

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S AGM AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011**

ITEM	ACTION
<p data-bbox="135 405 603 439"><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="135 479 1286 584">1. The Chairman, Mrs Tricia Sanford, welcomed everyone to the AGM. She said that it was a very sad moment for her since she would not be standing for re-election and it was therefore her last meeting as Chairman.</p> <p data-bbox="135 624 1286 696">2. There were 35 members present and apologies were received from Mr &amp; Mrs R. Bowden, Mrs T. Edwards, Mr K. Grumbley, Mr R. Minchin and Mr M. Mullenger.</p>	
<p data-bbox="135 775 1007 808"><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPOINTING THE NEW COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="135 848 1286 1133">3. The Chairman reminded the Meeting that at Annex A to the Agenda were the names of all those who had put their names forward to stand for the new Committee. Before the voting took place, she took the opportunity to thank all those committee members with whom she had worked during the past two years for their support. She said she was especially grateful to Mr Clark for all his hard work, not only as Treasurer and Operations Manager, but also for all his work in ensuring that there were sufficient sandbags around the Village. She was also very grateful that he had agreed to remain as Treasurer.</p> <p data-bbox="135 1173 1286 1357">4. Mrs Sanford also gave her thanks to Mr Stephens, who had agreed to take over as Operations Manager, and to Mr George, who had offered to be the Deputy Operations Manager. Mr Watson has also offered to join the Operations Team by walking the brook and ensuring that the team was aware of any maintenance issues. The first of these walks would take place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.</p> <p data-bbox="135 1397 1286 1581">5. The names of all the candidates listed at Annex A to the Agenda were read out and, since all were well known to the Group, it was suggested that the new Committee and Area Representatives should be agreed <i>en bloc</i>. Their election was proposed by Mrs Avery, seconded by Mr Brown and agreed unanimously. The Chairman then welcomed Cllr Mitcheson as the new Chairman and handed over the Meeting to him.</p> <p data-bbox="135 1621 1286 2049">6. Cllr Mitcheson began by thanking both Mrs Sanford for all she had done as Chairman and Mr Clark for his work as Operations Manager which had included a great deal of work behind the scenes. He added that, like Mrs Sanford, he was very pleased that Mr Clark would be continuing as Treasurer. He went on to thank Mr Stephens for having agreed to take over as Operations Manager, a job he had in fact been doing for some time now, and Mr George for agreeing to help him. He also welcomed the other new Area Representatives, Mrs Burnill and Mrs Evans, and thanked Mr Watson for volunteering to walk the brook, a task which would start the very next day. Finally, the new Chairman thanked all the members for their continued support to the meetings and working party sessions. He stressed how important it was that the work was shared across the Group so that the burden did not fall on to the same few individuals. Finally, he mentioned that later in the Agenda Mr Clark would be telling members about a BFPG</p>	

visit to Brimfield and Little Hereford at which Mr Trewin of the Environment Agency had praised the BFPG for being one of the best – if not the best – self-help group in the country and even Mr Jackson had held up the BFPG as an example to be followed. These had been real and unsolicited tributes to all the time and hard work which members had devoted to the Group.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3 - MATTERS ARISING**

7. **Update: Award of EA Grant for Property - Level Flood Protection.** The Chairman noted that there were three separate dates for members' diaries under this heading. The first was:

a. **'Private Viewing' of Property Protection Products.**

(1) The 'Private Viewing' of property protection products would take place at Siward James on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September from 3.00pm to 8.00pm. The event was only for those people whose properties had been deemed eligible for grant funding and its aim was to allow these householders to decide which of the flood protection items recommended in their survey reports they want fitted to their houses, and which make of each product. Mrs Mary Dhonau, who is well known to members, would be present to advise on what would be best in each case. As this would be a lengthy event, the Chairman asked for volunteers to support the Secretary in providing refreshments for those who would be attending.

(2) The Chairman next went through the following points which had been raised with Mr Peter May, the Surveyor from JBA Consulting, and the latter's responses to them:

(a) **Non-Return Valves (NRV).** There are actually only 8 properties where the full port NRV is deemed necessary from the information provided. They are expensive and involve considerable disruption (and cost) in installation into the sewer pipe work.

(b) **Toilet Bungs.** The toilet bung is a cheaper option than the NRV and has been recommended for 6 properties where problems were reported to JBA. Mr May hopes that there may be money remaining in the budget to provide a small stock of bungs for wider distribution, but this cannot be guaranteed. The problem is that Amey (Mr Malik) will not know how the overall budget is looking until late autumn when everything has been costed. It is always a sensible precaution for people to purchase these bungs if they have observed problems with foul drains backing up and it may be possible for the BFPG to buy a number at a discounted rate for members to purchase.

(c) **Door Barriers.** Many of those who have been recommended door barriers have been concerned about their weight. At the 'Private Viewing' there will be a variety of barriers for householders to see. The Chairman added that a demonstration Flood Angel barrier from UK Flood Barriers Ltd

was in the entrance hall next to the display boards for anyone to examine. There was also the lightweight Flood Guards barrier, which is even lighter than Flood Angel. Mrs Mary Dhonau would have all these items at the 'Private Viewing' on 12<sup>th</sup> September and at the 'Village Evening' the following day.

(d) **Contributions.** The issue of contributions had arisen many times. The Chairman explained that this related both to those who are included in the scheme and to those who are excluded from it. For their own peace of mind even those included may wish to purchase additional items to cover those points of entry where floodwater did not actually come into the property in 2007, but might do so in an even larger flood. Similarly, some householders may wish to install the sewer non-return valves even though they did not experience any sewage flooding in 2007.

(e) **Final Quotes.** Mr Malik from Amey will only be able to produce the definitive list of actions when final quotes are accepted, which it was hoped would be in October. The Chairman emphasised that it was essential that those eligible for funding made their choices on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September and handed the completed forms to Mr Malik at the end of that evening. If this did not happen, Bodenham might lose its place in the queue to get equipment manufactured and we might then find ourselves having the products fitted at the worst possible part of the year, *i.e.* late December or even January. It was important that we kept ahead of all the 30 other places in the country which have also received grant funding.

b. **'Village Evening' on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

(1) This was the second flood protection event for members' diaries and the Chairman remarked that those with sharp eyes would already have seen that there was a poster advertising it on the Parish Website. It would take place from 5.00pm to 7.00pm on the evening following the 'Private Viewing' and would also be held at Siward James.

(2) The evening was for everyone in the Parish, that is, for all those residents who were either not successful in obtaining a grant, or who were not flooded, but would like to take the opportunity to upgrade their properties. Although it cannot be guaranteed that the flood protection products on display would be available at discounted rates or that they would be fitted at the same time as the grant funded items, it was hoped that it might be possible to negotiate this.

(3) The Chairman went on to ask all those at the Meeting to tell their neighbours and friends about the event and to encourage them to come along to it, even if it was just to see what is available and to talk to Mrs Dhonau who will be there to give advice. He noted that Mrs Dhonau had agreed to organise this second event as a special favour to Bodenham and would not be charging for her time as she recognises how important it is that everyone has a chance to see and purchase flood protection products.

**All**

(4) Finally, the Chairman said that the Secretary would be providing refreshments during the evening and asked that, if anyone would like to help with this, they should let her know.

c. **Launch of “Know Your Flood Risk” at Bodenham.**

(1) The Chairman went on to tell members about the third flood protection event for their diaries, the planned countywide Flood Protection Exhibition. This will take place on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at the Parish Hall from 2.00pm to 9.30pm and will be open to everyone in Herefordshire. He reminded members that it had been hoped to hold it on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, but that had not proved possible as Mrs Dhonau could not get all the exhibitors and speakers she wanted at such short notice. To achieve an open event in September, there had therefore had to be a compromise, which was to hold the separate, more local ‘Village Viewing’ on 13<sup>th</sup> September which he had already described.

(2) The Exhibition on 7<sup>th</sup> November will be much bigger and better because it will be sponsored not only by the BFPG, but by the Environment Agency, Herefordshire Council and the “Know Your Flood Risk” organisation. Furthermore, Mrs Dhonau, as the new CEO of “Know Your Flood Risk”, has been instrumental in arranging for Bodenham to be the venue for the launch of the 2011 Know Your Flood Risk Campaign. The first part of the Exhibition will be similar to, but larger than, the small events here in September and it is hoped to have the actual suppliers on hand to talk to people. In the evening Mrs Dhonau will chair an open forum on property insurance. She is currently talking with the media, Radio Hereford & Worcester and the local TV stations to get as wide a coverage as possible for the event.

(3) The Know Your Flood Risk Campaign has agreed to pay for the hire of the Parish Hall and Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency have agreed to pay for Mrs Dhonau to organise the Exhibition. The BFPG will be asked to provide refreshments throughout the day and evening, for which they will be able to charge. The Chairman added that, yet again, he would be very grateful if members of the BFPG would like to volunteer to help with the refreshments. All monies raised from the sale of these will go to support the Group’s fund.

8. **Social Calendar: New Dates and Timings.** The Chairman reminded those with email that for a variety of reasons, the dates and times of the Annual BBQ and Bonfire Party had had to be changed. They were now:

a. **Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Annual BBQ.** The Barbecue would now take place at The Forge by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Nickols. It would start at 6.00pm and, as in the past, everyone attending was asked to bring along a variety of food to barbecue. All of those on email had also had a poster attached to the Agenda as a reminder. Mr Nickols confirmed the arrangements for the evening and said that it would be helpful if any members wishing to attend could let him know that they intended to be present.

b. **Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October: The Annual Bonfire Party.** This will take place at Millcroft Farm starting at 6.30 pm with mulled wine and at 7.00pm the

Bonfire will be lit. Parking will be in the paddock and orchard as before. The Chairman said that he and the Secretary would be hosting the event and would be providing mulled wine and sausage rolls. However, if anyone attending wished to bring their own food and drink, they were entirely free to do so. Again, those who were planning to attend were asked to inform the Secretary so that she would know how many people to cater for.

c. **Quiz Night.** The Secretary had spoken to Mrs Ida Knott and provisionally booked the Parish Hall for either Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November or Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> November from 7.00pm, with the set up from 6.00pm. Owing to family commitments, Mr Hunt, who has been the Quiz Master in the past, is not now able to attend. The Chairman asked Mrs Bick, who had kindly agreed to organise the event, if she could give members a progress report. Mrs Bick said that Mrs Avery had taken on the task of finding a suitable quiz master. Mrs Avery responded that she has been in contact with an experienced quiz master, but as yet had not had a firm reply. It was then suggested that, if a suitable quiz master could not be found, a fund-raising cheese and wine party might perhaps be held instead. Mrs Bick and Mrs Avery agreed to report back at the September Meeting. (Afternote. Since Mrs Avery has not been able to confirm a quiz master for either 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> November, and would not be able to do so until very close to the event, Mrs Sanford has offered to act as quiz master on 12<sup>th</sup> November and that date has been booked with Mrs Knott).

Mrs Bick  
Mrs Avery

9. **Welsh Water Report on Mr Maldwyn Pugh’s Field Drains.**

a. Members who were in the recent working party in Mr Pugh’s field were reminded by the Chairman that foul smelling water had been seen coming from a drain near the Moor Brook flap valve. The Secretary had contacted the Parish Clerk about this and he had sent her the following reply:

“The main sewer is flowing normally. Shane from Welsh Water says that the storm water pipe in the field has grey water in it. Shane thinks that this means that someone in Orchard Close has connected a washer or dishwasher to the storm water pipe. The flap valve has nothing to do with Welsh Water. Whether the flap valves become the responsibility of Welsh Water in October is “a grey area”. Shane would be willing to meet councillors on site if we so wish!

b. The Chairman remarked that there seemed to be little to be gained by taking this any further and this was generally agreed.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – TREASURER’S REPORT**

10. The Treasurer handed out the End of Year Report which is set out below. There is currently a balance of £1,704.09 in the Group’s fund. He drew members’ attention to the additional expenditure of ink and paper for the Secretary and the cost of hiring Siward James for meetings.

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	<b>£</b>
Balance Carried Forward	1179.16		
Donation: Mr & Mrs Ling	25.00	Room Hire: Siward James	5.00

Donation: Hire of Parish Hall	30.00	Secretary: Paper & Ink	50.00	
Quiz Night	324.00	Purchase: 2 x Strimmers	310.00	
Raffle (Quiz Night)	93.00	Quiz Night: Wine	48.48	
Donation: Mr & Mrs Howell	10.00	Quiz Night Food: Mrs Bick	22.57	
Sale of Old Pump on E Bay	20.00	Quiz Night Food: Mr Sebbage	3.66	
Coffee Morning	486.00	Room Hire: Siward James	14.00	
Donation: Hire of Room	31.00	Parish Hall Hire: Quiz Night	30.00	
Donation: Anonymous	20.00	Room Hire: Coffee Morning	31.00	
Teas: Open Gardens	122.50	Mary Dhonau: Travel Costs	25.00	
		Purchase: Drain Rod & Fittings	53.36	
		Room Hire: Siward James	21.00	
		Room Hire: Siward James	22.50	
Balance carried forward:	1,704.09			
Totals:	2,340.66		2,340.66	
<p>11. <b><u>Cost of Removal of Silt from Millcroft Brook.</u></b> The Treasurer told the Meeting that Mr Ian Linton had offered to help the Group by removing the builders' bags of silt from the Millcroft culvert and disposing of the contents. The Operation's Manager had been in discussion with Mr Linton on behalf of the Treasurer and would let him know any likely costs.</p>				Mr Stephens
<b><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 - FUTURE PLANS</u></b>				
<p>12. <b><u>The Proposed Timetable for Working Party Sessions.</u></b> Mr Stephens outlined the programme for future working party sessions:</p> <p>a. <b><u>Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September.</u></b> This would be a 6.30pm meeting at Millcroft Farm to complete clearing the silt from the Millcroft/ Ketch Lane Culvert.</p> <p>b. <b><u>Other Dates in September.</u></b> The other working party dates for September are: 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. The Secretary would notify the locations. (<b>Afternote.</b> The start times have now been brought forward to 6.00pm).</p> <p>c. <b><u>Dates in October.</u></b> The dates agreed for October are 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. The locations will be notified later by the Secretary. (<b>Afternote.</b> Again, the start times have now been brought forward to 6.00pm).</p>				Secretary
<p>13. <b><u>EA/Amey: Proposal for a New Flap Valve on The Moor Brook.</u></b> The Chairman reported that at an informal meeting with Cllrs Jeremy Millar and Brian Wilcox of Herefordshire Council the subject of the cancellation by Mr Martin Jackson of the application for a new Moor Brook flap valve had been raised. He said that he had expressed the Group's disappointment that this cancellation had been made without any consultation with the BFPG or the Parish Council. He had asked Cllr Wilcox that in future the BFPG or the Parish Council should at least be consulted before any future action is taken by Herefordshire Council/Amey which may affect the Group's work within the Parish.</p>				Secretary

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14. **NatWest Community Force.** The Chairman informed members that the Secretary had signed the Group up to the NatWest Community Force. This is a NatWest sponsored initiative under which self-help groups can apply for funding of up to £6,000 towards a project. In this instance the funding requested was for financial help to be used for clearing the culverts and ditches where such work is beyond the capacity of the Group.

15. **Bodenham Church - Ditch at Rear of Churchyard.** The Chairman reported that the Secretary had been contacted and asked what the BFPG was doing about clearing the ditch in the field next to the cremation area of the churchyard. The Secretary had pointed out that this was private land owned by Hampton Court and therefore outside the remit of the BFPG; clearance of the ditch was a matter between the Parochial Church Council and Hampton Court. The Secretary had asked the Parish Clerk to contact Hampton Court and pass the issue on to them. This had now been done and it was understood that Hampton Court had agreed to attend to the ditch. A discussion then followed in which responsibilities for the various ditches surrounding the churchyard were clarified.

16. **Know Your Flood Risk Campaign.** The Chairman noted that the Secretary had signed the Group up to be a member of the *Know Your Flood Risk* Campaign. It was a great coup for the BFPG and Bodenham to be asked to be the launch venue for the organisation's national 2011 Campaign. More details of the *Know Your Flood Risk* Campaign can be found on their internet site (<http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/>).

17. **Report on the Visit to Brimfield & Little Hereford.**

a. At the Chairman's request Mr Clark gave a report on a recent BFPG visit to Brimfield. He said that, following the visit by members of Brimfield & Little Hereford Parish Council to the BFPG's July Meeting, he, Cllr Mitcheson and the Secretary had been invited to attend a public meeting on flooding in Brimfield Parish Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

b. Before the Meeting they had been taken to see the series of chokepoints along the Brimfield Brook, the problems that the overgrown and silted up state of the Brook caused, and the height to which flood water had risen in 2007 when some 17 houses had been affected. Lack of maintenance over many years has allowed large trees to grow along and into the Brook in many places; in some sections it has become narrowed to a few feet; in others it has become heavily silted up; in places there is debris, including wooden sleepers, in the stream bed; there are a number of bridges and fences which restrict the flow of water; and there is heavy vegetation along much of the banks. In short, the local community is faced with significant, but not insuperable, problems.

c. The Public Meeting had been attended by about 30 residents and the BFPG had been invited to give a presentation on the work of the Group as an example of what can be achieved by a local community. To support this, display boards of photographs, sets of all the various flood-related booklets, and a range of flood protection equipment (automatic airbricks, non-return valve, etc.) had been set up. Cllr Mitcheson had given the presentation and this had been followed by a short talk by Mr Dan Trewin of the Environment Agency who, amongst other things, had said that Bodenham was now seen as one of the best -

if not the best - examples in the country of what can be achieved.

d. Mr Martin Jackson of Amey Herefordshire had then described the problems of the Brimfield Brook from maps and photographs as an introduction to the development of an Action Plan for the village. In essence, he had supported the BFPG as an example to be followed and had told the Meeting that Brimfield had no chance whatever of getting anyone to clear their brook for them. Furthermore, he had indicated that they had virtually no prospect of getting a property-level flood protection grant like Bodenham unless, like Bodenham, they could demonstrate a community commitment to doing something about their problems for themselves.

e. There had then been a discussion period, during which there had been a certain amount of internal wrangling over responsibility for a particular obstruction to the Brook and what the BFPG representatives had felt to be a generally defeatist attitude to the audience's other contributions. Those present had appeared to have difficulty in grasping the reality that no one was going to help them, but themselves; they had kept worrying about legal issues and why riparian owners could not be forced to carry out their responsibilities; they had kept focussing on the big problems and how big they were, and therefore how hopeless it was to do anything at all, while not appreciating how much can be achieved by starting with the simple tasks of clearing vegetation, etc.; and there had seemed to be a view that, if only they could do enough to persuade the Environment Agency to give them a flood protection grant like Bodenham, they could then sit back and let the Brook itself go from bad to worse.

f. In short, Mr Clark said, Brimfield seemed to be where Bodenham had been in early 2008. The BFPG members had done their best to encourage Brimfield and Little Hereford to be more positive, but the latter clearly have some way to go. To help them further they had been invited to visit one of our meetings or working party sessions and several of the audience had expressed an interest in doing so. (**Afternote.** Cllrs John Stone and John Llewellyn from Brimfield & Little Hereford visited the Group's working party session at the Ketch Lane culverts on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September).

18. **Field below Devereux Court – West of Church.** Mr Tom James-Moore told the Meeting that he had now taken on renting this field from Hampton Court. He had cleared the growth from the small ditch between Devereux Court and the field. The water from the Village could now flow freely through it to the small culvert/pipe under the path to the Lakes Car Park area.

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

19. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> September at the Siward James Centre. **All**



# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

**Chairman: Cllr Tony Mitcheson**  
**Treasurer: Mr Tony Clark**  
**Operations Manager: Mr Mike Stephens**  
**Deputy Operations Manager: Mr Robin George**  
**Secretary: Mrs Babs Mitcheson 797170**

## **The Moor:**

**The Moor Road: Mr Tony Clark: 797943**  
**Orchard Close: Mr Graham Price : 797621**  
**Chapel Lane: Mr Robert Pritchard: 797428**  
**Brockington Road (2 -20): Mr Simon Dowler: 797363**  
**Brockington Road (1, 32-34, 36 – 42A): Mrs Rebecca Burnill 797823**  
**Brockington Road (43- 54): Mrs Gwen Bowden: 797868**  
**Siward James: Mrs Iris Evans 797412**  
**Ash Grove Close: Mrs Jean Fryer: 797338**  
**Ash Grove View: Mr David Harris: 797575**  
**Millcroft Road: Mrs Barbara Gibson : 797643**

## **Bodenham Village:**

**Bridge to War Memorial:**  
**The Forge: Mr Simon Nickols: 797144**  
**Church and Bodenham Village:**  
**Mr David Ayshford Sanford: 797549**  
**Mr Mike Mullenger: 797199**

## **Bodenham Flood Protection Group Meeting Dates 2012**

**These Meetings are open to ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**All Meetings, unless otherwise notified will be held on the last Tuesday of the month at Siward James Centre starting at 7.30 pm**

<b>January</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>31st</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>28th - AGM</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>26th</b>		

**If you are unable to attend or have points which you would like to be raised at the meeting, please contact the Secretary Mrs Babs Mitcheson 797170**

**The above dates will appear in the appropriate month's Bodenham Newsletter and Parish Website.**