

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2015

Item	Action
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the June Meeting and, in particular, the new District Councillor for the Hampton Court Ward, Cllr Bruce Baker. Cllr Baker introduced himself and briefly outlined his role as the Ward Councillor. The Chairman then went on to say that obviously the most important piece of news from the last month was the Group's receipt of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This was a great honour and a most welcome recognition of all the time, effort and hard work which so many members of the BFPG had contributed entirely voluntarily over the past seven years, not only to keeping local residents safe from flooding, but also to improving the life of the community generally. He added that he would return to the Award and what happened next later in the Agenda.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 30 members present and apologies were received from Mrs Avery, Mrs Davies, Mrs Parker, and Mrs Schwartz.</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. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Mr Rice, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>Housing Developments.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that on Wednesday, 3 June he and the Secretary had briefed Cllr Bruce Baker on the BFPG and on the issues raised by the various proposed housing developments in Bodenham Moor. They had then taken Cllr Baker round each of the three main sites and had explained the Group's concerns on the ground.</p> <p>b. <u>Land Opposite England's Gate Inn.</u> The Chairman said that he was</p>	

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<p>not aware of any new information relating to the Bell Homes' planning application (P/151055/RM) for the construction of 40 houses on the field opposite England's Gate Inn. The BFPG's comments and those of individual members had been submitted to Herefordshire Council by 14 May, the main objections to the application being its failure to deal properly with the disposal of foul water into an already overloaded sewerage system and the discharge of surface water run-off into the Millcroft Brook. It was now a question of waiting for the application to be considered by Herefordshire Council.</p> <p>c. <u>Land Adjacent to England's Gate Inn.</u> The Chairman noted that Hook Mason had now submitted an application (P151675/O) for outline planning permission for the "proposed residential development of up to ten dwellings with associated vehicle access" on the land adjacent to England's Gate Inn. The application was on the Herefordshire Council website for members to examine, but, since almost all matters are reserved, it contained very little detail. However, the Chairman noted that it ducked the issue of the disposal of foul sewage by saying that this was "unknown" and it claimed that the development would not increase the flood risk elsewhere, with surface water being disposed of through a sustainable drainage system, <i>i.e.</i> through soakaways and/ or underground tanks. The Chairman remarked that there were other issues with the proposed development, notably the questions of access and the adverse impact on the landscape, but these are not of direct relevance to the Group. The Chairman concluded by urging members to study and respond to the application, comments on which had to be submitted by 16 July.</p> <p>d. <u>Land South of Chapel Lane.</u> The Chairman reported that Bovis Homes had submitted a revised version of the Planning Statement for their proposed construction of 49 houses on Shuker's Field. This appeared to be an attempt to strengthen their case for their proposed development by fastening onto possible modifications to Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy, even though this had not yet been approved. The Chairman commented that it seemed strange that such a revised document should be permitted after the deadline for comments had passed and it remained to be seen what the outcome would be.</p> <p>e. <u>Land adjacent to Stoneleigh.</u> The Chairman reported that a planning application (P151651 /F) had been submitted for the construction of three Border Oak houses along The Moor adjacent to Stoneleigh. At first sight this appeared to be a more limited proposal than the earlier one for up to 23 houses on the same land which had been withdrawn, but it was open to much the same objections.</p> <p>5. <u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u> The Chairman said that once again he had nothing new to report on the Neighbourhood Plan. As he had said at the previous Meeting, the Plan was on hold 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>6. <u>Annual Barbecue.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman noted that the annual Barbecue had been held at Willow Cottage the previous Saturday (27 June) by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Schwartz. In most unusual weather for a BFPG occasion – it was dry and sunny</p>	

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<p>throughout the event – some 35 members and guests had enjoyed an excellent meal of Canadian style spare ribs for those who had ordered them, as well as burgers and sausages, many of which had kindly been provided by Mr and Mrs Stephens.</p> <p>b. The Chairman expressed members’ thanks to Mr and Mrs Schartz for once again hosting the event and for providing the salads and rolls. He also thanked all those who had helped to make the barbecue possible by providing the marquee, tables, chairs, puddings and drinks.</p> <p>c. Summing up, he said it had been a highly successful evening, which had been much enjoyed by all who had attended. Mr and Mrs Stephens had already kindly offered to hold the event in 2016. Members noted this and it remains for Mr and Mrs Stephens to give the Secretary dates in June and July next year so that members can choose the most suitable. It was agreed that this would be done when everyone has their 2016 diaries.</p>	Mr and Mrs Stephens/ Secretary
<u>ITEM 4 – THE QUEEN’S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE</u>	
<p>7. The Chairman next returned to the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS). He reminded members that this was the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their communities. The awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen’s Golden Jubilee and winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen’s Coronation. The BFPG was one of 187 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive this prestigious award this year.</p> <p>8. As members would already have seen on the Agenda, the Group now has permission to use the official QAVS Logo on its publications and website. It will also receive in due course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A signed certificate from Her Majesty The Queen’s Lord Lieutenant for Herefordshire, Lady Darnley. • A piece of English Crystal engraved with the QAVS logo which will also be presented by the Lord Lieutenant. <p>9. The Group was listed on Page 10 to Supplement 61244 of The London Gazette dated 2 June with the citation “Protecting the residents of Bodenham Parish from flooding by a range of measures, and providing support to vulnerable individuals.” (https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/61244/supplement/10)</p> <p>10. The Chairman went on to report that he had been in touch with the Lieutenancy Office to discuss when Lady Darnley, HM The Queen’s Lord Lieutenant for Herefordshire, would be free to present the Award to the Group. This would be a fairly formal occasion since the Lord Lieutenant would be acting as HM The Queen’s representative in Herefordshire. It would also be important that as many of the Group’s members as possible should be able to attend the presentation which he suggested should be held in the Parish Hall.</p> <p>11. As regards the date for the Presentation, this would obviously be dependent on</p>	

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<p>the Lord Lieutenant’s commitments, but it was up to the Group to suggest a date and time. The Chairman said that perhaps a Friday evening at 6.00pm in September instead of a working party session might be worth considering. He hoped that by then most of those who had planned summer holidays would have returned and it was sufficiently far enough ahead for the occasion to be properly planned. The Secretary had checked with the Parish Hall and it was available on Friday, 4 September and Friday, 18 September.</p> <p>12. Turning to the form of the Presentation, the Chairman said that this was laid down by the Lieutenancy Office. It included a short speech welcoming the Lord Lieutenant, the Presentation itself, followed by a few words by Lady Darnley herself. There would then be the opportunity for refreshments and for the Lord Lieutenant to meet members and to be shown the display boards illustrating the work of the Group.</p> <p>13. After discussion, it was agreed that the evenings of Friday 4 or 18 September would be offered to the Lieutenancy Office. If neither of these dates were acceptable, further dates in October when the Parish Hall is free would be submitted.</p> <p>14. The Secretary added that she had a DVD describing the Buckingham Palace Garden Party. If anyone would like to borrow it they should contact her.</p>	<p>Chairman/ Secretary</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 5 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p>	
<p>15. <u>BBC Hereford & Worcester</u>. The Chairman reported that on 2 June he was contacted by Andrew Easton of BBC Hereford & Worcester and recorded a short interview on the QAVS and what the BFPG had achieved over the past 7 years, which was broadcast that afternoon.</p> <p>16. <u>The Hereford Times</u>. There had been a brief mention of the Group’s QAVS Award in <i>The Hereford Times</i> edition of Thursday, 4 June.</p> <p>17. <u>The Wye Catchment Partnership</u>.</p> <p>a. The Chairman said that, as he had reported at the previous Meeting, the River Wye and Usk Foundation and National Resources Wales were jointly 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” (http://www.wyecatchment.org/). In particular, the Partnership had 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. On Monday, 15 June he and the Secretary had attended a Wye Catchment Partnership seminar at Grange Court in Leominster on the subject of “Delivering the Nutrient Management Plan”. This had lasted all day and had comprised a series of presentations on the work of the various organisations within the Partnership, notably the Foundation itself, Natural Resources Wales, the Environment Agency and Welsh Water. These had covered current work on the catchment, current phosphate levels in the Wye and the Lugg, the effect of proposed developments, and so on. It had provided a useful occasion on which</p>	

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<p>both to meet other individuals and agencies who might provide the Group with assistance and also to raise with Welsh Water, and with those present generally, the BFPG's concerns about the impact of proposed housing developments in Bodenham and elsewhere on the environment.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 6 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>18. The Chairman reported that a BFPG member had very generously donated £30.00 to the Group, but wished to remain anonymous. The Chairman asked that members' thanks be recorded in the Minutes.</p> <p>19. The Chairman noted that, as agreed at the May Meeting, the Treasurer had ordered a further pair of chest waders. These were at an even better price than the previous ones and were only £45.84 each including VAT, postage and packing. Once the VAT had been clawed back by the Parish Clerk, they would, in fact, have only cost the Group £37.84 each, a saving of £19.50.</p> <p>20. The balance therefore currently stood at £3,019.14, a figure which would change for the better once the VAT has been recouped from all the Group's recent purchases.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>21. <u>Working Parties.</u> The Chairman thanked all those who had turned up to the working party sessions on:</p> <p>a. <u>Friday, 5 June 2015.</u> Twelve members had met at Millcroft Farm and work had continued on the Ketch Lane culverts.</p> <p>b. <u>Friday, 19 June 2015.</u> Seven members who had met at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction successfully removed the remaining silt and the old (East) culvert was now clear. The Chairman thanked all those who had helped with what was a very important part of the Group's work to ensure that the Millcroft Brook has a clear exit through this pinch point to the River Lugg.</p> <p>22. The next Working Party sessions will be on:</p> <p>a. <u>Friday, 10 July 2015.</u> Members should meet at 6.00pm at the gate entrance to Mr Pugh's field at the rear of Orchard Close. It is proposed to look at the drainage ditch around the field, outline a maintenance plan for 2015 and make a start on any necessary work involved.</p> <p>b. <u>Friday, 24 July 2015.</u> The venue will be decided after the 10 July Meeting. The Secretary will inform members of the place and time by email.</p> <p>23. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> The Chairman reminded members that the next event in the Group's social calendar would be the annual Bonfire Party on Saturday, 3 October 2015 starting at 6.00pm, once again at Millcroft Farm.</p>	<p>Ops Officer</p> <p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>All</p>

Item	Action
<p><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>24. <u>BFPG AGM (Tuesday, 25 August 2015)</u>. The Chairman reminded members that the AGM would be held on Tuesday, 25 August in the Siward James Centre. The Secretary had already been in touch with all the Area Representatives to ask them if they would be willing to continue to serve for a further 12 months. Attached to these Minutes is a list of those currently in post, together with the names of those who have agreed to stand for the next 12 months. The Chairman asked any member, who wished to put their name forward for any of the vacant posts, to contact the Secretary as soon as possible. To enable the Secretary to prepare all the documentation for the AGM, the closing date for the Area Representative and Committee Posts would be Friday, 31 July 2015.</p> <p>25. <u>Date of the Next Meeting</u>. The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 28 July in the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>26. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.00pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

28 July 2015

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

Area Reps and Committee List

<u>Position</u>	<u>Current Incumbent 2014/15</u>	<u>Proposed Incumbent 2015/16</u>
Chairman:	Cllr Tony Mitcheson	Cllr Tony Mitcheson
Treasurer:	Mrs Babs Mitcheson	Mrs Babs Mitcheson
Operations Manager:	Cllr Tony Mitcheson	Cllr Tony Mitcheson
Secretary:	Mrs Babs Mitcheson	Mrs Babs Mitcheson
<u>The Moor:</u>		
The Moor Road:	Mr Tony Clark	Mr Tony Clark
Orchard Close:	Mr Mike Stephens/ Mr Robert Pritchard	Mr Mike Stephens Mr Robert Pritchard
Chapel Lane:	Mr Robert Pritchard	Mr Robert Pritchard
Brockington Road: (2 -31& 35)	Mr Simon Dowler	Mr Simon Dowler
Brockington Road: (1, 32-34, 36 – 42A)	Mrs Rebecca Burnill	Mrs Rebecca Burnill
Brockington Road (43- 54):	Mrs Gwen Bowden	Mrs Gwen Bowden
Siward James:	The Warden	Miss Victoria Paterson
Ash Grove Close:	Mrs Jean Fryer	Mrs Jean Fryer
Ash Grove View:	Mr David Harris	Mr David Harris
Ash Grove View:	Cllr Alec Avery	Cllr Alec Avery
Millcroft Road:	Miss Barbara Gibson	Miss Barbara Gibson
<u>Bodenham Village:</u>		
Bridge to War Memorial:		
The Forge	Mr Mike Mullenger	Mr Mike Mullenger
Church and Bodenham Village:	Mr David Ayshford Sanford	
	Mr Mike Mullenger	Mr Mike Mullenger
Sandbags	Mr Tony Clark	Mr Tony Clark
Brook Walker	Mr Tony Clark	Mr Tony Clark