

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2017

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the July Meeting and said that despite the recent rainfall, there had been no increase in flood risk and thankfully the tenth anniversary of the 20 July 2007 flood had passed without incident. In fact, there had not been very much rain overall. It was just that, as members were aware, it had fallen at precisely the wrong times, spoiling the second day of the Open Village Weekend and, from his own point of view ruining the Oxford University Society garden party which he and the Secretary had hosted last Saturday (22 July).</p> <p>2. On the subject of garden parties, the Chairman expressed his most sincere thanks to everyone who had gone to so much time, trouble and expense to make the BEM presentation, Garden Party and Annual Barbecue on Sunday (23 July) such a success. Members had been extraordinarily generous and both he and the Secretary were most grateful.</p> <p>3. As always, it would be invidious to mention particular names and thereby risk overlooking others, but there had been donations totalling £80 towards the cost of the event; much of the food, from the sausages, to sandwiches, to puddings and the most amazing cakes had been most generously contributed; and all four tents had been lent for the weekend and members had helped to put them up and take them down. Members had also helped with washing up and clearing things away at the end of the evening, and so on. All of this had combined with the good weather to make the event so enjoyable and memorable.</p> <p>4. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 22 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mr and Mrs Dowler, Mr and Mrs Hemming, Mrs Parker, Cllr Tilford and Mr and Mrs Watson.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>5. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the June 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 Miss Gibson, seconded by Cllr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>6. <u>Sandbag Cage at the Parish Hall.</u> The Chairman remarked that the move of the sandbag cage at the front of the Parish Hall to the school car park remained a</p>	

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<p>task which had yet to be completed. Now that the busy July weekends were out of the way he and the Secretary would return to negotiating the necessary transport for it.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p>	
<p>7. At the end of June the balance of the account had been £4,054.50. The income for July had been a donation of £25.00, while expenditure had totalled £41.50. This was for the hire of the Siward James meeting room (£13.50) and the purchase of beef burgers for the BFPG Annual Barbecue (£28.00). (It had been agreed that up to £40 could be used from the Leisure Account to purchase meat for the Barbecue, but only £28 was required due to the kindness of Mrs Avery and Mrs Schwartz who provided most of the meat).</p> <p>8. The balance at the end of July was therefore £4,038.00.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 – THE KETCH LANE AND ORCHARD CLOSE CULVERTS</u></p>	
<p>9. The Chairman reminded members that Cllr Baker had kindly arranged for a meeting with Mr Geoff Hughes, Herefordshire Council's Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate, to discuss the replacement of the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts. This had taken place at Millcroft Farm on 30 June and had also been attended by Mr Hockenhull, the Drainage Team Leader at Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) and by Mr Steve Hodges, the Services Team Leader of Mr Hughes' Directorate. Just before the Meeting Herefordshire Council had issued the long-awaited study reports on the culverts and these had formed the basis for discussion, which the Chairman then outlined.</p> <p>10. <u>The Ketch Lane Culverts.</u></p> <p>a. Of the four options for the replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts set out in the related study it had been agreed that Option 2 – a box culvert skewed to align more closely to the flow of the Millcroft Brook than the existing Victorian culvert – was much to be preferred.</p> <p>b. The possibility of modifying Option 2 in the following ways had been discussed, but not formally decided:</p> <p>(1) Changing the angle of the Option 2 box culvert so that it aligned even more closely with the line of the Brook.</p> <p>(2) Removing the proposed wingwall across the Brook designed to block off the existing west concrete culvert. This would then allow that culvert to remain in operation instead of being made redundant and this would substantially increase the system's total capacity.</p> <p>(3) Re-using the idea of a curved step which directs low flows of water entirely into the main culvert, thus helping to reduce silting in the culvert itself, while allowing higher flows to enter both culverts when necessary.</p> <p>c. The Study estimated the cost of Option 2 (and, indeed, all the</p>	

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<p>Options) to be about £200K. This, however, was a desk-based calculation and the actual cost was almost certain to be rather higher. Possible sources of funding had been discussed and included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Environment Agency. It had been agreed that Mr Hodges would start preparing an application for Environment Agency funding and that further work to support this would be commissioned. (2) Herefordshire Council. (3) The Internal Drainage Board. (4) The Parish Council, perhaps through a government loan of some kind. It had been agreed that the subject would be raised with the Parish Council to establish how much the Parish might be able to contribute. The Chairman confirmed that this had been discussed at the last Parish Council Meeting on 3 July, but without any decision being reached. (5) Section 106 funding. It had been suggested that a case could be made for the allocation of part of the £103K Bell Homes Section 106 “Transport” money to the Ketch Lane project, if it was not already committed to the pedestrian crossings and pavements linked to the development. It had been agreed that Mr Hodges would establish whether or not this funding was available. 	
<p>11. <u>The Orchard Close Culvert.</u> There had been insufficient time at the Meeting to discuss the Orchard Close culvert in any detail. However, it was understood that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mr and Mrs Pugh have agreed to the replacement culvert in principle, but on condition that the spoil is used to fill in the existing ditch along the East of the field, that any additional soil is removed, that the work takes place at a time agreed with them, and that they should not be responsible for the maintenance of the replacement culvert. b. The large flap valve at the Moor Brook end of the drainage system would be removed. c. The project had not been formally costed, but it was suggested that it might cost about £10K and that the removal of soil from the site, if required, could be particularly expensive. 	
<p>12. The Chairman went on to report further that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Following the 30 June Meeting, Cllr Baker had arranged for two Herefordshire Council Cabinet members to visit Millcroft Farm to be briefed on, and shown, the Ketch Lane culverts. The Councillors are Cllr Philip Price (Infrastructure) and Cllr Barry Durkin (Roads from 1 September) and the visit will take place on 31 July. b. As members might already be aware from media reports, the Government have announced extra funding totalling £15m for natural flood 	

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<p>management schemes across the country. £1m of this is to be spent on three sites in Worcestershire and 8 sites in Herefordshire. One of these is Bodenham, the others being, Eywas Harold, Leominster, Hereford, Tedstone, Cheaton, Pentalo and Redbrook. The Chairman remarked that it was not yet clear how this money would be spent in Bodenham, but the indications were that it would be for flood retention or attenuation works, rather than on the Ketch Lane project.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p> <p>13. <u>BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester.</u> The Chairman reported that the Secretary had been interviewed live on air at 4.25pm on Thursday, 20 July, the subject being the tenth anniversary of the July 2007 flood and the subsequent formation and work of the BFPG.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>14. <u>Previous Working Parties.</u> The Chairman thanked all those who had taken part in the working party on Friday, 7 July. Eleven members had contributed and had cleared the first stretch of the Millcroft Brook downstream from Millcroft Farm. The session had been followed by refreshments there.</p> <p>15. <u>Future Working Party Dates.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman noted that it had been agreed at the last Meeting that the next working party session should be at 6.00pm on Friday, 28 July, also meeting at Millcroft Farm. (<u>Afternote:</u> Owing to bad weather this session was postponed until Friday, 4 August).</p> <p>b. He suggested that the following two working parties should be at 6.00pm on 11 and 25 August, also at Millcroft Farm and this was agreed. Refreshments would be available after all three sessions.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 8 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u></p> <p>16. <u>Annual Bonfire Party and Quiz Night.</u> The Chairman reminded members that dates had not yet been set for the Annual Bonfire Party and the Annual Quiz Night. He asked for views on whether or not these events should be held and, if so, when.</p> <p>a. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> For the Bonfire Party he suggested Saturday, 14 October or Saturday, 21 October. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Avery and agreed that the date of the Bonfire Party should be Saturday, 21 October.</p> <p>b. <u>Annual Quiz Night.</u></p> <p>(1) For the Quiz Night he proposed either Saturday, 18 or 25 November, or Friday, 17 or 24 November. It was proposed by Mr Harris, seconded by Miss Easson and agreed that Friday 24 November should be the date of the Annual Quiz Night. (<u>Afternote:</u></p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p>

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<p>The Secretary has booked the Parish Hall for this date.)</p> <p>(2) Miss Gibson remarked that running the Quiz Night involved a lot of work for the organiser in making the refreshments for the interval, as well as arranging the Parish Hall and buying prizes for the winning table. She suggested that the price of the tickets might be reduced and those attending asked to bring and share the food and drink. It was agreed that this was an idea well worth investigating and Miss Gibson agreed to follow it up and provide the Secretary with details from other groups who hold their quiz nights in this way.</p>	<p>Secretary Miss Gibson</p>
<p><u>ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>17. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 29 August 2017. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that this would be the AGM and that the Secretary had written to all Area Representatives to ask if they would be prepared to continue in their posts.</p> <p>18. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

29 August 2017