

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2015

Item	Action
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March Meeting.</p> <p>2. He noted that, once again, we had been fortunate in that rainfall over the past month had not been sufficient to raise water levels in local brooks significantly. The depth of water at the early warning telemetry system's sensor had remained virtually constant at only 12 inches.</p> <p>3. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 25 members present and apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Burnill, Mrs Clark, Mrs Davies, Mr and Mrs Dowler, Mrs Parker and Miss Price.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>4. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the February Meeting which had been circulated earlier with the Agenda and which were also available in hard copy on the tables. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Mrs Bowden, seconded by Mr Rice and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>5. <u>Herefordshire Council.</u> The Chairman reported that he had still not received any response from Herefordshire Council, either to the Group's offer to assist with the flood reporting and signage, or on the issues relating to the culverts at Ketch Lane and in Mr Pugh's field. The Chairman said that once again, he would contact them for a response.</p> <p>6. <u>Housing Developments.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reviewed the two planning applications for residential housing developments currently with Herefordshire Council, both of which had major implications, not only for Bodenham Moor, but also for the Parish as a whole. He said that he was not aware of any news relating to the first of these - the application (P141712/O) by Bell Homes for outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the field opposite England's Gate Inn, consent for which had been granted on 9 October 2014. The exhibition at the Siward James Centre on Saturday, 21 February had given members the opportunity to express their views about the flooding and other risks which the application presented. On that occasion the developers had indicated that they hoped to submit a full planning application in "about 4 – 5 weeks", <i>i.e.</i> it could perhaps be expected shortly.</p>	

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<p>b. The Chairman noted that the second major planning application affecting Bodenham Moor was that by Bovis Homes (P150437/F) for full planning permission to build 49 houses on the land South of Chapel Lane (also known as Shuker's Field). As members were aware this application raised considerable concerns about the potential increase of the flood risk to adjacent residents. The application had been submitted on 19 February and any comments on it had to be with Hereford Council Planning Office by 19 March. To date the Herefordshire website had recorded 242 letters of objection and only 9 letters of support of which 2 were from persons living outside the village and were for affordable housing. The "1 mixed" letter asked various questions of clarification about the proposed development. The target date for determination was shown as 15 May, but no date had yet been set for any Planning Committee hearing and this might be affected by the elections in May. Both this and the Bell Homes application can be found on the Herefordshire Council Planning Office website at: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/development-control/search-and-comment-on-planning-applications.</p> <p>c. The Chairman added that, as members would be aware, local planning decisions were heavily dependent on the status of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy and on that of the Bodenham Neighbourhood Plan. The development of the Core Strategy had passed another milestone with its examination by a government Inspector, who had set out the modifications which needed to be made to it before it could be approved. These were now being implemented, but it was still not clear exactly when the Core Strategy would be adopted.</p> <p>d. Turning to the Neighbourhood Plan the Chairman thanked those members who had given the Steering Group their support and had attended the Meeting in the Parish Hall on 10 March. The Steering Group had subsequently had a meeting with its independent planning consultant and were now working on the next draft of the Neighbourhood Plan which, all being well, would be put out for consultation in the summer.</p> <p>7. <u>Annual Barbecue (Saturday, 27 June 2015 at Willow Cottage)</u>. The Chairman reminded the Group that the poster designed by Mrs Schwartz regarding the Barbecue had been attached to the circulated Minutes of the February Meeting. It contained all the details of the event and he asked those wishing to attend to let Mrs Schwartz know by 6 June whether they preferred to pay her to provide the meat options or to bring their own. He added that the Secretary was more than willing to take orders on her behalf at meetings, with payment.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 4 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p>	
<p>8. <u>River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB)</u>. The Chairman reported that the IDB had re-surveyed the relief channel at Millcroft Farm on 23-24 March to assess the extent to which it had become silted up over the 6½ years since it was constructed. Their contractor had then spent three days (25-27 March) removing the accumulated silt and restoring the channel's profile. The next task, which he and the Secretary would be carrying out would be to reseed it with grass and restore it to its original condition.</p>	

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<p>9. <u>Involvement of Volunteers in Achieving FCRM Outcomes.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that in October 2013 the Group had been approached by Forest Research, who had been tasked by the Environment Agency (EA) to look into the working relationship between the EA and voluntary workers and groups working with, or for, the Environment Agency. He and the Secretary had filled in an on-line questionnaire and then a member of the research group, Dr Bianca Ambrose-Oji, had attended the BFPG’s Meeting on 26 November 2013 and had spent some time talking to members. She had been keen to find out why, after some 5 years since the 2007 floods, the Group still functioned, why members had volunteered in the first place and what they each got from being a volunteer. She had subsequently sent her draft report to the Secretary for checking.</p> <p>b. Nothing further had been heard until this month when, on 16 March, the Environment Agency announced the results of this and much other research under the heading of “Investigating and Appraising the Involvement of Volunteers in Achieving Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM) Outcomes”. This consists of five reports which can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigating-and-appraising-the-involvement-of-volunteers-in-achieving-flood-risk-management-outcomes .</p> <p>c. The Chairman said that some of these were fairly lengthy, but each had a summary which was worth reading. They were based on a lot of academic research, backed up with telephone and other interviews as well as four case studies, of which the BFPG is one. These are described in the fourth report and are all very different, but are interesting both for their diverse approaches to mitigating flood risk and for their many similarities (such as the predominance of retired volunteers and those living in rural areas, the apathy of the general population, the issue of insurance, and so on), as well as some of ideas they produce which might be worth copying. (Bodenham’s case study is at Section 4.8.4 and is illustrated with photographs and quotes from BFPG members).</p>													
<p><u>ITEM 5 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></p> <p>10. The Chairman stated that expenditure in March was £52.50 for Siward James invoices from October 2014 to the Coffee Morning on 14 February 2015, as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 1585 1182 1738"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Siward James Invoice 28 Oct 14</td> <td>£4.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Siward James Invoice 25 Nov 14</td> <td>£13.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Siward James Invoice 27 Jan 15</td> <td>£4.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Siward James Invoice 14 Feb 15</td> <td>£30.00</td> <td>£52.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>11. The Chairman added that the balance now stood at £3,190.45.</p>	Siward James Invoice 28 Oct 14	£4.50		Siward James Invoice 25 Nov 14	£13.50		Siward James Invoice 27 Jan 15	£4.50		Siward James Invoice 14 Feb 15	£30.00	£52.50	
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<p><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>12. <u>Working Parties.</u> The Chairman noted that it was nearly time to start the 2015 working party ‘season’. It was agreed that the first two sessions should be on:</p>													

Item	Action
<p>a. Friday 24 April 2015 at Brockington Road Bridge at 6.00 pm. The aim would be to work on the Millcroft Brook from Brockington Road Bridge downstream towards Millcroft Farm.</p> <p>b. Friday 8 May 2015 at 6.00pm. The location will be decided at the April Meeting.</p> <p>13. The Secretary will send out a notice to all members of the Group.</p> <p>14. Annual Bonfire Party. The Chairman remarked that diaries were getting full and, although the next event on the Group's social calendar was the Annual Barbecue, it would be helpful to look beyond that and fix a date for the Bonfire Party. Last year it had been held on Saturday, 27 September and it was agreed that this year it would be held on Saturday, 3 October 2015 starting at 6.00pm, once again at Millcroft Farm.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>15. <u>Parish Litter Pick (Saturday, 11 April 2015).</u> The Chairman said that, although not strictly a matter for the BFPG, a number of the Group's members were kind enough to support the Parish's twice yearly litter picks. He therefore drew the Group's attention to the next litter pick which was planned for Saturday, 11 April.</p> <p>16. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 28 April in the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>17. There being no other business the Meeting closed at 7.55pm</p>	

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

28 April 2015

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



 **BBQ** 

**Saturday 27 June 2015
at 6.00P.M.**

Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan

**Please let Sheila and Jeremy
know if you plan to attend
schwartzwillow@gmail.com
or 07765 711040**



Choose from:

Whole rack of pork ribs (approx 1lb) in a smoky Canadian maple BBQ sauce (deadline for orders 31 March) - £3.50

Homemade quarter pound 100% beef burger with speciality Canadian seasoning - £1.00

British pork sausage - 50p

... or bring your own.

Whatever you choose, please let Sheila know as soon as possible what your choices are (deadline 6th June).

Salads, rolls, relishes and sauces will be provided. Please bring your own drinks. All desserts gratefully accepted.

