

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013

| ITEM   | ACTION |
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| <p><b><u>ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Meeting of 2013, with a particular welcome to two new members, Anita and David Griffiths.</p> <p>2. <b><u>Visit of Members of Hope-Under-Dinmore Parish Council.</u></b> The Chairman also welcomed Cllr John Stone, Cllr Cathy Clarkson and Mrs Pat Austin from Hope-under-Dinmore. He recalled that at previous meetings he had mentioned that Hope-under-Dinmore have flooding problems similar to our own and that he and the Secretary had attended one of their Parish Council meetings before Christmas to explain how the BFPG was established, what it does and how it does it. The good news was that it seems likely that Hope-Under-Dinmore will be receiving funding to pay for flood protection works. This is not yet confirmed, but the signs are promising.</p> <p>3. <b><u>Review of the Previous Two Months.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that, until the recent weekend, there had been a reasonably quiet start to the New Year on the flood protection front. However, the weather in December had generated a number of alerts from the telemetry system. In fact, there had been nine occasions between 14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December on which the water level in the Millcroft Brook had reached 0.5m, but only twice had the water got any higher. On those occasions it had reached 0.8m, but, since this was less than half the level reached in November (1.8m), there had been really nothing to worry about.</p> <p>b. The Chairman showed the Meeting a graph from the telemetry system for December. He reminded members that the river level had also been high in the latter half of December and as a result the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction and much of Ketch Lane and Smeadals Lane had been under varying amounts of water from 21 December until New Year's Day.</p> <p>c. On the lighter side, he remarked that, human nature being what it is, a number of drivers seemed to think that "Road Closed" and "Flood" signs did not apply to them and the eventual tally on 21 December had been two vans and three cars stranded. Despite being in no real danger at all, apart from getting wet feet, one driver had actually dialled 999 and this had produced a response totalling two fire engines, five police cars, two ambulances and two inflatable boats, all of which had first toured Bowley Lane searching for the scene of the incident and subsequently arrived well after the person concerned had already walked to safety.</p> <p>d. Over the past weekend all the snow melting, combined with some rain, had meant that the water level in the Brook had twice got back up to about 1.0m, but not enough to cause any concern. The Ketch Lane junction and Ketch Lane itself had also been flooded again, but only to a depth of a few inches.</p> |        |

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| <p>e. The Chairman added that over the course of the past two months a lot of debris had been washed downstream and he had been monitoring the Ketch Lane culverts on a daily basis, removing material as necessary to prevent the culverts from becoming blocked. There were now two further piles of debris on the verge and he had asked the Parish Clerk to get Amey to dispose of them.</p> <p>4. <b>UK Flood Barriers Ltd.</b> The Chairman went on to say that UK Flood Barriers have continued to visit the Village to sort out one or two old issues and to look at some new problems which have emerged. They have, in fact, continued to be very positive and helpful despite being extremely busy with major projects down in Cornwall and up in Cumbria. They have also had some interesting tales to tell. The good news is that their barriers do actually work in real flood conditions, the proviso being that the barriers are fitted correctly and properly tightened up to make an effective seal. The lesson – yet again – is that those who are fortunate to have been given barriers must maintain them properly and ensure that they practise erecting them correctly so that there are no gaps through which water can leak. Householders should not do what one of the UK Flood Barriers’ customers had done, which was to put a barrier on back to front and then wonder why it did not work effectively! Also, they should not do what another individual had apparently done, which was not to put his barriers up at all and then attempt to put in an insurance claim for flood damage saying that the barriers had not worked.</p> <p>5. <b>Apologies.</b> There were 34 members present and apologies were received from Mr Grumbley, Mr Nickols, Mrs Arrowsmith, Mrs Bowden, Miss Gibson and Mrs Parker.</p> | <p><b>All</b></p> |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p>  |                   |
| <p>6. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the November Meeting which had been circulated earlier. Cllr Avery proposed that the Minutes should be accepted as a true record and this was seconded by Mr Dowler and agreed.</p>   |                   |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p>  |                   |
| <p>7. <b>Meeting to Discuss the ‘Buddy System’.</b> The Chairman reported that:</p> <p>a. There was now a new Area Representative for Ash Grove View – Cllr Avery - which would help to spread the load in that road.</p> <p>b. Draft 3 of the ‘Buddy System’ list had been circulated to the Area Representatives. He asked all those present, if they were on the list for help in an emergency – or felt that they should be – to speak to the Secretary so that she can make the system as effective as possible.</p> <p>c. The draft version of the Area Representatives’ Responsibilities document had been circulated with the Agenda. The Chairman had promised to produce this as an Annex to the Constitution because there had seemed to be some doubt in some people’s minds as to what Area Representatives were supposed to do. Although at first sight the draft might appear rather daunting, it was actually simple and straightforward - in fact, nothing more or less than a summary of what Area Representatives were doing already. He asked members for any comments on it and, there being none, he suggested that it should be regarded as a guidance document until it is ratified at the AGM in August.</p>  | <p><b>All</b></p> |



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| <p>Clark had reported that he had spoken with Mr David Tristram at Herefordshire Council and it would appear that there were no grants available at the moment for the project to replace the Ketch Lane culverts. He asked the Treasurer to give an update.</p> <p>b. The Treasurer reported that he had written to Mr Stockwell of the Jordan Foundation to ask if the Group were eligible for a community grant for a replacement culvert. Mr Stockwell had replied that this type of project was not one with which the Foundation could assist, but had wished us well in our endeavour to raise funds. It was suggested that the Kingspan Community Trust Fund might be worth contacting for a grant towards the box culvert. The Treasurer was asked to follow this up.</p> <p>12. <b>Waders.</b> At the November Meeting it was agreed that the Group should purchase one pair of Grandslam Chest Waders in size 6 and Ocean Budget Thigh Waders in sizes 6, 7 and 8 for working in the Brook. It was understood that Mr Hemmings might get a “members’ discount” on these items, and Mrs Hemmings agreed to ask him to purchase them on behalf of the Group and pass the invoice to the Treasurer. (<b>Afternote.</b> The Secretary has been in contact with Mr Hemmings and given him the details of the waders for purchase).</p> <p>13. <b>BBC Programme <i>Wild Weather in 2012</i>.</b> The Chairman remarked that some members might have seen the BBC1 programme on <i>Wild Weather in 2012</i> which had been broadcast on Sunday, 30 November. The Secretary and David Harris had starred in it and he had expected their contribution to have provided an uplifting ‘good news – you can protect yourself from flooding’ piece at the end of the programme. In the event, however, the BFPG section had been placed near the beginning of the half hour, with all the doom and gloom from the rest of the country coming later. He added that, if anyone had missed the programme and would like to see it, there was a copy available.</p> <p>14. <b>Talk to Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council.</b> At the November Meeting the Chairman had reported that he had been invited to talk to Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council about the BFPG on 29 November. This had proved to be an interesting evening, at which he had offered the Group’s help to Hope-under-Dinmore. This had already resulted in the presence of the three Hope-under-Dinmore residents at the present Meeting and he hoped that such links could be maintained by the attendance of Hope-under-Dinmore residents at BFPG working party sessions and other events as observers to see what they could learn.</p> <p>15. <b>Sandbag Cage Locks.</b> The Treasurer confirmed that he had found a supplier for 4 padlocks which used the same keys. However, before purchasing, he needed to check that the hasps were compatible with the chain links. If suitable, the padlocks will be purchased and additional keys cut.</p> | <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Mr Hemmings<br/>Treasurer</p> <p>Treasurer</p> |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>16. The Treasurer reported that the only expenditure in December had been £147.54 for hoses for the pumps. The balance therefore now stood at £1,900.37.</p>   |  |

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| <p><b><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></b></p> <p>17. <b><u>Coffee Morning on Saturday, 2 February 2013.</u></b> The Chairman invited Mrs Davies to talk about the first fund-raising event in 2013, the annual Coffee Morning. Mrs Davies said that the team were in place for the Raffle, Tombola and Cake Stall and that, as posters had been put around the Village, on the Website and in the <i>Newsletter</i>, she was hoping for another successful event.</p> <p>18. <b><u>Working Party Sessions.</u></b> It was noted that flap valve No 4 next to Brockington Road Bridge on the property of Mr Davis (30, Brockington Road) was totally covered in silt and needed to be cleaned as a priority. It was agreed that there would be merit in cleaning it as soon as the Brook had receded sufficiently, rather than waiting for the normal working party sessions to start in April. The Operations Officer will call a small team together at the appropriate time to deal with this, possibly over a weekend. It was agreed that, if sufficient members were present, it would also make sense to check the other flap valves along the Millcroft Brook and clean any of them which have silted up since they were last cleared during the 2012 maintenance programme.</p>  | <p><b>Operations<br/>Officer</b></p> |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>19. <b><u>Quiz Night 2013.</u></b> The Chairman reported that Mrs Bick had indicated that she would be unable to organise the Quiz Night again this year. He asked that anyone who would be willing to organise the event should speak to the Secretary. Mr Tilford asked that the Group's thanks to Mrs Bick for organising the last two Quiz Nights should be recorded and this was agreed unanimously. (<b><u>Afternote.</u></b> Mrs Griffiths has volunteered to organise the 2013 Quiz Night and Mrs Bick has said that she would be very happy to assist. Mrs Davies has agreed once again to organise the Raffle).</p> <p>20. <b><u>Water Overflow in Millcroft Road.</u></b> Mrs Davies said that, despite a number of telephone calls to Welsh Water, water was continuing to run down Millcroft Road from the drain next to the Millcroft Road wall in England's Gate Pub garden. The Chairman said that, as Amey and Welsh Water were already aware of this – they have been contacted twice – he was not sure what else could be done other than to raise the matter at the next Parish Council Meeting and contact Amey yet again.</p> <p>21. <b><u>Debris.</u></b> It was agreed that much of the debris which had been removed from the entrance to the twin culverts at the Ketch Lane/ Millcroft Road Junction had come from the fields abutting the Brook. However, there had been a number of substantial items which were identifiable as having come from the Golf Course, for example, sleepers and red watercourse marking posts. The Parish Council had been in contact with the Golf Course and explained the damage which could be caused by such items. However, it was understood that the Golf Club had stated that these items had not come from them.</p> <p>22. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.13pm.</p> |                                      |