

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP MEETING AT SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>TO LEAD</b>
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April Meeting.</p> <p>2. There were 29 members present and apologies were received from Mr Avery, Mr Minchin, Mr Nickols, Mr Rice, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Parker and Mrs Watson.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>3. The Minutes of the March Meeting were approved. They were proposed by Mr Dowler and seconded by Mr Nicolson.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>4. <b><u>‘Project Bodenham’ Update.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that at the time of the Group’s last Meeting all those due to receive flood protection equipment under the Environment Agency Grant were waiting to receive individual ‘progress report’ letters from Mr Jackson at Amey Herefordshire. Indeed, at that point those concerned had already been waiting for these letters for over a month, but, just before the March Meeting, he had received an assurance from Mr Jackson that the letters would finally be posted on the day before the Meeting or very shortly thereafter.</p> <p>b. The Chairman went on to say that, unfortunately, when the letters eventually arrived some time later, they contained mistakes because Amey had completely ignored the corrections he had made to their original drafts in early March. Furthermore, not everyone on the list received a letter, and these omissions were important because they related to precisely those houses about which he had been most concerned.</p> <p>c. He added that he had also been very frustrated that the letters which did appear were full of caveats about the need for further surveys and the possibility that there might not be sufficient funding to complete the recommended flood precautions. As a result in a number of cases it had still not been clear whether or not the work would eventually be done. Bearing in mind that the Environment Agency had provided additional funding to ensure that all the work could be completed and, given that UK Flood Barriers had already done all the surveys and had all the measurements needed to provide costings, he found the lack of clarity quite inexplicable.</p> <p>d. An even bigger concern had been that Mr Jackson had also sent him an</p>	

‘overview report’ covering the Project as a whole. In this Mr Jackson had included the good news that the Environment Agency had agreed that installation work could be completed after the 31<sup>st</sup> March deadline. However, at the same time he had made a series of factually incorrect statements about the properties still to be finished and said that these had been discussed and agreed with the Environment Agency. The Chairman said that he had therefore immediately written back disputing Mr Jackson’s interpretation of the situation and had copied this to the Environment Agency.

e. Continuing, the Chairman reported that he had briefed the Parish Council on the situation at the Council’s Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The District Councillor, Cllr Jeremy Millar, had been present and had subsequently also written to Amey to express his concern. As a result of this and his own email, Amey’s Watchkeeper-in-Chief, Ms Ruth Kinsella, had replied with the information that responsibility within Amey for resolving ‘Project Bodenham’ issues was being transferred to Mr Andrew Palmer.

f. The Chairman said that he hoped that this would mark the beginning of the end of this saga. Everyone who should have received a letter had now done so. All the properties he believed should be having flood protection equipment were now going to receive it, if they had not already done so. Final surveys on the remaining properties had been carried out the previous week and, in an email received just before the present Meeting, Mr Malik had informed him that installation work would start on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

g. Remarking that “all’s well that ends well”, the Chairman asked that all those with work yet to be completed on their properties should keep himself or the Secretary informed of progress.

All

5. **Toilet Bungs.**

a. The Chairman said that the toilet bungs were now available for those who had ordered them. The Secretary is also holding some spares for those who would like to have one but have not placed an order.

b. Mr Harris said that the toilet bung he had received had broken when he tried it out. He thought that the connection between the hand pump and the rubber hose was weak. The Chairman asked him to return the item to the Secretary so that she could take this apparent defect up with UK Flood Barriers.

Mr Harris  
Secretary

6. **Diamond Jubilee Event, Parish Hall (Sunday, 3 June 2011).**

a. The Chairman reminded those present that at the March Meeting Mrs Bowden had asked if the BFPG would like to have a stand to promote the Group’s work at the Jubilee Event due to be held at the Parish Hall on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

b. He asked if anyone had managed to find some display boards and again asked for volunteers to man the stand on behalf of the Group. He explained that both he and the Secretary already had another commitment on that day and would be unable to take this on.

c. Mr Clark said that he had two boards which would be suitable. Both he and Mr Grumbley said that they would be happy to be the Group’s representatives at the event.

Mr Clark  
Mr Grumbley

<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>7. The Treasurer stated that the £100.80 representing the VAT on the toilet bungs had been reclaimed by the Parish Clerk. However as the Parish Clerk was away he was unable to check whether or not the VAT had also been reclaimed on the purchase of the brushcutter, helmet and loppers which the Group had recently purchased. He would check with the Parish Clerk on his return.</p> <p>8. The current balance of the Group's account now stood at £1,395.36. However this did not include the VAT yet to be reclaimed.</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b></p>
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></b></p> <p>9. The Chairman told members that the next Working Party dates were:</p> <p>a. <b><u>Friday 27th April at 6.30pm.</u></b> Members are asked to meet at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction for clearance of the ditch in Ketch Lane and, depending on attendance, the bottom end of The Moor Brook.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May.</u></b> The Chairman noted that the following Working Party date should be Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May. However, Flicks in the Sticks was showing “The Iron Lady” at the Parish Hall that evening, which might reduce attendance on the Working Party. He asked for a show of hands of those who would be happy to work that evening and it was agreed that there would be sufficient numbers for the Working Party to meet as usual. The time would be 6.30pm and the location would be decided after the Working Party on 27<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>10. <b><u>The Lengthsman Scheme</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had decided to join the Lengthsman Scheme and had been accepted by Herefordshire Council. He explained that the work of the Lengthsman would not detract from the work of the Group as the Lengthsman's remit did not cover any of the tasks that the BFPG currently undertook.</p> <p>b. In essence, the Lengthsman would be directed by the Parish Clerk and would deal with issues such as weeds growing out of drains, spraying kerb edges, reporting potholes, and maintaining verges and hedges. He would have nothing to do with watercourses which were the main work of the Group. Herefordshire Council would help to fund the work of the Lengthsman initially, but after an introductory period this funding would reduce and the cost would be transferred more to the Parish Council. The latter could, however, decide to leave the Scheme at any time.</p> <p>11. <b><u>Cancer Research UK Lugg Valley Friends – Quiz Night.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that the BFPG have been invited to put forward a team for the Cancer Research Quiz Night on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> May. This will take place in the Parish Hall at 7.15 pm for a prompt 7.30pm start.</p>	

b. The team should have 4 to 6 members and the charge is £6.00 per person, which will include light refreshments and tea or coffee. No alcohol will be served, but those attending can bring their own drinks if they wish. Further details can be obtained from Jenny Nicolson, Thelma Butcher or Janet Marriott. (The Secretary has their telephone numbers, if needed).

12. **Annual Barbecue.** Mr Burnill told the meeting that some members of the Group had suggested that as a “Thank You” to all those who took part in Working Party sessions and other ways of supporting the Group, it was proposed that the Group provide an amount towards the cost of the Annual Barbecue which he and his wife are hosting at 32, Brockington Road on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July. The amount suggested was £75 and after discussion the proposal was seconded by Mr George. The Treasurer confirmed that the account could afford this request. The Chairman stressed that any purchases must be supported by invoices.

13. **Flood Warning Telemetry System.** Mr Nicolson asked whether there was any news of the planned installation of the Hydro-Logic flood warning telemetry system in the Millcroft Brook next to 23, Brockington Road. The Chairman replied that Amey Herefordshire had agreed that the equipment could be attached to the Brockington Bridge and he was now simply awaiting an installation date from the firm. (**Afternote.** Hydro-Logic have confirmed that installation will take place on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012).

14. **Date of the Next Meeting.** There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.00pm. The next Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr Tony Mitcheson  
Chairman

29<sup>th</sup> May 2012