

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2019

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the February Meeting and gave a particular welcome to Mr Dave Clemence of Brockington House, who was attending a meeting for the first time. The Chairman went on to comment that the weather recently had been so exceptionally mild that he had nothing to say about flood risk.</p> <p>2. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 20 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Davies, Miss Gibson, Mrs Phipps, Mr Rice and Mr Sebbage.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the January 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 Clark, seconded by Mrs Fryer and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>4. <b><u>The Annual Barbecue.</u></b> The Chairman reminded members that at the last Meeting the social events for the year had been discussed and the most suitable dates for the Bonfire Party and Quiz Night had been identified. However, the Annual Barbecue had been left open and he asked if any members would consider hosting it this year. It had usually been held sometime in June or July, at the convenience of the hosts. If anyone would like to volunteer to host it this year, would they please contact the Secretary.</p> <p>5. <b><u>The Annual Quiz Night.</u></b> The Chairman confirmed that Mr and Mrs Bowden have agreed to organise the 2019 Quiz Night and Mr and Mrs Moule have also said that they would be happy once again to run the Quiz itself. They have all agreed to the proposed date of Friday, 29 November and the Secretary has therefore booked the Parish Hall from 5.00pm on that date. The Chairman remarked that the only matter outstanding was whether anyone would be willing to volunteer to run the raffle. This was important because last year the raffle raised £125.00, almost a third of the profit made from the evening. Cllr and Mrs Clark kindly said that they would be willing to run the raffle again in 2019. The Chairman thanked them and the other members who had agreed to organise the event.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Bodenham Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project.</u></b> The Chairman reported that, following the Launch of the Bodenham NFM Project on 23 January, Mrs Beth Lewis, the NFM Project Officer, had contacted him about arranging the first</p>	<p>All</p>

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<p>meeting of the Bodenham Brooks NFM Community Group. It has been decided that this will take place at Siward James on the evening of Tuesday, 12 March from 6.45pm until 7.45pm. Everyone willing to contribute to the Project is welcome to attend, even if they have not previously expressed an interest in it.</p> <p>7. <b><u>Brook House Relief Channel.</u></b> The Chairman noted that at the last Meeting Mr Maxwell had asked if the relief channel around Brook House could be added to the BFPG Working Party Schedule for 2019. The Chairman and Secretary had promised to visit the site with Mr Maxwell to assess what needed to be done and how long the task would take. They have agreed to meet at a time convenient to Mr and Mrs Maxwell.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Chairman Secretary</p>
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p>	
<p>8. The balance at the end of January was £4,632.85</p> <p>9. There was no income in February but expenditure was £64.50, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire of Siward James for October Meeting - £4.50.</li> <li>• Hire of Siward James for the November Meeting, including the Natural Flood Management Presentation and end of 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year party - £30.00.</li> <li>• Hire of Siward James for the Coffee Morning – already covered by a donation - £30.00.</li> </ul> <p>10. The balance of the account at the end of February therefore stands at £4568.35. Outstanding VAT remains at £19.40. (This was for printing of the display and other materials for the BFPG 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration).</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 – CULVERT UPDATE</u></b></p>	
<p>11. The Chairman reminded members that at the last Meeting Cllr Tremain had asked for an update regarding the proposed replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts and of the culvert in the Orchard Close drainage system. Cllr Bruce Baker had kindly undertaken to investigate where matters stood on both issues and during the past month he had spoken to Mr Pugh, who had indicated that in his view the real flooding concern relating to Orchard Close was the replacement by householders of the open watercourse along the North of the Close with inadequate underground pipes in order to extend their gardens.</p> <p>12. Cllr Baker had also written to Mr Joel Hockenhull, the Senior Drainage Engineer at Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) and a meeting had been arranged for 1.30pm on Friday, 22 February at Millcroft Farm. This had been attended by Mr Hockenhull and Mr Mark Watkins from BBLP, as well as Cllr Baker, the Chairman and the Secretary. They had visited the Ketch Lane culverts and discussed both the short and long term issues affecting them.</p> <p>13. For the immediate future Mr Hockenhull questioned why the Chairman and Secretary had taken it upon themselves to clear debris from the culverts. He suggested that they should simply report that debris was in the watercourse and rely on the Locality Steward to arrange for BBLP to remove it. The Chairman expressed his concern that in bad weather BBLP would have many other tasks to perform and would not be able to give this one the priority that the BFPG felt it deserved. Furthermore,</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>even though the damaged railings had been repaired – for which he thanked BBLP – clearing the debris was not a task which could be quickly and easily performed.</p> <p>14. Turning to the long term, Mr Hockenhull said that, as matters stood, the various designs which BBLP had produced for box culverts to replace the existing culverts, as well as Cllr Price’s idea for a longer culvert fully aligned with the Brook, were of little value. This was because no preliminary feasibility study had been carried out to underpin any of them. In addition, he felt that securing the funding for any such replacement project would be challenging because it would come up against the Environment Agency’s cost/ benefit rule, <i>i.e.</i> that the benefit secured by a project should outweigh its cost by 8:1. The Chairman queried why no feasibility study had preceded the design work undertaken by BBLP and expressed concern that Cllr Price, who had promised to take the project forward, should have been placed in a false position by not having been given the necessary evidence to support it.</p> <p>15. In the discussion which followed Mr Hockenhull expressed considerable interest in the culverts, the Brook, the Millcroft Farm relief channel and the telemetry system which he visited after the Meeting. He examined the Millcroft Farm culvert, questioned the Chairman and Secretary about the events of 20 July 2007 and looked through many of the BFPG’s photographs. At his request some 27 of these have been sent to him, together with a copy of Mr Rod Hawnt’s December 2008 report which identified the inadequacy of the Ketch Lane culverts to cope with major flash flooding events.</p> <p>16. Regarding the Orchard Close culvert Mr Hockenhull indicated that it was for the Parish Council to take forward any replacement at its own expense, if it so wished. BBLP have produced a design for such a replacement, but, although not mentioned, the implication from the Ketch Lane discussion is that a feasibility study would have to be conducted first. However, Mr Hockenhull promised to provide the Chairman with the contact details for two suitable contractors, should the Parish Council decide to proceed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>17. <b><u>BFPG Working Party.</u></b> It was provisionally agreed that the first working party session for 2019 would be held on Friday, 26 April. The Secretary would confirm this date nearer the time, with the location and work to be undertaken.</p> <p>18. <b><u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u></b> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26 March 2019.</p> <p>19. There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7.50pm.</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>

Cllr KA Mitcheson  
Chairman

26 March 2019