

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE GROUP'S MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 27 APRIL 2010

Action

ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. Cllr Clark welcomed everyone to the April Meeting on behalf of the Chairman who had been delayed. There were 29 members present who signed the Attendance Register.
2. Apologies were received from Cllr Tilford, Mr David Ashford Sanford, Mr Tracy Morris, Mr and Mrs Robin Hemming, Mr and Mrs Dowler and Mrs Arrowsmith.

ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

3. Certificate of Competence in the Use of Herbicides.

a. Cllr Clark reminded members that in 2009 wet weather had delayed the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RL IDB)'s spraying programme. As a result there had been a build up of watercress in the Millcroft Brook. The vegetation had then come loose and caused a blockage in the culverts at the Ketch Lane junction. The Committee had therefore requested the RL IDB's agreement to the BFPG taking on the task of spraying the watercourses in the Parish, subject to a member of the Group being DEFRA qualified in the use of herbicides. Mr Les Harrison of the RL IDB had confirmed that the Board would be happy with this and Mr Mike Stephens has agreed to gain certification.

b. The Committee had met on Sunday, 25 April to discuss the matter and had agreed to propose that the Group should contribute towards the cost of the two courses, £50 for the Foundation Module and £100 for the Hand Held Applicator Module. The motion to accept this was proposed by Mr Nick Nicolson and seconded by Mrs Ronnie Parker.

c. The Secretary will confirm the Spring Course dates direct with Mr Stephens. Defra's rules state that spraying is not to start until after 15 July annually and it is hoped that Mr Stephens will have certification by this date. Under current rules, certification should remain valid for 5 years.

Secretary

(Afternote: The Secretary has received confirmation from the RL IDB that they will supply the Group with the aquatic herbicide required to maintain the watercourses in the village. Mr Stephens has been informed).

4. **Herefordshire Council's Flood Study.**

a. Cllr Mitcheson reminded the Group of the Flood Study being undertaken by Herefordshire Council, to which the Group had contributed data about the number of properties affected by flooding in 1998 and 2007 and the cost of damage incurred. The Study had been commissioned on behalf of Herefordshire Council by Mr Martin Jackson and he had been invited to update the Group on the Study's findings at either the April or May Meeting.

b. Mr Jackson had replied that, because the Study was covering the entire County, Mr Brian Faulkner, the consultant hydrologist who was conducting the survey, had not yet finished the task. However, his work was nearing completion and Mr Jackson would then be in a position to consider its recommendations and decide on options for any remedial work.

c. Before any action could be initiated, he would first have to pass his findings to the Environment Agency and then to Herefordshire Council for approval. It would only be when he had secured approval from the Council that he would be able to share his ideas with the Group. He had said that he understood that, for the Group, this must seem a long drawn out process, but it was one which had to be carried out in a full and considered manner. He hoped therefore that the Group would bear with him while it was being conducted.

ITEM 3 – TREASURER'S REPORT

5. Cllr Clark reported that the balance held by the Parish Clerk on behalf of the Group was £1,402.65. Mr Tony Troia had kindly made a donation to cover the cost of hiring the Siward James Centre for the Group's Meetings until June 2010.

ITEM 4 – NOTICE OF THE ELECTION OF THE BFPG COMMITTEE

6. Cllr Clark reminded all those present that, in accordance with the Group's Constitution, all Committee positions will be open for election in August. The Secretary drew the Meeting's attention to the list of positions and noted that most Area Representatives had already indicated their willingness to serve for a further year. However, if any member would like to be considered for any of the posts, they should give her their name in writing or by email by no later than 17 August 2010.

All

7. Cllr Clark stated that he would not be standing for re-election as Treasurer. A full Committee List is attached to the Minutes.

ITEM 5 – HEREFORSHIRE VILLAGE HALL CHALLENGE

8. Cllr Grumbley told the Meeting that Bodenham had entered the Herefordshire Village Hall Energy Challenge with an opportunity to win £6,500 for

the Parish Hall. To date, Bodenham was lying 28 out of 29 entries and he urged all members to help improve on this by completing their individual carbon footprint entries on the www.myherefordshire.com website. Provided that they had details of their annual electricity and gas consumption, number of light bulbs, and yearly car mileage to hand before starting, this was a straightforward process which would only take about a half hour. Cllr Grumbley handed out leaflets which explained clearly what was required of participants.

All

ITEM 6 – FUTURE PLANS

9. The Chairman asked Mr Tony Troia, the Working Party Manager, to report on the work undertaken during the Working Party session in Chapel Lane on Friday, 4 April and also to outline plans for future sessions.

10. Mr Troia stated that he would no longer be taking part in Working Party sessions and would, in fact, be resigning from the Group with immediate effect. His reason for doing so was that he felt that, since standing down as Chairman in August 2009, he had not been kept properly informed of Group activities.

11. The Secretary stated that this was not so. Although he was no longer Chairman, as Working Party Manager he was a member of the Committee and had been sent copies of all correspondence, Agendas and Minutes of Meetings.

12. Mr Troia went on to say that he had not been given advance notification that the March Meeting had been cancelled. The Secretary replied that she had tried to speak with Mr Troia personally about this, as it had been the subject of many emails within the Committee, but had been rebuffed. The cancellation had been a committee decision caused by the fact that the resurfacing of the Parish Hall car park had forced the Gardening Club to bring forward the date of their April meeting to Tuesday, 30 March.

13. This clash of dates with the BFPG's March Meeting had been highlighted by the Secretary and discussed by the Committee. Since many key members of the BFPG Committee were also involved in organising the re-arranged Gardening Club Meeting, there was a direct conflict which could not be resolved. After much consideration, the Committee had therefore decided to cancel the Group's March Meeting.

14. The Secretary had then sent an email to the Committee, and to all other BFPG members, explaining the decision and the reasons for it. As usual, she had asked Area Representatives and all members of the Group to ensure that those without email access were notified of the cancellation, and she had placed a notice at Siward James to the same effect.

15. Mr Troia commented that, while this might be so, he was very busy and did not have time to read emails. He remained convinced that he had been deliberately cut out of communication within the Group and would therefore be resigning.

16. Cllr Clark thanked Mr Troia for all his work for the Group since its inception, initially as its first Chairman and subsequently as Working Party

Manager, and this was warmly endorsed by all present. Mr Troia having left the Meeting, it was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to him.

Secretary

(Afternote: A letter of thanks has been written and personally handed to Mr Troia by the Chairman).

17. **Working Party Sessions.**

a. Cllr Clark reported that the first Working Party session of the year had taken place on Friday, 4 April at Chapel Lane. Ditches had been cleared and grips re-cut through the bank between the road and the ditch up to Hillview House. The next Working Party, which would meet on Friday, 30 April at 6.30 pm at the Chapel car park, would continue this work up to the “bend by the footpath”. The session would be led by Cllr Clark and Mr Mike Stephens. A show of hands indicated that 14 members would be attending it.

b. It was agreed that future Working Party sessions should be announced in advance. These will be notified to all members of the Group by email, and notices will also be placed at the Post Office and Saffron’s Garage. It was accepted that advertising Working Party sessions in the *Newsletter* would not be viable because of the long lead times involved. Cllr Clark noted that the need for good communication had been particularly highlighted at the Meeting and stressed the importance of all members, and not just the Area Representatives, keeping each other informed of the activities of the Group.

Secretary

All

c. The Schedule of Works for 2010 shows that the following areas have been identified as needing attention in the coming season:

(1) **The Orchard Close Culvert.** The pipe running along the Baches boundary is already half full of silt and action will be needed to try and clear as much of this as possible.

(2) **Brockington Studio.** The three drains next to the Studio already cleared by the Group need attention again.

(3) **The Post Office Drain.** This has already been cleared several times, but needs further attention to stop soil and weeds blocking it.

(4) **Bodenham Church.** Mr Troia had been in talks with Cllr Stan Davies of the Parochial Church Council regarding siting a pump under the floor of the Church to enable rapid pumping of water should the Church be flooded again. It is understood that the PCC are, in principle, in favour of the suggestion. Mr Mike Stephens has also identified a ditch which runs alongside the graveyard which may need attention in future.

(5) **Flood Marker.** It was agreed that a flood depth gauge should be placed by the Millcroft/Ketch Lane culvert to allow the depth of

the water to be monitored.

18. **Social Events.**

a. The Chairman asked if members would like any social events during the course of the year. The Committee had made the following suggestions: a BBQ, a Bonfire Party, a Quiz Night and a BFPG Awareness Coffee Morning. The Meeting agreed that all these were good ideas and should be discussed in more detail.

b. There was some criticism regarding the perceived inadequate advertising of the Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale at the Parish Hall on Saturday, 13 February. It was suggested that this had adversely affected attendance at the event, resulting in poor sales at some of the tables. It was pointed out that the Coffee Morning had been advertised in *The Hereford Times* and the *Newsletter*, that laminated posters had been placed around the Village, and that over 250 leaflets had been put through letterboxes. In addition, on the day itself signs had been placed on the A417 opposite the entrance to the Parish Hall car park.

ITEM 7 – PARISH WEB SITE

19. Cllr Mitcheson told the Meeting that the new Parish Website would be shown to the Parish Council at its next Meeting on Monday, 10 May. Subject to the Council's approval, it would then be launched later in the month. He handed around printed copies of the BFPG entry for the Website and asked for any comments on the content and pictures to be sent direct to him as soon as possible.

All

ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. **Sandbag Cage Relocated to Bodenham Village Car Park.**

a. It had been suggested that an aesthetic surround be placed around the metal sandbag cage on the village car park. Cllr Clark told the Meeting that this cage was, in fact, the one from the Parish Hall which had been temporarily re-located while the Parish Hall's car park was being re-surfaced. The cage will be returned to the Parish Hall once the work there is complete.

b. It was agreed that there was a requirement for a further cage to be sited in the car park opposite the School to cover the Pease Green/ Church area of the Village, and Cllr Clark undertook to raise this at the next Parish Council Meeting on 10 May.

Cllr Clark

21. **Cancer Research UK Quiz Night – Friday, 14 May.** Mrs Ronnie Parker asked the Chairman to announce that a Cancer Research UK Quiz Night was to be held at the Bodenham Parish Hall on Friday, 14 May at 7.15 pm. The organisers had asked if the BFPG would like to enter a team. If anyone is interested, could they please give their names to the Secretary as soon as possible.

All

Action

22. **The Hereford Times Breakfast.** The Secretary reported that the BFPG had been invited to send representatives to meet Fiona Phillips, the new Editor of the *Hereford Times*, at a Breakfast at Saxty's on Tuesday, 4 May from 7.45 to 9.00am.

(Afternote: The invitation was circulated to all Committee Members and the Chairman and Secretary will attend for the Group).

**Chairman
Secretary**

23. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed: Cllr A.B. Clark, for Chairman

25 May 2010

NOTICE OF THE ELECTION OF THE BFPG COMMITTEE 2010/2011

<u>Current Incumbents</u>		<u>Position 2010/2011</u>
<u>Chairman:</u>	Tricia Sanford	Vacancy
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tony Clark	Vacancy
<u>Secretary:</u>	Babs Mitcheson	Vacancy
<u>Working Party Manager:</u>	Tony Troia	Vacancy
<u>The Moor:</u>		
<u>The Moor Road:</u>	Tony Troia	Cllr Clark
<u>Orchard Close:</u>	Graham Price]with
<u>Chapel Lane:</u>	Robert Pritchard]Robert Pritchard
<u>Brockington Road –North:</u>	Simon Dowler	Agreed to stand
<u>Brockington Road – South:</u>	Gwen Bowden	Agreed to stand
<u>Ash Grove Close:</u>	Jean Fryer	Agreed to stand
<u>Ash Grove View:</u>	David Harris	Agreed to stand
<u>Millcroft Road:</u>	Babs Mitcheson	Vacancy
<u>Bodenham Village:</u>		
<u>Bridge to War Memorial:</u>	Simon Nickols	Agreed to stand
<u>Church and Bodenham Village:</u>	David Ayshford-Sanford	Reply Awaited
<u>Bodenham Cottages:</u>	Mike Mullenger	Agreed to stand