

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 29th NOVEMBER 2011

Item	Action
<p><u>ITEM 1 – WELCOME</u></p> <p>1. In the Chairman's absence, Mr Clark welcomed members of the Group to the last Meeting of 2011. He said that those who had email would be aware that the Chairman had been invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the Brimfield Flood Protection Group and sent his apologies. Cllr Mitcheson had wanted personally to thank all members of the Group for all their contributions to what has been an extremely successful year for the BFPG, but had had to resort to doing this in writing. For those members not on email, a printed copy of his message was available on the tables.</p> <p>2. There were 34 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Mitcheson (Chairman), Mr and Mrs Dennis Brown, Mr Wayne Best, Mrs Rebecca Burnill, Mr Robin George and Mrs Tricia Sanford.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. Mr Clark asked if members were happy that the Minutes were an accurate record of the October Meeting. Mr Simon Dowler proposed that the Minutes should be accepted, this was seconded by Mrs Gwen Bowden, and was agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. Mr Clark told the Meeting that Item 3a - "Project Bodenham" Update would be discussed under Agenda Item 5.</p> <p>5. <u>"Know Your Flood Risk"</u>. The Launch of the 2011 "<i>Know Your Flood Risk</i>" Campaign took place on Monday, 7th November at the Parish Hall. Over 100 people attended the flood protection Exhibition during the day and a similar number came to the Open Forum on flood insurance in the evening. Herefordshire Council, the Environment Agency and Mrs Mary Dhonau, the organiser, had been delighted by the turnout, and also by all the help given by the Flood Group, not only in supporting the event, but in providing car park attendants and running the café. The café had made a total of £45.62 after expenses. Mr Clark thanked all those who had helped with the event which had further raised the profile of both Bodenham and the BFPG.</p> <p>6. <u>Quiz Night.</u></p> <p>a. The annual fund raising Quiz Night had been held at the Parish Hall on Saturday, 12th November. It was yet another huge success and many</p>	

thanks went to Mrs Maureen Bick and her team for putting on such a well organised event. A big thank you was also owed to Mrs Tricia Sanford and her team for some very good, wide-ranging and testing questions. Mr Clark noted that 57 people had been present which was three more than in 2010.

b. The breakdown of the funds raised was:

Entrance Fee:	£342
Auction:Pride of Herefordshire Champagne	£25
Raffle:	£118
Bottle of Wine:	£3
Donations:	£70

Total raised **£558**

c. Mr Clark added that it was felt that, if the event had been held on a Friday evening, many more people would have attended. He reminded members that one of the reasons that the Quiz Night had been held on a Saturday was that there had been difficulties in finding a Quiz Master. This had led to delays with the result the Group had found itself running out of dates on which the Parish Hall was still available for bookings. He suggested that, as the Quiz Night had now become an annual fixture in the BFPG's calendar, and as Mrs Sanford had indicated that she would be willing to be the Quiz Master again, it would make sense to fix a date at the next BFPG Meeting in January before the Parish Hall became booked up.

Secretary

ITEM 4 – TREASURER'S REPORT

7. The Treasurer stated that at the start of the year the balance of the account had stood at £1,221.45 and, after total expenditure for the year of £540.04, the account balance was now a very healthy £2,087.26.

8. He reminded members that, from this total, they had agreed at the October Meeting to purchase a heavy duty brush cutter, complete with a safety helmet and harness. Also, the Operations Manager had suggested that the Group should purchase safety goggles for members of any working party working close to the strimmers. The purchase of these items would obviously reduce the account balance in due course.

ITEM 5 – UPDATE ON “PROJECT BODENHAM”: THE PPL GRANT

9. Mr Clark went on to say that, as part of the PPL Grant, UK Flood Barriers had now started to fit the flood protection equipment to the properties identified in the survey as being at risk. It had been made clear to both Amey and UK Flood Barriers that we want all the equipment to be installed as soon as possible - preferably by Christmas, but by the end of the year at the latest. This has therefore become a “rolling programme” - that is, as soon as the equipment comes off the production line, it is being fitted to the property.

10. Because of this, it has been hard to make a clear plan and to give property owners very much advance warning of installation. However, it was felt that this

<p>would be acceptable if it resulted in all the equipment being in place with the minimum delay. There have been a few hiccups, but as soon as the Secretary has been made aware of these, she has reported them back to the Operations Manager at UK Flood Barriers. They, in turn, have apologised and have said that they will try to make sure that as few errors as possible occur with the rest of the installations.</p> <p>11. Mr Clark stressed that, if anyone had any issues, they should let the Secretary know as soon as possible, as she is in constant liaison with both UK Flood Barriers and the Team Leader here in the Village.</p> <p>12. He added that, although final confirmation is still awaited, Amey have indicated that those who are having equipment fitted by UK Flood Barriers and Flash Flood Doors will not be required to make any contribution toward the purchase of equipment for their properties.</p>	All
<p><u>ITEM 6 – VILLAGE FLOOD WARNING TELEMETRY SYSTEM</u></p> <p>13. Continuing, Mr Clark said that those members who had listened to BBC Hereford and Worcester on Monday, 7 November, or to the Tuesday broadcast, might have heard that the Village has been very fortunate in being given a flood warning telemetry system by Mr Rod Hawnt of Hydro-Logic Ltd. For those who were not aware, it was also Mr Hawnt who had produced the original hydrology report for the Group to explain to Herefordshire Council and Amey that one of the main problems with the Millcroft Brook was the pinch point at the Millcroft/Ketch Lane junction. His conclusions had subsequently been confirmed by Mr Brian Faulkner’s hydrology survey commissioned by Herefordshire Council last year.</p> <p>14. As part of the flood protection measures for the Village, Amey had recommended that an early warning telemetry system should be installed in the Millcroft Brook. The system would be designed to monitor local rainfall and the flow of water along the Brook and to transmit a warning <i>via</i> email and mobile phone to let those signed up to the system know when there is a danger of the Brook overflowing. This would not only give those who are vulnerable time to put up their flood barriers, it would also alert the rest of the Village to the situation while there was still time to take precautions. It would be especially useful to those who are likely to be away from their properties a lot, for example at work.</p> <p>15. Mr Hawnt’s system is called the Frog GPRS Flood Level Logger and he has asked to be allowed to give us a presentation on it. It has been suggested that he should do this at our January Meeting, which is on Tuesday, 31st January. As soon as the Secretary has confirmation that he has agreed to a date, the Group will be informed. (<u>Afternote:</u> At the December meeting of the Parish Council the Chairman reported Hydro-Logic’s generous offer and welcomed Councillors to attend the Hydro-Logic presentation when a date was known).</p>	Secretary
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p> <p>16. The Operations Manager thanked all those who had helped with the Working Party sessions throughout the year. He was very pleased with the progress the Group had made on all the maintenance issues and said that it had been a pleasure working with them.</p>	

<p>17. Looking forward to 2012, he said that, as the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board had now cut the high hedges in Mr Maldwyn Pugh’s field, the clearance of the resultant debris would be one of the Group’s first tasks.</p> <p>18. He also asked all members to be vigilant on their walks around the Parish between now and the start of the New Year. He asked that they let him, Mr Tony Clark, or Mr Robin George know if there were any areas that might cause concern, for example, garden or other rubbish fly tipped - as has already been reported - near the Smeadals Lane/Millcroft Road bridge, blocked drains, or debris dumped into ditches.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 8 – COFFEE MORNING</u></p> <p>19. Mr Clark informed members that Mrs Liz Davies has once again agreed to run the fund-raising coffee morning next year. The coffee mornings have been very successful and in the last three years Mrs Davies and her team of helpers have raised over £1,389 from them and a table top sale.</p> <p>20. Mrs Davies said that the next Coffee Morning would take place at Siward James on Saturday, 4th February from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. The poster advertising the event would be in the December/January and February issues of the <i>Newsletter</i>. More advertising would appear around the Parish nearer the date. In addition to refreshments, there would be Tombola and a Draw, with all tickets priced at £1. Anyone, who had items that would be suitable for these, were asked to contact her.</p> <p>21. She went on to reiterate that, although the Group’s account balance looked healthy at present, there would be further expenditure in the future which would include the purchase of the brush cutter and all the safety equipment agreed at the October Meeting. It was therefore necessary to keep the fund-raising events going to meet these ongoing commitments.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>22. <u>New Resource Group – PLP Steering Group Meeting.</u></p> <p>a. Mr Clark next reported that, as a result of the BFPG’s work, and especially the support it had given at the “<i>Know Your Flood Risk</i>” Campaign Launch on 7th November, the Secretary has been asked to join a Steering Group to discuss Personal Level Protection, including the effect that this will have on flood insurance for properties. The Steering Group wishes to get the views of communities and residents who have benefited from the Environment Agency grants. Other members of the Steering Group will include representatives from local authorities, the Environment Agency, Defra, the Association of British Insurers, and suppliers of flood protection equipment. The Meeting will be chaired by Mr Robbie Craig from Defra on Tuesday 10th January in London. The fact that the BFPG have been asked to have a “communities and residents” representative on the Steering Group is a mark of recognition of the Group’s achievement.</p>	

<p>b. Mr Clark noted that members of the Group had taken part in a survey in January 2010 regarding flood insurance issues. He asked that, nevertheless, if they have any more up-to-date information regarding loadings or other increases on their flood insurance for this year, or if they have any other concerns regarding flood risk insurance, they should let the Secretary know as soon as possible so that she is fully prepared for the Defra Meeting.</p> <p>23. <u>Trees in the River Lugg.</u> Mr Clark informed members that he had received a report that two trees, one above the Church and one just below, had fallen in to the River Lugg. These had also been reported to Mr Paul Senior, the Navigation Officer. Mr Rodney Minchin said that there were now two fallen trees in the river below the Church. Mr Clark replied that this new information would be passed on to the Navigation Officer.</p> <p>24. <u>Blocked Storm Drains.</u> He went on to say that the blocked storm drain between 15 and 17 Ash Grove View had been reported to Amey many times in the past by the Parish Clerk. It had also been reported again as recently as August, when the last Parish Walk of the Millcroft Brook took place, but it was obvious that nothing had happened to clear either the drain or the flap valve (No.7). He said that he would once again bring this to the attention of the Parish Council at its next meeting on Monday, 5th December.</p> <p>25. <u>NatWest Community Force Project.</u> Mrs Liz Davies asked if the Group had been successful in their bid for a grant from the NatWest Community Force Scheme. The Secretary replied that proposed projects were not assessed on their individual merits; instead the Scheme relied entirely on supporters and members of the public voting on-line for their favourite initiatives. The BFPG had therefore not been successful in their bid for funding.</p> <p>26. <u>Thanks.</u> Mrs Gwen Bowden thanked all the members of the Group for their efforts on behalf of the village in the last twelve months. It has been a highly successful year for the BFPG and the village had reaped the benefit of their hard work.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Mr Mullenger</p> <p>Mr Clark</p>
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p>	
<p>27. Mr Clark reminded the Group that there will be no meeting in December and that the next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 31st January 2012 at 7.30pm. Posters with the Group’s meeting dates for 2012 are already around the village and will be in the December/January <i>Newsletter</i> and on the Parish Website.</p>	

Cllr K.A. Mitcheson
Chairman

31st January 2012