

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE GROUP'S MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2010

Action

ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last Meeting of 2010. She also welcomed CSO Stephanie Annette who had agreed to be a guest speaker. Unfortunately, due to the weather, Mary Dhonau, the CEO of the National Flood Forum, was unable to attend the Meeting.

2. Apologies were received from Mr David Ashford Sanford, Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mrs Maureen Bick, Mrs Mary Nickols, Mrs Kay Clark and Cllr Keith Grumbley.

ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

3. **Fund-Raising Quiz Night.** The Chairman congratulated Mrs Maureen Bick and her team for a very successful and enjoyable fund-raising Quiz Night held at the Parish Hall on Saturday, 6 November. After the deduction of expenses, the evening made a clear profit for the Group of £342.29. A full Income and Expenditure for the event is shown under the Treasurer's Report.

4. **Fund-Raising Coffee Morning - Saturday, 19 February 2011.** Mrs Liz Davies confirmed that she had booked the Siward James Centre for the Coffee Morning which will be from 10.00 am to 12 noon. There will be a Cake Stall, Tombola, Draw and also a display showing the work of the BFPG. More details will be given at the next Meeting on Tuesday, 25 January 2011.

Mrs Liz Davies

ITEM 3 – TREASURER'S REPORT

5. The Treasurer told the Meeting that the Income and Expenditure from the Quiz Night had been:

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Entry	324.00	Maureen Bick	22.57
Raffle	93.00	Derek Sebbage	3.66
		Wine etc	48.48
Total	<u>417.00</u>	£74.71	<u>74.71</u>

Total Income over Expenditure: £342.29

6. Cllr and Mrs Clark had kindly donated £30 for the hire of the Parish Hall and a further generous donation of £10 had been received from Mr and Mrs Tony Howell.

7. The balance in the Group's account at the end of 2010 was £1,221.45.

ITEM 4 – VISIT OF CSO STEPHANIE ANNETTE

8. The Chairman welcomed CSO Stephanie Annette, who was well known to the Group. CSO Annette welcomed the opportunity to tell the members present about "The Sign Posting Scheme" which was aimed at helping vulnerable members of the community. The Scheme has been adopted by many agencies and ensures that the right help is given to the right people at the right time. A variety of literature on the Scheme was handed out to members and CSO Annette asked that this be given by those present to residents who would benefit from it.

9. CSO Annette then briefly touched on the work of the Community Support Officer and the importance of vigilance in helping prevent crime in village communities. She also asked for the support of the BFPG members in ensuring that the information she had given was passed to those residents who would benefit from it. **Alternatively, she could be contacted on: 0300 333 3000**

10. The Chairman thanked CSO Annette for her very interesting talk and also for all the literature, pens/pencils and packets of seeds which she had brought along for the members.

ITEM 5 – ORCHARD CLOSE: THE CULVERT IN MR PUGH'S FIELD

11. Cllr Tilford reminded the Group that the culvert and flap valve in the North-East corner of the field near the Moors Brook, together with the associated drainage ditches, had been put in place by the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RL IDB) under contract to the Herefordshire Council after major flooding in 1998/1999 had left many houses in Orchard Close inundated. It was clear that the drainage authorities, learning from earlier flooding, thought these works to be essential at that time.

12. He went on to say that, earlier in the year, concerns had been expressed by the Parish Council on behalf of the BFPG to Mr Martin Jackson (the representative of Amey, the contractors responsible for the culvert) regarding the build up of silt throughout the length of the culvert. The Council had asked him to clear this. Mr Jackson had acknowledged that the responsibility for clearing the culvert of any debris and silt was his. In the meantime, with Mr Pugh's agreement, BFPG working parties cleared and subsequently sprayed with approved herbicide, the ditches around the field, including the area around the Moor Brook flap valve. Having inspected the culvert, Mr Jackson had agreed that the accumulation of debris was blocking 50% of the capacity of the culvert, but said that, in his opinion, this would be cleared by the normal flow of water. The Group felt that it was very unlikely that any normal flow would be sufficient to clear the blockage, especially in light of experience gained as a result of the 2007 flooding.

13. Since discussing the situation further, the Group have been told that it is Mr Pugh's opinion that the culvert, Moor Brook flap valve and drainage ditches, which had been put in at great expense, would play no real part in preventing another

Orchard Close flood. He regarded them as redundant and maintained that the field as a whole acts as a flood storage area. It is the Group's contention that little has changed since the system was put in place after much consideration and cost and that it is essential that it should be maintained by Herefordshire Council as originally agreed by Mr Jackson.

14. It is the Group's intention to continue pressing Herefordshire Council/ Amey to accept their acknowledged responsibility and clear the partially blocked culvert.

ITEM 6 – HEREFORDSHIRE FLOOD STUDY

15. Cllr Tilford recalled that, as a result of the national flooding disaster of 2007, the Pitt Report had been commissioned. Its main recommendation had been that, to avoid the confusion which had occurred in 2007, all local authorities should assume the lead role in dealing with flood risk management. This had become law when the Flood and Water Management Bill was published in 2009.

16. Herefordshire Council had commissioned Mr Brian Faulkner, a consultant hydrologist to identify land/flood drainage issues throughout Herefordshire and suggest flood reduction and alleviation schemes. He had reported to Herefordshire Council/ Amey in March/April 2010.

17. As the Group were aware, Mr Faulkner and Mr Leppard had visited Bodenham as part of this countywide study and had asked the BFPG to assist in producing information for the Report. They had been provided with a full history of flooding in the Parish and, indeed, the results and recommendations of a previous survey on the Millcroft Brook undertaken by Mr Rod Hawnt of Hydrologic on behalf of the BFPG.

18. Cllr Tilford went on to remind the Group that one of the central themes of Sir William Pitt's Report had been the need for co-operation and the sharing of information between the local authority and affected communities and stakeholders. However, despite the fact that the Group had, as long ago as April 2010, invited Mr Jackson to come to one of its monthly meetings to brief members on the recommendations made by Mr Brian Faulkner, he had only just provisionally agreed to come to the Meeting in January 2011.

19. It was understood that Mr Jackson would not be presenting Mr Brian Faulkner's Report and recommendations to Herefordshire Council until early February. Cllr Tilford therefore suggested that Mr Jackson should delay his visit to the Group until the 22nd February Meeting. This would be after Mr Jackson had presented the Report to the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee and therefore should be free to disclose any aspect of the Report and recommendations which affected Bodenham. This was agreed and Cllr Tilford undertook to make the necessary arrangements via Cllr Grumbley.

**Cllr Tilford
Cllr Grumbley**

ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. **Possible Contamination of the Millcroft Brook.** Mr Tim Burnill told the Group that he had seen foam/ spume in the Millcroft Brook by the Brockington Bridge. The Secretary told the Meeting that Mr Les Harrison of the RL IDB was aware that this was happening. It was thought to come from the farmers' fields further up the brook. Mr Harrison had also been informed that two dead sheep had been pulled from the brook where it runs through the Golf Course.

21. **Clearance of Debris from the River Lugg.** Cllr Tilford told the Meeting that the blockage of debris and trees by the railway bridge by the Railway Inn had now been cleared. Mrs Eva Lloyd who, along with Cllr Mullenger had informed the Group of the blockage, had been made aware that it had now been removed.

22. **Visit to UK Flood Barriers at Droitwich.**

a. The Chairman told members that the visit had been agreed for Wednesday, 2 February 2011 from 10.30pm until noon. Upon arrival, the Group will be given warm refreshments and told about UK Flood Barrier's products. They will then be given a demonstration of these in its flood tank. After the demonstration, there will be an opportunity for members to ask any questions.

b. Members wishing to take part in the visit to UK Flood Barriers were invited to sign up. Depending on numbers it might be possible to arrange a minibus for those who do not wish to take their own vehicles. Full details and the form to sign up for the visit would be attached to the Minutes. Alternatively, members should contact the Secretary, who will advertise the visit again at the 25 January Meeting.

Secretary

23. There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 8.20 pm. The next Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 25 January 2011.

Signed: P Sanford, Chairman

25 January 2011

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

Visit to UK Flood Barriers Limited, Droitwich
Wednesday, 2nd February 2011

UK Flood Barriers at Droitwich have agreed to a visit by the BFPG on Wednesday, 2nd February 2011. A minibus will be hired to take members for the visit and it will depart from Siward James car park at 0900hrs. The journey should take about an hour. There will be a charge for the hire of the minibus – which will be confirmed once numbers are known.

On arrival we will be given coffee, tea and refreshments in a heated upstairs room that overlooks the “Demonstration Tank”. The Group will then be invited into the tank room, which is unheated, for the demonstration of the “Flood Angel” equipment in action. This will last around half an hour. We shall then be invited back up to the heated room for a question and answer session. The entire visit should take no longer than an hour and a half.

If you would like to attend, please put your name below. The closing date will be Tuesday, 25 January after the BFPG Meeting. Please tick if you would like to: 1. Make use of the mini bus or 2. Take your own car and 2a. be prepared to take passengers.

Name	<u>Option 1.</u> Yes, I would like to use the minibus	<u>Option 2.</u> No, I would prefer to take my own vehicle	<u>Option 2a.</u> I am happy to take passengers in my car

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The following have said that they wish to attend. The closing date will be Tuesday, 25 January after the BFPG Meeting. Please tick if you would like to: 1. Make use of the mini bus or 2. Take your own car and 2a. be prepared to take passengers.

Name	<u>Option 1.</u> Yes, I would like to use the minibus	<u>Option 2.</u> No, I would prefer to take my own vehicle	<u>Option 2a.</u> I am happy to take passengers in my car
Mike Stephens	X		
Lorna Price	X		
Tim & Rebecca Burnill		X	3 spare seats
Simon Nickols	X		
Tony and Kay Clark		X	3 Spare seats
Jean Fryer	X		
Robert Pritchard	X		
Tricia Sanford TBC			
Babs and Tony Mitcheson	X		
Totals as at 30.11.10	7	2	6