

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2013

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the June Meeting and was especially pleased to welcome Cllr Stan Davis from Siward James who was present as a member of the public. He reminded everyone that BFPG meetings were open to anyone who wished to attend.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 31 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Avery and Mrs Parker.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the May Meeting which had been circulated earlier with the Agenda and which were also available in hard copy on the tables for those members without computers. Mr Rice proposed that the Minutes should be approved; this was seconded by Mrs Clark, and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>Early Warning Telemetry System.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that he had been notified by Hydro-Logic Ltd that the Group needed to replenish the ‘credits’ which pay for the telephone alerts which some members of the Group receive from the early warning telemetry system. The bad weather over the Winter had meant that the Group’s credit balance had become rather depleted. The Secretary had now bought a further £36 of credits for the Group.</p> <p>b. Mr Hawnt had pointed out that the large number of alerts being generated at relatively low water levels was not only causing unnecessary expense, but also might be leading recipients to disregard them. He had suggested that the Group should carry out another review of who gets alerts and when. The Chairman said that, as promised, he had looked at the graph of water levels for the past year to see what changes might be advisable. (Copies of the graph were available for members present at the Meeting). He suggested that, simply by very slightly raising the water levels at which alerts are triggered, the Group might be able to reduce the number of alarms generated significantly.</p>	

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<p>c. It was agreed that the Chairman/Secretary, Mr Clark and Mr Stephens should remain on the 0.5m alert level, but that all other members who needed to be alerted should be put on the 0.9m level. It was further suggested that the next alert for everyone should be at 1.5m. These changes were proposed by Mr Nicolson, seconded by Mrs Bowden and agreed.</p> <p>5. <u>The Statement of Principle</u>. The Chairman told the meeting that, in his capacity as a member of the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB), he had received their latest journal which confirmed that the Government and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) had still not reached an agreement on what is to replace the Statement of Principle. (This is an arrangement whereby the ABI agree to offer flood insurance cover for all properties as long as the Government continue to provide substantial funding for flood prevention measures). The Statement of Principle was due to end this month, but had been extended by a further month to the end of July. However, the indications are that it will continue informally thereafter until a new arrangement has been hammered out. (<u>Afternote</u>. As widely reported in the media, the Government and the ABI have now reached a Memorandum of Understanding as a first step in the development of a new arrangement to be known as ‘Flood Re’. Details can be found at https://www.abi.org.uk/Insurance-and-savings/Topics-and-issues/Flooding/Government-and-insurance-industry-flood-agreement/The-Future-of-Flood-Insurance).</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></p> <p>6. The Treasurer reported that there had been no income since the last Meeting, but there had been an expenditure of £13.50 for the hire of the meeting room at Siward James. The balance for June therefore stood at £2,099.87.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p> <p>7. <u>Working Party Sessions</u>.</p> <p>a. <u>7 and 21 June</u>. The Chairman reported that there been a very good session on 7 June when the working party had jetted out some more drains downstream of Brockington Road and also started clearance work in that area. The next and most recent session had been on 21 June when members had started clearing the ditch in Mr Pugh’s Field, just West of Orchard Close. The ditch was badly overgrown, but the working party had achieved a great deal and had nearly finished the first stretch up to the entrance of the culvert.</p> <p>b. <u>Next Sessions</u>. The next working party sessions will be on 5 and 19 July when work will continue in Mr Pugh’s Field. It was agreed that all those who wished to help should meet at Orchard Close at 6.00pm. Mr Clark said that he had spoken to Mr Bevan and had received permission for a working party to clear the debris in the Moor Brook where it goes under the lane next to Upper Moor Farm. It was agreed that, if sufficient members attend on 5 July, a small party would be sent there to start to clear the stream.</p>	

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<p>c. <u>Annual BBQ – Saturday, 27 July at 6.00pm.</u></p> <p>(1) The Chairman invited Mr Clark to brief the Group about the Barbecue. Mr Clark said that he and his wife would provide salads, rolls and soft drinks, and those who would like to attend should bring their own meat, alcohol and chairs. There would be limited parking at his house, with additional parking next door at the Old Police Station and also at Steppes Mill courtesy of Mr and Mrs Griffiths.</p> <p>(2) Mr Stephens asked why the Group were not subsidising the event as in 2012. The Chairman pointed out that it had been agreed previously that 2012 – the fifth anniversary of the 2007 flood – was a special occasion and that, as such, the Annual BBQ would be subsidised on that occasion only. He reminded members that the BFPG’s funds were public money, held by the Parish Council and raised for the purpose of assisting with the Group’s work by allowing it, for example, to purchase equipment and pay for the hire of the Siward James meeting room. Mr Tilford stated that, as he was no longer able to help at working party sessions, he would donate £30 toward the event. (Afternote. Mrs Avery has kindly offered to supply sausages for the BBQ and the Chairman will donate 6 bottles of wine).</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>8. <u>AGM – Election of Committee.</u> The Chairman reminded the Group that the election of the new committee will take place at the AGM on Tuesday, 27 August. The Secretary has contacted all the current Area Representatives and Committee Members and asked them if they wish to stand for re-election for a further year. A list had been attached to the Agenda and was available for those without email. He reminded members that names for positions still to be filled should be with the Secretary by Wednesday, 31 July. No names are to be put forward after that date.</p> <p>9. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 30 July 2013.</p> <p>10. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.50pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

30 July 2013