

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINTUES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER 2012

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the final Meeting of the year. He said that the intention had been that this should be a very short meeting with little on the Agenda and with the focus on the wine and nibbles afterwards. However, somewhat ironically, there was actually rather a lot to discuss.</p> <p>2. He started by thanking everyone who had helped in any way during the recent severe weather. November had been an ‘interesting’ month with a lot of rain, and four real downpours. On the first, second and fourth of these occasions (21, 22 and 27 November) the water level in the Millcroft Brook had peaked at over 0.8m, but during the third episode on 24/25 November it had reached over 1.8m, a whole metre higher. As most members would be aware, this had led to temporary flooding on the C1125 and in Brockington Road and the relief channel had been in full operation. In addition, there had been some flooding in Orchard Close. However, thanks to all the Group’s hard work, the water in each of these places was able to get away quite quickly and, although many people had taken sensible precautions, no houses had been in any real danger of actually flooding.</p> <p>3. The Chairman went on to note that a lot of water had also come down Millcroft Road (C1121) to the extent that the following morning (25 November) Miss Lorna Price had found a trout in the road which she had returned to the Brook after photographing it for posterity. Of rather more concern was that, yet again, sleepers had been washed downstream from the Golf Course, one ending up within inches of the telemetry system, a second across the Millcroft Farm culvert and a third at the entrance to the Ketch Lane culverts. (These were the ones which had been found; others might, of course, have been washed into the River Lugg). This was a matter of real concern since any one of the sleepers could have blocked the watercourse and caused far more serious flooding. He would therefore be asking the Parish Council at its Meeting on 3 December to send a letter to the Golf Course requesting that prompt action be taken to prevent a recurrence.</p> <p>4. The Chairman added that, although the Brook was still running, its flow had slowed because the River Lugg was now high and the Ketch Lane junction was flooded. He, the Secretary, and Miss Price had removed a great deal of debris from the entrance to the culverts there and this was now piled on the roadside. He would be asking the Parish Clerk to request Amey Herefordshire to remove it.</p> <p>5. <u>Attendance and Apologies.</u> There were 38 members present and apologies were received from Mr Nickols.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>6. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the October Meeting which had been circulated earlier. Mr Clark proposed that the Minutes should be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Mr Brown and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>7. <u>Project Bodenham Update.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that he had promised at the last Meeting not to mention Project Bodenham again. However, he felt that it was worth recording that he and the Secretary had had an on-site meeting with UK Flood Barriers Limited and Flash Flood Doors Limited on 6 November which had resolved a number of issues.</p> <p>b. The Project has now finally been signed off with Amey and the firms concerned.</p> <p>8. <u>Meeting to Discuss the ‘Buddy System’.</u></p> <p>a. <u>The Role of Area Representatives.</u> The Chairman next reported that on Monday, 26 November he had held a meeting with all the Area Representatives to discuss their roles with regard to the “Buddy” System. He felt that this get-together had been very constructive, especially in the light of the weather over the past week. He had taken all the points raised by the Representatives and would draft an Annex to the BFPG Constitution on the role of the Area Representatives as discussed at the meeting. This will be presented to the BFPG’s next Meeting in January for consideration.</p> <p>b. <u>High Water Alerts.</u></p> <p>(1) The Chairman went on to remind members that, at a meeting soon after the installation of the telemetry system, the Parish Council had agreed that the Parish would cover the cost of the messaging service up to £70 <i>per annum</i> on the grounds that the telemetry system served all local residents, and not just the BFPG. The Secretary had just paid Hydro-Logic on behalf of the Parish Council for another £30 worth of SMS alerts and this had brought into focus just how many people were on the original alert list sent to Mr Hawnt, and raised the question of how many actually needed to be on it.</p> <p>(2) Mr Hawnt had pointed out that the water level in the Brook reached 0.5m fairly frequently without then rising much further and that alerting everybody on the list every time this happened was rather a waste of money. He had suggested that the alert levels should be raised from 0.5m and 1.0m to 0.8m and 1.2m. A counter-argument to this was that the water level could rise very rapidly and early warning was essential if everyone was to be warned and have time to take flood precautions in an emergency.</p> <p>(3) After some discussion it was agreed that those members who live closest to the Brook and the three key Executive Members</p>	<p>Chairman</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>(Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) should be the only ones to receive the 0.5m alert in future and all other Area Representatives would be alerted at the 0.8m point and then at 1.2m. It was also agreed that few people saw e-mail alerts and these could be discontinued. (<u>Afternote</u>. Mr Hawnt has implemented the new lists and alert settings. However, he has pointed out that, while SMS messages cost money, e-mail alerts are free and provide a useful back up because SMS messages are often delayed. On his advice, therefore, email alerts are being retained).</p> <p>c. <u>High Visibility Jackets</u>. Continuing, the Chairman said that another point which had been raised at the Area Representatives' Meeting had been the need for high visibility waterproof jackets for Area Representatives with some marking to show that they were acting in an 'official' BFPG capacity. This would be especially useful when they had to visit properties to warn householders in the dark and possibly in the early hours of the morning. It was agreed that the Secretary would investigate the purchase of jackets for loan to the Area Representatives. She also agreed to contact Mr Daniel Trewin at the Environment Agency to see if he could arrange for the Agency to donate some jackets to the Group.</p> <p>d. <u>LED Head Torches</u>. Another point made at the Area Representatives' Meeting had been that, as the 24/25 November episode had shown, putting up the barriers in the dark with a hand torch was not an easy task. It had been suggested that those who had barriers to put up should equip themselves with a LED head torch for use at night. The Chairman commended this to members and Miss Price remarked that such torches could be purchased inexpensively. It was therefore agreed that this was a matter for individual householders and that there would be no need for a bulk buy from Group funds.</p> <p>e. <u>Practice Session with Pumps</u>. The Chairman next reported that the Area Representatives had discussed the deployment of the two pumps owned by the Group. These were currently held by Mr Stephens in Orchard Close and one pump with 100m of hose was needed to allow water to be pumped into the ditch around Mr Pugh's field at the West end of the Close. The second pump was free to be deployed elsewhere, but there was only about 20m of hose to go with it. Mr Nicolson proposed that additional hoses should be purchased, the likely cost being about £144 including VAT. This was seconded by Mr Avery and agreed.</p> <p>f. <u>Test Exercise</u>. The Chairman reminded members of the plan to have a test practice at some point now that all the Environment Agency-funded flood protection measures were in place. However, after the successful action taken by the Area Representatives during the 24/25 November alert, there seemed little point in doing so, at least for the moment.</p> <p>g. <u>Maund Bryan</u>.</p> <p>(1) The Chairman invited Mr Grumbley to outline the situation at Maund Bryan. Mr Grumbley told the meeting that he had written an email to Mr Hall at Herefordshire Council regarding the state of the ditches at Maund Bryan. Whilst the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB), who are also responsible for some of these ditches, have endeavoured to keep them clear, it was his view that the same could not be said for Herefordshire Council, even though they were</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>All</p> <p>Operations Manager</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>aware of the particular problems in the area. He had copied his e-mail to the Chairman of the BFPG and to Mr Harrison at the RLIDB, who was due to meet with Mr Hall at a Flood Co-ordination Meeting on 4 December.</p> <p>(2) Mr Grumbley went on to say that he would like to have more sandbags as an interim measure pending work by the Council and the RLIDB. It was agreed that he should take as many as required from those held at the Parish Hall and inform the Secretary so that she could update the Sandbag Location Chart.</p> <p>(3) Finally, Mr Grumbley remarked that the only family to suffer flooding in Maund Bryan recently was the one who, despite repeated advice to accept the offer of free flood protection measures under the 'Project Bodenham' Environment Agency Grant, had declined it.</p> <p>9. Grants. The Treasurer reminded members that the Group were keen to obtain grants toward a box culvert to replace the existing twin culverts at the Ketch Lane/ Millcroft Road junction. He reported that he had spoken with Mr David Tristram at Herefordshire Council and it would appear that there were no grants available for such a project at the moment. However, he had promised to continue searching for suitable ones for the Group. The Treasurer added that he himself would be contacting Mr Stockwell from the Jordan Foundation to ask if the Group were eligible for a community grant for a replacement culvert.</p> <p>10. Waders. Mr Hemmings reported that he had found "Grandslam" neoprene waders similar to those already purchased by the Group for £36.95 on line. This was considerably less than the £90 purchase price from Woody's Angling Shop in Hereford where the Group's existing waders had been purchased. Mr Hemmings added that it was possible to purchase budget thigh waders for £29.99 each. It was proposed by Mr George and seconded by Mr Avery that the Group should purchase one pair of Grandslam Chest Waders in size 6 and Ocean Budget Thigh Waders in sizes 6, 7 and 8 for working in the brook.</p> <p>11. BFPG Fund-Raising Quiz Night.</p> <p>a. The Chairman remarked that the Quiz Night had been a huge success and he thanked Mrs Maureen Bick and her team for organising yet another wonderful evening and, with her husband, for providing all the sandwiches and nibbles for the tables. He also thanked Mrs Tricia Sanford and her team for conducting the Quiz, Mrs Liz Davies for organising the Raffle, Mr and Mrs Watson for their help in setting out the Parish Hall, and all those other helpers behind the scenes without whom the evening would not have gone so smoothly.</p> <p>b. The Treasurer reported that the Quiz Night had raised a total of £360.53p after expenses. The only feedback to date was that some of those attending had found it to be rather a late evening and it might be better to have slightly fewer categories in future quizzes. Other than that, the evening had been much enjoyed by all.</p>	<p>Mr Grumbley</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Mr Hemmings</p>
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>12. The Treasurer reported that he had paid £13.50 for the hire of Siward James for</p>	<p>Treasurer</p>

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<p>August, September and October and that, including the monies raised from the Quiz Night, the total balance in the account now stood at £2,014.31.</p> <p>13. The breakdown from the Quiz Night was:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Income:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Entry: 46 people x £6</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£276.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Raffle</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£92.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£428.00</u></td> </tr> </table> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Expenditure:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Wine – Winning Team</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>£67.47</u></td> </tr> </table> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Total Profit</u> <u>£360.53</u></p>	Entry: 46 people x £6	£276.00	Raffle	£92.00	Donations	£60.00	Total	<u>£428.00</u>	Wine – Winning Team		Food		Total	<u>£67.47</u>	
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<p><u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u></p> <p>14. <u>BBC West Midlands Inside Out Programme.</u> The Chairman told the meeting that First Look TV, who were putting together a piece on flooding for the BBC West Midland’s <i>Inside Out</i> programme, had asked to come to Bodenham to see the work of the BFPG. The TV crew had been given a detailed briefing on the BFPG, had toured the Village, had interviewed the Secretary at the Ketch Lane culverts and at home, had seen the telemetry system, and had interviewed Mr David Harris at his house. They had said that the programme was likely to go out on Monday, 10 December and they thought that the section on flood protection would be about 8 minutes long, of which the BFPG might get 1 or 2 minutes. (<u>Afternote.</u> The Secretary has been told that the programme has been rescheduled for 30th December at 5.30pm on BBC1).</p> <p>15. <u>Talk to Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council.</u> The Chairman reported that he had been invited to talk to Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council about the BFPG on Thursday evening (29 November) as they would appear to have flooding problems similar to ours. It was possible that he might be invited to talk to the Parish at an open meeting on flooding at a later date.</p>															
<p><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p> <p>16. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The Chairman reminded members that the next Meeting would be on Tuesday, 29 January as there would not be a meeting in December.</p> <p>17. <u>Coffee Morning: Saturday, 2 February 2013.</u> The Chairman invited Mrs Liz Davies to talk about the first fund-raising event in 2013, the annual Coffee Morning. Mrs Davies first thanked all those who had donated such a wonderful array of prizes for the Quiz Night Raffle. She then told the meeting that the Coffee Morning would take place on Saturday, 2 February 2013. It would be advertised on the Parish Website and in the January and February <i>Newsletters</i> and posters and flyers would be out next year to remind every one. It would again take place in the Siward James Centre and</p>															

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<p>there would be a Grand Draw, a Cake Stall and Tombola as well as refreshments. She said that that she would welcome all prizes by the end of January either to her or to Margaret James as Prize Co-ordinator.</p>	<p>Mrs Davies All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 7 –ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>18. <u>Maintenance Letter from UK Flood Barriers.</u> The Chairman noted that he had received a letter from Sarah Vaughan, the CEO of UK Flood Barriers, reminding those who had received flood protection equipment of the need to maintain it properly. If they were in any doubt as to how to do this, the firm was offering to give practical help and advice for a fee.</p> <p>19. <u>National Flood Forum (NFF): Request for an E-Petition on Flood Insurance.</u> The Chairman reminded the Group that the Statement of Principles between the Government and the insurance industry expired in April 2013 and it was very important that some sort of follow-on agreement should be reached before that date. Because of the risk that this might not happen, the NFF have submitted a request to the House of Commons to run an ‘E-Petition’ regarding flood insurance. The NFF are asking that, if this is approved, as many people as possible across the country should sign it to ensure that the issue is debated in Parliament. (<u>Afternote.</u> Permission for the E-Petition has been granted and the details of how to sign it have been circulated by the Secretary).</p> <p>20. <u>Thanks.</u> Miss Gibson asked for a vote of thanks for the work carried out by the members of the Flood Group during the past year to be recorded in the Minutes.</p> <p>21. <u>Repairs to Flood Barriers.</u> She also advised those who have flood barriers that, should the rubber foam at the side come away, evo-stick was the most appropriate glue to use to adhere it to the barrier frame.</p> <p>22. <u>Sandbag Cage Locks.</u> Mr Pritchard, the Area Representative for Chapel Lane and Orchard Close, reported that during the 24/25 November episode he had been unable to open the combination lock on the sandbag cage at the Chapel Lane/ Orchard Close junction and had had to break it to get to the sandbags inside. It was agreed that, whilst the combination locks had seemed a good idea, they were susceptible to the weather and unreliable. It was therefore agreed that ordinary locks with keys would be purchased for all the cages and a set of keys given to each of the Area Representatives.</p> <p>23. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.05pm. He thanked all the members of the Group for their support and hard work throughout the year and wished them all a very Happy Christmas.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Treasurer</p>

Bodenham Flood Protection Group

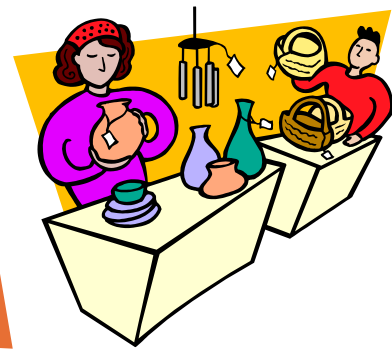
Invite you to a

COFFEE MORNING

On Saturday 2nd February 2013

at Seward James Centre

From 10.00am to 12 noon



**Cake Stall, Tombola and Draw
Exhibition of photographs from the
Village by the
Bodenham Flood Protection Group**

Free Admission

All Are Welcome.

For more information contact Liz Davies: 797628