

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

MINUTES OF THE GROUP'S MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2010

Action

ITEM 1 – WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the January Meeting, the first of 2010. The new meeting dates for 2010 had now been placed around the village and will be published in the monthly Newsletter as well. There were 38 members present.
2. Apologies were received from Mr David Ashford Sanford, Mr Rodney Minchin, Mr Bob Bowden and Mr Lesley Bick.
3. Cllr Clark addressed the Meeting to state that there had been two burglaries in Brockington Road and men had been seen acting suspiciously near the Bodenham Almshouses. Two road signs for Berrington Drive had also been removed. He asked all members of the Group to be alert and report any incidences.

ALL

ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING

4. **BFPG “Emergency Help” Register.** The Chairman told the Meeting that all those residents who had signed up to the Register had now been issued with a laminated Contacts List.
5. **Fund Raising Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale.**
 - a. Mrs Liz Davies told the Meeting that her Organising Group would be meeting in England’s Gate on Monday, 8 February at 6pm to finalise details for the refreshments, raffle, tombola and cake stall. The Parish Hall will open for setting up from 8am on Saturday and the doors will open at 10am.
 - b. Cllr Clark added that the hire of a table would cost £5, and not £10 as previously stated. To date he had sold 10 tables and there was room for a further 10 more tables to be sold. In addition, he had arranged for Herefordshire Council’s and the Environment Agency’s latest literature on flooding to be available at the Flood Group’s display table.

ITEM 3 – TREASURER’S REPORT

6. The Treasurer stated that £20 had been spent to purchase “Smart Water” with which to mark all the Group’s equipment and trailers. The grant from the West Mercia Police had also enabled him to purchase a first aid kit and high visibility waistcoats for the Group at a total cost of £81.04.

7. The balance held by the Parish Clerk on behalf of the Group now stood at £979.65. However, he pointed out that, now that the Group was aiming to be self-sufficient, this balance would soon reduce as the Group would be paying for the hire of Siward James for its monthly meetings and the hire of the Parish Hall for other events.

ITEM 4 – HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL’S FLOOD STUDY

8. Cllr Mitcheson told the meeting that on 6 January he had been visited by Mr Brian Faulkner, a consultant hydrologist employed by Herefordshire Council, and Mr Richard Leppard, a former Council Engineer now working for Amey.

9. They had been carrying out a full hydrological survey of the Millcroft Brook, backed up by proper calculations and costings, with the aim of producing for Mr Martin Jackson recommendations on what (if any) work should be done on it to reduce the flood risk.

10. Cllr Mitcheson had been able to give Mr Faulkner full information on:

- Flooding issues in Bodenham, including Orchard Close and the Church,
- What the BFPG was doing about them, and
- What the BFPG think the solution is to the lack of capacity in the Millcroft Brook (*i.e.* a box culvert at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction).

11. He had also shown Mr Faulkner the Report prepared by Mr Rod Hawnt and had given him copies of the schematic drawings which had already been produced of the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts and the possible replacement box culvert. Mr Faulkner had pointed out that, if such a scheme was to be done properly with a (rather long) culvert which kept as much as possible to the line of the stream, rather than a (shorter) culvert more at right angles across the road, it would be expensive.

12. Mr Faulkner had ruled nothing out or in, but had simply said that he had “some ideas”. At the same time he had stressed that:

- His job was to produce recommendations which balanced the risk of flash flooding against those of fluvial flooding from the Lugg. He was told that the Group thought that flash flooding posed by far the greater problem and, again, he didn’t disagree. However, he was armed with the Environment Agency flood map and was very interested in which areas on it had actually been flooded from the river in the past.
- Any scheme would have to pass close scrutiny, not just by Herefordshire Council, but more particularly by the Environment Agency. They would only agree it if an analysis showed that it was really worthwhile, that is that the benefits will outweigh the cost.

13. He was therefore very keen not only that:

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- As many people as possible return their survey forms giving as much detail as they can.
- The Parish produces details of the actual cost which previous flooding incidents have caused. What he wanted from the Group is a spreadsheet showing all the houses flooded in the July 2007 episode (and earlier ones, if possible) and what the cost of damage was to each householder.

Secretary

14. Mr Faulkner needs to have a list of all the houses affected by flooding, even if the householders do not want to provide any details. This is because he needs to factor into his calculations estimated costs for any non-respondents. Since he needs the data by mid-February, the response has to be collated as soon as possible.

15. Cllr Mitcheson asked the Meeting to ensure that:

- Any affected members complete their own flood incident report pro-forma as fully as possible and return it to Hereford Council as soon as possible. Spare copies were available from the Secretary who would also return copies if required.
- If their own house had been flooded, they let the Secretary know by filling in the Cost Damage Form.

All

16. Cllr Mitcheson emphasised that it is important that the overall cost of the damage to the village is passed to Mr Faulkner. The Secretary therefore needed to know how much the actual cost of any damage was, including clearing up, replacing furniture, carpets, etc, etc - even if these costs were paid by members' insurance companies. It is equally important that the Secretary is made aware of any other indirect costs, such as higher insurance premiums or the cost of equipment which broke down later because it had been adversely affected by water.

All

17. Area Representatives would be asked to check on those listed in their areas to make sure that the forms had been completed and returned.

Area Reps

18. Cllr Mitcheson assured the Meeting that all the information provided will be treated entirely confidentially and will only be used for this Study.

19. Finally, Cllr Mitcheson asked the Area Representatives to check the "List of Flood Affected Properties 2007", which was being circulated at the Meeting, and to add any further properties which may have been missed. This was important because the more complete the List is the more it will help Mr Faulkner to produce an accurate figure of the costs caused by flooding. This, in turn, would assist in demonstrating that the benefits of any project will outweigh its costs.

Area Reps

ITEM 5 – FUTURE PLANS

20. Mr Tony Troia outlined the following Working Party tasks once the lighter evenings arrived.

Mr Tony Troia

- a. **The Orchard Close Culvert.** The pipe running along the Baches

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boundary was already half full of silt and action would need to be taken to try and clear as much of this as possible.

Mr Tony Troia

b. **Brockington Studio.** The three drains next to the Studio already cleared by the Group need attention again.

c. **The Post Office Drain.** This has already been cleared several times, but needs further attention to stop the soil and weeds blocking it.

d. **Chapel Lane.** The run off gullies and ditches need clearing.

e. **Bodenham Church.** Mr Troia had been in talks with Mr Stan Davies of the Parochial Church Council regarding siting a pump under the floor of the Church to enable rapid pumping of water should the Church be flooded again. Mr Davies and Mr Tom James-Moore will bring up the subject at the next PCC Meeting and report back to Mr Troia.

f. **Sandbags.** Some sandbags have been taken to the Church and covered for use if required.

g. **Flood Marker.** It was agreed that a flood depth gauge should be placed by the Millcroft/Ketch Lane culvert to monitor the height of the water.

h. **Flood Warning Signs.** Mr Troia added that recently, when floodwater had made the Millcroft Road/Ketch Lane/Smeadles Lane junction impassable, he had himself had to turn back some 30 vehicles and had had to rescue one family. Signs should be obtained so that early warnings can be placed.

**Mr Tony Troia
Secretary**

After Note: One flood warning sign has been obtained for Millcroft Road but a further 2 signs would be required to cover the area adequately.

21. Mr Troia also suggested that, because there was a lot of work already on the Works Schedule for 2010, it would be sensible to meet twice a month for Work Party sessions. It was agreed that these would be organised and decided at the Monthly Meetings

Secretary

ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. **Sandbags.** Cllr Clark told the Meeting that the following sandbags had been delivered:

- 6 from Siward James cage to boundary adjacent to Allotments to protect 2 sheds.
- 12 from behind Brockington Studios to Steppes Mill on the Moor Road who had water in the cellar from the recent rainfall.
- 6 for Holbach Lane.

23. **Early Flood Warning System.** Cllr Grumbley produced leaflets from the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board regarding the Early Flood Warning System, though he felt that this would be more relevant to those living on or near the River Lugg.

24. There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.45 pm. The next Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 23 February at 8pm.

Signed: P Sanford, Chairman

23 February 2010