

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2018

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the Group's first Meeting of 2018 and hoped that they had had a happy Christmas and were looking forward to a good New Year.</p> <p>2. He noted that, when there had been very little rain over a prolonged period as had been the case last year, there was always the danger of becoming complacent. For example, by the middle of January the early warning telemetry system had not issued an alarm for over 10 months, since 22 March 2017. However, he now had to report that the system had recently issued its first warning for this year. This was at 5.15pm on Sunday, 21 January when the level in the Millcroft Brook reached 0.5m and eventually peaked at just over that at 6.40pm. The message, he suggested was clear: we must not become complacent; make sure that we regularly review our emergency measures and equipment and be prepared!</p> <p>3. Turning to the coming 'season' the Chairman said that he very much hoped that, now that he was fully qualified and authorised by both the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency, he would be able to reduce the hard labour of 2017 by spraying the watercourses when the time was right and this would help the Group to stay on top of the re-growth in them.</p> <p>4. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 20 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr and Mrs Sebbage, Mr and Mrs Schwartz, , Mr George, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Burnill, Miss Easson and Miss Gibson.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>5. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the November Meeting. These had been circulated earlier with the Agenda and were also available in hard copy on the tables. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Mr Rice, seconded by Mrs Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>6. <u>BFBG Coffee Morning on Saturday, 13 January 2018.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that, despite the poor weather and the change of date from February to mid-January, the Coffee Morning had been a great success. The amount raised had totalled £382, which was a wonderful achievement so soon after Christmas and on such a cold day, and he thanked everybody who had supported or contributed to the event in any way.</p>	

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<p>b. He expressed particular thanks to Mrs Liz Davies for yet again organising the event and also to all the members of her team, Mrs Jenny Nicolson and Mrs Ann Hartfield on the Cake Stall, Mrs Gwen Bowden on the Raffle, Mrs Thelma Butcher and Mr John Rice on the Tombola and Ms Kathy Tremain and Mrs Babs Mitcheson in the kitchen serving the refreshments.</p>																																									
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p>																																									
<p>7. On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman reported that at the end of November the balance of the account had been £3,789.23.</p>																																									
<p>8. The Income and Expenditure for December and January were:</p>																																									
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<p>9. The balance therefore at the end of January 2018 was £4,055.23</p>																																									
<p>10. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that there were also VAT refunds totalling £85.41 still due to be repaid, comprising £15.41 for Hammerite paint and £70.00 for the herbicide courses.</p>																																									
<p>11. The Chairman then recalled that, during the last working party session of 2017 – the one at which the Belgian delegation had been present – there had been a problem with the Group's hedge trimmer which had refused to start. Rather than wait for this to be discussed at a monthly Meeting, he had arranged for the trimmer to be repaired and it was now in good working order again. The cost of the repair had been £25.00 which he had paid. Mrs Avery proposed that the Chairman should be refunded this amount. This was seconded by Cllr Tilford and agreed.</p>																																									
<p><u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p>																																									
<p>12. The Chairman reminded members that, as discussed at the July and August Meetings last year, some £626k of government funding had been allocated to Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects in Herefordshire, including one in Bodenham. Mr Andrew Osbaldiston, one of the two Environment Agency representatives who had attended the visit by the Belgian Delegation on 6 October, had indicated that he would be involved in the Bodenham NFM project. He had recently contacted the Chairman and Secretary and they were now in the process of arranging a meeting with him.</p>																																									

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<p><u>ITEM 6 – SANDBAGS</u></p> <p>13. The Chairman noted that the reserve stock of sandbags which the Group had built up should be sufficient for the needs of the Parish for this coming winter. However, thinking ahead, when the time comes to obtain more sandbags, the Parish will have to pay for them, since Herefordshire Council will no longer supply them. The Secretary had therefore been in touch with Radbournes in Hereford who can provide pallets of filled sandbags at a cheaper rate than any other supplier either in Herefordshire or <i>via</i> the internet.</p> <p>14. The Chairman confirmed that the Secretary would be sending out the usual email in the Spring asking all those with sandbags to check them and see if their bags required re-filling or replacing because the plastic had degraded. Time would also be given during working party evenings to checking the central stock of sandbags stored around the Village in cages and in the large green container at the rear of the Parish Hall.</p>	Secretary
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>15. 2018 is the 10th Anniversary of the formation of the BFPG. The Chairman asked whether members thought that the Group should do something to commemorate this or just carry on with the usual calendar of events, that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annual Summer Barbecue. The Chairman asked if anyone would like to volunteer to host the Barbecue this year once a date had been agreed. b. Annual Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm in the autumn. c. Annual Fund Raising Quiz Night in November in the Parish Hall. <p>16. The Chairman noted that, whilst the Flood Protection Group had been in the process of formation during the first half of 2008, its formal inaugural Meeting had not been until 19 August that year. This was why the AGM was always held on the last Tuesday in August. However, neither of these dates need be the date of such a celebratory event, should it be decided to hold one. Cllr Avery stressed the importance of recruiting new and younger members to the Group and said that such an occasion should be used to try and attract them. The Chairman agreed and suggested that a ‘Hog Roast’ open to all local residents might be considered and that this might serve the double purpose of celebration and recruitment. He asked members to give this and the other planned activities for 2018 some thought so that dates could be discussed at the next Meeting.</p>	All
<p><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>17. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 February 2018.</p> <p>18. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.</p>	All