

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP MEETING **AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30PM** **ON TUESDAY, 27th MARCH 2012**

Item	Action
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March Meeting.</p> <p>2. There were 24 members present and apologies were received from Mr Avery, Mr Bowden, Mr Brown, Mr Grumbley, Mr Rice, Mr & Mrs Hemming, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Clark and Miss Gibson.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. The Minutes of the February Meeting were agreed. The Proposer was Mr Clark and the Seconder Mrs Avery.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>“Project Bodenham” Update.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that at their February Meeting he had told them that since Christmas he had become increasingly concerned at the apparent lack of progress in installing flood protection equipment. By late December most of the eligible properties had been finished, but since then there had been little or no apparent action to complete the remaining houses and the deadline of 31st March for the end of the Project was rapidly approaching.</p> <p>b. He had therefore asked our District Councillor, Cllr Jeremy Millar, to arrange a meeting with the Watchkeeper-in-Chief at Amey Herefordshire, Ms Ruth Kinsella. This had taken place on 23rd February and Mr Martin Jackson had also been present since he was responsible for running the Project at Amey.</p> <p>c. The Chairman said that at that Meeting he had been able to express his concerns and had been supported in this by Cllr Millar. Mr Jackson had then responded with a lengthy description of what Amey had been doing, although little of this seemed relevant to the present situation. The outcome of the Meeting had been that, having heard both sides, Ms Kinsella had promised to investigate further and meanwhile it had been agreed that Mr Jackson would send every property owner on the project list a progress report to reassure them that all was well.</p> <p>d. The Chairman reported that it had taken Amey 14 days to produce drafts of the letters. He had eventually received them on 8th March and had corrected them and sent them back the following day. As simple progress reports the letters had been acceptable and at that point he had expected the</p>	

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<p>letters to be posted on or about 13th March and for residents to receive them around 15th March. However, on 16th March, with no sign of the letters, he had received an e-mail from Mr Jackson apologising for the delay and saying that the letters would be out “in a couple of days”.</p> <p>e. When nothing had happened by 22nd March, he had written again to Mr Jackson pointing out that it was now nearly a month since the 23rd February Meeting. This had prompted an immediate apology from Ms Kinsella and a reply from Mr Jackson that he hoped the letters would now go out on 26th March (<i>i.e.</i> the day before the Group’s present Meeting).</p> <p>f. To his response Mr Jackson had attached what he described as an ‘overview report’ summarising the state of the Project as a whole. That ‘report’ confirmed that the Environment Agency have agreed that the deadline of 31st March no longer applies and that the outstanding work can be done in the new financial year. Unfortunately, the Chairman said, the ‘report’ also contained a number of incorrect statements about the properties where works have yet to be completed. He had therefore immediately written back to Mr Jackson pointing out these errors and had copied this not only to Ms Kinsella, but also to the Environment Agency.</p> <p>g. The Chairman concluded by saying that, since the Environment Agency had provided all the necessary funding for the works in question, and bearing in mind that the suppliers, UK Flood Barriers, had long had all the measurements and other details needed to provide costings and to proceed with the installations, the delay by Amey remained quite inexplicable. He could only hope that they would now finally get their act together.</p> <p>5. <u>UK Flood Barriers Shopping List.</u> The Chairman reported that the orders for flood protection items had been placed and that members would be informed when the items are ready.</p> <p>6. <u>Purchase of Loppers.</u> The Chairman added that the five Fiskars heavy duty loppers agreed at the Group’s previous Meeting had been purchased and would be given their first trial at the Working Party session on Friday (30th March).</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></p> <p>7. The Treasurer told the Meeting that he had purchased: 2 ordinary and 2 light weight grass rakes for use by the Working Party. He and Mrs Clark have generously donated these items to the Group.</p> <p>8. Also purchased this month were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 15 toilet bungs from UK Flood Barriers. b. 5 x Fiskars loppers c. The new brushcutter and safety helmet. <p>9. The Treasurer said that the final cost of these items would be known once the Parish Clerk, who holds the Group’s funds, had notified him whether or not he had</p>	

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<p>been able to reclaim the VAT on them.</p> <p>10. He concluded by reporting that the current balance stands at £1,294.56.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p>	
<p>11. The Operations Officer said that the first Working Party of the year would take place on Friday, 30th March at Mr Pugh’s field at the rear of Orchard Close. The session would start at 6.00pm and those who were free to come and help were asked to bring loppers and rakes.</p> <p>12. He went on to say that future Working Party evenings would be:</p> <p>a. Friday, 13th April. (Afternote: The Working Party will once again be in Mr Pugh’s field and the start time will be 6.30pm. The Secretary will send out a reminder at the beginning of that week).</p> <p>b. Friday, 27th April. The location will be advised at the Friday, 13th April meeting and again by the Secretary.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>13. <u>Bodenham Diamond Jubilee Celebration at the Parish Hall.</u></p> <p>a. Mrs Bowden told the Meeting that there would be a Diamond Jubilee event at the Parish Hall on Sunday, 3rd June. The committee organising the event were keen to have representation and displays from the various clubs, societies and other organisations in the Parish. She asked if the BFPG would be interested in having a display of their work and achievements in the Parish Hall on that day.</p> <p>b. The Chairman said that unfortunately both he and the Secretary would be unable to assist with display boards on this occasion, as they would be using them for another event they were already committed to that weekend. However, if any members were able to find display boards, he would be very happy to put up the photographs of the Group’s work.</p> <p>c. Mrs Bowden added that, if any members of the BFPG were able to assist with other contributions to the Parish Hall event, she would be very grateful.</p> <p>14. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm</p> <p>15. The next Meeting will be on Tuesday 24th April.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>