

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## MINUTES OF THE GROUP'S MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2011

### Action

#### ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Meeting of 2011.
2. There were 28 members present. Apologies were received from Mrs Cooper, Mrs Davies, Mrs Edwards, Mr Ashford Sanford, Mr Bowden, Mr Bick, Mr and Mrs Dowler, and Mr Stephens.

#### ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

3. **Apologies for the November Meeting.** Cllr Clark requested that Mrs Clark be noted under Apologies for November and Cllr Grumbley asked that his apology for that Meeting should also be recorded. (**Afternote.** These details have been incorporated in the approved Minutes).

Secretary

4. **Orchard Close - The Culvert in Mr Pugh's Field.** The Chairman reminded the Group about the situation regarding the partially blocked culvert in Mr Pugh's field at the rear of Orchard Close. She told the Group that it was the Parish Council's intention to support the Group by continuing to press Herefordshire Council/ Amey to accept their acknowledged responsibility and clear the culvert. Cllr Grumbley stated that Minute 13 of the draft November Minutes was incorrect. It was not Mr Jackson who had commented that in his opinion the culvert, Moor Brook flap valve and drainage ditches, which had been put in at great expense, would play no real part in preventing another Orchard Close flood, but Mr Pugh. (**Afternote.** This correction has been included in the approved Minutes of the November Meeting).

Secretary

5. **Visit to UK Flood Barriers, Droitwich.** The Chairman reported that the date for the visit had been changed to Thursday, 10 March at the request of UK Flood Barriers as the work to their flood tank would not be completed in time for the planned 2<sup>nd</sup> February visit. She asked all those who wished to attend the visit on the new date to complete the Attendance List, and inform those not at the Meeting to contact the Secretary if they also wished to attend. The visit would be advertised by email by the Secretary and also at the next BFPG Meeting on Tuesday, 22 February.

Secretary

6. **Herefordshire Flood Study Update.** Cllr Tilford informed members that the Flood Study Report commissioned by Herefordshire Council had only just been received and was very detailed. A copy had been sent to Mr Rod Hawnt who, he reminded the Group, had already done his own study of the Millcroft Brook and Mr Hawnt had agreed to comment on the Report. Once it had been studied in detail, more information will be passed on to the Group. Cllr Tilford reminded members that although the Environment Agency Budget had been slashed they have allocated £129.8K to HC ring-fenced for flood alleviation and associated work during 2011/12".

He added that Mr Martin Jackson, the Bridge and Structures Manager/ Local Government Amey, had agreed to attend the BFPG Meeting on Tuesday 22 February and would be asked to talk about the Report and update the Group on the situation regarding the collapsed wall at the Millcroft Brook/ Ketch Lane junction.

### ITEM 3 – TREASURER’S REPORT

7. The Treasurer told the Meeting that the balance in the Group’s account now stood at £1,197.45. This latest figure took into account the £14 paid for the hire of the Siward James room for the BFPG’s Meetings in September, October and November. In addition, Mr Emerson Fryer had given the Group £20 from the sale of an old pump, which had been donated to the Group, but which was considered to be unreliable in an emergency. The £30 hire fee for use of the Parish Hall for the Quiz Night in November had been covered by a donation by Cllr and Mrs Clark.

8. The Chairman thanked Cllr and Mrs Clark on behalf of the Group for their kind donation and Mr Fryer for his fund-raising initiative in disposing of the pump.

### ITEM 4 – COLLAPSED WALL IN MILLCROFT BROOK

9. Cllr Clark gave members a chronological account regarding the Millcroft Brook wall:

a. **7 November 2010.** A crack was noticed in the brook wall at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane Junction and a photograph was taken and sent to Amey.

b. **24 November 2010.** As part of the Parish Walk with Amey representatives, Cllr Clark showed them the crack and gave them a photograph to pass on to the Highways Department.

c. **8 January 2011.** As this was a Saturday, Cllr Clark reported to Amey Emergency Services that the wall had now collapsed into the brook just East of the older culvert. Amey workmen arrived later that day and placed three plastic barriers, cones and sandbags along the collapsed area.

d. **15 January 2011.** Although there had been minimal rainfall, the level of the brook had risen due to the collapsed stone, fallen sandbags and cones, and debris from the brook forming a dam. Cllr and Mrs Mitcheson started to clear this, but found it necessary to request Cllr Clark’s help. Cllr Clark and Cllr Mitcheson lifted the lighter stones and debris from the brook where they were piled on the verge. The heavier stones were placed next to the eroded bank to form a barrier so that the water would not further cut away the bank.

10. Mr Nicolson said that he had subsequently spoken to Amey representatives when they paid a site visit. They had praised the work undertaken by the Group and had told him that, in their opinion, this culvert was like many in Herefordshire where collapse had resulted from vibration caused by heavy traffic, compounded by rain and frost.

11. Questions were asked as to when the repair work was likely to be

undertaken. Cllr Tilford said that he had been informed by Amey that the work had been scheduled but no exact time for completing it given.

12. The general feeling of the Meeting was that this collapse could be indicative of the state of the entire culvert. It was commented that perhaps it would be more cost-effective to replace the entire Millcroft/Ketch Lane junction water system with the much discussed box culvert. This could be a better use of limited resources, rather than to do a "patch up" job which, considering the size of the collapse and the state of the remaining wall, would be expensive.

13. Mr Dennis Brown informed members that he had taken photographs of BFPG members clearing the stone from the collapsed wall and had sent these, with a covering letter, to Mr Bill Wiggin MP. Mr Brown had also been in touch with *The Hereford Times* regarding the incident, but had not received any feedback from the paper.

14. The Chairman thanked Mr Brown for his initiative and support and said that the whole issue would be raised when Mr Martin Jackson visited the Group at the meeting on Tuesday, 22 February.

#### **ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS – FUND RAISING COFFE MORNING**

15. Mrs Eileen Watson, standing in for Mrs Liz Davies, reminded the Group that the fund-raising coffee morning would take place at the Siward James Centre on Saturday, 19 February from 10.00 am to 12 noon. The organisers would welcome donations for the Cake Stall - direct to Mrs Liz Davies, and Tombola - to Mrs Maureen Bick, as well as prizes for the Draw to herself.

All

16. In the next few weeks leading up to the event, posters would appear around the village and 100 flyers had been printed for distribution through letterboxes.

17. Mrs Doreen Brown offered to help on the day and Mrs Watson confirmed that help on the day would be much appreciated. Volunteers should contact Mrs Liz Davies. All the details would be on the posters and flyers.

All

#### **ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **18. Community-Led Plan – Flood Group Focus Group.**

a. Cllr Mitcheson reminded members that a Community-Led Plan (CLP) was being developed in the Parish and many members had participated in the process during June and July 2010 at the Planning for Real Weekends. They would also have been able to complete the CLP questionnaires circulated in October and he hoped that they had all taken the opportunity to highlight in their responses the importance of measures to reduce the risk of flooding in the Village. The completed questionnaires were now being analysed by the Herefordshire Council Research Team and the results should be known in the next few weeks.

b. Cllr Mitcheson went on to stress that the CLP process was important not only because it allowed residents to say how they wanted the Parish to

develop in the future, but because it was a carefully structured process, conducted with the support of, and monitored by, Herefordshire Council, and its findings would carry corresponding weight with the Council. That, in turn, could mean that Council funding would be more readily available for priority projects identified in the Plan.

c. He added that clubs, societies and other groups within the Parish, such as the Gardening Club and the Ramblers, were encouraged to express their views and he felt that it was vitally important that the Flood Group should also contribute to the development of the future Parish Plan. It would, he felt, be extraordinary if it did not. To this end, he was prepared to draft a CLP submission for the BFPG and circulate it to members for their comments and views. These would then be incorporated into the Group's formal contribution to the CLP.

d. It was agreed that Cllr Mitcheson should take on this task and circulate the document as soon as possible.

**Cllr Mitcheson**

19. **Sandbags**. Mr Brown asked for an update on the deployment of sandbags following the survey carried out by Cllr Clark during 2010. Cllr Clark replied that many sandbags which had disintegrated had been replaced around the Parish, both in the cages and at residences. However, many of the replacement bags issued by the Council had already started to bio-degrade before they had even been used. This had curtailed his work considerably. The Parish had now received all the filled sandbags ordered earlier in 2010, as well as more replacement bags. However, due to the bad weather in December, it had not been possible to take any further action as yet. Now that the Group are into the New Year, the replacement and maintenance of sandbags would continue.

**Cllr Clark**

20. **Mr Jackson's Visit**. The Chairman reminded members that it would be useful to have some questions for Mr Jackson in advance of the next Meeting and that these should be sent to the Secretary.

**All**

21. There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 8.00pm.

22. **Date of the Next Meeting**. The next Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22 February 2011.

**Signed: P Sanford, Chairman**

**22 February 2011**