

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 2015

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and reminded members that it was the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Bodenham Flood Protection Group, or the eighth if the inaugural Meeting was included.</p> <p>2. He remarked that, although there had been thunderstorms and a fair amount of rain over the past few days, the effect on water levels had been minimal; in the Millcroft Brook the telemetry system had shown no more than a brief 8 inch rise at most.</p> <p>3. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 29 members present and apologies were received from Mr Minchin, Mr Nicolson, Mr Pritchard, Mr Stephens, Mrs Bowden, Mrs Parker, Miss Gibson and Miss Price.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AREA REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2015-16</u></p> <p>4. The Chairman said that he hoped that the election process could be completed fairly quickly since, as the list of appointments attached to the Agenda indicated, all those currently occupying posts had kindly agreed to continue serving in them. In accordance with the usual procedure he would stand down as Chairman, but, unless members objected, remain in the room while the Secretary conducted the election of the incoming Chairman.</p> <p>5. <u>Election of Chairman.</u> The Secretary took the chair and reminded members that nominations for all appointments had closed on 31 July 2015. There had been no nominations for Chairman, but Cllr Mitcheson had indicated that he was prepared to remain in post for another year. Mr Tilford proposed that Cllr Mitcheson should remain as Chairman; this was seconded by Mr Sebbage and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>6. <u>Election of Secretary.</u> Cllr Mitcheson then resumed the Chair and conducted the election of the Secretary. He informed members that no one had put themselves forward to take on this post, but that the present Secretary had agreed to remain if there were no other contenders. Mr Tilford proposed that Mrs Mitcheson should remain as</p>	

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<p>Secretary; this was seconded by Mrs Stephens and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>7. <u>Election of the Operations Officer.</u> The Chairman said that, again, there had been no nominations for the post of Operations Officer. However, he was prepared to continue in that role and he thanked members in general, and Mr Stephens in particular, for the support they had given him at working party sessions over the past year. Mr Dowler proposed that Cllr Mitcheson should remain as Operations Officer; this was seconded by Mr Bowden and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>8. <u>Election of the Treasurer.</u> The Chairman said that, in the absence of any other nominations, Mrs Mitcheson had indicated that she was happy to continue as Treasurer. Mr Rice proposed that Mrs Mitcheson should remain as Treasurer; this was seconded by Mr Clark and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>9. <u>Election of Area Representatives.</u> The Chairman said that, as he had already indicated, all the Area Representatives, had agreed to serve for a further year. They would, however, have to be formally elected. It was proposed by Mr Hemming seconded by Mrs Watson and unanimously approved by the Meeting that all the Area Representatives should continue in post for a further year.</p> <p>10. The Chairman thanked Mr Clark, for walking the brook. As this was not part of the formal structure of the Group it was therefore not subject to election. He thanked Mr Clark for this additional contribution and Mr Clark confirmed that he was happy to continue in the role.</p> <p>11. The Chairman went on to thank most warmly all the Area Representatives, and members generally, for all that they had done, and continued to do, for the Group.</p> <p>12. <u>The Group's Constitution.</u> Finally, the Chairman noted for the record that no amendments had been proposed for the Constitution, which therefore remained unchanged.</p> <p>13. A list of those elected at the Meeting to serve during 2015-16 is attached at Annex A to these Minutes.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>14. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the July 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 Mt Clark, seconded by Mr George and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>15. <u>Housing Developments.</u> The Chairman said that he had nothing new to report regarding the various applications for housing developments affecting the village. However, he anticipated that Herefordshire Council's Planning Committee would be determining some of these in the month ahead.</p>	

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<p>16. <u>The Queen's Award For Voluntary Service.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that work had started on the arrangements for the Presentation of the Queen's Award For Voluntary Service on 23 October. The Secretary had prepared a formal invitation and sent it to the Lieutenancy Office for confirmation that it was in the correct format. He anticipated that the invitation would be sent out to those who had helped the Group over the past seven years in the next few weeks and he was still keen to hear any suggestions as to who should be included on the guest list.</p> <p>b. He noted that the question of whether BFPG funds could be used to help pay for the event had been raised informally. He said that it had been made clear that, as had been said many times before, these funds were public money which had been donated to support the work of the Group and could not be used for members' entertainment. That said, it would be perfectly possible to use money donated specifically to cover the cost of the Presentation and one such donation had already been very generously made and was being accounted for in a separate fund. Donations did not have to be in the form of money and contributions in the form of sandwiches and other suitable refreshments for the reception on 23 October would be very welcome.</p> <p>c. He concluded by saying that, as reported at the last Meeting, the Secretary would be asking for volunteers to form a small task force to help her with the arrangements on the day. Nearer the time members would also be asked to confirm for catering purposes whether or not they would be attending.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 5 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p>	
<p>17. The Chairman drew the members' attention to the Treasurer's Report which had been attached to the AGM's Agenda circulated by email. Copies were also available on the tables. The balance in the account was now £3,106.99 and, in response to a question, he confirmed that the Treasurer had met with the Parish Clerk and reviewed the items which were eligible for a VAT refund. Any such refunds would be credited to the BFPG Account once they had been received by the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>18. Mr Clark proposed that the Treasurer's Report should be accepted. This was seconded by Mrs Dowler and agreed.</p> <p>19. The Chairman asked the AGM to approve the reimbursement of £35.00 to the Secretary for expenditure incurred by her on printer ink. She had found a new and less expensive supplier and the amount was half that incurred in the previous year. Approval was proposed by Mr Dowler, seconded by Mrs Avery and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p>	
<p>20. <u>Flood Resilience at a Community Level in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members of the project on flood resilience being conducted by Mr Steven Forrest, a PhD researcher at the University of</p>	<p>Chairman</p>

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<p>Groningen and recalled that he and the Secretary had met Mr Forrest in London on 19 May to brief him on the work of the BFPG. Mr Forrest had subsequently sent an e-mail to say that he had been working to analyse the data he had collected and had also presented some of his preliminary findings at a planning conference. He was continuing to analyse and write up his findings and hoped to be able to send the Group a copy of these later in the year.</p> <p>b. Meanwhile, he had published a short report on his study so far. This was in the form of a blog at http://fcerm.net/blog/FloodAction in which he pointed out that the UK had recently seen a great increase in the number of flood action groups, whereas in the Netherlands none at all exist. He suggested some possible reasons for this apparently strange situation. For example, in the Netherlands flood action groups had been set up by monks and farmers as long ago as the 13th Century and over time these had become institutionalized as government water boards with the power to levy taxes. In the Netherlands the constitution places a responsibility on the Government to ‘keep its citizens’ feet dry’, whereas in the UK the Government has no such formal obligation. As a result, while in the UK recent floods have attracted great media interest and public concern, in the Netherlands there is currently high public trust in the government water boards, matched by a low level of flood risk awareness.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>21. <u>Recent Working Parties.</u> The Chairman thanked all those who had turned up to the working party sessions on:</p> <p>a. <u>Friday 7 August.</u> Sixteen members had taken part and finished clearing the Orchard Close drainage system down to the Moor Brook flap valve. This had been greatly aided by the spraying which Mr Stephens had carried out earlier in the year since this meant that the ditch was fairly clear and the main task now was trimming the hedges and removing debris. Mr and Mrs Stephens had very kindly invited members back to their house afterwards for refreshments which were very much appreciated.</p> <p>d. <u>Friday 21 August.</u> Twelve members had volunteered for the session and, while Mr Stephens and Mr Clark had spent some time trying to clear the Moor Brook flap valve, the majority had tackled the task of checking the stock of sandbags at the Parish Hall. A large number of these had degraded and were replaced. Once again Mr and Mrs Stephens very generously provided everyone present with refreshments, this time <i>al fresco</i> at the Parish Hall.</p> <p>22. <u>Future Working Parties.</u> The Chairman suggested that the next working party sessions should be held on:</p> <p>a. <u>Friday 4 September.</u> Mr Stephens and Mr Clark had found that the Moor Brook culvert was full of debris behind its flap valve and this would need to be cleared, possibly by jetting. Another task would be to continue the process of checking and repairing sandbags. It was agreed that members who were able to attend should meet at the Rivers Media car park at 6.00pm.</p> <p>a. <u>Friday 18 September.</u> The tasks and venue would depend on progress</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Secretary</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>on 4 September and would be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>23. The Chairman noted that during the working party session on 7 August Mr Stephens had kindly used his own pole hedge trimmer to cut back the hedging along the drainage ditch to the rear of Orchard Close. This was necessary because the River Lugg Drainage Board contractors were unable to carry out the work because of the maize crop in the field. The Chairman said that it was unreasonable to expect members to use their own private equipment on such occasions and it had been suggested that the Group should consider buying its own long reach hedge trimmer. Mr Stephens had investigated this on behalf of the Group and had found a supplier who was willing to let the Group have a similar make to his own for £496 after VAT had been refunded. It was agreed that, as the tool was only likely to be used once or twice a year, the Chairman would investigate other options for hiring such equipment or purchasing it on line. He would report back at the next Meeting when a decision could be made. Meanwhile, he asked members to consider what other tools the Group might require and make any suggestions at the September Meeting.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>24. <u>Winter Preparations.</u> The Chairman reminded members that now was the time to check and repair any sandbags they had and to ensure that any other flood protection equipment, such as barriers, automatic airbricks and toilet bungs, as well as ancillary items such as torches, were in good working order. If any members needed help – or knew of other residents who required assistance - they should contact the Secretary who would see what could be done to provide it.</p> <p>25. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre on 29 September at 7.30pm.</p> <p>26. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.05pm</p>	<p>All</p>

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

29 September 2015

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

Area Reps and Committee List

Position	Current Incumbent 2014/15	Proposed Incumbent 2015/16
Chairman:	Cllr Tony Mitcheson	Cllr Tony Mitcheson
Treasurer:	Mrs Babs Mitcheson	Mrs Babs Mitcheson
Operations Manager:	Cllr Tony Mitcheson	Cllr Tony Mitcheson
Secretary:	Mrs Babs Mitcheson	Mrs Babs Mitcheson
<u>The Moor:</u>		
The Moor Road:	Mr Tony Clark	Mr Tony Clark
Orchard Close:	Mr Mike Stephens/ Mr Robert Pritchard	Mr Mike Stephens Mr Robert Pritchard
Chapel Lane:	Mr Robert Pritchard	Mr Robert Pritchard
Brockington Road: (2 -31& 35)	Mr Simon Dowler	Mr Simon Dowler
Brockington Road: (1, 32-34, 36 – 42A)	Mrs Rebecca Burnill	Mrs Rebecca Burnill
Brockington Road (43- 54):	Mrs Gwen Bowden	Mrs Gwen Bowden
Siward James:	The Warden	Miss Victoria Paterson
Ash Grove Close:	Mrs Jean Fryer	Mrs Jean Fryer
Ash Grove View:	Mr David Harris	Mr David Harris
Ash Grove View:	Cllr Alec Avery	Cllr Alec Avery
Millcroft Road:	Miss Barbara Gibson	Miss Barbara Gibson
<u>Maund Bryan</u>	Mr Philip Broomhead	Mr Philip Broomhead
<u>Bodenham Village:</u>		
Bridge to War Memorial: The Forge	Mr Mike Mullenger	Mr Mike Mullenger
Church and Bodenham Village:	Mr David Ayshford Sanford Mr Mike Mullenger	Mr David Ayshford Sanford Mr Mike Mullenger
Brook Walker	Mr Tony Clark	Mr Tony Clark