

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 2019

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the July Meeting and introduced Mr Adam Wood who is studying for a Masters degree in Human Geography at Aberystwyth University. His research is related to flooding and he was interested in talking to BFPG members at the end of the Meeting about their experiences.</p> <p>2. Turning to the matter of flood risk the Chairman said that the very hot weather had meant that, despite one night of thunderstorms, flooding had not been a concern.</p> <p>3. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 17 members present and apologies were received from Cllr and Mrs Avery, Mr and Mrs Dowler, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Davies, Mrs Fryer, Miss Gibson, Miss Price, Mr and Mrs Schwartz, and Mr Wiggins.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>4. 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 Mr Rice, seconded by Cllr Tilford and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>5. <u>Bodenham Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project.</u> The Chairman said that the Parish Council did not appear to have discussed the proposal to install a telemetry system in the Moor Brook at any length, or made a formal decision on it. However, Mr and Cllr Maxwell had stated that, after consideration, they did not feel that the purchase of such a system should be pursued and were no longer willing to have it on their property. The proposal had therefore been shelved. (<u>Afternote.</u> Cllr Tremain has subsequently pointed out that, at its Meeting on the 3rd June, the Parish Council did, in fact, discuss the matter at some length and two different sums were suggested by Councillors to help with funding the Project. However, after further discussion, it was agreed that a precise written quotation for the cost of the installation was needed before any final decision could be taken. This was in hand when Mr and Mrs Maxwell made their decision).</p>	

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<p>6. <u>Contribution to Research.</u> The Chairman deferred the subject to the end of the Meeting. (See Minute 18 below).</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>7. The Treasurer reported that the balance at the end of June had been £4,554.85. There had been two items of income and three of expenditure in July.</p> <p>a. The income had been:</p> <p>(1) A donation of £30.</p> <p>(2) The long-awaited VAT refund of £19.40 for the printing of the display and other materials for the BFPG's Tenth Anniversary Celebration.</p> <p>(3) Total income of £49.40</p> <p>b. The expenditure had been:</p> <p>(1) Siward James Room hire from April to June of £13.50.</p> <p>(2) Waders Sizes 6 and 8 and 10 totalling £213.60. The Chairman explained these purchases more fully at Minute 14 below.</p> <p>(3) Total expenditure of £227.13.</p> <p>8. Therefore the balance of the account now stood at £4,377.12.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 – BFPG AGM</u></p> <p>9. The Chairman reminded the Group that the AGM will take place on Tuesday, 27 August at Siward James. The Secretary had contacted all the Area Representatives and Sandbag Key Holders and asked if they would be prepared to remain in post for a further year. She had also asked if any member of the Group would like to take on the roles of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or Operations Officer, which are also to be open for re-election. The Chairman stressed that, if any member would like to take on any of the roles, they should please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.</p> <p>10. Cllr Tilford asked that his thanks to both the Chairman and Secretary for their continued leadership of the Group be recorded in the Minutes.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 6 – WORKING PARTIES</u></p> <p>11. The Chairman reported that there had been two working party sessions in July. Both had met at Millcroft Farm at 6.00pm. The first had been on Friday, 12 July when 14 members of the Group had cleared the final section of the Millcroft Brook from the Ketch Lane culverts down to the River Lugg. Again, special thanks were due to Mr Peter Jones for his help in strimming this section prior to the session which made things much easier for members. The second session in July had been on Friday, 26 July when 9 members had completed the work on the Millcroft Brook by clearing the build up of silt from inside the two Ketch Lane culverts and between their exits.</p> <p>12. On both occasions members of the working party had returned to Millcroft Farm for refreshments.</p> <p>13. Looking to the future, the Chairman asked members for their views on what further tasks needed to be tackled, noting that the next working party dates would</p>	

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<p>normally be Friday, 9 August and Friday, 23 August, but that he and the Secretary would not be available for the first of these. He suggested that:</p> <p>a. Because the Group was well ahead of schedule in its work, and because members would be very busy - if not actually away on holiday - in August, work should be limited to one session in the coming month.</p> <p>b. The largest outstanding task was the checking and repair of the 296 sandbags in the container at the Parish Hall. This would take longer than a one hour Friday evening session and so should be undertaken in a two hour working party between 10.30am and 12.30pm on a Saturday morning. 17 August or 24 August were possible dates for this. The Secretary would provide coffee, biscuits and cake at the site. It was agreed that those willing to help should meet on Saturday 24 August at 10.30 am at the Parish Hall container site.</p> <p>c. The strimming of the relief channel at Brook House remained to be done. This had been discussed with Mr Andrew Maxwell earlier in the year and it had been provisionally agreed that it should be tackled in September. Mr Maxwell confirmed that there was insufficient growth of vegetation to make clearing it worthwhile any earlier than late September, so Friday, 20 September was provisionally earmarked for the task.</p> <p>d. Clearing the watercourse next to Willow Cottage in Maund Bryan was the final task for this ‘season’. The Secretary had spoken to Mr Jeremy Schwartz about this and they had agreed that there seemed to be little point in spending a lot of time on it until it became clear whether or not the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB) would be flailing the banks of this section and, if so, when. This task had therefore been provisionally deferred until October and, because nights would be drawing in then, might be another Saturday morning session.</p>	<p></p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p>14. Waders. The Chairman recalled that at the June Meeting it had been agreed that, after some 10 years of service, the chest waders purchased by the Group were in need of replacement. The type of waders to be bought had been discussed and it had been agreed unanimously that the Secretary should contact all those requiring new waders and arrange for a bulk purchase of “Shakespeare” chest waders. Unfortunately, it had since been discovered that “Shakespeare” chest waders were no longer available, so it was agreed at the working party session on 12 July that the Secretary should purchase “Michigan” chest waders instead. This had been done and five sets of waders in the smaller sized had been delivered in time for the last working party. The larger Size 10 waders from another source had also been ordered and had just arrived. The cost has been noted in the Treasurer’s Report at Minute 7 above.</p>	
<p>15. Sandbags. Referring back to the need for a working party to check and repair the sandbags held in the container at the Parish Hall, the Chairman noted that he currently held 74 empty sandbags, together with a good supply of cord to tie them. He said that he hoped that, having been stored in dry and dark conditions, not many of the bags inside the container would need repair. However, he felt that it would be prudent to maintain a stock of about 70 empty bags at all times. He therefore asked members for their agreement to his keeping the stock to about that figure in future, as necessary. This was proposed by Mr Clark, seconded by Mr Hemming and agreed. (Afternote. Radbournes have confirmed that the empty sandbags will cost £0.50 each, plus VAT. The Treasurer will reclaim the VAT through the Parish Clerk).</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

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<p><u>ITEM 7 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u></p> <p>16. 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 at 6.00pm on Saturday, 12 October. This would follow the traditional format and details would be published nearer the time.</p> <p>17. He went onto report that Mrs Liz Davies had kindly offered to organise the next BFPG Coffee Morning and that this would be at Siward James on Saturday, 8 February 2020.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>18. The Chairman introduced Mr Adam Wood again and asked if he would like to say a few words to the Group about his dissertation. There was a lively discussion on the subject of flooding, community volunteering, the issues the Group had encountered in managing flood protection for the Parish, and the effectiveness (or otherwise) of the Group’s interactions with the Parish Council, Herefordshire Council, the Environment Agency and central Government in securing support for the reduction of flood risk. The Chairman thanked Mr Wood for coming to the Meeting and for his interest in the work of the BFPG and hoped that he had found his discussions with the Group of use.</p> <p>19. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be the AGM which will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 August 2019.</p> <p>20. There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.15pm.</p>	<p>All</p>

KA Mitcheson
Chairman

27 August 2019