

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2014

ITEM	ACTION
<u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u>	
<p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March Meeting, with a special welcome to Mr Paul Cowdery who was attending for the first time.</p> <p>2. <u>Summary of the Past Month.</u> The Chairman told the Meeting that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. He had not produced copies of the telemetry graph for the past month as it was almost a flat line.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. The main talk of flooding this month had been in connection with the Neighbourhood Plan. He said that it was good to see familiar faces at the second Open Day on Sunday, 2 March and again at the Steering Group Meeting in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 18 March. Concerns about flooding and the risk of future development increasing the risk of flooding had featured strongly in the comments made about the Neighbourhood Plan's proposals for both The Moor and the Conservation Area.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. <u>Fallen Trees in the River Lugg.</u> The Chairman thanked Mr Rodney Minchen who had once again been in touch with the Navigation Officer regarding fallen trees in the River Lugg. Mr Minchen's ability to pinpoint the location of the offending tree meant that the Group were building up a good relationship with the Navigation Team, which helped to show the Group in a favourable light.</p> <p>3. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 22 members present and apologies were received from Mr Lavender, Mr Rice, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Dowler, Mr and Mrs Griffiths, Mr and Mrs Schwartz, Mrs Aldridge, Mrs Bick, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Fryer, Mrs Parker and Miss Gibson.</p>	
<u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u>	
<p>4. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the February Meeting which had been circulated earlier with the Agenda and which were also available in hard copy on the tables. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Mr George, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u>	
<p>5. <u>Sandbags.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. The Chairman recalled that he had had to engage the services of Mr Derek Pritchard on two separate occasions in February to take sandbags to the school car park cage and to properties in the Conservation Area, the cost of which had to be borne by the Group out of its own funds. To keep such emergency action to a minimum, all residents will be asked this summer to plan ahead and to make room on their properties to store sufficient sandbags for their needs. This will ensure that the sandbags in the cages are kept for use in unforeseen emergencies only.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. The Parish Council have yet again contacted Balfour Beatty to request the delivery</p>	Chairman

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<p>of the 500 filled sandbags requested in January together with the 200 empty bags requested in September 2013. Meanwhile sufficient sandbags remain in stock to meet immediately expected requirements and anybody who wants some should contact the Secretary to arrange collection or, if they are unable to lift them, to negotiate delivery.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>6. The Chairman reported that there had not been any income during March and the only expenditure to date was £100 paid to Mr Derek Pritchard, as agreed at the February Meeting, for helping in redistributing sandbags last month. The current balance is therefore £2,815.07.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p> <p>7. <u>Herefordshire Council.</u> The Chairman stated that he was still waiting for a response about the Ketch Lane and Pugh's Field culverts and also about the Group's offer to help Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty with monitoring and signing road closures when the Ketch Lane junction is flooded.</p> <p>8. <u>Balfour Beatty.</u> The Chairman reported that on 27 February the Secretary happened to see a Balfour Beatty team arriving at the Ketch Lane junction to clear mud off the road after the flood. She asked them if, in addition, they would clear the silt which had built up on the downstream side of the two culverts and which was completely blocking the old culvert. Balfour Beatty used their mini-digger to clear a way through the built up silt to allow water to run freely again through the old culvert. They also cleared the stretch of ditch between the entrance to Mr Pugh's field and the Millcroft Brook to allow water to flow from the Ketch Lane ditch. This has saved the Group a great deal of work later in the season when the working party sessions start. The Chairman added that he had asked the Parish Clerk to thank Balfour Beatty for this.</p> <p>9. <u>Cabinet Office Website.</u> The Chairman said that he had checked with the Cabinet Office and confirmed that their new website was now live and that the link to the BFPG website was on it, as promised. The Cabinet Office website is prepared by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and the Emergency Planning College. The Civil Contingencies Secretariat is the department of the Cabinet Office responsible since 2001 for emergency planning in the UK. Its role is to ensure the United Kingdom's resilience against disruptive challenge, and to do this by working with others to anticipate, assess, prevent, prepare, respond and recover from such incidents. The Emergency Planning College is at Easingwold in Yorkshire and it runs short seminars, workshops and courses on crisis management and emergency planning. The BFPG is in the 'Flooding' part of a section of the website called 'Preparing for an Emergency'. It contains some interesting information and case studies from around the country and the relevant URLs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and your community: www.epcollege.com/community-hub/prepare-for-an-emergency/#section1_5 • Full site through www.epcollege.com/community-hub <p>10. <u>Possible ITV Programme on Mrs Mary Dhonau.</u> On 11 March the Chairman was contacted by a researcher from ITV and was interviewed over the telephone about Mrs Mary Dhonau for background to a possible programme about her work.</p> <p>11. <u>Flood Risk Management Workshop Birmingham (5 March 2014).</u> The Chairman and Secretary had a very interesting day at the Flood Risk Management Workshop in Birmingham and joined some 40 delegates from universities, industry, local authorities, Defra, the Environment Agency and the National Flood Forum. The aim was to help plan the Environment Agency's research programme for the next five years.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>12. <u>Environment Agency Visit to Survey the Relief Channel.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that he had been pressing Mr Dan Trewin of the Environment Agency for some time to get the Agency to update their flood maps of Bodenham. This is because the maps still do not show the relief channel and other works completed as long ago as 2007-09 and would therefore appear to give an inaccurate picture of the flood risk not only to Millcroft Farm, but also to the residential area upstream of it. Insurance companies use the Environment Agency's maps to calculate whether or not an area is likely to flood. It is therefore important that any defences, or action taken to lessen the likelihood of the village flooding, are recorded as these could help with the reduction of insurance premiums. After the widespread floods of 2013/14 elsewhere in the country, it is highly likely that all premiums will increase. The more the Group can do to reduce them for Bodenham the better.</p> <p>b. The Chairman went on to say that Mr Trewin had agreed to visit Millcroft Farm, possibly in May, and carry out a survey of the relief channel. It is to be hoped that this will then reflect the fact that the relief channel spills any excess water coming down the Brook, or backing up from the River Lugg, onto the flood plain and away from the Village.</p> <p>c. Mr David Harris remarked that in his opinion the relief channel was the main reason that the Village had not flooded during the recent very wet winter and this view met with general agreement.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p>	
<p>13. <u>Working Party Session.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman noted that April was just around the corner and it might be time to start putting together the plan for working party sessions. He asked that, if anyone had seen anything which needed to be put on the task list in addition to the usual items, they should let the Secretary know.</p> <p>b. Subject to the weather, it was agreed that the first working party session would take place on Friday, 11 April, meeting at 6.00pm at the Brockington Road Bridge. The aim would be to clear flap valve No. 4 and survey any work which may need to be done along the Millcroft Brook between Brockington Bridge and Millcroft Farm.</p> <p>c. Mr Harris mentioned that the watercourse was beginning to erode away the bank at 17, Ash Grove View owned by Mr and Mrs Hemming. It was suggested that on 11 April members of the working party should look at the area around the tree on the bank opposite, since it was thought that the build up of earth and silt around this tree was the cause of this problem. The Secretary said that she would talk to the owner of 25, Millcroft Road about this situation.</p> <p>14. <u>Pump Training.</u> Mr Stephens suggested that the beginning of the working party season would be a good time for members to remind themselves how the pumps work. Therefore there would be two courses held at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 12 April and Saturday, 19 April, each starting at 10.30am. Each course would last about an hour and coffee and cake would be available afterwards. All those who would like to attend should register with the Secretary who will also send out a reminder separate to the Minutes for those who were not at the Meeting.</p> <p>15. <u>Social Events.</u> The Chairman suggested the need also to start thinking about the next three social events so that dates can be agreed and put into diaries.</p> <p>a. <u>Annual Barbecue.</u> He said that this was usually held in June or July and the Group's new members, Mr Jeremy Schwartz and his wife Sheila, had offered their garden</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>All/ Secretary</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan as a venue for this year. It was agreed that this was a most generous offer and the date for the event was agreed as Saturday, 28 June starting at 6.00pm. Mr and Mrs Schwartz have two barbecues, but, if the weather looks likely to be bad, they would be grateful for the loan of gazebos or mini-marquees in which guests can shelter. Mr Clark offered his large mini-marquee in response to this. He also offered the charcoal barbecue donated by Mr and Mrs Hemming to the Group which he holds. The Secretary agreed to liaise with Mr and Mrs Schwartz and produce the usual posters.</p> <p>b. Annual Bonfire Party. It was agreed that this would be held on Saturday, 27 September at Millcroft Farm starting at 6.00pm. The usual mulled surprise and sausage rolls will be on offer. The Secretary will send out a poster later to remind everyone.</p> <p>c. Annual Fund-Raising Quiz Night. The Chairman remarked that last year's Quiz Night had been very successful and had been held in October rather than in November as in previous years. As neither Mrs Griffiths nor Mrs Bick was at the Meeting, it was agreed that the Secretary would approach them to ask if they would be prepared to organise the event again this year. Mrs Bowden reminded members that the Bodenham Romania Support Group hold a similar event in October and it would be discourteous to clash with them. It was agreed to hold the Quiz Night on Friday, 14 November and that the Secretary would check that the Parish Hall would be free that evening. (Afternote: The Secretary has spoken with Mrs Griffiths, who is very happy to organise the event again this year with her team, and the Parish Hall has been provisionally booked for the evening of Friday, 14 November for the Quiz Night.)</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Mr & Mrs Schwartz/ Secretary</p> <p>All/ Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Mrs Griffiths/ All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>16. Parish Litter Pick (Saturday, 5 April 2014). The Chairman reminded members that the next Parish Litter Pick will take place on Saturday, 5 April, starting and finishing at the Parish Hall. All the details are already on posters and flyers around the Village. Again this year, a free lunch of soup and rolls will be available for all those taking part. If any one is keen to help they should be at the Parish Hall at 10.00hrs ready to depart at 10.30hrs. All necessary equipment will be provided.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 8 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>17. The next Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 29 April at 7.30pm at the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>18. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.05pm.</p>	

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

29 April 2014