

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



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

ITEM	ACTION
<u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u>	
1. The Chairman welcomed members to the October Meeting and remarked that, although there had apparently been some flooding elsewhere in the County over the weekend 13-14 October, so far as Bodenham was concerned there had been no reason for concern about flood risk then or over the previous month.	
2. <u>Apologies</u> . There were 20 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mrs Burnill, Miss Gibson, Mr Harris, Mr Rice, Mr and Mrs Schwartz, and Cllr Tilford.	
<u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u>	
3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of September's 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 Bowden, seconded by Mrs Fryer and agreed.	
<u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u>	
4. <u>Kent, South London and East Sussex Area.</u> a. The Chairman reminded members that Ms Emily Whittingham, the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience Officer for Kent, South London and East Sussex Area (KSLES) had asked for help with a Community Resilience Workshop which she was organising on 6 th October. She wanted to use the BFPG as a case study to inform the local Flood Wardens of the Group's work, which she thought could inspire others to get involved in supporting their community. b. The Chairman had provided Ms Whittingham with copies of the display posters produced for the 10 th Anniversary Celebration, as well as an updated version of the PowerPoint presentation he and the Secretary had given to a Northamptonshire Flood Wardens' training day a year or two ago. He had later received an email from Ms Whittingham thanking him for the Group's help, reporting that the Community Resilience Workshop had been a great success, and sending him some photographs of the event, including one of the display about the BFPG. 5. <u>Annual Bonfire Party</u> . The Chairman reported that the Bonfire Party had been held, as planned, at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 6 October. About 30 members and their guests had attended and the weather had been kind, with a gentle shower during the afternoon to dampen the area around the bonfire to prevent sparks setting it alight,	

ITEM	ACTION
followed by fine weather for the event itself. He hoped that those attending had enjoyed the occasion and thanked, in particular, those who had contributed food and drink to it. Mrs Bowden responded by thanking the Chairman and Secretary for a most enjoyable evening.	
<u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u>	
6. The balance at the end of September was £3,877.35. There had been no income and only one expenditure of £13.50 for the hire of the Siward James meeting room from July to September 2018. The balance of the account therefore now stands at £3,863.85. Outstanding VAT now stands at £19.40. (This was for printing for the BFPG 10 th Anniversary Event).	
<u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u>	
7. <u>Flood Memory App.</u> <p>a. The Chairman reported that on 5 October he had received a request from Dr Joanne Garde-Hansen, Director of the Centre for Cultural & Media Policy Studies at Warwick University, for comments on an app being developed by the University that maps flood memories. Users log in and submit a memory, pinning it to the relevant map and then tag it. The University's research showed that flood memories can be very helpful in sharing and passing on community knowledge, but that there was currently no way of sustaining flood memory knowledge. This app is designed to provide a means of doing this.</p> <p>b. The Chairman said that he had provided his own feedback on the app and had circulated the request to everybody on the BFPG mailing list with a request that they also respond direct to Dr Garde-Hansen. He was not aware whether or not anybody had done so.</p>	
8. <u>River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project.</u> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that in 2017 the Government had allocated £15M towards initiating natural flood management (NFM) projects across the country – that is, projects designed to use natural methods, such as better soil management, planting more trees, and building retention ponds, to absorb or at least slow down flood water. Over £600K of this had been allocated to Herefordshire for 8 areas, one of which was Bodenham. There had been some early feedback on this, for example when the Environment Agency had asked for permission to access the data from the early warning telemetry system and talked about having a meeting with us. However, everything had then gone quiet.</p> <p>b. The Chairman said that, having heard nothing for a long time, he had asked Cllr Baker, our Ward Councillor, if he could find out what progress was being made. As a result the Chairman had been put in touch with Bethany Easdon, the Natural Flood Management Project Officer at Herefordshire Council and she had reported that:</p> <p>(1) The River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project had been set up and was progressing well. A Steering Group had been established and, following the necessary background work, it is hoped to get things going on the ground very soon.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>(2) The Wye and Usk Foundation and the Severn Rivers Trust will be working in partnership with Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency to help deliver the project. Both organisations will be deploying specialist catchment advisors to the seven priority sub-catchments, including the Bodenham and Millcroft catchment. The catchment advisors' main role will be to help advise farmers and landowners on ways in which they can improve their current land management practices for the benefit of flood risk reduction.</p> <p>(3) As the Project will be community-focused, Catchment Delivery Groups (CDG) will be set up which will contain representation from Herefordshire Council, the Environment Agency, flood action groups, local residents and other relevant organisations. Using Natural Flood Management Opportunity Maps (already commissioned), local knowledge, expert advice and other evidence, the CDG will create Catchment Delivery Plans detailing their list of priority actions within the catchment. A 'NFM construction grants scheme' will also be established which will help pay for the implementation of NFM measures within the catchment.</p> <p>(4) DEFRA, who are funding the Project, require that evidence is gathered to investigate the effectiveness of NFM measures. There will therefore be a monitoring plan to address this requirement. Also, as part of the Project river and rainfall gauges will be installed within the catchments to monitor how NFM measures affect each river's response to different rainfall events.</p> <p>(5) Because there is an active community in Bodenham, the Bodenham & Millcroft catchment has been assigned as a high priority for the Project and this catchment will therefore be one of the first to be engaged. The intention would then be to set up the first Delivery Group meeting within the catchment, so that a plan of action can be decided and work can begin.</p> <p>c. The Chairman said that Ms Easdon was keen to meet BFPG members and explain the Project in more detail. He had suggested, therefore, that she should come to the November BFPG Meeting and give a brief presentation, possibly including a short video, about the thinking behind NFM and how it is been implemented elsewhere.</p> <p>d. It is possible that two other key people will also be present. One is Mr Tom Jolly who works for the Wye and Usk Foundation as a catchment advisor and will be covering the Bodenham & Millcroft Catchment. The other is Mr Andrew Osbaldeston, who works for the Environment Agency and is the NFM Project Co-Ordinator for the whole West Midlands area.</p> <p>e. The Chairman said that NFM should be an interesting and important subject to help the Group to end its tenth year on a high, but he had impressed upon Ms Easdon that her presentation should be brief because there was also important business to attend to in the form of Mrs Sue Maxwell's cake! There would also be drinks and nibbles to celebrate the end of the BFPG 10th Anniversary year.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<u>ITEM 6 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u>	
9. <u>Annual Quiz Night.</u>	
a. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that this year's Quiz Night will be held on Friday, 30 November. The doors will open at 7.00pm and the Quiz will start at 7.30pm. The cost will be £5 per person. Mrs Bowden has kindly agreed to organise the event and posters and flyers will be in the village publicising the event from Monday, 5 November. There will, of course, be a final chance to confirm the arrangements at the November Meeting, but this will be only three days before the event and too late to make any major changes.	All
b. Advertising posters and flyers will state that those attending should bring their own drinks and refreshments for the evening, but nibbles will be on the table. Cllr and Mrs Clark have agreed to run the Raffle, so members are asked to please pass any raffle prizes to them. The Secretary has booked the Parish Hall from 5.00pm until 10.00pm on Friday, 30 November and the Chairman asked that, if anyone would like to offer their help to Mrs Bowden in organising the evening, they should please contact her direct or let the Secretary know.	All
c. The Secretary will send out details to all members, and advertise the event in the Parish <i>Newsletter</i> , on the Parish Website, Next Door and <i>The Hereford Times</i> , as well as in the posters and flyers already mentioned.	All
10. <u>Fund-Raising Coffee Morning 2019.</u>	Secretary
a. The Chairman reminded members that Mrs Davies had kindly agreed to organise the next fund-raising Coffee Morning, which will be held on Saturday, 19 January 2019 at Siward James from 10.00am until 12 noon.	
b. Mrs Davies reminded the meeting that it would be a Bring and Buy event and that she would give an update at the November Meeting	All
c. Cllr Kathy Tremain and Mrs Jean Fryer have kindly agreed to help in the kitchen and Mr John Rice and Mrs Thelma Butcher have volunteered to help man the Bring and Buy Table which will be replacing the normal Tombola. Mrs Davies will be reminding the Group about the arrangements at the November Meeting. However, in the meantime, if there is anyone who would like to help, could they please contact her direct.	All
<u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
11. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 November 2018.	
12. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.	