

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011

### ITEM

### ACTION

#### AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME

1. In the absence of Mrs Sanford, Mr Clark stood in as Chairman and welcomed everyone to the June Meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Mr & Mrs R. Bowden, Mrs A. Cooper, Mr K. Grumbley, Mrs P. Sanford and Mr D. Tilford. There were 28 members present.

#### AGENDA ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

##### 3. BFPG AGM and Election of Committee and Officials for 2012.

Mr Clark told the Meeting that the Secretary had been in contact with each current member of the Committee and the Area Representatives and had asked them if they wished to stand again in 2011/2012. (The updated list is at Annex A). He emphasised that, if anyone would like their name to be put forward for a particular post, they should contact the Secretary either by email or by telephone. Nominations will close after the July BFPG Meeting on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July.

All

Secretary

##### 4. Award of EA Grant for Property - Level Flood Protection.

a. Mr Tony Mitcheson gave an update on the PPL Grant. He started by noting that, of the 6 phases of the Project (Questionnaires, Surveys, Reports, Decision-making, Installation and Practice/ Testing) the first two had now been completed and had gone reasonably well. Most of the questionnaires had been completed and handed in, although a degree of confusion and consequent extra work and delay had been caused by the fact that in a number of cases properties which had not previously been recorded as having flooded in 1998 or 2007 now appeared to have been affected after all. Even after such instances had been clarified, some other mysteries still remained - for example, where, of three adjacent properties, the two outer ones had suffered, while the middle one was still said to have been unscathed!

b. He went on to stress the importance of members giving priority to the Project and to completing their own parts in it promptly. As Mr Peter May, the Technical Director of JBA Consulting, had explained at the Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June, Bodenham was, in a sense, competing with the other 30 places across the country which had been awarded PPL grants this year to be first in the queue to get their orders for flood protection equipment in to the manufacturers. It was therefore essential that the Project was not delayed by individuals failing to meet decision-making and other deadlines. In this context, he reported that Mr May had decided that he could not wait any longer for questionnaires and that any that had yet to be completed must be handed in to the Secretary by no later than the following day (26<sup>th</sup>

June).

c. Mr Mitcheson continued by reminding members that the next phase of the Project was the preparation of individual property reports by JBA Consulting, from which would emerge the revised list of properties to be awarded funding under the PPL Grant. The reports would be issued in mid-to late July and it was essential that the householders concerned then used the month of August to consider their own report's recommendations and decide which, if any, they wished to accept. Only then would they be properly prepared for the decision-making day in the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> September. That event would provide them with a 'private viewing' of flood protection equipment, at which they would be required to make up their minds and complete the Amey flood protection equipment order form for their property. Provided there were no delays, it should then be possible for Amey to obtain the equipment and start installation well before Christmas. We would then be well placed to meet the 31 March 2012 deadline for the completion of the Project, leaving only the practice and testing phase to be conducted the following July.

d. Mrs Barbara Gibson asked whether or not, by the majority choosing the same product by the same manufacturer, it would be beneficial to the Project to keep costs to the minimum thereby making more of the Grant. Mr Mitcheson replied that this would inevitably be so and furthermore it would assist in obtaining the products more quickly rather than going to a variety of manufacturers.

e. Mr Derek Sebbage asked if the Grant allocated to each property would be sufficient to meet the recommendations from the Survey. Mr Clark on told the meeting that based on the evidence from Withington/Cross Keys, not a single property went over budget and all received the equipment recommended in the individual property survey report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – TREASURER'S REPORT**

5. The Treasurer thanked Mr Simon Nickols and the members of the Flood Group who ran the teas at The Forge during the recent Bodenham Open Garden Day in aid of the MS Oxygen Therapy Unit in Hereford. Despite dreadful weather, the teas raised £122.50 for the BFPG's funds, while the Open Gardens raised £293.50 for the MS Therapy Unit. He also thanked all the members who had produced home made cakes for the event.

6. Finally, he reported that the balance of the Group's accounts now stood at £1,726.59.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4 - FUTURE PLANS**

#### **7. The Proposed Timetable for Working Party Sessions.**

a. Mr Clark outlined the next two working party sessions:

(1) **Friday, 8 July 6.30pm** at the gate for Mr Pugh's field at the end of Orchard Close. **Secretary**

(2) **Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 6.30pm**, again at the gate for Mr Pugh's field at the end of Orchard Close. **Secretary**

b. The plan for these two working party sessions will be to clear the section of ditch from the Moor Brook flap valve to the corner of the field which runs to the culvert. All those who will be attending are asked to bring loppers, rakes, brushcutter trimmers and to wear wellies.

**All**

c. The Secretary will send out a reminder for both these events.

**Secretary**

8. **Proposed Flood Fair/ Exhibition.**

a. Mr Clark reminded the Meeting that, before it was known that Bodenham had been awarded the PPL Grant, the Group had proposed to ask Mrs Mary Dhonau to organise a Flood Fair/Exhibition in the village and to open it to other parishes *via* Herefordshire Voluntary Action and parish clerks. The BFPG had also planned to ask Herefordshire Council to pay for the event from the government funding given to them specifically for flood defence work.

b. As already mentioned under Item 2, those who have been nominated for a share in the PPL Grant will have a private viewing of property protection equipment to enable them to decide what items they do, or do not, wish to accept. Notwithstanding this, the Group had agreed at its May Meeting that it was extremely important for those in the parish, who were not receiving any EA funding, to have the chance to see what equipment is available. Furthermore, the Meeting had agreed that the same opportunity should be offered to other parishes across the County. It had therefore been decided that we would still like to put on a Flood Fair/Exhibition open to all and Mrs Mary Dhonau has confirmed that she is still happy to organise such an event. It would include, for example, equipment displays and presentations during the day and in the early evening she would chair an open meeting on flood insurance.

c. Mr Clark went on to report that on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June the Secretary had received an email from Mr Steve Hodges confirming that Herefordshire Council accepted that a county-wide event would be of great benefit. As we still feel that it would be very beneficial to hold the event here in Bodenham, we have done our very best to ensure that this point is made to Mr Hodges. We have also indicated that we would like Herefordshire Council to pay for the event.

d. Mr Clark added that he had been informed that one of the reasons that Bodenham had been awarded the PPL Grant was that, like Withington/Cross Keys who were awarded a similar Grant in 2010, the Environment Agency had been impressed with the attitude and proactive nature of the Flood Group and this had helped to support the bid and secure the Grant.

e. Finally, he noted that, if the county-wide event is to take place in the Parish Hall as planned, it would be an ideal opportunity for the BFPG to support its fund-raising by making refreshments and light lunches available. Members will be asked in due course to offer their services to help on the day.

All

9. **Visit to UK Flood Barriers Ltd, Droitwich.**

a. Mr Clark informed members that Mr Peter May had arranged for those members of the Group, who had been unable to attend the visit to UK Flood Barriers Ltd last March, to visit the firm on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July. The visit was open to all, but Mr May was particularly keen that all those who are likely to be nominated for a grant should see the flood protection measures, which he may have discussed with them, in action in the flood tank. This will greatly help them when it comes to their deciding which items to accept for installation in their houses.

b. Mr Clark added that UK Flood Barriers Ltd was only an hour away, easy to find and with ample parking. The event would start at 10.30am, preceded by coffee and biscuits on arrival. There would be a full briefing to begin with, followed by the demonstration in the flood tank. The whole presentation would last about 1½ hours and there would be an opportunity to discuss any points with the firm's staff and with Mr May afterwards. As the names of visitors had to be with UK Flood Barriers Ltd as soon as possible, this was the last opportunity for those interested to give their names to the Secretary.

c. Eleven members of the Group had attended the previous visit in March this year. There were currently ten members signed up for the visit on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10. **Pride of Herefordshire Awards.** Mr Clark informed members that, before he retired as our District Councillor, Cllr Keith Grumbley had nominated the BFPG for the Hereford Voluntary Action Team of the Year Award. However, the Group had been unsuccessful and the Award had gone to a youth organisation. Cllr Jeremy Millar, who has taken over from Cllr Grumbley, has agreed to nominate the BFPG in the Pride of Herefordshire Awards for 2011 in the Adult Community Section for Groups which consist of more than 10 people.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

11. The next Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July at the Siward James Centre.

Mr A. Clark  
Acting Chairman

26 July 2011

**BFBG COMMITTEE AND AREA REPRESENTATIVES LIST**

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>	<b><u>Agreed to be nominated for 2011/12</u></b>
<b><u>Chairman:</u></b>	Tricia Sanford	
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	Tony Clark	Tony Clark
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	Babs Mitcheson	
<b><u>Working Party Managers:</u></b>	Tony Clark/ Mike Stephens	Mike Stephens

**Area Representatives****The Moor:****The Moor Road:****Orchard Close:****Chapel Lane:****Brockington Road – North:****Brockington Road – North:****Brockington Road – South:****Ash Grove Close:****Ash Grove View:****Millcroft Road:****Bodenham Village:****Bridge to War Memorial:****The Church and****Bodenham Village:**

Tony Clark

Robert Pritchard

Robert Pritchard

**New Post:**

Simon Dowler

Gwen Bowden

Jean Fryer

David Harris

Barbara Gibson

Simon Nickols

David Ayshford-Sanford

Mike Mullenger

Tony Clark

Robert Pritchard

Robert Pritchard

Rebecca Burnill

Simon Dowler

Gwen Bowden

Jean Fryer

David Harris

Barbara Gibson

Simon Nickols

David Ayshford-Sanford

Mike Mullenger