

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2017

ITEM	ACTION
<u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u> 1. The Chairman welcomed members to the Group's October Meeting, with a particular welcome to two new members, Mr Chris Leccia from Tan-y-Bryn and Mr Glynn Jones, the owner of Plot 2 adjacent to Stoneleigh on The Moor. 2. The Chairman remarked that the flood risk over the past month had remained very low. Storm Brian had produced some rain, but not nearly enough to cause the relief channel to operate. In fact, for most of the month the Millcroft Brook had been virtually dry. The reason for this was not clear, but it was possible that a farm had blocked or diverted the flow for watering cattle. If so, this must have been very high up on the watercourse since Cllr Clark had walked the Brook as far as Dewdales Hope Farm and had come across no blockages or diversions up to that point. 3. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 28 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Miss Gibson, Mr Harris, Mr Maxwell and Mr Sebbage.	
<u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> 4. 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. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Tilford, seconded by Mrs Bowden and agreed.	
<u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u> 5. <u>Early Warning Telemetry System.</u> The Chairman reported that he had just received an e-mail from Hydro-Logic confirming that they had replaced the sensor in the early warning telemetry system and the system was now back in operation.	
<u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u> 6. On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman reported that at the end of September the balance of the account had been £3,943.00. There had been no income or expenditure during October, so the balance remained unchanged. 7. The Chairman next reminded members that at their June Meeting they had kindly agreed to reimburse him for the £840 cost of the three courses which he had attended in order to obtain his qualification to spray herbicides, including on water,	

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<p>using knapsack equipment. Since then, because the ability to spray herbicides is of potential benefit to the Parish as a whole, the Parish Council had agreed to cover half the cost of the courses. Therefore the amount to be refunded by the BFPG was now only £420, rather than the £840 previously agreed. In light of this, the Chairman asked if the Meeting would agree the new figure of £420 to be reimbursed, which, after the VAT element had been recovered, would represent a total cost to the Group of £350. This was proposed by Mr Schwartz, seconded by Cllr Avery and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>8. The Chairman then reported that he would shortly need to move the BFPG's equipment trailer from its current location to a new one. In preparation for this he had discovered that one of the tyre valves was defective and would have to be replaced. At this stage he was simply alerting members to the fact that there would be some expenditure involved; he did not at present know how much this was likely to be, but he would report back to them in due course.</p>	
<u>ITEM 5 – THE BELGIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT</u>	
<p>9. The Chairman reminded members that on 6-7 October he and the Secretary had hosted a visit by a delegation from East Flanders in Belgium who were in England on a study tour organised by Defra.</p> <p>10. The Province of East Flanders and the University of Ghent are both involved in a European North Sea Region project called FRAMES (Flood Resilient Areas by MultilayEred Safety). Part of this involves working with local communities in the Dender valley on community flood response. The Dender valley is very flood-prone and its water manager and the provincial authorities are therefore developing a flood risk management plan for it. They calculate, however, that, even with new protection measures, there will always remain a severe risk of flooding for some neighbourhoods and so are seeking to engage the local residents in discussion about additional measures they can take themselves to prepare for flooding. They do not have much experience with this type of flood risk management in Belgium, which is why they are interested in talking with people in England, who are more experienced in it.</p> <p>11. The Belgian delegation had consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dr Hannelore Mees, Spatial Planning Officer from the Province of East Flanders. b. Mr Brendan De Baets, Participation Officer from the Province of East Flanders. c. Dr Barbara Tempels, a Researcher from Ghent University. d. Mrs Liesbet Vande Castele, Environmental Officer from the City of Geraardsbergen. <p>12. They had arrived by train at Malvern Link station on the morning of Friday, 6 October and he and Cllr David Tilford had driven them to England's Gate Inn where the visitors were staying. They had then had lunch at Millcroft Farm where he had briefed them on the BFPG and they had had a chance to meet and discuss flooding issues with Mrs Mary Dhonau and Cllr Bruce Baker. This was followed by an extended series of discussions throughout the afternoon, starting with Cllr Philip Price, Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, and Mr Steve Hodges, Directorate Services Team Leader at Herefordshire Council, during which</p>	

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<p>they had been able to discuss flooding at county and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLPA) level.</p> <p>13. Towards the end of the afternoon they had been joined by Mr Jason Walker and Mr Andrew Osbaliston from the Environment Agency's Tewkesbury Office when the visitors were able to examine flood risk management from the Environment Agency's perspective. (Mr Osbaliston is also involved in the project for introducing natural flood management schemes into Herefordshire and indicated that he would be visiting Bodenham again shortly).</p> <p>14. For the last part of the afternoon programme the visitors had attended a working party session on the final downstream section of the Millcroft Brook, followed by refreshments at Millcroft Farm when they had an opportunity to meet BFPG members socially. They then returned to England's Gate Inn where the Chairman, Secretary and Cllr and Mrs Tilford joined them for an evening meal. The visit ended the following morning (Saturday, 7 October) when the Chairman and Cllr Tilford drove the visitors back to Malvern Link to catch an early train to London to connect with their Eurostar journey back to Belgium.</p> <p>15. The Chairman said that he thought that the whole visit had gone extremely well, helped, not least, by the visitors' excellent English. Certainly they had said that their long return trip to Bodenham had been well worthwhile in furthering their research and they had expressed their warmest thanks for the way they had been looked after. The Chairman concluded by saying that he would like to add his own thanks to all the members of the Group who had contributed to making the visit a success and he expressed his particular thanks to Cllr Tilford for his help in providing transport for the visitors.</p>	
<u>ITEM 6 – WORKING PARTIES</u>	
<p>16. The Chairman said that the working party on Friday, 6 October during the Belgian visit already mentioned had completed what little work needed to be done on the Millcroft Brook and had been the last working party session of the 2017 'season'. He thanked all those who had contributed to working parties throughout the year; a lot had been achieved in sometimes difficult circumstances, made more onerous by the lack of any spraying to reduce the amount of vegetation with which working parties had had to contend.</p>	
<u>ITEM 7 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u>	
<p>17. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> The Chairman reported that, as most members would know, the approach of Storm Brian had forced the postponement of the Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm. This had proved a wise decision because, when, on the evening of Sunday, 22 October, the event was held 24 hours later than originally planned, the weather had been dry and mild. Some 30 members and guests had attended and he expressed his thanks to all of them, and especially to those who had contributed additional wine and food to the occasion.</p> <p>18. <u>Annual Quiz Night.</u> The Chairman reminded members that the Annual Quiz Night would be at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on <u>Friday, 24 November</u> in the Parish Hall. Tickets would be £6.00 per person, teams would be up to 6 participants, and substantial nibbles and a glass of wine would be included in the ticket price. Mrs</p>	

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Griffiths had very kindly agreed to organise the event again and, at the Chairman's invitation, she confirmed that Cllr and Mrs Clark were organising the raffle, Mr and Mrs Schwartz would be running the bar, and Mrs Dowler had kindly volunteered to act as a helper. If anyone else would like to offer their services, they were asked to please contact Mrs Griffiths direct. The Chairman asked about raffle prizes and Cllr Clark replied that, if members felt able to donate more prizes, these would be most welcome. The Secretary would be sending out details to all members, and advertising the event in the Parish <i>Newsletter</i> , on the Parish Website, Next Door and <i>The Hereford Times</i> .	All All Secretary
<u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
19. Date of the Next Meeting. The next Meeting - and the last for 2017 - will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 28 November 2017. 20. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.00pm.	All

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

28 November 2017