

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S
MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2014

| ITEM | ACTION |
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| <p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the June Meeting and gave a special welcome to Marianne Percival and Ann Hartfield from Chapel Lane and Pru and Rupert Woods from The Moor, as well as to two new members, Clive and Lesley Rudge, who had recently moved into Brockington Road and already given their time at two working party sessions. He went on to note that there had been only two occasions during the past month when the water level in the Millcroft Brook had risen by a few inches; for the rest of the time it had remained extremely low.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 40 members present and apologies were received from Mr Bowden, Mr Nicolson, Mr and Mrs Griffiths, and Mrs Burnill.</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 Clark, seconded by Mr Hemming and agreed.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>Miss Lorna Price.</u> The Chairman reported that Mrs Burnill had visited Miss Price on behalf of the Group, had given her a get well card and an orchid, and had passed on everyone's wishes for her speedy recovery. The cost of this gift had been £20.56 and the Chairman asked that the expenditure be approved in retrospect. This was proposed by Mrs Davies, seconded by Mrs Avery and agreed.</p> <p>5. <u>Sandbags.</u> The Chairman reported that the Secretary had now contacted individually all those residents recorded as having sandbags on their properties. She had emphasised the importance of having all stocks in good order before the onset of winter. She had also explained that some 400 sandbags were deployed from stocks around the Village during last winter, but only about 100 have so far been replaced by Balfour Beatty. This shortfall could prove crucial. Those who have not responded and/or not checked the condition of any sandbags they hold could find that, should another emergency occur, the Group did not have sufficient stocks to replace them. He asked that, if any Group member knows of any one who has sandbags and has not checked them, they should urge them to do so and contact the Secretary as soon as possible. (<u>Afternote.</u> There are now no more sandbags in the Parish Hall cage. Those remaining on the pallets at the rear of the Hall have been allocated and will be distributed to various residents at a future working party</p> | All |

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| <p>session. The Secretary has requested the Parish Clerk to ask Balfour Beatty for 400 sandbags to restore the central reserve stock to the same level as last winter).</p> <p>6. <u>Herefordshire Council.</u> The Chairman again noted that there was no change in the outstanding issues with Herefordshire Council; he was still waiting for a response about the Ketch Lane and Pugh's Field culverts and also about the Group's offer to help the Council and Balfour Beatty with monitoring and signing road closures when the Ketch Lane junction is flooded.</p> <p>7. <u>Environment Agency Visit to Survey the Relief Channel.</u> The Chairman recalled that at the March Meeting he had reported that the Environment Agency had agreed to carry out a survey of the relief channel. This had originally been planned for 22 May, but, because of a short spell of bad weather and the Environment Agency's consequent commitments elsewhere, it had had to be postponed. It had been further delayed because the Environment Agency had been having technical problems with their equipment. The Chairman said that he hoped that the survey would still be carried out, but he was waiting for a date. (Afternote. Mr Trewin has been in contact with the Secretary and a date at the end of July has been agreed.)</p> <p>8. <u>Orchard Close Drainage System.</u> The Chairman reported that the Secretary had spoken to Mr Harrison, the Engineer for the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB), about the need to cut the hedges in Mr Pugh's field at the rear of Orchard Close this year and he has promised to talk to the contractors about this. Mr Harrison had also visited the Secretary to hand over a 5 litre container with Roundup Biactive for the Group and had confirmed that Mr Stephens is authorised to spray the watercourses in the Village on behalf of the Board.</p> <p>9. <u>Convergent Volunteers Project.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that Mr Christopher Smith from Warwick University's Business School is engaged in a DEFRA-funded project looking at how best use can be made of 'convergent volunteers', <i>i.e.</i> those volunteers who turn up without prior warning to offer their help during a flooding emergency.</p> <p>b. Mr Smith had confirmed that he and a colleague would be visiting the Group's next working party session on Friday, 27 June. They had expressed their willingness to get their hands dirty by helping in the work of clearing the Millcroft Brook and would like to attend the social get together afterwards. The Chairman said that he hoped that as many members as possible would attend the session.</p> <p>10. <u>BFPG Trailer Repair.</u> The Chairman reported that the recent good weather had allowed him to work outside on the old lids from the BFPG trailer. These had now been dismantled, the metal work had been rubbed down and repainted, and the lids re-assembled with new woodwork. The main task remaining was to re-attach the lids to the trailer.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>11. The Chairman reported that there had been no income and only one previously agreed item of expenditure since the last Meeting. This was for the purchase of the Chillington hoes and a mattock as agreed at the last Meeting. The total cost for 3 heavy duty hoes and a mattock had come to £92.70. This brought the balance in the account to</p> | |

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| <p>£2,734.37.</p> <p>12. The expenditure of £20.56 on the gift for Miss Price, which had been agreed earlier in the Meeting, meant that the balance in the account now stood at £2,713.81.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 5 – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SHUKER’S FIELD</u></p> | |
| <p>13. The Chairman said that, as everybody would be aware, Bovis Homes would be holding an Exhibition at Brockington Golf Club Tea Rooms the following day (Wednesday, 25 June) to show their proposed development of the site in the Village known as Shuker’s Field. As most members would also know, this site had already been considered during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and had been rejected in favour of another site in the field opposite England’s Gate Inn, for which an outline planning application has already been submitted.</p> <p>14. There were a number of reasons why Shuker’s Field was not regarded as suitable for the up to 50 houses that Bovis Homes are proposing to put on it. Perhaps the greatest concern was that the new development would increase the already significant flood risk to neighbouring properties in Chapel Lane and Orchard Close. On 12 June the Chairman, Secretary and Mr David Tilford had met Mr Simon Jones-Parry, the civil engineer contracted by Bovis Homes to carry out a flood risk assessment for their proposed development. They had walked the entire area with him, including the drainage system West of Orchard Close, explained the history of flooding in the vicinity, and highlighted the local concerns and the very real reasons for them.</p> <p>15. In discussion of these concerns which followed the point was made that they were not confined to a few local residents. As part of the neighbourhood planning process, all members of the Bodenham community had been invited to submit comments on this proposed development, as well as on other important issues. To date almost every comment relating to Shuker’s Field had been that it should not be developed and that any essential new housing in Bodenham Moor should be on the preferred location opposite England’s Gate Inn. This had also been very much the view expressed by the nearly 100 residents who attended the Neighbourhood Plan Meeting addressed by Ms Fiona Brereton from Bovis Homes on 20 January.</p> <p>16. Mr Stockton also commented that the Village had always had a sewage problem and any further development connecting to it would only make it worse. Mrs Woods added that she had had to wait several months to be connected to the mains sewage; the contractors had been unable to make the connection as the sewage pipe was full. With regard to the problem of access to the Shuker’s Field site, Mr Woods stated that he understood that the entire development, some 50 properties, would have a single exit which would be directly opposite his property.</p> <p>17. Members were encouraged to attend the Bovis Homes Exhibition to hear for themselves what was proposed and discuss any concerns they might have with the Bovis Homes representatives.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 6 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p> | |
| <p>18. <u>Recent Working Party Sessions</u>. The Chairman reported on the two sessions since</p> | |

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| <p>the last Meeting:</p> <p>a. <u>Friday, 30 May 2014.</u> Some 15 members had attended the session, including two new members, Lesley and Clive Rudge. Good progress had been made in clearing vegetation from the bed of the Millcroft Brook opposite the Millcroft Farm orchard and the session had ended with refreshments at Millcroft Farm.</p> <p>b. <u>Friday, 13 June 2014.</u></p> <p>(1) There had been another good turn out, with 16 members attending on a warm and sunny evening. A further section of the Brook had been cleared, even though this had proved to be more heavily silted and overgrown and therefore rather harder work. Refreshments had again been on offer afterwards.</p> <p>(2) Unfortunately, during the session the Group had suffered its first ever health and safety incident when a member briefly fainted. The person concerned was promptly helped out of the watercourse, recovered very quickly and had confirmed that they had seen a doctor and had suffered no further after-effects. The incident had not been reportable to the HSE under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR), but had been reported to the Parish Safety Officer and had been recorded in the BFPG's Health & Safety Incident Log.</p> <p>19. <u>Future Working Party Sessions.</u> It was agreed that the next working party sessions would be on:</p> <p>a. <u>Friday, 27 June 2014.</u> The Chairman proposed that members should meet at Millcroft Farm at 6.00pm to continue clearing the Brook below the orchard and this was agreed. The Chairman reiterated that Mr Smith and his colleague from Warwick University would be visiting on this occasion and said that he hoped that as many members as possible would attend.</p> <p>b. <u>Friday, 11 July 2014.</u> Venue and time to be decided.</p> <p>c. <u>Friday, 25 July 2014.</u> Venue and time to be decided.</p> <p>20. <u>Annual Barbecue.</u> Mrs Schwartz reminded members of the arrangements for the Annual Barbecue at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan at 6.00pm on Saturday, 28 June. All the food had now been purchased and she thanked all those who had volunteered to help with marquees, equipment and food for the event. Directions to the venue would be signposted with balloons and there would be space for all those attending to park outside the Cottage.</p> | |
| <p><u>ITEM 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>21. <u>Annual General Meeting.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman again reminded members that the AGM will be on Tuesday, 26 August 2014 and at this he would be seeking nominations for all the Group's</p> | |

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| <p>appointments and also any proposals for changes to the Group's Constitution. The Secretary had already been in contact with the Area Representatives to find out if they would be willing to serve in their capacity again for another year.</p> <p>b. The Chairman added that he and the Secretary had identified two areas where they would greatly appreciate some additional help. The first would be to walk the Millcroft Brook and check it for vegetation and silt build up, as well as the state of its flap valves and the condition of the Moor Brook flap valve. This was not, he said, a difficult task, but it was time-consuming and it would be enormously helpful if there was a volunteer to take this on. It had already been done once for this year, so what was required was a follow up check to see what action was still outstanding. (Afternote. Mr Tony Clark has agreed to take this on with effect from 26 August 2014.)</p> <p>c. The other area where help would be welcomed was in keeping the Sandbag Location List up to date and each year contacting those who have sandbags on their properties to encourage them to check the condition of the sandbags and whether or not these needed replacing or re-bagging. Again, this was not a difficult job, but time-consuming and the Secretary would be very grateful if someone would like to volunteer to take it on. A complete briefing would be given and all the latest information was available on a spreadsheet. All that was required was a computer and some spare time. (Afternote. Mr Tony Clark has also kindly agreed to take this over from the Secretary).</p> | <p>Secretary Mr Clark</p> <p>Secretary Mr Clark</p> |
| <p><u>ITEM 8 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> | |
| <p>22. The next Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 29 July at 7.30pm at the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>23. There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.30pm.</p> | |

Councillor KA Mitcheson
Chairman

29 July 2014

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP
2014/15 Area Reps and Committee List

| <u>Position</u> | <u>Current Incumbent</u> | <u>Proposed Incumbent</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: | Mrs Gillian Baines | Mrs Gillian Baines |
| 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 David Ayshford Sanford Mr Mike Mullenger |
| | | |
| Sandbag Location List | New Post | Mr Tony Clark |
| Brook Walker | New Post | Mr Tony Clark |