

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the Group's September Meeting and remarked that, once again, the weather over the past month had been such that flooding had not been an issue. He Also welcomed Mrs Sue Pearman of Brockington Road to her first flood group meeting.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 20 members present and apologies were received from Cllr Baker, Mr Bowden, Mr and Mrs Brown, Mrs Burnill, Mr Maxwell, Mrs Parker, Mr Rice and Mr and Mrs Watson.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the AGM in August. 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 Mrs Bowden and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 - MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>BFBPG Area Contact List and Meeting Dates for 2018.</u> The Contact List for 2017-18 was confirmed by the elections at the AGM. As soon as the Secretary receives Mrs Paterson's agreement to the room hire dates for 2018, the List will be published and put on notice boards around the Village.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>5. On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman reported that at the end of August the balance of the account had been £4,038.00. There had been income in the form of a £10 donation to the Leisure Account by Ms Tremain and expenditure of £35 to pay Mr Pritchard for moving the sandbag cage from the Parish Hall to the school car park, as well as £70 to the Secretary for printer ink. The balance of the account at the end of September now stood at £3,943.00</p> <p>6. The Chairman noted that this did not yet take account of the cost of the spraying courses which he had attended. This had totalled £840 including VAT, of which the Parish Council had agreed to pay half. There was therefore a charge of £420 to the BFBPG yet to come, of which £70 would be refunded when the VAT was reclaimed. The actual cost to the Group for the courses would therefore eventually be £350.</p>	

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<p><u>ITEM 5 – EARLY WARNING TELEMETRY SYSTEM</u></p> <p>7. The Chairman reported that on 8 September he had received an e-mail from Hydro-Logic to say that they had noticed that the readings from the telemetry system seemed to be “drifting”. They had investigated and removed the sensor which they found to be unresponsive even after cleaning. They attributed this partly to the age of the sensor and partly to its being clogged by silt because of the build up of watercress around it. (The watercress had been cleared earlier in the year, but had re-grown).</p> <p>8. The Chairman said that Hydro-Logic had checked the sensor in their workshop and established that it was beyond repair. A new sensor had therefore been ordered and would be fitted as soon as it was available. Meanwhile, there had been an emergency working party on 12 September to clear away the watercress and silt to make this re-installation possible. The Chairman concluded by stressing that members should bear in mind that for the present the telemetry system was out of action and they should be particularly careful to monitor water levels in the Millcroft Brook during and after any significant rainfall.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p> <p>9. <u>Belgian Visit.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that in September the Secretary had received an invitation from Defra to attend a meeting in London on Friday, 6 October. The purpose of the meeting was for her and Mrs Mary Dhonau to meet a delegation from East Flanders in Belgium and explain how communities in this country are involved in flood risk mitigation. The Province of East Flanders and the University of Ghent are both involved in a European North Sea Region project called FRAMES (Flood Resilient Areas by Multilayered Safety), details of which can be found at http://northsearegion.eu/frames/pilot-projects/ninove-and-denderleeuw-be/</p> <p>b. Part of this involves working with local communities in the Dender valley on community flood response. The Dender valley is very flood-prone and its water manager and the provincial authorities are therefore developing a flood risk management plan for it. They calculate, however, that, even with new protection measures, there will always remain a severe risk of flooding for some neighbourhoods and so are seeking to engage the local residents in discussion about additional measures they can take themselves to prepare for flooding. They do not have much experience with this type of flood risk management in Belgium, which is why they are interested in talking with people in England, who are more experienced in it.</p> <p>c. Unfortunately, because of other commitments Mrs Dhonau was unable to travel to London on 6 October and so it was eventually decided that the Belgian delegation would visit Herefordshire instead and to make the journey worthwhile would stay here overnight. This would give much more time for discussion and would also allow the visitors to see a BFPG working party session taking place.</p> <p>d. At present it seems likely that the delegation will arrive by train from</p>	

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<p>London at around midday on 6 October. There would be three visitors and the Chairman would collect them from the station and bring them to Bodenham. Once here, they would have the opportunity to talk to Mrs Dhonau, be briefed on the BFPG and meet both Cllr Price and Cllr Baker from Herefordshire Council. They would attend the BFPG working party that evening and would stay at England's Gate Inn overnight before being driven back to the station in the morning to catch their train back to London.</p> <p>e. The Chairman said that for the working party session it was planned to complete the last stretch of the Millcroft Brook below the Ketch Lane culverts. This should not be a particularly onerous task and was likely to be the last working party session of the year. However, it would be helpful if as many members as possible took part, not just to complete the work in good time, but more importantly to allow the visitors the chance to meet as many different members of the Group as possible during the session and over refreshments at Millcroft Farm afterwards.</p>	<p>Chairman Secretary</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>ITEM 7 – FUTURE EVENTS</u></p>	
<p>10. <u>Previous Working Parties.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman recalled that there had been two planned working parties in September. The first was on Friday, 8 September when 15 members met to continue working along the Millcroft Brook, clearing the debris and overgrown vegetation from the Ketch Lane culverts down to the BM10 wooden bridge over the Brook. The second planned meeting was on Friday, 22 September, when 9 members met at Willow Cottage, Maund Bryan to start clearing the brook there and enjoyed excellent refreshments provided by Mrs Schwartz at Willow Cottage afterwards.</p> <p>b. As already mentioned, there had also been an emergency working party on Tuesday, 12 September when 11 members of the group had come at short notice to help clear the re-growth of the watercress around the telemetry system. The Chairman once again expressed his thanks to everyone who had contributed to these sessions, and especially those who had responded so promptly on 12 September.</p> <p>11. <u>Future Working Party Dates.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman said that next planned working party date would be Friday 6 October. It had originally been planned to continue along the watercourse adjacent to Willow Cottage at Maund Bryan, but the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB) have completed this part of the brook for us. As already mentioned, the plan is therefore to return to the Millcroft Brook and complete the final stretch from the wooden bridge to the junction with the Moor Brook at the C1121/ Smeadals Lane junction.</p> <p>b. The Chairman went on to note that at the last session on 22 September it was already beginning to get dark at 7.00pm. He therefore suggested that the next session should start at 5.30pm for those who can be there by then and for others to join at 6.00pm as normal. As he had already mentioned, the Belgian delegation would be keen to talk to the members of the Group and see them in action. There would be refreshments</p>	<p>All</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>and autumnal nibbles at Millcroft Farm afterwards, not only for the working party but for any other members who would be free to meet the visitors.</p> <p>c. The Chairman concluded by saying that, as all the planned maintenance would be complete after 6 October, that working party session would be the last one for 2017.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 8 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u></p> <p>12. <u>Annual Bonfire Party and Quiz Night.</u> The Chairman reminded members that:</p> <p>a. <u>Annual Bonfire Party.</u> 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. 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> The Annual Quiz Night would be at 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Friday, 24 November in the Parish Hall. Tickets would be £6.00 per person, teams would up to 6 participants, and substantial nibbles and a glass of wine would be included in the ticket price. Mrs Griffiths has very kindly agreed to organise the event again, with Cllr and Mrs Clark organising the raffle and Mr and Mrs Schwartz running the bar. Mrs Dowler has kindly volunteered to act as a helper and, if anyone else would like to offer their services, they are asked to please contact Mrs Griffiths direct. The Secretary will send out details to all members, and advertise the event in the Parish <i>Newsletter</i>, on Parish Website, Next Door and <i>The Hereford Times</i>.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>13. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 31 October 2017.</p> <p>14. There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8pm.</p>	

Cllr KA Mitcheson
Chairman

31 October 2017