

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



**MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S
MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2016**

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the April Meeting and thanked them for attending on such a cold evening. He said that, as the weather had been relatively mild over the past month, he had nothing to report as regards flood risk.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 22 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Dowler, Mrs Fryer, Miss Gibson, Mr and Mrs Griffiths, Mr and Mrs Hemming, Mr Maxwell, Mrs Parker, Mr Rice, Mr and Mrs Rudge, and Mr and Mrs Schwartz.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the March 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 Ms Tremain, seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>5. On behalf of the Treasurer the Chairman reported that the balance as at 31 March 2016 had been £3,655.46. There had been no income during April, but an invoice had been received for the hire of Siward James from January to March which had totalled £43.50. The balance therefore now stood at £3,611.96.</p> <p>6. The Chairman went on to say that the Secretary had noted that the sandbag cages at the Parish Hall and Siward James needed new plastic sheeting. The present black plastic at the Parish Hall is too short and as a result the sandbags at the bottom of the cage have started to biodegrade. Similarly, the cage at Siward James, although not as</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>bad as that at the Parish Hall, requires attention to ensure that all sandbags are protected from the elements. The best deal she had been able to find was with Blue Builders' Membrane 12ft x 9 ft for £17.84. Each cage would need a new cover and therefore she would like approval to purchase two sets, making a total of £35.68. However, once she had used her OAP discount and asked the Parish Clerk to recover the VAT, the total cost would be reduced to £25.68.</p> <p>7. The purchase of two sets of sheeting was proposed by Cllr Avery, seconded by Mr Dowler and agreed.</p> <p>8. The Chairman concluded by noting that the VAT outstanding to be repaid to the Group was currently £62.68 and after the purchase of the plastic sheeting would be £69.10. (Afternote: The Secretary has purchased two tarpaulin sheets on offer at B&Q only £20, which after her discount was £18. The receipt will be forwarded to the Parish Clerk to reclaim the VAT of £3.60 on this which will reduce the purchase to £14.40). The VAT to be reclaimed therefore now stands at £66.20, and not £69.10 as previously stated).</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 – FLOOD RE</u></p> <p>9. The Chairman reminded members that the Secretary had circulated the latest information about the Flood Re Scheme by email. He summarised its main points and stressed that it remained to be seen how the Scheme would operate in practice. Not all insurance companies were participating in it, not all house owners would be eligible for it, and, because insurance companies take many different factors apart from flooding into account when assessing premiums, it would still be important for householders to shop around for the cover best suited to their needs. Overall, however, the Scheme should mean lower cost flood cover for those at highest risk and, more importantly, their excess should be capped at a manageable figure, possibly as low as only £250.</p> <p>10. The Chairman asked that, if anyone was having issues with their insurance company, they should give the details to the Secretary and she would pass them on to Mrs Mary Dhonau for further investigation and action, if necessary.</p> <p>11. In discussion, members said that their experience was that Saga and NFU Mutual were very expensive, Aviva would not insure a property which had flooded in the last 10 years, Legal and General would not insure if the property had been flooded at all, and Principality were not prepared to provide property insurance, even if the flood water had only affected the garden and not the property itself.</p>	<p>All Secretary</p>
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>12. <u>Working Parties.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that at the March Meeting he had suggested that Friday, 6 May would be a good date to start the 2016 working party sessions. He said that a gentle introduction might be to tackle the ditch along the side of Willow Cottage, a watercourse which is not covered by either the River Lugg</p>	<p>All</p>

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<p>Internal Drainage Board or Herefordshire Council. Some work has already been done to clear debris, but a final session would see it clear of weed and watercress. It was agreed that those members wishing to take part should meet at the Brockington Road Bridge at 6.00pm on 6 May and then travel to Willow Cottage, sharing cars where possible.</p> <p>(Afternote: Since Mr and Mrs Schwartz were not present at the Meeting, the Secretary has contacted them and confirmed that the working party will be taking place at Maund Bryan).</p> <p>b. The Chairman remarked that, as always, the old culvert at the Ketch Lane junction and the build up of silt between the exits of the new and old culverts would need attention. Depending on the depth of the silt in the old culvert, this could take at least two evening sessions. There was a similar, albeit smaller deposit of silt which had built up downstream of the Millcroft Farm culvert.</p> <p>c. It was also agreed that there would be merit in holding another pump familiarisation session at Millcroft Farm. The Chairman would liaise with Mr Stephens over suitable dates which the Secretary would then circulate.</p>	<p>Mr and Mrs Schwartz</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p>13. Possible Invitation to Mr Bill Wiggin MP. Cllr Tilford suggested that Mr Bill Wiggin MP should be invited to a future working party session to see the Group in action. Mr Wiggin might perhaps be persuaded to don waders (like Jonathan Maitland) and get into a ditch with members. The Group agreed that this could be good PR for the BFPG (and Mr Wiggin) and Cllr Tilford undertook to bring the matter up at the next Parish Council Meeting on 9 May when he would suggest that Mr Wiggin is invited <i>via</i> the Ward Councillor, Cllr Bruce Baker.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>14. Roundup Pro Biactive. The Chairman reported that once again the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board had very kindly donated 5 litres of Roundup Pro Biactive to the Group for controlling the growth of vegetation in the Orchard Close drainage system and elsewhere. The Chairman asked that the Group's thanks to the Board for their generosity in donating the herbicide should be recorded. (The Secretary had already written a letter of thanks to the Board).</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>15. Balfour Beatty Living Places. The Chairman reported that the Secretary had been in touch with the Locality Steward, Mrs Tregenza, and had suggested that they should meet at the Ketch Lane junction to discuss the possibility of Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) helping with the removal of the debris from the culverts. They might also once again be persuaded to provide a mini-digger to clear the ditch from the drain pipe under the entrance to Mr Pugh's field down to the Millcroft Brook. This has filled up with silt over the past 12 months and its clearance would require a lot of work by the Group.</p>	
<p>16. Sandbags. The Chairman reminded members that at the beginning of October each year, the Secretary has to send her bid to the Parish Clerk for any new sandbags which may be required to replace those lost during the course of the year. The Secretary would be contacting all those who have sandbags stored on their own premises to check them and let her know how many, if any, replacements were required. It was important that the Group submits its bid early so that Mrs Tregenza can ensure that the sandbags are actually delivered by the beginning of December. If any member needed help with</p>	<p>All</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>checking their sandbags, they should let the Secretary know so that help can be organised.</p> <p>17. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> The Chairman reminded members that at an earlier Meeting the date of Saturday, 1 October had been agreed for the Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond his control this date was no longer possible and another would have to be found. He suggested Saturday, 8 October instead and this date was agreed.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>18. <u>Orchard Close Drainage System and Ketch Lane Culverts.</u> The lack of progress in resolving the issues of the Orchard Close drainage system and the Ketch Lane culverts was discussed. The Chairman undertook to continue trying to find a resolution and, since the prime responsibility in both cases lay with Herefordshire Council, he said that he would discuss possible ways forward with Cllr Bruce Baker in the first instance.</p> <p>19. <u>Annual Report to the Parish Meeting.</u> The Chairman said that the Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held in the Siward James Centre at 7.00pm on Monday, 9 May, immediately before the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the May Parish Council Meeting. At the Annual Parish Meeting the various clubs, societies and other groups in the Parish were invited to report on their activities over the past year and he had drafted a report on behalf of the BFPG. He had a few printed copies for those without access to the internet, but everyone on e-mail would receive a copy the following day and he asked that, if anyone had any amendments to suggest, they should forward these to him by no later than Sunday evening (1 May).</p> <p>20. <u>Invitations to The Patron’s Lunch.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that he had just received an e-mail from Air Vice-Marshall Mike Smart DL saying that the Lord-Lieutenant had received a letter from the Deputy Private Secretary to The Queen inviting Lady Darnley to nominate up to eight people from the membership of groups that have received the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) to receive complimentary tickets to attend the Patron’s Lunch.</p> <p>b. The Chairman reminded members that the Lunch was a street party to celebrate Her Majesty’s 90th Birthday being held in the Mall on Sunday, 12 June for 10,000 members of the over 600 charities and organisations of which she is patron. It is the culmination of a weekend of celebrations starting with a Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul’s Cathedral on Friday, 10 June and followed by The Trooping of the Colour on Horseguards on Saturday, 11 June. The organisers have now extended the invitation for the Patron’s Lunch to groups which have been recognised by the QAVS.</p> <p>c. The Chairman said that the invitation appeared to be something of an afterthought and the deadline for responses was very short. He had been asked to forward the names of any nominees and their connection to the BFPG by</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>All</p>

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<p>Thursday, 28 April, so if any member wished to be nominated they would have to let him know within 24 hours. Finally, he stressed that there was no guarantee that any nominations would be accepted: if there were more than eight nominations from across the County, the Lord-Lieutenant would select the names to go forward.</p> <p>21. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre on Tuesday, 31 May 2016 at 7.30pm.</p> <p>22. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.</p>	

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

31 May 2016