

B ODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2015

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the October Meeting, with a warm welcome to two new residents, Andrew and Susan Maxwell, who have moved into Brook House in The Moor.</p> <p>2. <u>Mr Leslie (Nick) Nicolson</u>. The Chairman said that, sadly, on 1 October the Group had lost one of its longest serving and most loyal members in the sudden and unexpected death of Mr Leslie (Nick) Nicolson. The funeral service had been at the Crematorium on Friday, 16 October and a number of members had attended.</p> <p>3. <u>Flood Risk</u>. The Chairman said that, for yet another month, he had nothing to report on the subject of flood risk. He had discussed the long period of very low water levels with Mr Rod Hawnt, who had stressed the need for members to guard against becoming complacent; the situation could change literally overnight. Now was the time to check that all precautionary measures had been taken before the onset of winter.</p> <p>4. <u>Apologies</u>. There were 31 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr Gilding, Mr Tilford, Mr Sebbage, Mr and Mrs Burnill, Mrs Maxwell and Mrs Parker.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>5. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the September Meeting. These had been circulated earlier with the Agenda and were also available in hard copy on the tables. He noted that there was one amendment to the draft which had been circulated by e-mail at Paragraph 7.d. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Miss Gibson, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>6. <u>Housing Developments</u>.</p> <p>a. <u>Bovis Homes</u>. The Chairman noted that the application by Bovis Homes for the construction of 49 houses on the land south of Chapel Lane was due to be considered by Herefordshire Council's Planning Committee at 10.00am the following morning (28 October 2015). The Planning Officer had recommended that consent be given to the application, subject to a number of conditions. The</p>	

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<p>Chairman suggested that, given the importance of the application to the future of Bodenham Moor, members might like to attend the hearing. If so, they should be at the Shire Hall by 9.30am as Bodenham would be the first case on the Planning Committee's Agenda.</p> <p>b. <u>Bell Homes.</u></p> <p>(1) The Chairman reported that the e-mail correspondence with the Planning Officer over Bell Homes' proposed system for the discharge of surface water from the site opposite England's Gate had continued. Consultants employed by Herefordshire Council had been scrutinising Bell Homes' SuDS and, after a number of iterations, it seemed that the design had been improved to the point where it could be considered acceptable. At the same time details of the design and the calculations supporting it had gradually become available and the Chairman remarked that it was a matter for concern that Bell Homes had not provided robust proposals and transparent supporting information from the outset, rather than having to have these dragged out of them.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman confirmed that the application had been approved with conditions the previous day (26 October), although the conditions had not yet been finalised.</p> <p>7. <u>The Queen's Award For Voluntary Service.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman expressed his most sincere thanks to everyone who had contributed to the Presentation of the Queen's Award For Voluntary Service (QAVS) to the Group the previous Friday (23 October). He felt that the entire event had been a resounding success and this was entirely due, first, to the hard work of all members in whatever capacity they had taken part and, second, to their generosity in giving so much of their time and money, and in providing such plentiful and high quality refreshments. He and the Secretary would have very much liked to have written individually to all members to thank them. However, with the Bovis Homes hearing looming, he was afraid that this had not been possible and he hoped that members would forgive him for not doing so.</p> <p>b. The Lord-Lieutenant and all the guests to whom he had spoken had been full of praise, both for the Presentation and the Reception and for the Group itself. Indeed, a couple of local residents had commented that it had made them feel proud to live in Bodenham. The Chairman then read a short letter of congratulations and thanks which Mr and Mrs Howell had asked him to pass on to members.</p> <p>c. The Chairman repeated that obviously many members had incurred expenses in preparing for the evening and he wanted to ensure that nobody felt out of pocket as a result. He therefore asked all members to let the Secretary have their statements of expenditure as soon as possible so that refunds could be arranged and so that a full summary of income and expenditure could be presented to the November Meeting. It was entirely up to individual members whether they claimed all, or only part, of their expenses so long as the agreed £3 per ticket was deducted from their claim.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

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<p>d. Turning to income, the Chairman reported that donations and ticket sales totalled over £250 with some more having been offered, but not yet received. The generosity of a great number of members and, indeed, some non-members meant that this would cover most, if not all, of the cost of the evening. He went on to explain the distinction which needed to be drawn between the cost of the Presentation itself and the cost of the reception and party that followed it. As he had said on many previous occasions, public money could not be spent on ‘partying’ and the cost of the reception and finger buffet would have to be met by donations and ticket sales. The cost of the Presentation itself was, however, a different matter; it was very much a public and official event and, provided it had been conducted in an appropriate manner – which he believed it had – any reasonable expenses, such as the framing of the certificate and the printing of the programmes, place names, and name tags, etc were a fair charge to the BFPG’s fund. He would therefore be putting a proposal to the November Meeting that such charges should be met from the fund.</p> <p>e. The Chairman turned next to the question of where the Award Certificate, the Crystal and also the Pride of Herefordshire Award should be kept. The Secretary thought that a glass cabinet in the entrance to Siward James would be appropriate since the Group met there not only for its monthly meetings but also for the annual Coffee Morning. This idea had been suggested to a Trustee of the Siward James and Arkwright Trust for consideration and had been received favourably. It had also been suggested that, since to some extent the Award was an honour not only for the Group but for the Parish, the Parish Council might consider providing the glass cabinet to hold the items. This too had received a favourable reception from a councillor and might well be raised at the next Parish Council Meeting.</p> <p>f. In discussion members thought that as most of the Group’s activities took place in the Siward James Meeting Room, and it was also the centre of the village, it would be appropriate to ask the Siward James Trustees if a glass cabinet could be erected in the entrance to the Siward James Centre. If the Trustees were in agreement, then the Secretary would approach the Parish Council and ask if they would fund such a cabinet. It was also suggested that, if funds were sufficient, the cabinet should be large enough to house not only the BFPG Awards, but also those of the Bowling Club and other clubs and societies in the Parish.</p> <p>8. <u>Bonfire Party (Saturday, 3 October)</u>. As members would be aware, the Annual Bonfire Party had been due to take place at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 3 October, but was cancelled following Mr Nicolson’s death. It had not been possible to reschedule it because of pressure of work in the days leading up to the QAVS Presentation.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></p> <p>9. The Chairman reported that the balance at the end of September was £3,093.49. Income received during October totalled £237 and the new balance as at 27 October was therefore £3,330.49. There had obviously also been expenditure on the Presentation of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, but, as already discussed, this had not yet been finalised. Once all the income and expenditure has been notified, a</p>	

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<p>full income and expenditure report for the QAVS Presentation would be provided at the November Meeting.</p> <p>10. In the interim, the Chairman asked for an item of expenditure to be approved. This was £3.52 for the cutting of spare sandbag cage keys. It included a 10% discount which the Treasurer had managed to obtain and she would also be asking the Parish Clerk to recover the VAT on the purchase and credit it to the BFPG Account in due course.</p> <p>11. The Chairman asked for this expense to be authorised. This was proposed by Mrs Fryer, seconded by Mrs Clark and agreed.</p>	<p>Treasurer</p>
<p><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>12. <u>BFPG Fund Raising Quiz Night (Friday, 27 November).</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that the Group’s next social event would be the Quiz Night on Friday, 27 October in the Parish Hall. The doors would open at 7.00pm with the Quiz starting at 7.30pm. Mrs Coney (Tricia Sandford) had confirmed that she would be heading up the Quiz Team again this year and was very much looking forward to it. Posters and flyers were already out around the village and the event had been advertised in the <i>Newsletter</i> for October and (it was hoped) would be in the November edition, as well as in <i>The Hereford Times</i>.</p> <p>b. The Chairman concluded by urging members to attend what should be a most enjoyable evening.</p>	<p>Mrs Griffiths</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>13. <u>Winter Preparations.</u> The Chairman again reminded members that now was the time to check and repair any sandbags they had, if they had not already done so. Spare empty sandbags were now available and the Secretary would be contacting all those who had requested them. The additional stock of filled sandbags was still awaited from Balfour Beatty, but enough were already held to supply anybody who needed some and they should contact the Secretary. The Chairman also asked members to ensure that any other flood protection equipment, such as barriers, automatic airbricks and toilet bungs, as well as ancillary items such as torches, were in good working order. If any members needed help – or knew of other residents who required assistance - they should contact the Secretary who would see what could be done to provide it.</p> <p>14. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre on 24 November at 7.30pm.</p> <p>15. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.10pm</p>	<p>All</p>