

# 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 2019

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the June Meeting and remarked that, yet again, the weather had been such as to raise no concerns about flooding. Turning to the Annual Barbecue, which had been held the previous Saturday (22 June) at 'Rosewood', he said that this had been a great success. Some 25 members and guests had attended, the weather had been excellent and everybody had thoroughly enjoyed the evening. He thanked all those who had contributed to setting up and running the event, but particularly, of course, Tony and Kay Clark who had hosted it.</p> <p>2. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 15 members present and apologies were received from Mrs Avery, Mr Bowden, Mrs Burnill, Mr and Mrs Dowler, Mrs Davies, Miss Easson, Miss Gibson, Mr and Mrs Hemming and Mr Maxwell.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></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 Bowden, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>4. <b><u>Bodenham Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that there had been a suggestion that, since the NFM Project was unable to fund a telemetry system in the Moor Brook, the Parish Council, helped by the BFPG, might consider paying for such a system instead. He understood that this suggestion had been raised at the last Parish Council Meeting and that the Council had requested a quote before proceeding any further. Hydro-International had been asked to produce this and a meeting was being held with them at the proposed site at Brook House on Thursday morning (27 June) so that they could finalise their calculations. The quote will then be available for the next Parish Council Meeting on 1 July.</p> <p>b. The Chairman added that it seemed likely that, if the Parish Council was inclined to favour the proposal for a telemetry system in the Moor Brook, they</p>	

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<p>would look to the BFPG to meet half the cost. This half share was likely to be in the region of £1100 - £1200. He asked members for their views on this and on the proposal generally.</p> <p>c. Amongst the points made in discussion it was noted that the NFM Project was for the benefit of the Parish and therefore the Parish should perhaps do what it could to support the Project. However, no support had been requested by the Project and, indeed, it might not have the funding to make proper use of a second telemetry system if that was provided. Furthermore, there seemed to be no pressure from the Environment Agency for data from a sensor in the Moor Brook in addition to that from the system in the Millcroft Brook. It appeared likely that the catchment areas of the two Brooks were so similar and so close together that information from the Millcroft Brook could be extrapolated to the Moor Brook, making a second system merely ‘nice to have’ rather than essential to the Project’s success.</p> <p>d. Quite apart from the NFM Project, there was the question of the potential value to local residents of having a second early warning system in place, not just for the duration of the NFM Project, but in the longer term. However, it was pointed out that the only properties affected by flooding from the Moor Brook were Brook House and Eastfields Farm and, on the assumption that the Moor Brook reacted to severe weather in much the same way as the Millcroft Brook, these could easily receive warnings from the sensor in the latter.</p> <p>e. The mood of the Meeting was that, whilst a telemetry system in the Moor Brook might be a “nice to have” for the NFM Project, its long term usefulness, and associated costs were high. After a show of hands, one member was in favour of the proposal, seven were against and seven held no strong views.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>5. The Treasurer reported that there was no income or expenditure in June so the balance remained at £4,554.85. The VAT refund of £19.40 for printing of the display and other materials for the BFPG Tenth Anniversary Celebration was still outstanding.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 – CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH</u></b></p> <p>6. The Chairman reported that on 31 May he had received an email from a Mr Adam Wood who is starting a Masters degree in Human Geography at Aberystwyth University. For this Mr Wood is “researching how the co-creation of knowledge between flood policy makers, the environments agency [<i>sic</i>] and local communities within and around Herefordshire and the Wye has been effectively used in policy”. He has visited Beth Lewis, the NFM Projector Coordinator at Herefordshire Council, and he requested a telephone interview with the Chairman. This took place at 2.00pm on 11 June and lasted about an hour, during which the Chairman answered questions about all aspects of the Group’s activities and suggested other people whom Mr Wood might usefully contact. He also invited him to meet members by attending the working party session on 21 June, but in the event this invitation was not taken up.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – WORKING PARTIES</u></b></p> <p>7. The Chairman reported that the third working party of the ‘season’ took place on</p>	

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<p>Friday, 14 June when 13 members started work on the section of the Millcroft Brook between Millcroft Farm and the Ketch Lane culverts. There had been quite a lot of rain in the second week in June, so this session was notable for being conducted in deeper and faster flowing water than the Group had ever attempted before. All those taking part had to wear waders because the water was too deep for wellingtons, but, despite this and the poor visibility caused by the amount of silt coming down the stream, about half of the section was completed.</p> <p>8. The fourth working party was held on Friday, 21 June in much better conditions and the 12 members taking part finished clearing the Millcroft Farm – Ketch Lane section of the Brook and started work on the section downstream of Ketch Lane. This session, like the one before it, was followed by refreshments and relaxation at Millcroft Farm</p> <p>9. Turning to the future, the Chairman proposed that the next two sessions should be held at 6.00pm on Fridays, 12 and 26 July, meeting at Millcroft Farm and with refreshments to be available afterwards. These dates were agreed.</p> <p>10. <b>Waders.</b> Whilst on the subject of working party sessions the Chairman stated that many of the waders purchased by the Group some 10 years ago were now nearing the end of their life. Many had been repaired several times and he felt that the Group should consider purchasing a new set for members who regularly worked in the brook. The type of waders to be bought was discussed and it was agreed unanimously that the Secretary should contact all those requiring new waders and arrange for a bulk purchase of “Shakespeare” chest waders.</p>	<b>Treasurer Secretary</b>
<p><b><u>ITEM 7 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u></b></p> <p>11. The Chairman reminded members that the next event on the Group’s social calendar was the Annual Bonfire Party to be held at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 12 October. This would follow the traditional format and details would be published nearer the time.</p>	<b>All</b>
<p><b><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>12. <b><u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u></b> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 30 July 2019.</p> <p>13. There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.10 pm.</p>	<b>All</b>

KA Mitcheson  
Chairman

30 July 2019