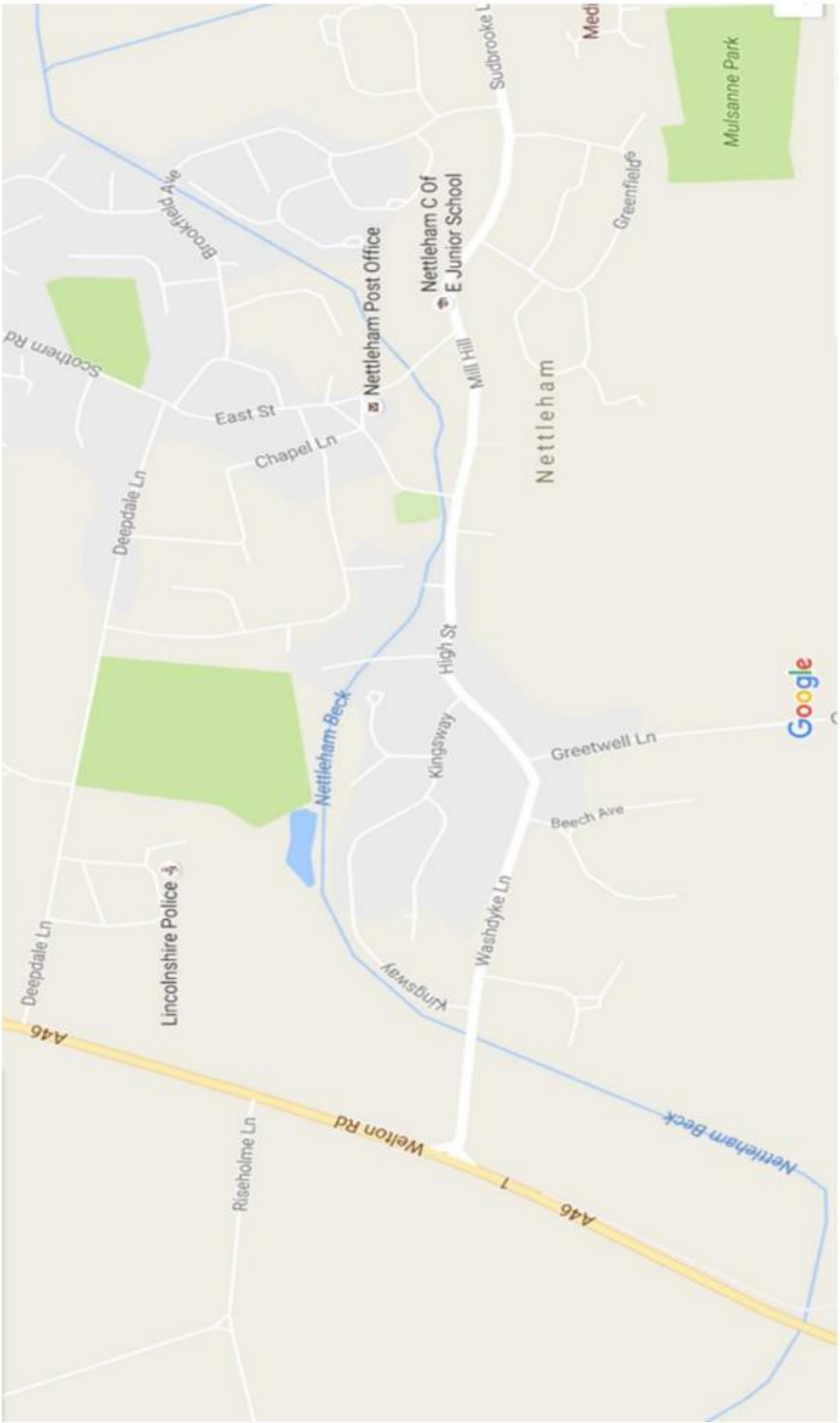
B4 Watermill Bridge - Vicarage Lane

B5 Vicarage Lane - The Steepers
(inc. Riverdale Right Bank & Village Hall Left Bank)

B6 The Steepers - Parish East Boundary



Note: Left and right banks are when facing downstream



Adopted: 17th November 2026
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PART D: Documentation

Establish and build a secure library of key documents easily accessible to all concerned. Core to this will be a single document setting out the legal requirements and obligations surrounding maintenance of the Beck including culverts and weirs for all stakeholders and riparian owners;

1. Private landowners

2. NPC

3. Witham Drainage

4. Lincolnshire County Council

5. Environment Agency

All relevant documentation to be retained in the library and accessible to the Clerk, FM and Councillors:

1. Historical documents including maps and photos pertaining to the Beck that may be of future vital importance

2. Hydraulic modelling studies

3. Investigations into previous flood events including recommendations

4. All correspondence with riparian Owners including from individual land owners

5. NPC councillor correspondence with agencies and riparian owners

6. Permissions received by NPC from the responsible Agencies for Weirs, Berms and any other work

7. Copies of permissions received by Riparian Owners where available

To be reviewed by; …….