

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 30 JULY 2013

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July Meeting and especially Cllr Stan Davies attending again as a member of the public. The Chairman went on to express BFPG members' particular thanks to Mr and Mrs Clark for hosting the Annual Barbecue the previous Saturday, which members had much enjoyed despite the rain.</p> <p>2. There were 28 members present and apologies were received from Cllr and Mrs Avery, Mrs Burnill, Mr George, Miss Gibson, Mr Sebbage and Mr Stephens.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the June 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. Mrs Watson proposed that the Minutes should be approved; this was seconded by Mr Rice and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>Early Warning Telemetry System.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman confirmed that he had asked Hydro-Logic Ltd to change the telemetry alarm settings as agreed at the last Meeting (<i>i.e.</i> 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 receive warnings at 0.9m and 1.5m). However, he had not yet heard from Mr Hawnt that these changes have been made.</p> <p>b. The Chairman added that Mr Hawnt had pointed out that many people now have smart phones which can receive e-mails, which are free, as well as text/ SMS messages, for which charges are made. Mr Hawnt had suggested that there were savings to be made if those with smart phones agreed to receive alerts by e-mail, rather than text message. He had also mentioned that Hydro-Logic were increasing their SMS charges and therefore any saving could be even more significant. The Chairman asked any members who received alerts and who could dispense with SMS/text messages to inform the Secretary. She would, in any case, be sending an e-mail to all those on the telemetry warning list to find out who can make this change.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>5. The Treasurer reminded members that in the past it had been agreed that the Secretary would receive £50 annually towards the cost of printer ink. All paper and laminates have been donated by the Secretary and this would continue. However, the cost of ink had increased and for 2013 had been £70.99. He therefore asked members to agree that this sum should be refunded to the Secretary for the present year and that the amount should be reviewed annually. This was proposed by Mr Dowler, seconded by Mr Nicolson and carried unanimously.</p> <p>6. The Treasurer went on to say that he would not be present at the AGM in August and proposed to stand down from his post having held it since the BFPG was formed. However, if no one was prepared to take up the appointment, he was prepared to continue in it. At Mr Tilford's suggestion, he then outlined meeting what the Treasurer's duties. These involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recording any income and expenditure and reporting to the monthly BFPG Meeting. b. Ensuring any incoming cheques were passed to the Parish Clerk for payment into the BFPG's account held by the Parish Council. c. Arranging for the Parish Clerk to process any payment from the BFPG account by cheque. This was normally done at the Parish Council Meeting each month as each cheque has to be signed by two Councillors. d. Informing Cllr Knott, who keeps the Parish Accounts, of any changes to the BFPG's account 3 or 4 days prior to each Parish Council Meeting. <p>7. The Treasurer estimated that all this would usually take him a total of about 2 hours a month.</p> <p>8. The Chairman thanked Mr Clark for all that he had done as Treasurer. He remarked that none of the Group's appointments were particularly onerous and that it was important that they should be shared amongst members, rather than being left to be constantly carried by the same few individuals. He asked that, if any one would be willing in taking over as Treasurer, they inform the Secretary by 31 July.</p> <p>9. The Treasurer concluded by reporting that the only income in July had been a donation of £30 and there had been no expenditure during the month. The £70.99 just voted for the Secretary's printer ink would appear in the August account. The balance of the account as at 30 July stood at £2,129.87.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS</u></p> <p>10. <u>Working Party Sessions.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Chairman noted that the working parties of 5 and 19 July had continued work in Mr Pugh's Field and had resulted in the first section of ditch up to the culvert being fully cleared and a start being made on the stretch beyond the culvert. However, the latter was badly overgrown and work on it had been slow, so in future a brush cutter rather than a strimmer would be employed. 	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>b. The next Working Party session would be on 2 August when work would continue in the ditches around Mr Pugh's field. <u>All those who would like to help should meet at the field entrance at the rear of Orchard Close at 6.00pm.</u></p> <p>c. Future Working Party sessions would be on 16 and 30 August and the locations for these will be notified by the Secretary in due course.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p>	
<p>11. <u>AGM – Election of Committee.</u> The Chairman reminded the Group for the last time 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. 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>12. <u>High Visibility Jackets.</u> The Chairman reported that the Secretary had again been in touch with Mr Dan Trewin of the Environment Agency to ask if there was any chance of them supplying the BFPG Area Representatives with heavy duty high visibility jackets. Mr Trewin, who had just returned from holiday, had replied that he would look into this and see if there was a chance of helping either with the jackets or a contribution of funding towards their purchase.</p> <p>13. <u>Orchard Close Culvert and Hedges.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary had spoken with Mr Les Harrison, the Engineer of the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB), about the culvert and the hedges in Mr Pugh's field to the West of Orchard Close. Mr Harrison had said that the RLIDB was not carrying out any hedge cutting this year and would therefore not be able to help.</p> <p>b. Regarding the blocked culvert in Mr Pugh's field, he had confirmed what members already knew – that the work to put in the drainage system and culvert had been undertaken by the RLIDB on behalf of Herefordshire Council after the 9 April 1998 floods. It was therefore the responsibility of Herefordshire Council to maintain the culvert and Mr Harrison had suggested that we should contact the Council again with regard to clearing the build up of silt in the culvert. Similarly, as the exit of the culvert is now higher than the entrance due to the silt build up in the exit channel, this too should be cleared and re-levelled by Herefordshire Council.</p> <p>c. The Chairman remarked that the issue of this culvert had already been raised with two CEOs of Herefordshire Council without eliciting a response from either, much less any action. This was extremely frustrating and the natural temptation was to renew the pressure on the Council. However, he suggested that the time was not right for this. Herefordshire Council was in the throes of making major financial savings requiring the loss of large numbers of Council staff. At the same time Amey Herefordshire had just failed to renew their contract with the Council and were in the process of handing over to Balfour Beatty. While, therefore, clearing the culvert was high on the Group's priorities, this would not be true of those responsible for</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>doing it. It should remain on the list of work which needed to be done and be brought once again to the attention of Herefordshire Council at a more appropriate time.</p> <p>14. <u>Mr Keith Grumbley</u>. The Chairman noted that this was Mr Grumbley's last BFPG Meeting. He reminded members that Mr Grumbley, both as a resident and previously as the local District Councillor, had been hugely supportive of the Group and had been one of the most loyal and regular attenders at both meetings and working parties. On behalf of all those present he thanked Mr Grumbley for all that he had done for the BFPG over the past five years and wished him the very best of good fortune for the future.</p> <p>15. <u>Date of the Next Meeting</u>. The next Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 27 August 2013 and will be the AGM.</p> <p>16. There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.48pm.</p>	

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

27 August 2013