

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2017

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the Group's AGM and said that, as regards flood risk, he had nothing to report.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 19 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Cllr and Mrs Avery, Mrs Burnill, Mrs Fryer, Miss Gibson, Mr and Mrs Hemming, Mrs Parker, Mr Pritchard, and Mr and Mrs Watson.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AREA REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2017-18</u></p> <p>3. The Chairman said that he hoped that the election process could be completed as fairly and quickly as possible. 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>4. <u>Election of Chairman.</u> The Secretary took the chair and reminded members that she had asked for nominations for all appointments prior to the AGM. There had been no nominations for Chairman, but Cllr Mitcheson had indicated that he was prepared to remain in post for another year. Cllr Tilford proposed that Cllr Mitcheson be elected for a further year, this was seconded by Cllr Clark and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>5. <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. Mrs Bowden proposed that Mrs Mitcheson should continue as Secretary, this was seconded by Mrs Davies and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>6. <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 for the support they had given him at working party sessions over the past year. These had gone well and, as always, achieved a great deal, but the slow decline in the number of members willing and able to contribute in this way was a matter for concern. Mr Sebbage proposed that Cllr Mitcheson should remain as Operations Officer; this was seconded by Mrs Griffiths and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p> <p>7. <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 Dowler proposed that Mrs Mitcheson should remain as Treasurer; this was seconded by Mrs Clark and unanimously approved by the Meeting.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>8. <u>Election of Area Representatives.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that all those Area Representatives contacted by the Secretary had agreed to serve for a further year. The Chairman then asked for all the Area Representatives, except for Orchard Close and Chapel Lane who had not yet responded, to be formally elected. This was proposed by Mr Bowden, second by Mrs Griffiths and unanimously approved by the Meeting. (Afternote. Mr Pritchard has kindly agreed to remain as key holder for the Chapel Lane sandbag cage, but the role of Area Representative for Orchard Close and Chapel Lane remains vacant at present).</p> <p>b. 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>9. <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>10. A list of those elected at the Meeting to serve during 2017-18 is attached at Annex A to these Minutes.</p>	
<u>ITEM 3 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u>	
<p>11. 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 Cllr Clark, seconded by Mr George and agreed.</p>	
<u>ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING</u>	
<p>12. <u>Sandbag Cage at the Parish Hall.</u> The Chairman reported that the task of moving the sandbag cage from the front of the Parish Hall to the school car park had been completed by the working party on 11 August. Mr Derek Pritchard had provided the necessary transport and had himself helped with the move, for which he had charged £35. It was proposed by Mrs Bowden that the Treasurer should pay Mr Pritchard for his services. This was seconded by Miss Price and agreed.</p> <p>13. <u>The Ketch Lane Culverts.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that Cllr Baker had arranged for two Herefordshire Council Cabinet members to visit Millcroft Farm on Monday, 31 July to discuss the Ketch Lane culverts. The Councillors were Cllr Philip Price (Infrastructure) and Cllr Barry Durkin (Roads from 1 September) and, after the Chairman had briefed them on the reasons why the culverts needed to be replaced, he, Cllr Baker and the Secretary had shown them the culverts in question.</p> <p>b. The Chairman remarked that the Meeting had been a positive one and Cllr Price had even suggested that Balfour Beatty’s proposed ‘Option 2’ for a replacement culvert did not go far enough; a longer culvert fully aligned with the Millcroft Brook upstream of the junction would, he felt, provide a better solution and the possible extra cost could partly be balanced by</p>	Treasurer

ITEM	ACTION
<p>eliminating the need to demolish the existing Victorian (East) culvert.</p> <p>c. Since then, there had been no firm news, largely because some of the key individuals at Herefordshire Council had been away on summer leave. However, the Chairman said that he had recently spoken to Cllr Baker who had promised to pursue the issue, as necessary.</p> <p>14. <u>Natural Flood Management.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman referred to the media reports that the Government had allocated £15m for natural flood management schemes across the country and that £1m of this was to be spent on three sites in Worcestershire and 8 sites in Herefordshire, one of the latter being Bodenham.</p> <p>b. He noted that there seemed to be some uncertainties regarding these reports. According to the Environment Agency’s website the funding allocated to the eight sites in Herefordshire is to protect 3,800 dwellings and totals £626k, while £500k is to be allocated to five sites in Worcestershire. The date for the approval of the Herefordshire business case is shown as September this year, with construction starting in January 2018 and finishing in March 2021.</p> <p>c. The Chairman remarked that, although it is a large sum, £626k seemed unlikely to go far when spread across eight sites. Cllr Price had touched on this at the 31 July Meeting at Millcroft Farm and it was possible that the £626k was for feasibility studies rather than any actual construction work.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 - TREASURER’S REPORT</u></p> <p>15. On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman reported that at the end of July the balance of the account had been £4,038.00. Since then there had been no income or expenditure. The balance at the end of August therefore remained at £4,038.00.</p> <p>16. The Chairman added that the account for the previous 12 months had been distributed in hard copy at the meeting and would be sent out with the Minutes. It was proposed by Mrs Bowden that the Accounts should be accepted; this was seconded by Mr Harris and agreed.</p> <p>17. The Secretary said that she would like agreement to invoice the Treasurer for £70 to cover the cost of ink for all BFPG printing for the previous 12 month period. All paper and laminations are provided free of charge. This was proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Mr Dowler and agreed.</p>	Treasurer
<p><u>ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p> <p>18. The Chairman reported that on 4 August he had received an e-mail from the Council Solicitor at Ryedale District Council in Malton in North Yorkshire asking a series of questions about the BFPG’s legal status and its use of pumps. This was because a Parish Meeting in the Ryedale area was considering applying for a grant to purchase pumps to alleviate flood during periods of high rainfall. The Chairman said that he had replied appropriately.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 7 – CRAYFISH</u></p> <p>19. The Chairman remarked that most members, especially those who took part in working parties, would be aware that the Millcroft Brook was home to a large number of crayfish. Unfortunately, these are Signal Crayfish, a species which was introduced into the UK from Sweden in the early 1970s for farming, to supplement the declining Scandinavian crayfish market. Since then, Signal Crayfish, which are larger and more aggressive than the White-Clawed Crayfish and other native crayfish, and also carry a ‘plague’ which is fatal to native crayfish, have been displacing the latter across much of the country.</p> <p>20. Efforts are being made to reverse, or at least, contain this trend and the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust have received funding for a project to record and reduce the number of crayfish along the stretch of the River Lugg adjacent to Bodenham Lake. The Chairman reported that, as part of this project, on 23-24 August he, the Secretary and Cllr Clark had attended a two day course on trapping, identifying, recording and dealing with Signal Crayfish.</p> <p>21 In view of the many Signal Crayfish in Bodenham’s watercourses and the effect that this was having on undermining banks and creating additional silt, especially in the Millcroft Brook, he had asked whether it would be possible for Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to extend their project to include the Brook. The answer had been that the Trust’s funding for this year was limited to their stretch of the River Lugg, but that an extension might be possible in 2018, especially if the BFPG would be prepared to pay for the necessary traps. In fact, on that basis it would be entirely possible for the Group to apply for its own licence direct to the Environment Agency and the Chairman asked members if anyone would be interested in pursuing this.</p> <p>22. Miss Price agreed to join a BFPG Crayfish Monitoring Group and the Secretary said that she would pass on to her all the relevant information. In the meantime it was decided that the issue should be given further thought.</p> <p>23. The Chairman noted that the immediate issue was that, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to release, or allow to escape, any non-native species into the wild in the UK, except under licence. The Prohibition of Keeping of Live Fish (Crayfish) Order 1996 (as amended) makes it an offence to keep any crayfish in England and Wales, except under licence (with specific exemption areas – not including Herefordshire - for Signal Crayfish). It follows that any Signal Crayfish which members find during working party sessions will have to be despatched humanely and he and the Secretary would make the necessary arrangements for this.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 8 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p> <p>24. <u>Previous Working Parties.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that the working party planned for 28 July had to be postponed owing to bad weather. However, it had been re-arranged for Friday, 4 August when 16 members gathered at Millcroft Farm to continue work clearing the brook.</p> <p>b. On 11 August, as he had already mentioned, the move of the Parish Hall sandbag cage had been carried out by 10 members. The Secretary will</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>shortly be producing a new set of contact details for the sandbag cages and container and this will be published in the Parish <i>Newsletter</i> and on line in the Parish Website on the BFPG documents page.</p> <p>c. The most recent working party on Friday, 25 August saw 9 members continue to clear the growth from the Millcroft Brook. The Chairman thanked all those who had taken part in these last three sessions. A lot of hard work meant that the Brook had now been cleared almost down to the Ketch Lane culverts.</p> <p>25. <u>Future Working Party Dates.</u></p> <p>a. The next planned working party dates in September were:</p> <p>(1) Friday 8 September</p> <p>(2) Friday 22 September</p> <p>b. As the plan is to continue working on the Millcroft Brook, all those able to take part are invited to meet at Millcroft Farm at 6.00pm on these dates and to return there afterwards for refreshments.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><u>ITEM 9 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u></p>	
<p>26. <u>Annual Bonfire Party and Quiz Night.</u></p> <p>a. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> As agreed at the previous Meeting, the Bonfire Party will be held on Saturday, 21 October at Millcroft Farm starting at 6.00pm. The Secretary will send out a reminder asking for numbers during September. There will be the usual sausage rolls, nibbles and mulled surprise. Anyone attending can, of course, bring their own food and/ or drink for themselves or for others to share.</p> <p>b. <u>Annual Quiz Night.</u></p> <p>(1) At the last Meeting it was agreed that the Annual Quiz Night would be on Friday, 24 November and the Secretary has booked the Parish Hall for this.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman reminded members that also at the July meeting Miss Gibson had pointed out that the evening involved a lot of work for the organiser, who had to make the refreshments for the interval, in addition to arranging the Parish Hall and buying prizes for the winning table. She had suggested that the Group could help to avoid this by reducing the price of the tickets and asking those attending to bring and share their own food. Miss Gibson had said that another similar event charged £3 for the ticket, but the Chairman had suggested £5 to cover the cost of the hire of the Parish Hall, the prizes for the winning team and a small profit for the Group funds.</p> <p>(3) The Chairman reported that, following the last Meeting the Secretary and Mrs Griffiths, who has very kindly organised the event in past years, had discussed this idea and felt that it would be very difficult to coordinate those who had agreed to bring food, what type</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>of food, and for how many. Almost inevitably there would be those who are not members of the BFPG who would attend the Quiz Night and not bring anything at all. Mrs Griffiths had therefore suggested that, because the event starts at 7.00pm for 7.30pm and most of those attending would already have had their evening meal at around 6.00pm, there might not be any real need for sandwiches during the interval. Instead, she had suggested that the ticket price remains the same at £6.00 per person, that substantial nibbles are on the tables and that a glass of wine is included in the ticket price. This would make the whole evening a lot easier to organise.</p> <p>(4) In discussion this the way forward was agreed and Mrs Griffiths very kindly agreed to organise the event again this year. Mr Maxwell proposed that this plan should be adopted; this was seconded by Ms Tremain and agreed. (Afternote: Cllr and Mrs Clark have agreed to organise the raffle; Mr and Mrs Schwartz the Bar, and Mrs Dowler has volunteered as a helper).</p> <p>(5) The Secretary will send out details to all members, and advertise the event in the Parish <i>Newsletter</i>, on Parish Web Site, Next Door and <i>The Hereford Times</i>.</p>	<p>Secretary Mrs Griffiths Cllr and Mrs Clark Mr and Mrs Schwartz Mrs Dowler</p>
<p><u>ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>27. <u>Fund-Raising Coffee Morning 2018.</u> Mrs Davies said that she would be prepared to organise the fund-raising Coffee Morning in 2018 as she had done in the past. However, instead of the event taking place in February as in previous years, she suggested that it should be earlier in January so that it would not clash with a Cancer Research fund-raising event in February. The date of Saturday, 13 January was proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Mrs Griffiths and agreed. The Chairman thanked Mrs Davies for all her hard work in organising this very successful fund-raising event every year since the formation of the Group.</p> <p>28. <u>Thanks to the Chairman and Secretary.</u> Mrs Bowden asked that the Group's thanks to the Chairman and Secretary for their work during the past year be recorded. The Chairman thanked Mrs Bowden and all those who had done so much to contribute once again to another successful year for the Group. He reiterated that all the work done had been very much a team effort.</p> <p>29. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting would be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26 September 2017.</p> <p>30. There being no further business the AGM closed at 8.15</p>	<p>Secretary Mrs Davies</p>

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Chairman: Cllr Tony Mitcheson

Treasurer: Mrs Babs Mitcheson

Operations Manager: Cllr Tony Mitcheson

Secretary/Sandbag Containers and Cages: Mrs Babs Mitcheson

The Moor:

The Moor Road/Sandbag Cage: Mr Andrew Maxwell: 797946

Chapel Lane Sandbag Cage Key Holder: Mr Robert Pritchard: 797428

Brockington Road (2 -31& 35): 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/Sandbag Cage: The Warden: Mrs Victoria Paterson : 797412

Ash Grove Close: Mrs Jean Fryer: 797338

Ash Grove View: Mr David Harris: 797575

Ash Grove View: Cllr Alec Avery: 797744

Millcroft Road: Miss Barbara Gibson: 797643

Bodenham Village:

Mr David Ayshford Sanford: 797549

Key Holder Sandbag Cages: Mr Barry Wilson: 797013

Maund Bryan:

Mr Philip Broomhead 797167

Bodenham Flood Protection Group Meeting Dates 2018

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**

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

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 on 797170

Or by email at BabsMitcheson@aol.com

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