

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**



## **MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2019**

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the April Meeting and commented that Storm Hannah had brought more wind than rain and that neither water levels nor flood risk had been affected.</p> <p>2. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 21 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Cllr Tilford, Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Davies, Mr Maxwell and Mr Rice.</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 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 Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Avery and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>4. <b><u>Bodenham Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that there had been a plan to install a sensor in the Moor Brook at Brook House so that data about flow and water levels in the Brook could be gathered. It had now been confirmed, however, that the NFM Project had insufficient funds to allow this and so only data from the Millcroft Brook would be collected. Even here the situation would not be ideal because the existing early warning telemetry system only records water levels, not flow rates, and there was not enough money to upgrade it. Flow rates would therefore have to be calculated mathematically and Hydro-Logic Services (International) Ltd. (HLSI) were being contracted to do this. This would require them to pay seven visits per year to the telemetry system to carry out gauging work. The Parish Council had confirmed that it had no difficulty with these visits taking place, or with the data from the telemetry system being used and subsequently being made public.</p> <p>b. Mr Burnill suggested that, if data from the Moor catchment was required for the success of the NFM Project and if the Project was not able to pay for the installation of the necessary telemetry system and sensor in the Moor Brook, the Parish Council and/or the BFPG might consider meeting that cost. He asked what this was likely to be and the Chairman replied that he did not have an exact figure because Bodenham had been fortunate in that Hydro-Logic had donated the system for the Millcroft Brook to the Parish. However, he thought that the cost would probably be about £2,000 - £2,500, with a further £350 annually for maintenance.</p>	

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<p>c. The Chairman went on to say that the reason why the Millcroft Brook had been chosen for the location of the existing sensor was that the events of July 2007 had shown that, although surface flooding damage had been caused by both Brooks, that from the Millcroft Brook had affected by far the greater number of properties. Mr Burnill indicated that he personally did not rely on warnings from the telemetry system and rather questioned its value.</p> <p>d. The Chairman responded by outlining the series of warnings which the system provides and the importance of these at each stage of a potential emergency, for example, in ensuring that the relief channel is activated in time for it to come into operation and in allowing those in vulnerable properties time to get flood protection equipment in place, especially at night. He commented that, unlike other parts of the country, Bodenham had been very fortunate in its weather in recent years and there had therefore been very few occasions when members would have received a general 0.9m alert from the system. This lack of warnings should not lull members into a false sense of security, or allow them to become complacent. (<b>Afternote.</b> The telemetry records show that in the over four years since 1 January 2015 there have been twenty initial 0.5m alerts (which go only to the Chairman and Secretary), and that on only seven occasions have water levels continued rising far enough to generate general 0.9m alerts).</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 – ANNUAL REPORT</u></b></p> <p>5. The Chairman drew members’ attention to the draft Annual Report which was required to be submitted to the Annual Parish Meeting on 13 May. He had circulated this by email the previous week and copies were available in hard copy on the tables. He asked for members’ comments on the draft and for its approval. Approval of the Report was proposed by Mr Burnill, seconded by Mrs Fryer and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>6. The Chairman said that the balance at the end of March had been £4,568.35. There had been no income in March, but expenditure of £13.50 for the hire of the Siward James room for BFPG Meetings from January to March 2019.</p> <p>7. The new balance therefore now stood at £4,554.85. The VAT refund of £19.40 for printing of the display and other materials for the BFPG Tenth Anniversary Celebration remains outstanding.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></b></p> <p>8. <b><u>Working Parties.</u></b> The Chairman reported that the first working party of the year had taken place on Friday, 26 April, a fortnight earlier than last year. Nineteen members had met at the Brockington Road bridge for a short session brought to a close by rain, during which they had checked and repaired the sandbags at Hamwyn Joinery. Ms Easson’s sandbags and those held by Mr and Mrs Hemming had also been checked and repaired and the lock at the Siward James cage had been checked and oiled. It had been noted for future reference that ordinary string should not be used on sandbags since it rapidly deteriorated; binder twine or similar water resistant cord should be provided. In addition, some of the sandbags in the Siward James cage were exposed to sunlight and had degraded; the plastic covering there needed improving and the affected sandbags would have to be repaired. The Chairman thanked Mrs Fryer who had kindly donated a roll of synthetic cord to the Group for future sandbag ties.</p> <p>9. <b><u>Spraying.</u></b> The Chairman reported that on Easter Monday he had sprayed the section of the Millcroft Brook from the Millcroft Road pumping station to the Brockington Road bridge. There did not appear to be much watercress as yet in the section upstream of the bridge, so he</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p>

