

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2013

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p>	
<p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of 2013 and especially the Group's guest, Dr Bianca Ambrose-Oji from Forest Research, the Social and Economic Research Group tasked by the Environment Agency (EA) to look into the working relationship between the EA and voluntary workers and groups working with, or for, the Environment Agency. Dr Ambrose-Oji told the Group that she had heard of the work of the BFPG <i>via</i> Mr Trewin at the EA and had expressed a desire to meet the members as part of her case studies. She was especially keen to find out why, after some 5 years since the 2007 floods, the Group still functioned, why members had volunteered in the first place and what they each got from being a volunteer. The Chairman suggested that, after the close of formal business, the floor should be given to Dr Ambrose-Oji to discuss these questions with everybody present and this was agreed.</p>	
<p>2. The Chairman went on to say that there was not much to report on the flooding front since the October Meeting. On 2 and 4 November the water level in the Millcroft Brook had risen to just 0.2m, that is about 8 inches, but, apart from that, it had been right down. He had therefore not produced the customary telemetry system graph for the Meeting as it was more or less a straight line. He stressed, however, that members should not be complacent. The Winter was ahead and he urged all those who had flood protection equipment to check that it was ready for use and, if necessary, to practise putting it in place.</p>	
<p>3. <b><u>High Visibility Vests.</u></b> The Chairman remarked that members would be pleased to hear that most of the Area Representatives are now proud owners of new high visibility vests clearly marked with "Flood Group" in bold on the back and front. These were presented to the Group by Mr Trewin on behalf of the EA on Monday, 25 November at Millcroft Farm. Also at the presentation was Cllr Jeremy Millar, our District Councillor for the Hampton Court Ward, and some 15 BFPG members. Photographs of the presentation with a short description of the event have been sent to <i>The Hereford Times</i> and also to Mr Trewin for publication through the EA.</p>	
<p>4. <b><u>Drinks and Nibbles.</u></b> The Chairman reminded members that to celebrate another successful year for the BFPG and to provide a relaxed atmosphere in which members could talk to Dr Ambrose-Oji, there would be drinks and nibbles for everyone as soon as the business of the evening had been concluded.</p>	
<p>5. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 33 members present and apologies were received from Mr Tilford and Mrs Parker.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p>	
<p>6. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the October Meeting</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>which had been circulated earlier with the Agenda and which were also available in hard copy on the tables for those members without computers. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Councillor Avery, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>7. The Chairman said that there did not appear to be any outstanding matters arising from the October Meeting. He asked if any members had any points they wished to discuss, but none were raised.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>8. The Chairman reported on behalf of the Treasurer that the balance as at 26 November stood at £2,412.07. There had been no income over the past month and the only expenditure agreed at the last Meeting was a contribution of £50 towards Mr Stephens' costs for the Advanced Herbicide Course which he had taken and passed in October.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></b></p> <p>9. <b><u>Fund-Raising Coffee Morning (Saturday, 8 February 2014)</u></b>. The Chairman reminded members that Mrs Davies would once again be organising a fund-raising Coffee Morning at the Siward James Centre on Saturday, 8 February 2014. Mrs Davies told members that there would be an exhibition of photographs in the foyer of the work undertaken by the Group in 2012 and that she had most of her team already in place for the Tombola, Draw, Coffee and Tea, and the Cake Stall. She would welcome more helpers to assist those who had already agreed to run stalls. To keep matters simple, apart from the Cake Stall on which items would be priced individually, the Tombola and Draw tickets would cost £1. She asked for prizes for the Tombola to be given to Mrs Butcher and Draw prizes to herself. Mrs Nicolson (11 Ash Grove View) would appreciate it if any cakes could be delivered to her in advance for pricing. The Chairman thanked Mrs Davies for all that she had done in running all the very successful fund-raising coffee mornings since 2008 and looked forward to yet another one in 2014.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></b></p> <p>10. The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary had taken the opportunity of Mr Trewin's visit on 25 November to talk about the Ketch Lane culverts. As members were aware, the Ketch Lane/ Millcroft Road culverts are not an Environment Agency responsibility. It is the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board which is responsible for the Millcroft Brook and Herefordshire Council's Highways Department which is responsible for the road over the Brook and the culverts themselves. However, Mr Trewin had offered to send the Secretary a list of funding bodies which she might be able to approach for money for a replacement box culvert. He had also promised to try and obtain a more up to date estimate of how much such a replacement would cost.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<b><u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b>	
<p>11. <b><u>Orchard Close Drainage System.</u></b></p> <p>a. Mr Stephens reported that the hedges on the edge of the ditch in Mr Pugh’s field to the West of Orchard Close had become very overgrown and, if not cut back, would pose a problem for the Group’s working party sessions in 2014. The Chairman said that he had recently seen Mr Harrison, the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB) Engineer, and Mr Harrison had agreed that the hedges needed attention. Now that there was partial access to the hedges (the field having been previously inaccessible due to a crop of maize), Mr Harrison had said that he would endeavour to get machinery into the field to trim back the hedges.</p> <p>b. Mr Stephens also raised the question of the silting up of the culvert in the drainage system which had been a source of concern for the last 5 years. He said that the culvert was now at least ¾ full of silt and the build up of silt had caused the culvert exit and the ditch downstream of it to be higher than the entrance. Although the Group could continue to keep the ditches clear, the tasks of clearing the silt from the culvert, which had become increasingly solid over the last 5 years, and of re-profiling the ditch were beyond the ability of the Group. He was very concerned that, should there be another bout of severe weather, surface water would not be able to get away to the Moor Brook and the result would be water backing up into the properties in Orchard Close as it had done in 2007.</p> <p>c. The Chairman reminded members that the drainage system had been constructed after the flooding in April 1998 by the RLIDB under contract to Herefordshire Council and its maintenance remained their - Herefordshire Council’s - responsibility. This point had been made clear on many occasions to Amey Herefordshire and their view that a surge of water would clear the culvert had shown a lack of understanding of the problem. The Chairman noted that he had raised the issue with both the last and the current Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council and that Cllr Millar, the Parish’s District Councillor, was aware of the situation. The Chairman concluded by saying that he could do no more than continue to raise it at every opportunity.</p>	<p><b>Chairman</b></p>
<p>12. <b><u>Fallen Tree on the River Lugg.</u></b> Mr Minchin reported that a large tree had fallen partially across the River Lugg. Miss Gibson confirmed that it was near the old weir, that it covered very nearly the entire width of the river, that debris had already started to build up against it, and that there was the potential for a serious blockage to be created. Mr Minchin added that, whilst the tree was there, it would be impossible for any canoeist to navigate that stretch of the river. The Secretary said that she would report the issue to the Navigation Officer.</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p>
<p>13. <b><u>Sandbags at the Parish Hall.</u></b> Miss Gibson reported, and this was confirmed by Mrs Bowden, that the tarpaulins across the sandbags behind the Parish Hall had been removed and the bags were now exposed to the elements. The Chairman said that he and the Secretary would go and replace the tarpaulins. (<b><u>Afternote.</u></b> This was done on 28 November).</p>	<p><b>Chairman Secretary</b></p>
<p>14. <b><u>Thanks.</u></b> Mrs Bowden asked that the thanks of the Group to the Chairman and</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>the Secretary for their work during the past year be recorded. In turn, the Chairman also thanked all members of the Group for their support during 2013, not only by their participation in the working party sessions, but also by their attendance at meetings, at the fund-raising and social events, and in many other ways.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 8 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>15. The Chairman confirmed that the next Meeting, the first of 2014, will take place on Tuesday, 28 January at 7.30pm at the Siward James Centre. Meanwhile, he wished all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>16. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.55 pm. The Chairman then handed over to Dr Ambrose-Oji, so that she could conduct her question and answer session regarding volunteering.</p>	

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

**Chairman: Cllr Tony Mitcheson**  
**Treasurer: Mrs Babs Mitcheson**  
**Operations Manager: Cllr Tony Mitcheson**  
**Secretary: Mrs Babs Mitcheson**

## **The Moor:**

**The Moor Road: Mr Tony Clark: 797943**  
**Orchard Close/Chapel Lane: Mr Robert Pritchard: 797428**  
**Brockington Road (2 -31& 35): Mr Simon Dowler: 797363**  
**Brockington Road (1, 32-34, 36 – 42A): Mrs Rebecca Burnill: 797823**  
**Brockington Road (43- 54): Mrs Gwen Bowden: 797868**  
**Siward James: Mrs Gillian Baines: 797412**  
**Ash Grove Close: Mrs Jean Fryer: 797338**  
**Ash Grove View: Mr David Harris: 797575**  
**Ash Grove View: Cllr Alec Avery: 797744**  
**Millcroft Road: Miss Barbara Gibson: 797643**

## **Bodenham Village:**

**Bridge to War Memorial:**  
**The Forge: Mr Simon Nickols: 797144**  
**Church and Bodenham Village:**  
**Mr David Ayshford Sanford: 797549**  
**Mr Mike Mullenger: 797199**

## **Maund Bryan:**

**Mr Philip Broomhead: 797167**

## **Bodenham Flood Protection Group Meeting Dates 2014**

**These Meetings are open to ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**All Meetings, unless otherwise notified will be held on the last Tuesday of the month at Siward James Centre starting at 7.30 pm**

<b>January</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>29th</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>26th - AGM</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>28th</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>24th</b>		

**If you are unable to attend or have points which you would like to be raised at the meeting, please contact the Secretary Mrs Babs Mitcheson 797170  
Or by email at [BabsMitcheson@aol.com](mailto:BabsMitcheson@aol.com)**

**The above dates will appear in the appropriate month's Bodenham Newsletter and on the Parish Website.**

# Bodenham Flood Protection Group

Invite you to a

## **COFFEE MORNING**

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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**