

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2012

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the May Meeting.</p> <p>2. There were 28 members present and apologies were received from Mr Best, Mr &amp; Mrs Watson and Mrs Burnill.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>3. The Minutes of the April Meeting were approved. They were proposed by Mr Clark and seconded by Mr Nicolson.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTER ARISING</u></b></p> <p>4. <b><u>“Project Bodenham”</u></b>. The Chairman reported that:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. The final hurdles in the Project have been overcome and the few remaining properties will shortly be completed.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. The inspection team are expected to come round in the next two weeks to complete the sign off process. Mr Mark Watkins (Amey) has been asked to contact those concerned with the timings. (<b><u>Afternote</u></b>. The inspection team will visit the remaining properties on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June).</p> <p>5. <b><u>Visit of ITV Tonight Programme on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012</u></b>. The Chairman remarked that the feedback from the <i>Tonight</i> programme, which had featured the work of the BFPG, had been very complimentary. The Secretary had received congratulations from many who had seen the programme, including (amongst others) Herefordshire Council who had wanted to put out a news bulletin about it.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Early Warning Telemetry System</u></b>.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. The Chairman told the Meeting that the telemetry system had been commissioned on 11 May and Hydro-Logic have asked for the mobile numbers of those members who are to receive warnings of potential flash flooding. Ideally, this should be all the area representatives. He asked those who would like to be on the first response sheet to contact the Secretary with their details.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. As there is a limit on the number of people who can be contacted by the system, anyone who is not an area representative or other committee member but would like to be included, should also let the Secretary know.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Area Reps</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>All</b></p>

<p>c. He confirmed that the system will be tested in due course, but that he did not have the details of this at present.</p> <p>d. Mr Grumbley said that he had discussed with Mr Hawnt of Hydro-Logic writing an article on the presentation of the system to the Village for <i>The Hereford Times</i>. Mr Hawnt had no objection to this and the Chairman said that he thought that such an article would be good for both Hydro-Logic and the Village. Mr Grumbley undertook to draft the article and send it for comment to the Chairman and Mr Hawnt prior to submission to <i>The Hereford Times</i>.</p>	<b>Mr Grumbley</b>
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>7. The Treasurer reported that the VAT had now been reclaimed on all the recent purchases. In addition he had also received a cheque for £67.20 for the two toilet bungs which Amey had purchased from the BFPG.</p> <p>8. The payment to Siward James of £13.50 for the hire of the meeting room in February, March and April now brought the current balance to £1,844.94.</p> <p>9. The Treasurer pointed out that there would be more expenditure in the near future as the two water pumps which had been purchased some time ago would need to be fitted with additional lengths of hose to make them effective. The Operations Officer now had the pumps and had checked that they were both working. He asked members for their agreement to the purchase of the necessary additional hoses for the pumps. This was proposed by Mrs Bowden, seconded by Mr Stephens and agreed.</p>	<b>Operations Officer</b>
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></b></p> <p>10. The Operations Officer thanked all those who had taken part in the sessions working on the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts and the Ketch Lane ditch. He was satisfied that Group's efforts had put the latter into a fit state for him to spray it with the approved herbicide to keep the ditch clear.</p> <p>11. <b><u>Working Party Dates for June.</u></b></p> <p>a. The first working party session for June would take place on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, with the meeting point being Millcroft Farm. The aim would be to start clearing the brook from Millcroft Farm working upstream towards the Brockington Road bridge.</p> <p>b. The following working party session would be on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This will start on Brockington Road bridge and work down the brook towards Millcroft Farm.</p> <p>12. <b><u>Future Projects.</u></b> The Chairman noted that, now that Project Bodenham was nearing completion, the time had come to consider the Group's future objectives. He proposed three:</p> <p>a. <b><u>Test of Flood Protection Equipment.</u></b></p> <p>(1) He suggested that there would need to be some form of check to ensure that those property owners who had received Environment Agency-funded flood protection equipment were able to maintain that</p>	<b>Operations Manager</b>

equipment and that they were proficient in fitting it in an emergency. At the same time there would have to be a check of the effectiveness of the “buddy system”, by which those physically unable to fit the equipment, or likely to be away from home when an emergency occurred, had someone able to fit their equipment for them. Thought would have to be given as to how best these checks might be carried out.

(2) In discussion, it was suggested that any such exercise should include some form of co-ordination with Hydro-Logic and be initiated by messages generated as if from the telemetry system in the Millcroft Brook. It would also require ‘monitors’ to check how each householder dealt with their equipment and the length of time it took them to complete the defences on their property.

b. **Development of an Emergency Plan.** The Chairman stated that, as he was also the Emergency Co-ordinator for the Parish, he would be involved in writing the Parish Emergency Plan. He felt that it would make sense for there to be a flood action section contained within that Plan and for this to be drafted with input from the BFPG.

c. **Replacement of the Ketch Lane Culverts.**

(1) The Chairman reminded members that their current maintenance work in clearing local ditches, watercourses and culverts, together with the Environment Agency-funded property-level protection to selected houses, only went part way to protecting the Village from future flooding. Although in 1998 and 2007 flood water had actually entered nearly 40 properties, many more had suffered damage to outbuildings, gardens and vehicles and remained vulnerable.

(2) As members were aware, two independent hydrology reports, one by Hydro-Logic and a second commissioned by Herefordshire Council, both stated categorically that the twin culverts under the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction were undersized and not fit for purpose. It must therefore be a long term objective to replace the culverts with one of sufficient capacity to cope with any future flash flooding down the brook of the kind which occurred in 2007.

(3) This was not just an objective for the BFPG, but for the Parish as a whole, and members would find it included in the Parish Plan which is due to be published shortly. While raising the total funding necessary to pay for such a major project was clearly beyond the ability of the Group alone, he was confident that, if the BFPG demonstrated its commitment by raising a substantial sum towards the overall cost, the remainder would be forthcoming from Herefordshire Council, the Environment Agency and other sources.

(4) In discussion some members expressed doubts about the prospect of achieving this aim. However, Mr Tilford told the Meeting that, as he had experience of applying for grants in the past, he would be happy to assist with this aspect of fund-raising. The Chairman said that the cost quoted in Herefordshire Council’s hydrology report for a new box culvert would be around £130K. He was hopeful that, if the Group were able to raise £20K - £30K, it would be in a position to apply for the remainder.

Chairman

Chairman

All



**NOTICE OF ELECTION**  
**BFPG COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVES**

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Current Incumbent</u></b>	<b><u>Agreed to Stand for Nomination for 2012/13</u></b>
<u>Chairman:</u>	Tony Mitcheson	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tony Clark	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Babs Mitcheson	
<u>Operations Officer:</u>	Mike Stephens	
<u>Assistant Operations Officer:</u>	Robin George	

**Area Representatives**

**The Moor:**

<u>The Moor Road:</u>	Tony Clark
<u>Orchard Close:</u>	Robert Pritchard
<u>Chapel Lane:</u>	Robert Pritchard
<u>Brockington Road –North Nos 2 – 30:</u>	Simon Dowler
<u>Brockington Road – North Nos 1 – 32 and 32 - 44:</u>	Rebecca Burnill
<u>Brockington Road – South:</u>	Gwen Bowden
<u>Siward James Close:</u>	Iris Evans
<u>Ash Grove Close:</u>	Jean Fryer
<u>Ash Grove View:</u>	David Harris
<u>Millcroft Road:</u>	Barbara Gibson

**Bodenham Village:**

<u>Bridge to War Memorial:</u>	Simon Nickols
<u>The Church and Bodenham Village:</u>	David Ayshford-Sanford Mike Mullenger

Above are the names and positions held by the current BFPG committee.

If those members currently in post would like to remain for a further year, please let the Secretary know.

If you currently do not hold a position, but would like to put your name forward for any of the posts listed above, please let the Secretary know.

The list will be notified at the forthcoming BFPG Meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> July. **The list for nominations will close on 15<sup>th</sup> August.**