

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 2014

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the April Meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Summary of the Past Month.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman remarked that it had been another month without any really severe weather, so he had nothing to report on flood prevention matters. However, it was pleasing to note that the working party season had started well with two Friday evening sessions and two pump training sessions. Also, a walk down the lower part of the Millcroft Brook had shown the extent of the silt build up that had been caused by the winter storms. At the moment this was not sufficient to cause any real concern; at present it would not stop water getting away if there was heavy rain, but now was the time to stop it getting any worse – a case of ‘a stitch in time’.</p> <p>b. The Chairman added that he had heard from Mrs Mary Dhonau that, partly as a result of what the BFPG has achieved, Defra has funded 13 pathfinder projects to encourage other communities to emulate the Group’s work. Mrs Dhonau is now working on one of these projects in Northampton and the Secretary had provided her with a list of the equipment that the Group use as an example of what may be needed.</p> <p>3. <u>Apologies.</u> Mr Rice, Mr and Mrs Clark, 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 Mrs Bowden, seconded by Mr Tilford, and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>5. <u>Sandbags.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that Balfour Beatty had again been helpful. They had delivered two pallets of filled sandbags to the Parish Hall on 9 April and these are now under a tarpaulin at the back of the Hall next to the salt bags.</p> <p>b. On 14 April the Chairman and the Secretary had met Mr Philip Pankhurst, a newly appointed Balfour Beatty Locality Steward who is currently responsible for the Hampton Court Ward, as well as several others. Although his permanent area will be Weobley, he will be looking after Bodenham until our own permanent Locality Steward is appointed; this could be in a few weeks or not for several months. The Chairman had described the BFPG to him, offered him the Group’s help and briefed him on the Ketch Lane culverts issue. Mr Pankhurst had subsequently toured the Ward with the District Councillor, Cllr Jeremy Millar, and had visited Ketch Lane. However, since Mr Pankhurst is, of course, concerned not only with flooding, but with other matters, such as road maintenance, the</p>	

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<p>Group cannot realistically expect Ketch Lane to be his first priority.</p> <p>c. Nevertheless, Mr Pankhurst had had an immediate gift for the Group in the form of the 200 empty sandbags the Chairman had requested last Autumn, so the sandbag situation is much improved compared to the start of the month.</p> <p>d. The Chairman added that the Secretary would be contacting all those who have sandbags on their properties to check their condition and, if they need empty ones to replace broken bags, to let her know. If any one who has sandbags is unable to undertake this task, he asked that they let the Secretary know and she will contact other members of the Group to provide assistance.</p>	All/ Secretary
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p>	
<p>6. The Chairman reported that there has been a generous, but anonymous, donation of £30 to the Group's funds. There had also been an invoice for £18 for the hire of Siward James from January to March 2014. The current balance was therefore now £2,827.07.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p>	
<p>7. <u>Herefordshire Council.</u> The Chairman noted that he was still waiting for a response from Herefordshire Council about the Ketch Lane and Pugh's Field culverts and also about the Group's offer to help the Council and Balfour Beatty with monitoring and signing road closures when the Ketch Lane junction is flooded.</p> <p>8. <u>Further Research on Volunteering.</u> The Chairman also mentioned that he had been contacted by a researcher who was carrying out work on flood protection groups and would like to interview him by telephone. The Chairman promised to report on the outcome of this at the May Meeting.</p>	Chairman
<p><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p>	
<p>9. <u>Working Party Sessions.</u></p> <p>a. <u>Friday, 11 April.</u> The Chairman reported that 14 members had attended the first working party session on Friday, 11 April. This allowed the working party to clear the brook of debris and silt from Brockington Road Bridge up to the C1125. The exit of Flap Valve No 4 just downstream of Brockington Road Bridge was also cleared, but the drain still needs to be jetted. Meanwhile, those with waders walked the length of the brook from Brockington Road Bridge to Millcroft Farm and the Secretary noted the action to be taken on clearing flap valves, bank erosion and blockages. The Secretary's list will form a basis for future working party sessions.</p> <p>b. <u>Friday, 25 April.</u> Despite the poor weather 7 members of the Group made a lot of progress clearing the build up of silt and vegetation on the Millcroft Brook opposite Millcroft Farm. The Chairman commented that a very good start had been made but, as he had said in his introduction, it would take a few more sessions to clear all the silt that had built up over the winter, including that inside, and immediately downstream of, the East Ketch Lane Culvert. This was work which, if it can be done now, will not take a lot of effort, but, if left, could create much bigger problems in the future.</p> <p>c. <u>Next Working Party Sessions.</u></p> <p>(1) Friday, 9 May – 6.00pm at Millcroft Farm. The aim will be to continue</p>	Secretary/ Ops Officer

ITEM	ACTION
<p>clearing the Millcroft Brook from Millcroft Farm to the Ketch Lane culverts. The Secretary will send out a reminder nearer the time.</p>	All/Secretary
<p>(2) Friday, 30 May – 6.00pm at Millcroft Farm. This will be confirmed at the May meeting, but should the work on Millcroft Brook not be completed, it will be to continue the work of Friday, 9 May.</p>	All/ Ops Manager
<p>10. <u>Pump Training.</u></p>	
<p>a. The Chairman reported that Mr Stephens had held two very successful Pump Training Sessions at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 12 April, when 8 members had attended, and Saturday, 19 April, when 9 had been present. There had been several new faces at both events and the Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr Stephens for giving up a working day to take this on, especially at a time when he was busy with lambing. The Chairman added that the Group has two pumps and one of these will now be located at Orchard Close with Mr Stephens and the other in Ash Grove View with Cllr Alec Avery.</p>	
<p>b. The Chairman noted that Mr Stephens had some ideas about how the current system of coupling the hoses together could be improved and would be looking into this further and reporting back.</p>	Mr Stephens
<p>11. <u>Social Events.</u></p>	
<p>a. <u>Annual Barbecue.</u></p>	
<p>(1) This will be on Saturday, 28 June starting at 6.00pm. Mrs Schwartz said that she and her husband were delighted to be hosting the Group’s Annual Barbecue at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan this year and had already received a number of offers of barbecue equipment, marquees, tables, plates and cutlery. She would provide all the burger buns, and salads and those attending should bring their own meat, puddings and drinks. However, if there was sufficient interest, she proposed to provide Canadian style spare ribs for the event at a cost likely to be no more than £4 per person and she would confirm this at the next Meeting. Whilst there was some parking space at Willow Cottage, Mrs Schwartz suggested that all car parking should take place on the Common next to Willow Cottage and that, so far as possible, members should share cars.</p>	All
<p>(2) The Secretary confirmed that a poster advertising the event would be sent out and that everyone wishing to attend should contact Mrs Schwartz direct.</p>	All/ Secretary
<p>b. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> This will 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>	Secretary
<p>c. <u>Annual Fund-Raising Quiz Night.</u> The date for this is Friday, 14 November. Mrs Griffiths and her team have very kindly agreed to organise the event again this year. As in the past, the Secretary will produce a Poster for the evening and will confirm the date to hire the Parish Hall for the event with Mrs Knott. (Afternote. The Secretary has confirmed the booking for Friday 14 November with Mrs Knott and notified Mrs Griffiths.)</p>	Secretary
<p><u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>12. <u>Annual Report to the Parish Council.</u> The Chairman noted that the next Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would be on Monday, 12 May and the BFPG was expected to produce a report for this. He undertook to draft the report and to circulate it by e-mail for comment before he submitted it. He asked members to look out for the draft and to respond to it promptly if they had</p>	All/

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



BBQ

Saturday 28 June 2014

at 6.00P.M.

at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan

Please bring your own food and drink

Please let Sheila Schwartz know
if you plan to attend:

On 07765 711040 or
Sheila.schwartz1@ntlworld.com