

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2017

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the March Meeting. He said that there had been no particular concerns over flood risk during the past month. The only incident had been on the night of 21/22 March when heavy rainfall had resulted in the telemetry system issuing a 0.5m alert at 6.15am. The water level had not risen much beyond that and had fallen back below 0.5m by 10.50am.</p> <p>2. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 24 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mrs Burnill, Mr Harris, Mr Hemming, Mrs Parker, Miss Price, Mr Rice, and Mr and Mrs Stephens.</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 February 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 Mrs Clark, seconded by Cllr Tilford and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>4. <b><u>Proposed Culvert Replacements.</u></b> The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mr Joel Hockenhull, the Senior Drainage Engineer at Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP), and asked for an update on progress with the replacement of the Orchard Close culvert. Mr Hockenhull had told him that Mr Pugh had agreed to the replacement in principle, but wished to have another site meeting to discuss the details. Part of the arrangement would be filling in the ditch which ran either side of the entrance to the field and which served no useful purpose. The Chairman said that he had no news about the possible replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts, but the relevant study report should be available before long.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>5. On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman reported that the balance of the Account at the end of February had stood at £4,075.40.</p> <p>6. There had been one transaction in March which was a donation from Mrs Coney of £5 toward the Annual Coffee Morning on 4 February which she had been unable to attend. As there was no expenditure, the balance of the account now stood</p>	

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at £4,080.40.	
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE TASKS</u></b></p> <p>7. <b><u>Sandbag Storage Container.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman noted that the start of the working party ‘season’ was fast approaching and, although it had been a mild winter and there should not be too much pressing work to be done, it was time to start identifying tasks and planning to complete them.</p> <p>b. He suggested that an early task should be painting the sandbag storage container at the Parish Hall. This, he felt, was not really a task for an evening working party; it would be very weather dependent and would be better tackled during the middle of the day for, say, a couple of hours at a time during mornings or afternoons. He asked any members who would be prepared, in principle, to help in this way to inform the Secretary, who would then arrange mutually convenient dates and times. Mr Maxwell volunteered to donate two tins of green metallic Hammerite paint and the Chairman thanked him very much for this.</p> <p>c. As regards equipment, the Chairman said that he could provide a couple of step ladders, while the necessary wire brushes, paint brushes or rollers would have to be bought unless members could provide their own. It was agreed that, since brushes could not be used again, it would be a waste of funds to buy new ones if old ones could be found. It was therefore suggested that any volunteers who took part should bring with them any old paint brushes they no longer required.</p> <p>d. The Chairman said that the major item of expenditure would obviously be paint and he had investigated prices on the internet. Dark green Hammerite appeared to be the best option when bought from a specialist supplier because it could be painted directly onto rust and did not need a primer. Now that Mr Maxwell had donated two tins, it would make sense to try and match the remainder of the paint to this, if possible. The Chairman had calculated that the amount required would cost about £120 and, bearing in mind the possible need for some brushes, etc, he asked for the Group’s authority to spend up to £150. This was proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Mrs Bowden and agreed.</p> <p>e. The Chairman added that the Secretary would contact the Group when the weather offered some suitable dates.</p> <p>8. <b><u>Sandbag Check.</u></b> The Chairman reminded members that the lack of empty sandbags had meant that last year’s sandbag check had not been completed; there was still the cage on the school park to be inspected. BBLP had now delivered some of the sandbags ordered and he suggested that this task, which should not take long, could be tackled at the first of the evening working parties.</p> <p>9. <b><u>Working Parties.</u></b></p> <p>a. Turning to this year’s working parties, the Chairman said that the first question to be decided was whether they should be held on Friday</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Chairman</b></p> <p><b>Secretary</b></p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>evenings, as had always originally been the practice, or on Thursday evenings, as had been tried towards the end of last season. He asked for members' views and, after discussion, it was decided that Thursday evenings at 6.00pm would be the most convenient time for members.</p> <p>b. The Chairman then suggested that, subject to the weather, regular fortnightly working parties should start in the last week of April, that is on Thursday, 27 April. He asked, if any member was aware of a particular task that should be tackled as a first priority. As no suggestions were forthcoming, and as negotiations over the Orchard Close drainage system were still in progress, it was agreed that work should start on the Millcroft Brook by the Golf Course and continue downstream to the River Lugg as in previous years. This would be confirmed at the next BFPG Meeting on Tuesday, 25 April.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p>	
<p>10. <b><u>Spraying.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that Mr Stephens had visited him the previous day to say that he was no longer willing to carry out spraying for the Group and therefore wished to repay the money which the Group had contributed towards the cost of his courses in the use of herbicides. Mr Stephens had been reluctant to give his reasons for this decision, but it appeared that he had taken it for personal reasons, and not because he had any issue with the Group as a whole.</p> <p>b. The Chairman expressed his disappointment with this turn of events, especially in view of the enormous contribution which Mr Stephens had made both to the work of the Group and to its social activities over the past nine years; he had played a key role in its success.</p> <p>c. Members expressed their surprise and regret at this news and it was suggested that, in recognition of all that Mr Stephens had done for the BFPG, his cheque should be returned to him. This was proposed by Cllr Tilford, seconded by Cllr Avery and unanimously agreed. The Chairman said that he wholeheartedly endorsed this and, in returning the cheque, he would write to Mr Stephens to express both members' thanks and his own.</p> <p>11. <b><u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u></b> The next Meeting would be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 25 April 2017.</p> <p>12. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.55pm.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>