

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF THE GROUP'S MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2011**

### **Action**

#### **ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN**

1. As the Chairman was unable to attend, Cllr Clark took the chair and welcomed everyone to the March Meeting.
2. There were 20 members present. Apologies were received from Cllr Grumbley, Cllr Mullenger, Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mrs Bick, Mrs James, Mrs Parker, and Mrs Sanford, the Chairman.

#### **ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING**

3. **Report on the Visit to UK Flood Barriers, Droitwich, on 10<sup>th</sup> March.**
  - a. Cllr Mitcheson told the Meeting that 11 members had attended the visit to UK Flood Barriers Ltd at Droitwich. The firm's facilities were very impressive as they had built the ground floor of a house inside a water tank. They started by showing how their equipment could prevent flood water coming into a house with protection such as non-return valves on drains, air bricks which close automatically, a toilet bung to stop water coming up through sewage pipes, and barriers across doorways. They then showed what happened when any one of these measures was not in place. The key was that the water itself actually provided the force to operate each equipment by automatically closing valves and sealing barriers. There was also a small exhibition of all the various products available to householders to protect their property.
  - b. Mrs Mary Dhonau, who is now an independent flood consultant, was also present to answer questions regarding flooding. She has agreed to work with the BFPG in organising a proposed Flood Protection Exhibition in Bodenham on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. This would be not only for those members who were unable to attend the visit to Droitwich, but also open to residents in other Herefordshire parishes (see Item 5 below).
4. **Visit of Mr Martin Jackson to the February BFPG Meeting.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that, after some prompting from Cllr Grumbley, Mr Jackson had said that, apart from one minor typographical amendment, he agreed with the record of his talk and question and answer session attached to the February Minutes. Cllr Mitcheson went on to outline the correspondence with Mr Jackson regarding the collapse of the retaining wall near the Millcroft/Ketch Lane culverts. He confirmed that the intention was that copies of all the correspondence would be on the Parish website.

5. **Update on the “Flood Alleviation Strategy Preliminary Assessment”.**

a. In Cllr Grumbley’s absence Cllr Mitcheson read out the following statement from him:

“There is to be a meeting of the County Flood Partnership on 4 April. As a result of the Environment Scrutiny meeting on 28 February, the following points are being raised at the Flood Partnership meeting.

1. To confirm that the 20 sites considered do not leave others worthy of consideration out of the process.
2. To produce a prioritised set of flood risk sites with a rough order of costs.
3. To confirm that the Faulkner Report’s cost/benefit rationale is sound.
4. To set in place actions to seek funding for flood alleviation measures.
5. To confirm correct representation on various relevant flood defence committees, especially the Environment Agency Midlands Flood Defence Committee.
6. To make recommendations on deployment of the (ring fenced) area grant funding for 2011/12 and 2012/13.
7. That Mr Brian Faulkner’s hydrology report is put on the Council website immediately.
8. The Head of Highways ensures that Herefordshire submits a bid against the latest round of DEFRA Individual Protection Grants.”

b. Cllr Mitcheson added that Cllr Grumbley had confirmed with Mr Steve Hodges at Herefordshire Council that the latter is preparing bids for Individual Protection Grants and that Bodenham will be the subject of one of these. Submissions are due to close on 15<sup>th</sup> April and the results will be due out on 5<sup>th</sup> May, which is Election Day.

**ITEM 3 –TREASURER’S REPORT**

6. Cllr Clark, the Treasurer, reported that he had received an anonymous donation of £20 for the Group’s funds shortly after the fund-raising coffee morning in February. The balance now stood at £1,678.45. However, he sought approval from the Meeting to purchase a new set of drainage rods as the ones held by the Group had broken when used at the last working party session. The purchase was

proposed by Mr Derek Sebbage and seconded by Mr Simon Dowler.

**Afternote:** The drainage rods have now been purchased and added to the BFPG's Property List held by the Secretary and, as all BFPG equipment is owned by the Parish, the Parish Clerk has also been notified.

#### **ITEM 4 – FUTURE PLANS**

7. Cllr Clark announced that the first working party of the year would take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm. He asked members to meet at Brockington Bridge on Brockington Road and bring, loppers, rakes, etc to clear the new growth along the brook. Depending on how many members were present, it was also the intention to clear the drain grates on the C1125 from Rivers Media to the Surgery as well as the silt that had build up around the flap valves.

**All**

8. The Meeting was told that Amey had cleared the drain along Chapel Lane on the right hand side and this would now just need spraying to keep it under control for the rest of the year. However, on the left hand side, there was a build up of debris which should be removed before it entered the drainage system.

9. With regard to Mr Pugh's field, although the culvert was still partially blocked, and this was beyond the ability of the Group to clear, the area of ditch from the culvert to the Moor Brook valve would mainly require spraying by Mr Mike Stephens. The black pipe which runs along between the rear of the houses and Bache's warehouse seemed to be clear as water appeared to be running clear after the recent heavy rains.

10. The date and location of the next working party evening would be announced at the working party session on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Afternote:** Owing to Bank Holiday weekends and the Royal Wedding on 29 April, as well as Flicks in the Sticks "The King's Speech" on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, the next working party session will now be on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm**. More details will be announced at the 26 April BFPG Meeting.

**Cllr Clark/  
Mr Stephens**

#### **ITEM 5 – PROPOSED FLOOD PROTECTION EXHIBITION**

11. Cllr Mitcheson informed members that, as a result of the successful visit to UK Flood Barriers in Droitwich, it had been decided to ask if the Group would like to hold a Flood Protection Exhibition on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July at Siward James. This date was chosen as it would be the fourth anniversary of the 2007 flood in the village.

12. Those who had attended the exhibition at UK Flood Barriers on 10<sup>th</sup> March had been very impressed with the display of products shown and it was thought that it would be of great interest to hold an exhibition of flood protection equipment in Bodenham. This is especially relevant now in the light of the Faulkner Report and also the news that Herefordshire Council are re-submitting their bids for funding for

individual property-level flood protection from the recent Environment Agency Flood Defence Grant for 2011/2012.

13. It had been suggested that the Siward James Centre would be an excellent location to hold such an event as it was at the centre of the properties which had been worst affected by the flooding four years ago and the rooms have already been provisionally booked. It is proposed that the event should be not only for the residents of Bodenham but also open to all other parishes within Herefordshire. Mrs Mary Dhonau has agreed to organise the event on behalf of the BFPG for £500 plus expenses - which is far less than would be charged by the National Flood Forum - and Cllr Grumbley has been in contact with Mr Brian Wilcox, the relevant Cabinet member, to discuss the necessary funding for the event.

14. This proposal was supported unanimously by members and it was suggested that, if Herefordshire Council was not willing to fund the event, that funding should be sought from elsewhere. Cllr Grumbley would be asked for an update at the next BFPG Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr Grumbley

#### **ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **15. Replacement of the Collapsed Wall at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane Junction.**

a. Cllr David Tilford, the Chairman of the Parish Council, took the opportunity to outline the work currently being carried out by Amey at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction where the retaining road wall had collapsed. He said that the two Amey employees working on site had received a lot of verbal abuse from people angry that they were unable to use the section of the C1121 from Millcroft Road to Bodenham village. This had been closed to provide a secure and safe environment in which the replacement work could be carried out.

b. Inevitably, the task had turned out to be much more complex than originally anticipated. Problems ranged from the utilities pipes not being where they were shown on the Council's records, to issues with achieving a solid footing for the new reinforced concrete wall. This, coupled with the fact that only two men had been allocated full time on the project and they, too, had been removed for a short period of time to deal with another more urgent situation, had caused further delay. None of this had been helped by members of the public removing the road barriers overnight and Amey then having to waste time reinstating these every morning before work could start.

c. Cllr Tilford concluded by adding that he had been impressed by the care and attention being taken by the Amey employees in their work on the wall and on improving the area around the culvert to improve the water flow.

16. **Dog Fouling in Ketch Lane.** Cllr Tilford went on to say that the Parish Council had been aware of the serious amount of dog fouling in Ketch Lane. The

Kennel Huntsman of the North Herefordshire Hunt had moved exercising the hounds from Bowley Lane – which had previously suffered in a similar way – to exercising them in a field next to the sewage works in Ketch Lane. Cllr Tilford said that he would ensure that the MFH would be made aware of the situation and that it was now an offence not to clear up after dogs/hounds that fouled public highways.

17. **Bodenham Open Gardens – Sunday, 12 June 2011.** Mr Simon Nickols told the meeting that Bodenham would be holding an “Open Garden Day” on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June in aid of the MS Therapy (Oxygen) Unit in Whitecross, Hereford. Ten gardens would be taking part, but the organisers had suggested that, if the BFPG would like to provide members to help with afternoon tea at The Forge and provide cakes etc., the profits from that part of the day would go directly to boost the Group’s funds. However if the BFPG were unable to assist and the organisers had to find people themselves to do this, then all the profits from the day would go to the Hereford MS Therapy (Oxygen) Unit. Mr Nickols acknowledged that the Open Gardens event came immediately after the Church Fete and that many people would already be committed, but said that any help would be much appreciated. He asked members to contact Mrs Mary Nickols direct. Mr Nickols added that the organisers would be grateful for any plants for the plant stall which would be located at Kathy Tremain and Steve Lavender’s house on The Moor Road.

**All**

18. There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 8.10 pm.

19. **Date of the Next Meeting.** The next Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

**Signed: Cllr A Clark  
For Chairman**

**26 April 2011**