

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 26 MAY 2015**

| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Action</b> |
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| <p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the May Meeting, including Mr Robin George who had returned from a brief stay in hospital.</p> <p>2. He remarked that 2015 had been turning into an unusual year in that the amount of rainfall had so far seemed less than we had come to expect. However, members should not become complacent – a reappearance of El Niño was being forecast and, with it, a degree of uncertainty about the effect on the UK's weather later in the year.</p> <p>3. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 20 members present and apologies were received from Mr Bowden, Mr Nicholson, Mr Sebbage, Mr and Mrs Avery, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Hemmings, Mrs Bick, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Parker and Mrs Schwartz.</p>  |               |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>4. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the April 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 Watson, seconded by Mr Tilford and agreed.</p>   |               |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>5. <b><u>Housing Developments.</u></b></p> <p>a. <b><u>Land Opposite England's Gate Inn.</u></b></p> <p>(1) The Chairman reminded members that responses to Bell Homes' planning application (P/151055/RM) for the construction of 40 houses on the field opposite England's Gate Inn had been required by Thursday, 14 May. He was aware that some individual members of the BFPG had commented to Herefordshire Council on the application and he noted that the Secretary had submitted a letter on behalf of the Group as a whole objecting to the inadequacy of Bell Homes' proposals on two specific issues – the disposal of foul water into an already overloaded sewerage system and the discharge of surface water run-off into the Millcroft Brook.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman said that he understood that the new Ward Councillor, Cllr Bruce Baker, who had been at the April Meeting, had discussed these concerns with Mr Ed Thomas, the Planning Officer, and he and the Secretary hoped to meet Cllr Baker in the next week or two to</p> |               |

| Item  | Action                      |
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| <p>show him the site and discuss the situation with him.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Land Adjacent to England’s Gate Inn.</u></b></p> <p>(1) The Chairman referred to the proposal by Hook Mason Architects to apply for outline planning permission for the construction of up to 10 houses on the land just North of England’s Gate Inn. The firm had held a public exhibition on the proposed development in the Parish Hall on the late afternoon of Wednesday, 6 May, which he, the Secretary and a number of other members of the Group had attended.</p> <p>(2) The exhibition had provided little information beyond that already given to the Parish Council at its Meeting on 13 April. However, it appeared that Hook Mason might be willing to consider the extension of the A417 footpath round into the C1125 as far as the entrance to the England’s Gate carpark, as well as a pedestrian access from the proposed site along the back of the Inn to Millcroft Road.</p> <p>(3) The Chairman concluded by saying that he would brief Cllr Baker on the situation when he and the Secretary met him.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></b> The Chairman said that for the moment he had nothing new to report on the Neighbourhood Plan. As he had said at the last Meeting, progress was very slow at present, partly because those concerned had many other pressing commitments and partly because Herefordshire Council’s Core Strategy was still subject to change.</p> <p>7. <b><u>Annual Barbecue (Saturday, 27 June 2015 at Willow Cottage)</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that this was the last reminder that the Annual Barbecue would be at Willow Cottage on Saturday 27 June, starting at 6.00pm. Mr Schwartz asked anyone who had not signed in for the BBQ to do so as soon as possible. All salads and rolls would be provided by Mrs Schwartz, but offers of puddings would be gratefully received.</p> <p>b. The Secretary said that she would send out a final reminder to all members that the final date for booking in to the event was Saturday, 6 June 2015.</p> | <p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p> |
| <b><u>ITEM 4 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></b>  |                             |
| <p>8. <b><u>Flood Resilience at a Community Level in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that he had completed an on-line survey for a project on flood resilience being conducted by Mr Steven Forrest, a PhD researcher at the University of Groningen. Defra had subsequently suggested to Mr Forrest that he should follow up the survey with an actual meeting with the BFPG. The difficulty of his getting to Bodenham by public transport on the only days available had meant that it was more convenient for him to meet the Chairman and Secretary in London, since they were due to be there at the</p>  |                             |

| Item   | Action                               |
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| <p>relevant time.</p> <p>b. The Chairman said that the meeting, which took place at Imperial College London on Tuesday, 19 May, lasted about two hours, during which Mr Forrest explained that he had been visiting flood groups around the country to assess what lessons could be learned about improving flood resilience at community level, both in England and in the Netherlands where there were no such groups since flood protection was all government funded. During the meeting the Chairman and the Secretary had covered every aspect of the Group's work and had suggested to Mr Forrest that he should visit the BFPG, preferably for a monthly meeting or a working party session, so that he could meet and interview members. Mr Forrest had indicated that this might be a possibility.</p> <p>9. <b><u>Herefordshire Voluntary Organisations Support Service (HVOSS)</u></b>. The Chairman reported that HVOSS had held one of their monthly funding breakfasts in Hereford on Tuesday, 5 May. At this Mr David Tristram, the Regeneration Officer at Herefordshire Council, had been talking about funding opportunities for organisations and individuals running projects in the County. The Chairman said that he and the Secretary had attended this briefing and had discussed the replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts with him. It came as no surprise that this project did not fall within the scope of most of the sources of funding available. Nevertheless, Mr Tristram had suggested that the Group should write to him with details and he would investigate further.</p> <p>10. <b><u>River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB)</u></b>. The Chairman noted that, as a member of the River Lugg IDB, he had taken part in the Board's annual tour of inspection on Thursday, 14 May. This had been attended by Mrs Anne Wheeler, the Chairman of the English Severn and Wye Regional Flood Committee and had visited a number of projects across the County where the Board were carrying out work to clear and improve watercourses and prevent flooding. The tour had ended at Millcroft Farm where Board members were shown the work which had been done to reprofile the relief channel and clear it of accumulated silt. The Chairman said that he and the Secretary had taken the opportunity to set up the Group's display of photographs and to describe the BFPG's work to Mrs Wheeler and IDB members, which had generated a lot of interest.</p> <p>11. <b><u>The Wye Catchment Partnership</u></b>.</p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that, through his membership of the River Lugg IDB, he had come into contact with the River Wye and Usk Foundation which does a great deal of work on improving the state of these two rivers and the habitat they provide for fish and wildlife. (<a href="http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/">http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/</a> )</p> <p>b. Together with National Resources Wales, the Foundation is hosting The Wye Catchment Partnership which "was established in 2014 with support from Defra and the Welsh government to bring the farmers, foresters, planners, charities, statutory bodies and people who have an interest in the Wye together to secure better outcomes for the Wye catchment and the environment we rely on" (<a href="http://www.wyecatchment.org/">http://www.wyecatchment.org/</a> ). In particular, the Partnership has been tasked with delivering the River Wye Nutrient Management Plan aimed at reducing the level of phosphates in the Wye to meet EU standards.</p> | <p><b>Chairman<br/>Secretary</b></p> |

| Item  | Action                  |
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| <p>c. The Chairman said that, because of the work of the BFPG, he and the Secretary have been invited to attend a meeting of the Partnership on Monday, 15 June in Leominster. They would do so and report back to the Group.</p>   |                         |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 5 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p>  |                         |
| <p>12. The Chairman reported that, since the last Meeting, there had been expenditure of £91.63. This was £34.29 for the 4 new rakes and £57.34 to replace a pair of chest waders. Until VAT was recovered from these purchases, the current balance was £3,098.82.</p> <p>13. There is also a need for a further pair of chest waders at £57.34. This is because a pair of chest waders had started to leak and the thigh waders currently held by the Group for communal use are the wrong size to act as a replacement. Also, whilst thigh waders are good for regular brook work, they are not suitable for culvert work.</p> <p>14. The Chairman asked for agreement to purchase a further pair of chest waders which would be £57.34 based on the last purchase price for this item. This would be reduced by 20% once VAT had been recovered. The purchase was proposed by Miss Gibson, seconded by Mrs Bowden and agreed.</p>   | <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></b></p>   |                         |
| <p>15. <b><u>Working Parties.</u></b> The Chairman thanked all those who had turned up to the working party sessions on:</p> <p>a. <b>Friday, 8 May.</b> This took place at Millcroft Farm where 15 members of the Group cleared the brook of vegetation and silt alongside the Millcroft Farm orchard. The work of clearing silt from the Ketch Lane culverts was also started.</p> <p>b. <b>Friday 22 May.</b> It was decided that the 11 members who attended should concentrate on the Ketch Lane culverts. The new rakes agreed at the last Meeting had been purchased in time for this session and were very successful. The Chairman said that, as a result, the old (East) culvert was now about one-third clear and it had been agreed that the next two working party sessions should concentrate on finishing the task.</p> <p>16. It was agreed that the next sessions would be on:</p> <p>a. <b>Friday 5 June 2015.</b> Members are asked to meet at Millcroft Farm at 6.00pm.</p> <p>b. <b>Friday 19 June 2015.</b> Provisionally at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction at 6.00pm.</p> <p>17. The Secretary will send out a reminder for both sessions to all members of the Group.</p> <p>18. <b><u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u></b> The Chairman reminded members that the annual</p> | <p><b>Secretary</b></p> |

| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Action</b> |
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| Bonfire Party would be held on Saturday, 3 October 2015 starting at 6.00pm, once again at Millcroft Farm.   | <b>All</b>    |
| <p><b><u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>19. <b><u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u></b> The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 30 June in the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>20. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.55pm</p> |               |

Cllr KA Mitcheson  
Chairman

30 June 2015