

# BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

## MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 29 JULY 2014

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the July Meeting, especially Miss Lorna Price and Mr Robert Pritchard both of whom had been in hospital recently.</p> <p>2. In summarising the past month, he remarked that, while the recent hot weather had brought some thunderstorms, the rain that accompanied them had not amounted to much and the water level in the Millcroft Brook had remained extremely low. However, as the flash flooding in South-East England over the previous 48 hours had shown, there was no room for complacency.</p> <p>3. <b><u>Apologies.</u></b> There were 36 members present and apologies were received from Mr Rice, Mrs Parker and Mrs Watson.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>4. 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. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Miss Gibson, seconded by Mr Sebbage and agreed.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>5. <b><u>Sandbags.</u></b> The Chairman reported that he had met the new Balfour Beatty Locality Steward for the Leominster area, Ms Donna Tregenza, and that she had confirmed that Balfour Beatty would supply Bodenham with filled sandbags. The issue now was not so much the provision of sandbags as transporting them to us. She had assured him that she was working on this. Meanwhile the reserve stock at the Parish Hall had been reduced to nil and the Secretary had written to the Parish Clerk to inform him of this.</p> <p>6. <b><u>Herefordshire Council.</u></b> 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. <b><u>Environment Agency Visit to Survey the Relief Channel.</u></b> The Chairman reported that the Environment Agency had given 24 July as the new date for the survey of the relief channel. However, Mr Trewin had subsequently telephoned to say that the person who was to have carried out the work had twisted her ankle and was unable to walk. The survey had therefore been postponed yet again to a date still to be decided in early August.</p>	

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<p>8. <b><u>Orchard Close Drainage System.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that Mr Harrison, the Engineer for the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB), was aware of the need to cut the hedges in Mr Pugh’s field at the rear of Orchard Close this year. However, the field has been planted and the RLIDB contractors have been unable to gain access to do the work. Meanwhile, as members would have noticed, the contractors had cut the bank of the Millcroft Brook between Millcroft Farm and the Ketch Lane junction and Mr Mike Stephens had followed this up by spraying the same stretch.</p> <p>b. Mr Stephens stated that, as the hedge along the field ditch at the rear of Orchard Close had not been cut for so long, it was now very difficult to clear much of the overgrown vegetation. However, he had sprayed the area at the rear of Bache’s Warehouse and would endeavour to spray from the far end of the culvert to the Moor Brook. Access was also impeded as the footpath across the field had been ploughed and planted with maize so the only access was <i>via</i> the perimeter of the field.</p> <p>c. The subject of who was responsible for keeping the hedges cut was once again raised and the Chairman said that it was the responsibility of the landowner, in this case Mr Pugh. In the past the RLIDB had cut the hedges as a gesture of goodwill. However, they are not allowed to start cutting hedges until after 15 July and by then crop planting has often taken place. As a result they cannot gain access with machinery until the crop has been harvested, usually around September when poor weather may prevent the work being carried out. The Chairman said that he would discuss the issue with both the RLIDB and Cllr Millar.</p> <p>9. <b><u>Convergent Volunteers Project.</u></b> The Chairman reported that Mr Christopher Smith from Warwick University’s Business School and his colleague, Graham Heike, had visited the working party session on Friday, 27 June, as planned. They had been lent some waders and, as promised, had helped in the work of clearing the lower section of the Millcroft Brook. They had also attended the social get together afterwards and had taken the contact details of several members whom they wanted to interview as part of their project. Mr Clark, Mrs Avery and Mrs Rudge confirmed that they had been contacted.</p> <p>10. <b><u>BFPG Trailer Repair.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that he was pleased to report that he had finished the task of refurbishing the lids on the BFPG trailer. He showed a photograph of the lids in place and remarked that they should extend the life of the trailer as a storage place for the BFPG’s tools for a few more years.</p> <p>b. He reminded members that they had agreed at their April Meeting to pay up to £60.00 from the Group’s funds towards the cost of the materials (only) required for the repair. In the event the cost of the plywood, paint, bolts and roofing felt had been somewhat higher than this, even though for one of the lids he had been able to use some roofing felt kindly donated some time ago by Mr Tony Clark. He would be grateful therefore if members would agree to his being granted the promised £60.00. Mrs Bowden and Mr Tilford stated that they felt that the full cost should be covered. Mr Tilford proposed that the new amount to be paid should be £80, this was seconded by Mrs Bowden and all agreed. The Chairman thanked the Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chairman</b></p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>and said that he would put together an itemised account for the Treasurer.</p> <p>11. <b><u>Annual Barbecue.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that the Annual Barbecue had been held, as planned, on Saturday, 28 June at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan. Some 40 members and guests had attended a most enjoyable evening and he expressed the Group's thanks to Mr and Mrs Schwartz for going to so much trouble to organise and host such a successful event. In turn, Mr Schwartz thanked all those who had helped by providing equipment and manpower for it.</p> <p>b. Mrs Davies raised the question of how the Annual Barbecue should be funded in future and suggested that the cost should be met by the sale of tickets to those who wished to attend. She added that she had heard some comments from non-members suggesting that some of the money raised or donated for BFPG equipment and other expenses might be being misused by the Group for entertainment events such as the Barbecue. The Chairman said that this was categorically not the case; funds donated to the BFPG, or raised at events such as the Annual Coffee Morning or Quiz Night, were public money and should be – and were – only used to meet the expenses incurred by the Group in its work to protect the Village from flooding.</p> <p>c. The question of how the Barbecue should be financed was an issue which had been raised on previous occasions, but nevertheless he asked for the views of those present on it. Mr Stephens said that he felt that it would not be a misuse of the funds in the BFPG account to pay for the Annual Barbecue as this should be seen as a just reward to all those Group members who worked hard to ensure that the Village was protected. He pointed out that the Group's account held nearly £3k and suggested that this was more than enough to meet any likely work-related expenses. The Secretary responded that members should not lose sight of the fact that the Village still urgently needed a box culvert to replace the inadequate ones at the Ketch Lane junction. It was important for the Group to have healthy finances so that, if Herefordshire Council were to be persuaded to put in such a culvert, the Parish would be in a position to make a contribution, no matter how relatively small that contribution might be. She added that with regard to thanking all those who helped the Group by attending working party sessions, organising fundraising events and so on, she and the Chairman provided the drink and food at the Annual Bonfire Party precisely for this purpose.</p> <p>d. Other points made were that:</p> <p>(1) Making the Barbecue a ticket-only event might rather destroy the event's present character of a social gathering of like-minded people each bringing food and drink to make a shared contribution to a relaxed and enjoyable evening.</p> <p>(2) A possible compromise might be that sums specifically donated to the Group to defray Barbecue expenses might be held separately in the account. The Treasurer reported that she had been given exactly such a donation towards the recent Barbecue and, since neither the hosts nor those providing most of the food would accept the money, she had already opened a separate column in the BFPG Account. Any other entertainment-specific</p>	<p><b>Chairman</b></p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>amounts could be added to this.</p> <p>e. Summarising the discussion, the Chairman reiterated that funds donated or raised to support the work of the Group were public money and could not be used for any other purpose. There would therefore seem to be three options for meeting the cost of the Annual Barbecue in future:</p> <p>(1) To retain the present system where, in practice, the cost of the event is borne rather unevenly, with the host and one or two individuals making very generous contributions in the form of the venue, tentage, food and drink – not to mention time and hard work in organising the occasion – while others contributed relatively much less.</p> <p>(2) To change the Annual Barbecue to a ticket-only event. The price of the tickets would be set to pay for all the expenses and those attending would then not have to bring any ‘donation’ in the form of food or drink. This would avoid any issue of fairness where some members – particularly the hosts - might find themselves contributing much more than others.</p> <p>(3) To raise funds specifically to pay for the Annual Barbecue. This money might come from specific donations or from raffles, tombola or other initiatives clearly publicised as being for entertainment, rather than work-related, expenses. How much could be raised in this way and what the effect would be on local goodwill and perceptions of the Group would remain to be seen.</p> <p>f. The Chairman suggested that, with the next Annual Barbecue a year away, there was no need for an immediate decision. He asked members to give further thought to the issues raised so that they could be aired again at the next Meeting.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 4 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></b></p> <p>12. <b><u>Property Flood Resilience Database.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that he had received an e-mail from a contact at Defra informing him of a government funded project to develop a Property Flood Resilience Database. This will combine existing environmental data about flood risk (for example, flood zone maps) with information about the measures which the government and individuals have taken to protect properties from flooding. Local examples of the latter were the construction of the relief channel by the RLIDB in 2007-08 and the property-level flood protection which 35 houses in Bodenham had received in 2011-12 under the Environment Agency grant.</p> <p>b. At present, when setting premiums for flood insurance, companies rely almost entirely on the Environment Agency’s flood risk maps. The ultimate aim of the Project would be to provide the insurance industry with additional and much more accurate data on the actual flood resilience of properties which has resulted from investment in flood defences of all kinds, such as barriers, non-return valves, automatic air bricks and so on. The hope is that this will eventually result in insurance premiums being more closely related to the real flood risks to properties.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>c. The project is being conducted by BRE Scotland and at the moment is concentrating on developing a pilot version of the database which might then be tried out in a number of different areas. Defra have suggested that we might like to be involved and the Chairman said that he had indicated that the BFPG would be happy to give what help they could.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 5 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>13. The Chairman reported that since the last Meeting there had been one item of income – an anonymous donation of £30.00 towards the Barbecue - and one item of expenditure – a charge of £20.25 for the hire of the Siward James Centre from April to June. This meant that the balance in the account stood at £2,723.56, although the cost of the trailer repair would reduce this.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 6 – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF SHUKER'S FIELD</u></b></p> <p>14. The Secretary recalled that on Wednesday, 25 June, the day following the Group's June Meeting, Bovis Homes had held their Exhibition at Brockington Golf Club Tea Rooms to showcase their proposed development of Shuker's Field. This had given members the opportunity to see what Bovis Homes were planning and to question their representatives on the details, and particularly on the issue of surface water flooding.</p> <p>15. In discussion it was agreed that, overall, the feedback from those who had attended the Exhibition had been that the Bovis Homes experts had been generally dismissive, tending to sidestep the issues raised by residents and to display a lack of understanding of the very real concerns of those living close to the proposed development.</p>	
<p><b><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE PLANS</u></b></p> <p>16. <b><u>Recent Working Party Sessions.</u></b> The Chairman reported on the two sessions since the last Meeting:</p> <p>a. <b><u>Friday, 27 June 2014.</u></b> He had already noted that Mr Smith and his colleague from Warwick University had visited on this occasion. Some 17 members had taken part and a great deal had been achieved to remove the silt in the stretch of the Millcroft Brook downstream from the outfall of the relief channel towards the Ketch Lane culverts.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Friday, 11 July 2014.</u></b> The task on this occasion had been to complete the clearance of silt and vegetation from the bed of the Millcroft Brook down to the Ketch Lane culverts. Some 12 members had helped achieve this in less than half an hour and this had allowed them to move on to the Moor Brook and remove a major obstruction blocking the watercourse just upstream of where the Brook passes under the C1121. As before the session was followed by refreshments at Millcroft Farm.</p> <p>c. <b><u>Friday, 25 July 2014.</u></b> So much had been achieved on the previous two working parties that it was decided to cancel this session, especially as it would have clashed with the Church's "Dean's Delight" fund raiser.</p>	

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<p>17. <b><u>Future Working Party Sessions.</u></b> It was agreed that the next working party sessions would be on:</p> <p>a. <b><u>Friday, 8 August 2014.</u></b> It was agreed that attention should be given to the Moor Brook flap valve and the ditches in Orchard Close. Also, if the sandbags have arrived and there are sufficient working party members, the cage at the Parish Hall should be filled and locked and the remaining sandbags moved to the rear of Hamwyn Joinery to replace those used last winter.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Friday, 29 August 2014.</u></b> If the distribution of sandbags had not been completed on 8 August, this evening should be set aside to deal with them. A decision would be made at the next Meeting.</p> <p>18. <b><u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u></b> The Chairman reminded members that the next event on the Group's social calendar would be the Annual Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 27 September, starting at 6.00pm.</p>	<p><b>Ops Officer</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<b><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b>	
<p>19. <b><u>Annual General Meeting.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman again reminded members that the AGM will be on Tuesday, 26 August. He thanked all the Area Representatives who had agreed to stand again for the forthcoming year. Also, so far as he knew, no changes to the Constitution were likely to be proposed.</p> <p>b. He went on to recall that at the previous Meeting he had said that he and the Secretary would very much appreciate help in two particular areas. The first was walking the watercourses and checking their state for vegetation, silt and the condition of the flap valves. The second was keeping the Sandbag Location List up to date and each year contacting those who have sandbags on their property to identify their state and whether or not they needed replacing or re-bagging. He was pleased to say that Mr Tony Clark had very kindly offered to take on both tasks.</p>	
<b><u>ITEM 9 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></b>	
<p>20. The next Meeting will be the AGM which will take place on Tuesday, 26 August at 7.30pm at the Siward James Centre.</p> <p>21. There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.29 pm.</p>	<p><b>Chairman</b></p>

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

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