

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE GROUP'S MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 27 JULY 2010

Action

ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July Meeting. There were 26 members present.
2. Apologies were received from Cllr Grumbley, Mr David Ayshford-Sanford, Mr Simon Dowler, Mrs Nina Dowler, Mr David Harris, Mr and Mrs Robin Hemming, Mrs Pauline Arrowsmith and Mr Simon Nickols.

ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

3. **Notice of the Election of the BFPG Committee.** The Chairman reminded all those present that, in accordance with the Group's Constitution, all Committee positions will be open for election in August. If any member would like to be considered for any of the posts, they should give their name to the Secretary in writing or by email by **no later than 17 August 2010**. If any member was interested and wanted to know more, they should also contact the Secretary. Attached to the Minutes is the current Committee and Area Representative List.

All

4. **Sandbags.** Cllr Clark thanked all the Area Representatives who had checked the condition of the sandbags held in their areas. The Chart was almost complete. The cage at the School had been checked and, while some had to be replaced, the overall condition was good. The new cage at the Parish Hall had been delivered and will eventually be located by the bottle bank.. However, until the sandbags were ready to fill it, the cage would remain out of sight by the Music Room. The sandbags stored by Hamwyn Joinery had yet to be checked. It had been previously suggested that this could be done as part of a Working Party session. The current Sandbag Location Chart is attached to these Minutes.

Cllr Clark

5. **Purchase of Group Equipment.** Mr Mike Stephens reported that he had asked his supplier for costings for a strimmer and also a hedge trimmer and awaited their reply. He would pass the information on to the Secretary for circulation as soon as it arrived.

**Mr Mike Stephens
Secretary**

ITEM 3 – TREASURER'S REPORT

6. Cllr Clark reported that there had been no payments since June and there was still £1,179.16 held in the Group's account. However, this would be reduced once the strimmer and the hedge trimmer were purchased.

ITEM 4 - NATIONAL FLOOD FORUM

7. **National Flood Forum Survey**. The Chairman reminded all those who had been emailed or had hard copies of the National Flood Forum Survey given to them that the Secretary would be sending the returned hard copies to Mary Dhonau on Wednesday, 28 July. This was so that they would be with the National Flood Forum by the deadline of 31 July. If anyone had not yet responded, either by email or hard copy, it was important that they did so as it was in our interests to support this Survey.

All

8. **Morpeth Study**. The Chairman invited Cllr Tilford, Chairman of Bodenham Parish Council, to outline the Morpeth Study into the rising cost of flood insurance levied by insurance companies after the 2007 flooding. As 1 in 5 homes and businesses were liable to flooding in the foreseeable future, the Morpeth Study was a suggestion as to a possible way to curb the excesses of the insurance companies when the current legislation ran out. For those not on email and who would like to receive a copy of the Morpeth Study, a hard copy is available from the Secretary.

ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS

9. Cllr Clark outlined the next Working Party dates:

a. **Friday, 6 August: 6.30pm: Ketch Lane Junction**. All members to come prepared to clear the ditches, brook, and culverts of debris and silt. It will be a messy affair. Mr Mike Stephens will ask permission from Mr Pugh, who has the field next to the Ketch Lane section of the brook, if the bags with the silt and debris can be placed there until they are removed. The Secretary will send out a reminder to the Group.

All

**Mr Mike Stephens
Secretary**

b. **Friday 20 August: 6.30pm. Ketch Lane Junction**. This will be a continuation of the work from 6 August.

c. **Friday 3 September: 6.30pm**. This will be discussed at the AGM on Tuesday, 31 August.

10. **Maintenance: Mr Pugh's Field at the Rear of Orchard Close and the Chapel Lane Ditches.**

a. Mr Mike Stephens told the Meeting that the Roundup Bioactive given to the Group by the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RL IDB) was for use only on those areas of the village which were the responsibility of the RL IDB. Mr Pugh had given permission for the ditches cleared by the Group in his field West of Orchard Close to be sprayed, but the Group would have to purchase their own herbicide for this as that area was outside the RL IDB's remit.

Secretary

b. Mr Stephens told the Group that a gallon, *i.e.* just under 5 litres, would cost around £60 including VAT. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that it might be more cost-effective to purchase a larger quantity, say, a 20 litre container. Cllr Clark suggested that as the ditches in Chapel Lane and the culverts in Mr Pugh's field were the responsibility of the Highway

Action

Authority, now Amey, the Secretary should approach Mr Martin Jackson and see if the Group could obtain the herbicide from them. The Secretary will contact Cllr Grumbley and ask him to put this request to Mr Jackson. Should it to be turned down, it was proposed by Mrs Gwen Bowden and seconded by Cllr Mullenger that Mr Stephens should purchase the Roundup Bioactive. The motion was carried unanimously.

Cllr Grumbley

(Aftersnotes.

i. The Secretary has asked Cllr Grumbley by email if he will ask Mr Jackson for Roundup Bioactive on behalf of the Group for the planned maintenance of those areas of the Parish which are Amey's responsibility.

**Mr Mike
Stephens**

ii. Mr David Ayshford-Sanford has asked that, once Mr Stephens has the necessary certification, the ditch in the field next to the churchyard be put on the task list for spraying. Although the other ditch running along the road was normally dealt with by those residents living beside it, now that the Group had this additional facility to offer, he suggested that perhaps Mr Stephens could talk to the residents and see if he could help them when the occasion arose).

ITEM 6 – FLOODING IN BODENHAM 1998-99

11. Cllr Mitcheson reported that a Parish Council file containing correspondence regarding the floods in Bodenham in 1998 and 1999 had recently come to light. This gave a good insight into the four flooding events of those years and the response to them by the then Parish Council and the Committee it had set up, led by Mr John Keyte, to investigate and take action.

12. Sadly, it appeared that, although a great deal of work had been done to learn lessons from these events, action had been confined to pressing Herefordshire Council to maintain and improve watercourses and drains and to institute a 'flood watch' procedure. This had, indeed, resulted in the Council putting in a storm drain from Chapel Lane under The Moor to Orchard Close and in the RL IDB constructing the ditch around Mr Pugh's field to the Moor Brook. Unfortunately, however, there was virtually no community involvement to back this up and the inevitable happened – with no continuing local pressure to compel the authorities to keep up their maintenance of drainage systems, the latter once again became blocked and in July 2007 there was an almost identical repetition of the flooding of April 1998.

13. Cllr Mitcheson concluded that the big difference between 1998 and 2007 was that, following the second flood, the Parish Council had realised that it was not enough to rely solely on the authorities. They had therefore formed a self-help group - the BFPG - which now ensures that all the areas identified as being at risk from flooding are monitored and that watercourses are kept clear of debris and silt doing this work itself, except where and when the authorities have to be involved.

ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. **Blockages on the River Lugg by Dinmore Railway Bridge.** Cllr Tilford

reported to the Group that he had been in touch with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding fallen trees on the River Lugg by the railway bridge at Dinmore attaching the photographs taken by Cllr Mike Mullenger. He had received a reply from the EA stating that the blockage – which had been previously reported - had been noted and would be cleared when they were able to do so. The Group felt that this was not an adequate answer. Although the River Lugg was very low at the moment, this could change rapidly and such a blockage could cause a major flooding problem for Bodenham. Cllr Tilford told the Meeting that, if the blockage had not been cleared by the middle of August, he would contact Mr Bill Wiggin MP and ask for his help. He added that Mr Wiggin knew about the BFPG as he had been briefed by Cllr Tilford in Bodenham on the work of the Group. He had also visited the River Lugg at Bodenham with the EA and had been briefed on local issues by Cllr Grumbley and Mr David Ayshford-Sanford.

Cllr Tilford

(Afternote:

- i. Cllr Mullinger has contacted Mr Paul Senior with regard to the fallen trees.
- ii. Mrs Eva Lloyd has reported to the Secretary that residents living near this blockage has expressed grave concern as there are now more trees caught up in the original blockage. She has been told that this has been repeatedly reported to both EA and the Navigation Officer and they are aware of the situation.)

Secretary

15. Social Calendar.

a. **BBQ.** The Secretary said that Mr Simon Nickols had offered The Forge for the Group's BBQ on Saturday 14 August, Monday 30 August, or Saturday 11 September. It was agreed that **Saturday 14 August was the preferred date and that the event would start at 6.00pm.** The Secretary undertook to contact Mr Nickols to confirm that this was still convenient. Once confirmation had been received, as the event would be before the AGM in August, the Secretary would send a round robin to the Group of the date and time and remind them to bring their own food and drink for the event.

Secretary

b. **Bonfire Party.** It was agreed that the Bonfire Party would take place at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 23 October at 6pm.

c. **Fund Raising Quiz Night.** Although the Group's finances are currently quite healthy, after the purchase of the strimmer and also a hedge trimmer and payment for the hire of Siward James has been deducted, there would be a need for further fund raising. The Fund Raising Quiz Night organised by Mrs Liz Davies in 2009 raised over £400 and was a hugely successful venture and much enjoyed by all those taking part. It was suggested that another evening be arranged for 2010. The Secretary agreed to talk to Mrs Knott, the Bookings Secretary for the Parish Hall, and arrange a suitable date. (Afternote: Mrs Knott has provisionally given the Group the following dates for the Quiz Night: Saturday 6 November, Friday and Saturday 12 & 13 November, and Friday 26 November. Mr Rowland Hunt has confirmed that he is willing to be the Quiz Master and will confirm

which of the above dates is convenient for him).

Secretary

d. **Fund Raising Coffee Morning.** It was also suggested that arrangements are made for a Fund Raising and Awareness Coffee Morning be held at Siward James in early 2011.

16. **Outcome of Flood Study by Herefordshire Council.** Mr Dennis Brown asked when the Group would be informed of the outcome of the Flood Study which members had taken part in earlier in the year. Cllr Mitcheson replied that Mr Jackson had been invited by the Group to give an update and had said, that once the Study had been completed and circulated between Herefordshire Council and the EA, he would be in a position to do so. The Secretary was asked to renew the invitation to Mr Jackson to brief the Group on the results of the Study.

Secretary

17. **Blocked Drains at Millcroft Road.** Cllr Clark told the Group that there had been complaints to the Parish Council regarding blocked drains at the top of Millcroft Road. Cllr Grumbley had been asked to look into the matter as it was thought that the cause might be excess fat being discharged from the kitchen at England's Gate Inn. Cllr Grumbley had reported to the Parish Council that Welsh Water had stated that, although an undertaking had been made by England's Gate to fit new fat filters, it would appear that this had not been done. Residents in Millcroft Road were therefore asked to remain vigilant.

18. **Work on Smeadals Lane.** Mr Patrick Gamble asked what was happening in Smeadals Lane as there were signs stating that the road would be closed for three days. Cllr Clark replied that Herefordshire Council had notified Bodenham Parish Council that during August Amey would be filling in potholes and doing resurfacing work there, as well as on 'God Almighty' hill and in Church Road.

19. **Prime Minister's Speech to DEFRA.** The Chairman read an extract from the Prime Minister's recent speech to DEFRA in which he had praised the work being undertaken by voluntary groups – such as the BFPG – which he regarded as being a key part of the "Big Society".

20. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed: Mrs P Sanford, Chairman

31 August 2010

ITEM 2.3 - NOTICE OF THE ELECTION OF THE BFPG COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Current Incumbents

Position 2010/2011

<u>Chairman:</u>	Tricia Sanford	Vacancy
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tony Clark	Vacancy
<u>Secretary:</u>	Babs Mitcheson	Vacancy
<u>Working Party Manager:</u>	Cllr Clark/ Mike Stephens	Agreed to stand
<u>The Moor:</u>		
<u>The Moor Road:</u>	Cllr Clark	Agreed to stand
<u>Orchard Close:</u>	Graham Price]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	Agreed to stand
<u>Bodenham Cottages:</u>	Mike Mullenger	Agreed to stand