

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



**MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S
MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2017**

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the June Meeting and said that yet again he had nothing to report on the issue of flood risk. However, the tenth anniversary of the flood of 20 July 2007 was just 23 days away and, although the work of the BFPG, the existence of the relief channel and the lack of recent rain made the situation today different from 2007, the latter served as a reminder that flooding, especially flash floods, could occur in the summer as well as in the winter. There was therefore no room for complacency.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 20 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr Bowden, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Burnill, Mrs Fryer, Mr and Mrs Hemming, Mrs Parker, Mr Rice, Mr and Mrs Rudge, and Mr and Mrs Watson.</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. 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 Mrs Clark, seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>Sandbag Container.</u> The Chairman expressed his thanks to the eight members who generously gave up their time on the morning of Wednesday, 7 June - not to mention their paintbrushes and in Mr Maxwell's case a lot of his paint - to the task of painting the sandbag storage container behind the Parish Hall. With so many willing volunteers the job had taken less than three hours and, although it had not transformed the container into an object of beauty, it had at least helped to protect it from the elements and made it less of an eyesore than before.</p> <p>5. <u>Sandbag Cage at the Parish Hall.</u> The Chairman reminded members that the sandbag cage at the front of the Parish Hall near the tennis courts was due to be moved to the school car park in order to double the number of sandbags in the Conservation Area. He had hoped that the move would take place on 23 June, but this had not proved possible. The move depended on having the necessary transport available and he was in the process of negotiating another date.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>6. On the Treasurer's behalf the Chairman reported that at the end of May the balance of the account had been £3,988.00. The income for June had been £80.00 in donations, with expenditure for room hire from January to March being £13.50. The balance at the end of June was therefore £4,054.50.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 – THE KETCH LANE AND ORCHARD CLOSE CULVERTS</u></p> <p>7. The Chairman recalled that last summer Cllr Bruce Baker had arranged for a meeting with Mr Geoff Hughes, Herefordshire Council's Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate, to discuss the possible replacement of the Orchard Close and Ketch Lane culverts. This meeting had taken place on 24 August and had resulted in Herefordshire Council commissioning Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) to carry out studies of the two issues, with the study reports being promised for shortly before or after Christmas.</p> <p>8. Since then there had been some apparent progress relating to the Orchard Close culvert with an on-site meeting on 8 February attended by Mr Joel Hockenhull, the Drainage Team Leader at BBLP, and the landowners, Mr and Mrs Pugh. At this some possible designs for a replacement culvert had been discussed, but since then nothing had been heard.</p> <p>9. Given that the study reports promised for last Christmas had not been issued, Cllr Baker had kindly arranged for a further meeting with Mr Hughes. This would take place at Millcroft Farm on Friday (30 June) and, in addition to Cllr Baker and Mr Hughes, would be attended by Mr Hockenhull and Mr Hodges, the Directorate Services Team Leader at Herefordshire Council. The Chairman promised to report the outcome at the July Meeting.</p>	Chairman
<p><u>ITEM 6 – SPRAYING</u></p> <p>10. The Chairman remarked that members would be aware that earlier this year the Group had lost its one member qualified to spray on and near water. This was a serious disadvantage because it meant a return to the situation where the Group was faced with watercourses choked with totally unchecked vegetation. This greatly increased the workload on those relatively few members who were able to contribute to the physical task of watercourse clearance, some of whom were well past retirement age and none of whom were getting any younger.</p> <p>11. The Chairman said that the first response to this situation had obviously been for the Secretary to try and find a person with the necessary qualifications to carry out spraying on the Group's behalf. He explained that this required someone who held three certificates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. PA1, which certified that the person had attended and passed a 'foundation' course on the laws and regulations covering spraying, health and safety and the protection of the environment. b. PA6A, which certified that the individual had attended training in the use of a knapsack sprayer and had passed a two hour practical assessment. This, however, only permitted the certificate holder to spray on areas away from water. 	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>c. PA6AW, which certified that the person concerned had attended training in the use of a knapsack sprayer on and near water and, again, had passed a two hour practical assessment.</p> <p>12. The Secretary had found the names of several individuals who had the first two of these qualifications, but nobody who also held a PA6AW certificate. In any case, as had been pointed out at a previous BFPG meeting, any such person would have to be paid for their services. This was likely to be expensive, and, year on year, these costs would rapidly mount up.</p> <p>13. In the circumstances the Chairman had decided to obtain the certificates himself. In fact, one other member had also volunteered to do so, but by that time he had already started the courses. He had now completed them and was qualified to provide the Group with the service it required. He also had the authority of the Engineer to the River Lugg Drainage Board, in whose area he would be operating, to do so.</p> <p>14. Inevitably, in addition to the time he had had to expend on obtaining the qualifications, there were financial costs attached. The three courses and assessments had cost a total of £700, plus VAT. In addition, there was the matter of equipment. Bearing in mind that he would be operating in accordance with strict health and safety and environmental legislation, this had to be of the correct standard. He already possessed a knapsack sprayer costing about £50, but it was not of the quality and accuracy required. To obtain one which was fit for purpose and complete with accessories would cost about £200, and he had already spent over £40 for the personal protective equipment (PPE) required in the form of coveralls, gloves, face visor, etc.</p> <p>15. The Chairman concluded by saying that he was happy to bear the cost of the knapsack sprayer and PPE himself, but he would appreciate any help the Group could give him in refunding the cost of the courses. Members could perhaps regard it as a down payment on his future spraying work. He would be starting as soon as he had the sprayer, although, unfortunately the timing was such that they would not see the benefit until next year.</p> <p>16. Mrs Bowden suggested that the Group should fund the courses and this was endorsed by Cllr Tilford. Mr Maxwell also supported this suggestion, saying that the fund-raising undertaken by the Group was to provide the Group with what it required to do its work and there were more than enough funds in the account to cover this outlay. Cllr Avery agreed with Mr Maxwell.</p> <p>17. It was therefore proposed by Mrs Bowden and Cllr Tilford that the Chairman should be reimbursed for the cost of the courses, seconded by Cllr Avery and unanimously agreed. The Chairman thanked the members for their support.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>18. <u>Working Parties.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman thanked all those who had taken part in the working parties on 9 June and 23 June. Eight members had turned up to help on both of these days and the two sessions had allowed the clearance of the section of the Millcroft Brook opposite the North end of Ash Grove Close.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>b. The Chairman also expressed his thanks to Mr Brian Jones who, although not a member of the BFPG, had kindly allowed members to use his drive and to access the Millcroft Brook through his garden. This had been most helpful since it eliminated the problems of reaching the Ash Grove Close stretch of the Brook from Brockington Bridge for those who did not possess waders.</p> <p>c. Unfortunately, after the 9 June session had finished and members were returning to their cars one person suffered a fall which caused minor cuts and bruises. This is only the second untoward health and safety incident in the Group's nine year history and has been duly logged as such.</p> <p>19. <u>Future Working Party Dates.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman suggested that the next working party session should be at 6.00pm on Friday, 7 July, meeting at Millcroft Farm where refreshments would be available afterwards. This was agreed. (Afternote: the Chairman has spoken with Mr Hemming in Ash Grove View who has agreed to deal with anything on his bank likely to cause interference with the watercourse).</p> <p>b. The Chairman noted that the following session would normally fall on Friday, 21 July, but a garden party at Millcroft Farm on Saturday 22 July and the Group's Annual Barbecue on Sunday 23 July made this impossible so far as he and the Secretary were concerned. He therefore suggested that the next working party take place at 6.00pm on Friday, 28 July, meeting at Millcroft Farm. This was agreed.</p> <p>20. <u>Annual Barbecue.</u> The Chairman reminded members that the Annual Barbecue was being held on Sunday, 23 July at Millcroft Farm and that this would be preceded by a short garden party. Many of the members might have heard the sad news that Lord Darnley had died on 18 June. The Secretary had sent a card of condolence from the Group to Lady Darnley. It was not clear at the moment whether or not the Lord Lieutenant would still be attending on 23 July. The Barbecue would still go ahead with a start time of 4.00pm and, if there was any change to this the Secretary would let members know by e-mail. Once again, it would help with catering calculations if members could let the Secretary know whether or not they planned to attend, if they had not already done so.</p>	<p></p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>21. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 25 July 2017. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the AGM would be held on Tuesday, 29 August and that the Secretary would be writing to all Area Representatives to ask if they would be prepared to continue in their posts.</p> <p>22. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p>