

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2015

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| <p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April Meeting.</p> <p>2. He remarked that once again there had been very little rain and therefore no flood risk concerns. Purely for members' interest he tabled some graphs of past rainfall data to illustrate variability in monthly rainfall in recent years. The Chairman also welcomed Mr Bruce Baker, who was standing in the forthcoming Herefordshire Council election as a Conservative candidate for the Hampton Court Ward to replace Cllr Jeremy Millar who was standing down.</p> <p>3. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 26 members present and apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Clark, Mr and Mrs Stephens, Mr Nicolson, Mr Schwartz, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Parker and Miss Gibson.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>4. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the March 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 Tilford, seconded by Mrs Watson and agreed.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>5. <u>Housing Developments.</u></p> <p>a. <u>Land Opposite England's Gate Inn.</u> The Chairman reported that Bell Homes had now submitted their full planning application (P/151055/RM) for the construction of 40 houses on the field opposite England's Gate Inn. The application was on Herefordshire Council's website and comments are required by Thursday, 14 May. Supporting documents which would be of interest to members were the flood risk assessment and various drainage reports and drawings. These could be viewed at https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/development-control/search-and-comment-on-planning-applications</p> <p>b. <u>England's Gate Orchard.</u></p> <p>(1) The Chairman said that those who had been at the Parish Council Meeting on 13 April would be aware that yet another developer had expressed an interest in constructing houses in Bodenham Moor. Mr David Baume from Hook Mason Architects had informed the Council</p> | |

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| <p>that an outline planning application was being prepared for up to 10 dwellings on the field adjacent to England's Gate Inn with access through the Inn's carpark. He had indicated that once outline planning permission had been obtained the land would be sold on to a developer. He was therefore unable to provide any details about the design of the houses that might eventually be built on the site.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman said that, as with the proposed development of 40 properties on the field opposite England's Gate Inn, the proposed site did not present any increased flood risks. However, the Parish Council had expressed little enthusiasm for it and had pointed out that they had already given support for the Bell Homes application. Furthermore, they had made it clear that the choice of access was a bad one and that any such development raised issues of sustainability, given the current state of the Village's roads and sewerage system.</p> <p>(3) The Chairman concluded by saying that Hook Mason Architects were holding a public exhibition on this proposed development in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, 6 May from 4.30pm to 7.00pm.</p> <p>6. <u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u> The Chairman reported that progress on the Neighbourhood Plan was very slow at present, partly because those concerned had many other pressing commitments and partly because progress in relation to Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy was on hold during the current consultation on the modifications imposed by the government Inspector. A particular concern was Herefordshire Council's interpretation of the modification to the way in which new housing in rural areas should be calculated.</p> <p>7. <u>Annual Barbecue (Saturday, 27 June 2015 at Willow Cottage).</u> The Chairman reminded all those present that the Annual Barbecue would be at Willow Cottage again this year, courtesy of Sheila and Jeremy Schwartz. They needed to have an idea of numbers attending, so anyone who had not yet booked in with them was asked to do so as soon as possible. All the necessary details were on the poster, copies of which were on the tables. Members who were able to offer any help with salads or pudding, or equipment, were also asked to contact Jeremy and Sheila. The Secretary would send out a reminder to those with children that they too are welcome.</p> <p>8. <u>Parish Litter Pick (Saturday, 11 April 2015).</u> The Chairman said that, although not strictly a matter for the BFPG, several of the Group's members had generously given up their time to support the Parish's recent litter pick on Saturday, 11 April. On behalf of the Parish Council he thanked them for this and remarked that yet again a great deal of rubbish had been removed from the Parish's roads and hedges.</p> | <p>All Secretary</p> |
| <p><u>ITEM 4 – ANNUAL REPORT</u></p> <p>9. The Chairman noted that the present Parish Council's tenure would end at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 11 May, when the new Parish Council would take its place. This would happen without the need for an election on 7 May because only seven individuals had been nominated for the ten vacancies.</p> <p>10. The Annual Parish Council Meeting would be preceded by the Annual Parish</p> | |

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| <p>Meeting, at which it was customary for various local groups to present reports on their activities. The BFPG was one of these and he had circulated a draft Report which he would submit on behalf of the Group. He asked members to let him have any suggested amendments or comments on it as soon as possible, and in any case no later than Monday, 4 May.</p> | All |
| <u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u> | |
| <p>11. <u>Flood Resilience at a Community Level in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.</u> The Chairman reported that on 2 April he had received an e-mail from Steven Forrest, a PhD Researcher on Flood Resilience at the University of Groningen, in which Mr Forrest had invited the Group to take part in an on-line survey. This was part of a four year research project being conducted by an international team based at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and Westminster University in England. The research is being funded by the University of Groningen and is focusing on ways of increasing flood resilience at a community level in both countries. The present survey was aimed at obtaining a better understanding of the status of flood groups across the UK and their roles in local flood risk management and in community resilience to flooding. The Chairman confirmed that he had submitted a response on behalf of the Group.</p> | |
| <u>ITEM 6 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u> | |
| <p>12. The Chairman reported that the balance remained at £3,190.45.</p> | |
| <u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u> | |
| <p>13. <u>Working Parties.</u> The Chairman thanked all those who had turned up to the first working party of the season at the Brockington Road bridge on Friday, 24 April. There had been a strong team of 18 members and a great deal had been achieved, noticeably clearing all the silt and gravel from under the bridge and clearing and strimming the bank of the Millcroft Brook to the rear of Ash Grove Close.</p> <p>14. The next working party sessions would take place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Friday, 8 May 2015 at 6.00pm meeting at Millcroft Farm. The aim would be to continue the work on the Millcroft Brook from the rear of Ash Grove Close to the Millcroft and Ketch Lane culverts. b. Friday, 22 May 2015 at 6.00pm. Details of the work to be undertaken and meeting place would be decided after the 8 May session and sent out by the Secretary. <p>15. The Secretary would send out a reminder for both sessions to all members of the Group.</p> <p>16. The Chairman then asked if there was any equipment that the Group should consider purchasing for the forthcoming working party season. It was agreed that a further 3 rakes, similar to the large yellow rake which the Group already owned, should</p> | Secretary |

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| <p>be added to the Group's equipment list. The Treasurer agreed to purchase these.</p> <p>17. <u>Annual Bonfire Party</u>. The Chairman reminded members that the annual Bonfire Party would be held on Saturday, 3 October 2015 starting at 6.00pm, once again at Millcroft Farm.</p> | <p>Treasurer</p> <p>All</p> |
| <p><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> | |
| <p>18. <u>Cllr Jeremy Millar</u>. Mr Tilford referred to the news that Cllr Jeremy Millar, the Ward Councillor for Bodenham, would be standing down at the forthcoming election and suggested that the Minutes should record the Group's thanks to him for the enormous support which he had given to the BFPG over the past five years. Members all agreed that Cllr Millar would be greatly missed and this expression of thanks was unanimously approved.</p> <p>19. <u>Date of the Next Meeting</u>. The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26 May in the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>20. There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.05pm</p> | |

Councillor KA Mitcheson
Chairman

26 May 2015