

# **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2012**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 1 – WELCOME</u></b></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed every one present to the first meeting of 2012 and wished them all a Happy New Year.</p> <p>2. There were 34 members present and apologies were received from Mr Best, Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mr Harris, Mr Minchin, Mr and Mrs Nichols, and Mrs Sanford.</p> <p>3. The Chairman gave the Group the sad news that Audrey Chatwin, the wife of Albert Chatwin, a member of the Group, had died the previous week. Together with Mr George and Mr and Mrs Clark, he and the Secretary had represented the Group at the funeral which had been held that morning.</p>	
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>4. The Minutes of the last BFPG Meeting which was held in November were Proposed by Mr Dowler and Seconded by Mr Brown.</p>	
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 3 – VILLAGE FLOOD WARNING TELEMETRY SYSTEM</u></b></p> <p>5. The Chairman welcomed Mr Hawnt and Mr Turner from Hydro-Logic Ltd who had very kindly agreed to give a short presentation on the flood warning telemetry system which Mr Hawnt is generously donating to the Village.</p> <p>6. The Group were given a very interesting description of the <i>Isodaq</i> system. The equipment will be positioned at the bridge over the Millcroft Brook next to 23, Brockington Road. A depth level pressure sensor will be in the water and cabling, protected by trunking, will lead up to a telemetry box. Although not yet confirmed, there may also be a light which will only be switched on when there is a serious risk of flooding, but which will then give a visual warning by flashing with increasing frequency as the danger increases.</p> <p>7. The telemetry equipment will send water level data using GPRS mobile phone technology to Hydro-Logic's headquarters at Stirling where the information will be stored and analysed. When water levels are low these data transfers will be infrequent, perhaps only a few times a day, but they will automatically increase in frequency, perhaps to every few minutes, when water levels are changing. When it is assessed that there is an imminent risk of flooding, warning messages will be automatically sent by text to the mobile phones of key members of the BFPG or to their email addresses. This will allow them to alert other members of the Group and those most at risk in the community generally.</p>	

<p>8. It is hoped that the system will be installed within the next few weeks, once the relevant permissions have been obtained. It will then have to be calibrated, so that warnings are only triggered when there is a genuine emergency, and not when the rising water level in the Brook will eventually peak without over topping its banks. No historical data are available for the Brook, so this calibration will be a matter of trial and error and there may be some false alarms initially before the most appropriate settings are achieved.</p> <p>9. Flash flooding is not created simply by relatively short periods of intense rainfall; it is also dependent on the nature of the local soil and by the degree to which it has become saturated by earlier and prolonged rainfall. In 2007, for example, the ground was already waterlogged by previous bad weather with the result that, when there was a storm on 20<sup>th</sup> July, the rain ran straight off into the local watercourses. For that reason Mr Hawnt will be installing rainfall measuring equipment at his own home and will be using this to build up data about local soil conditions which in due course will allow predictions to be made which will be more accurate than those based on water levels in the Brook alone.</p> <p>10. The <i>Isodaq</i> system also includes the Company's <i>Timeview Telemetry</i> software package which will allow key BFPG members to log on to the central servers from their own PCs and see graphs of current water levels, past trends and other information.</p> <p>11. Once the system is fully established, it should be able to give the local community about an hour, and perhaps more, advance warning that a flash flood is imminent. This will be invaluable in helping local residents to get flood protection equipment in place and take other precautions before the emergency occurs. It will also provide time for members of the Group to warn and help vulnerable members of the community who are not able to carry out the precautionary actions for themselves. Perhaps almost as important, the system should provide re-assurance when there is heavy rainfall, which will <b>not</b> result in flooding, thus allaying anxiety and meaning that residents do not go to all the trouble of taking precautions when none are actually necessary.</p> <p>12. Mr Hawnt has generously said that the system will be maintained free of charge for at least five years. During this period the only costs to the Parish will be those of the GPRS messaging system between the sensor and the company's Headquarters and of the mobile phone alert messages to the BFPG members when an emergency situation arises. These are likely to total about £70 per year.</p>	<p><b>Secretary/ Parish Clerk</b></p>
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p>13. <b><u>“Project Bodenham” Update.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that 26 properties have now been completed. Four other properties remain to have equipment installed. These belong to householders who originally wanted to have Flood Ark barriers fitted; three subsequently decided to opt for UK Flood Barriers, with one householder remaining with Flood Ark. The Secretary has asked Amey for a date when all these barriers are likely to be fitted.</p>	

<p>b. There still remain four other properties which have had problems as a result of issues with the initial survey, even though omissions/ errors were outlined to Amey in September 2011 at the 'Private Viewing'. Of these:</p> <p>(1) Two have been resurveyed and it is understood that they will be provided with complete protection.</p> <p>(2) Two are still waiting to be resolved. The Secretary has spoken to Amey on a number of occasions about them, as well as directly to the Environment Agency and to Mrs Mary Dhonau.</p> <p>(3) Two were originally excluded from the Scheme, but a case for them to be included has been made directly to the Environment Agency.</p> <p>c. <b>Sign Off.</b> There have been two visits by representatives from Amey, JBA Consulting and UK Flood Barriers to check equipment and ask householders to sign the agreement with Amey that they are happy with the installation and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the installation. The Chairman emphasised that householders should only sign if they were happy with the work undertaken and that, if they were not, they should let the Secretary know. She would then discuss the householder's concerns with Amey. To date, apart from the two cases waiting to be resolved, all those who have been visited by this team have signed the agreement. (<b>Afternote:</b> Amey has asked the Secretary to act as a collecting point for the agreement forms and to forward them on to their offices in Rotherwas).</p> <p>14. <b>UK Flood Barriers Visit.</b> The Chairman and Secretary were asked by UK Flood Barriers if they would host a visit by two representatives of a firm from Thailand, Colonel Pong and a colleague, who are looking at flood protection after the disastrous floods in their country. The Chairman explained the flooding situation in the Parish to them and then showed them round the Village. Although their problems are far greater than the ones we have here, they were very interested in what we are doing in the community with self-help and mutual support.</p> <p>15. <b>UK Flood Barriers Equipment Shopping List.</b> The Chairman asked that anyone who has had property-level equipment fitted by UK Flood Barriers and would like more plastic plugs for barrier slots, extra keys, or rubber door washers to let the Secretary know. He also reminded the Meeting that, if any member, whether on the Scheme or not, would like to purchase a toilet bung, they should again let the Secretary know and she will find out the best price from UK Flood Barriers for a bulk purchase.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 – TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p>	
<p>16. The Treasurer reported that the balance at the beginning of the year was £2,087.26. Although this sounded a great deal of money, he reminded members that it had been agreed that a brushcutter with helmet, visor and goggles should be purchased. With regard to the purchase of safety goggles, which had been discussed at the last Meeting, the Treasurer said that he and Mrs Clark had purchased these items and would be donating them to the Group.</p>	

<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 6 – FUTURE PLANS</u></b></p> <p>17. <b><u>Purchase of Brushcutter.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman and Treasurer took the Meeting through the various quotes which had been received for a brushcutter, complete with line spool, harness and helmet with ear defenders and visor. The three companies which had quoted were:</p> <p>(1) Alexander &amp; Duncan – Husqvarna 235R (the 2011 model) as currently used by the Chairman: £344.65 (£287 excl VAT).</p> <p>(2) Ron Smith - Husqvarna 135R (the 2012 model): £399.99 (£333.33 excl VAT).</p> <p>(3) Hereford Mowers - Husqvarna 135R (the 2012 model): £430 (excl VAT).</p> <p>b. The Group asked the Chairman to obtain a quote from Alexander &amp; Duncan for the 2012 model so that a direct comparison could be made. Although the purchase of the equipment had been agreed at a previous meeting, the price was higher than originally expected. The Chairman asked for a vote that he could make the purchase for the best price given. This was Proposed by Mrs Gibson and Seconded by the Treasurer, Mr Clark. (<b><u>Afternote:</u></b> Alexander &amp; Duncan have agreed to provide the Group with the Husquavana 135R for £315 (excluding VAT). As this quote is considerably better than the nearest alternative – Ron Smith – the Chairman has asked Alexander &amp; Duncan to place an order for the Group).</p> <p>18. <b><u>Working Party Priorities.</u></b> The Chairman suggested that it would be prudent to start thinking about priorities for the Working Party evenings which would start in April. Already on the Operations Officer’s list were the debris in Mr Pugh’s field from the hedges cut by the Internal Drainage Board and the maintenance of the Millcroft/ Ketch Lane culverts. He asked that members bring to his or the Operations Officer’s attention any other defects they may see on their walks around the Village so that a list can be compiled.</p>	<p><b>Chairman</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 7 – COFFEE MORNING</u></b></p>	
<p>19. Mrs Davies told the Meeting that her team were ready for the Coffee Morning, which would be held on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at Siward James from 10.00am, and thanked all those who had agreed to contribute with cakes and prizes for the raffle and tombola.</p>	
<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p>	
<p>20. <b><u>Defra PPL Evaluation Steering Group.</u></b></p> <p>a. The Chairman asked the Secretary to give members an update on</p>	

her attendance at the Defra PPL Scheme Evaluation Steering Group Meeting which had taken place at Defra Headquarters in London on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January. The Secretary reminded those present that she had been invited to attend as the “Communities” Representative on the Steering Group which was evaluating the first 2 phases of the PPL Scheme. It was accepted that, whilst Bodenham was in Phase 3 and therefore outside the current remit of the Evaluation Report, it had a very useful contribution to make to the overall implementation of the Scheme.

b. While the Report is still in its committee stage it is a confidential document and cannot be discussed until it is published later this year. However, what she could tell members were the points she had made on behalf of the Parish and the Group. These have, in fact, been included in the Minutes of the Meeting and may well be included as observations in the final Report:

(1) **The Short Time within which Implementation had to Take Place.** Bodenham was told in May 2011 that it had received a Grant and that the work had to be completed by the end of March 2012. This was far too short a timescale in which to implement a project which initially surveyed 40 properties and allocated 34 for inclusion. It was felt that, because time was so short, the initial surveys were done with such speed that points were missed and there was not enough time in the schedule to discuss areas of concern.

(2) **“Whole House Protection”.** Those who were to take part in the Scheme were told by Amey, the agency tasked with the implementation of the Grant on behalf of the Environment Agency, that their entire property would be protected. It was on this understanding that those householders nominated for the Scheme agreed to take part. It was therefore cause for grave concern when some properties had the front protected but not the rear. This omission has been the subject of further discussion between the Secretary, as Project Liaison Officer, and Amey. After much lobbying, it was agreed that JBA Consulting, the surveying firm nominated by the Environment Agency, would re-visit the properties in question and submit an additional report on their protection. It was subsequently indicated to the Group that further flood protection work would be undertaken. This delay and the need for second visits by surveyors and flood protection firms was both costly in time and effort and could have been avoided had local knowledge and the concerns of the householders been listened to initially.

(3) **Insurance for PPL Properties.** It was important that insurance companies took account of householders who had taken part in the PPL Scheme and had therefore reduced the risk of their properties flooding again. It was suggested that the Association of British Insurers consider some kind of system, such as a No Claims Discount (NCD), which often applies with car insurance. It was also important that a certificate should be provided by – in our case – Amey to confirm that the flood protection equipment had been professionally fitted, so that this

document could be given to an insurance company if required.

(4) **PPL Use in the Context of Wider Village Issues.** The Evaluation Steering Group was reminded that PPL would only work in some cases, such as Bodenham, if the wider issues were also acknowledged and tackled. The Secretary quoted our example of the need for proper maintenance of ditches, storm drains etc by the local authority, and, in particular, the provision of a new box culvert at the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane junction, to replace the two undersized culverts there.

c. As soon as the Report is published, the Secretary will obtain a copy and circulate it to members. It is also hoped to make it available on the Parish Website.

21. **Membership of the National Flood Forum.**

a. Members were reminded that Mrs Mary Dhonau left the National Flood Forum (NFF) some time ago. Its new management have now decided that individuals and Flood Action Groups should pay to be members whereas, until now, membership has been free. The Group were asked whether they wished to renew the BFPG's membership for £100, or to become individual members for £25 each. It was pointed out that the Group currently had free membership of the "*Know Your Flood Risk*" Campaign, the CEO of which is Mrs Dhonau and one of the Director's Mrs Sarah Vaughan, the CEO of UK Flood Barriers. The Meeting was also reminded that much of the Group's recent success with applying for government grants and additional advice had come through Mrs Dhonau, not only in her "*Know Your Flood Risk*" role but also as the newly appointed Environment Agency Communities Liaison Officer for Herefordshire.

b. It was agreed that there was a great deal of information to assimilate regarding the advantages and disadvantages of NFF membership together with that of the *Know Your Flood Risk Campaign*. The Secretary would include a short brief on both for members to read and the subject of whether to pay for NFF membership would be put on the February Agenda for further discussion. (**Afternote.** Information on both the NFF and the "*Know Your Flood Risk*" Campaign is attached to these Minutes. Additional details of these organisations are, of course, available on their respective websites).

Secretary

All

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

22. **Fallen Trees in the River Lugg.** It was pointed out that there are now additional fallen trees in the River Lugg next to those which have already been reported to Mr Senior, the Navigation Officer. However, we have been informed that, since these trees are not, at present, lying across the River and impeding either its flow or movement along it, their removal is not regarded as necessary.

23. **Quiz Night.** Mrs Davies raised the subject of the date for the 2012 Quiz Night. Because we had been late in booking the Parish Hall for last year's event, there had been few suitable dates available. It was agreed that the

<p>Secretary would contact Mrs Knott and book a Friday evening in the middle of November. (<b><u>Afternote:</u></b> The date for the 2012 Quiz Night which has been booked with Mrs Knott is <b><u>Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm</u></b>).</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b></p>
<p>24. <b><u>BFPG BBQ.</u></b> Mrs Burnill said that she and Mr Burnill would be delighted to host the 2012 BFPG BBQ in their garden at 32, Brockington Road. (<b><u>Afternote:</u></b> Mrs Burnill has confirmed the date as <b><u>Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July</u></b>).</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>
<p>25. <b><u>Loppers.</u></b> Mrs Parker suggested that the Working Parties would benefit from sharp loppers. It was Proposed by Mrs Parker and Seconded by Mr Nicholson that the Group should purchase 5 pairs of loppers of a kind more suitable for the cutting of thick shrubbery than the ones currently being brought to Working Party sessions by members themselves. (<b><u>Afternote:</u></b> The Chairman has been investigating the types of loppers available and will bring them to the attention of the Group at the February Meeting).</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Chairman</b></p>
<p>26. <b><u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u></b> This will be on <b><u>Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February.</u></b></p>	
<p>27. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.</p>	

Cllr Tony Mitcheson  
Chairman

28<sup>th</sup> February 2012

# Know Your Flood Risk Campaign



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
INCREASED AWARENESS  
OF FLOOD RISK

## Mission:

KYFR's focus is to raise awareness of the issue of flood risk, and to provide guidance to all communities across the public and private sectors in educating homeowners and businesses. There are many areas of common ground between relevant organisations, and by joining together we are more likely to succeed in the face of the growing challenge of flood risk.

## Our priorities:

1. In a survey undertaken by KYFR, despite that 1 in 4 homes are at risk of flood, 83% of homeowners do not believe their homes are at risk. KYFR pledges to continue raising the awareness of the issue of flood risk, and provide homeowners and businesses with practical guidance. **KYFR will and continue to invest in PR in order to ensure the issue of flood risk is high on the media agenda – not just in “rainy season”.**
2. In the same survey, 68% of homeowners surveyed have put no measures in place to minimise the risk to their home in the event of flooding, and 95% of those surveyed have contents insurance but 45% do not know if it covers flooding. **KYFR pledges to continue campaigning and producing consumer and business advice on resistance and resilient repair after flood.**
3. Whilst the ABI had been successful in brokering the Statement of Principles (SoP) agreement with the Government in 2002, and renewing it in June 2008, the SoP is no longer sustainable as it distorts the insurance market, reduces incentive to invest in flood risk management, and does not apply to new developments built after 2009. **KYFR will be working with the insurance industry in finding alternatives to the SoP that comes to an end in June 2013.**
4. The coalition Government pledged to cut spending on flood defences from £2.3bn to £2.1bn. The insurance industry paid out approximately £3 billion after the summer 2007 floods. **KYFR aims to work with key stakeholders to ensure that there is effective use of flood defence spending to deliver the best possible outcomes.**
5. Following the summer 2007 floods, the Government commissioned a comprehensive review of events. The Pitt Review documented 92 recommendations in order to better prepare for future flooding. The Government's response to this was the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which aims to improve the ability to manage the risk of flooding in the UK by clarifying who is responsible for what. As of April 2011, Local Authorities are now responsible for managing the risk of local floods (groundwater, surface water and ordinary water course flooding). **KYFR will work with Local Authorities and councils in providing practical guidance and advice for their local areas.**
6. Flood risk data and mapping is critical to the effective management of flood risk to make sufficient plans for implementing flood defences, to enable insurers to set accurate prices, assist conveyancers and property professionals adhere to best practice, and to provide developers, consumers and business to be able to make informed choices about investments in flood risk areas. **KYFR aims to work with major data providers in order to keep up with evolving modelling techniques, and to fully understand the types and levels of flood risk.**
7. KYFR will act as a communications hub to bring together and disseminate information, influence decision makers, help shape legislation and contribute in responding to consultation papers. **KYFR will contribute through marketing activities including PR, social media and lobbying.**



## Flood Risk Advice Information

Managing and addressing flood risk has never been more important. According to the Environment Agency, over 5 million people in England and Wales live and work in properties that are at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea. Changes in our climate, such as more severe storms and wetter winters, will increase that risk. Do you have the right information on flooding available to deal with the potential threat?

KYFR has created two useful guides for [councils and homeowners](#), and for [businesses](#) to ensure you have access to content which not only prepares you for what to do when a flood comes, but also ensures you have the correct information to ensure you can highlight potential flood risk before it transpires.

You can also access a [guide to flood resilience](#) providing information on how best to protect a home from flooding.

Use the [Environment Agency's Online Flood Warning Service](#) for live updates on the number of Flood Warnings in force by Region. You can receive warnings by telephone, mobile, email, SMS text message or fax, whichever you prefer.



Severe Flood Warning  
**Severe flooding.**  
Danger to life.



Flood Warning  
**Flooding is expected.**  
Immediate action required.



Flood Alert  
**Flooding is possible.**  
Be prepared.

**For more information**

**<http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk>**

# Join the National Flood Forum

*“When you have watched in disbelief water coming into your house, and there’s nothing you can do about it, it’s always at the back of your mind” says Vicky. “It’s like a cloud that’s always hanging over us.”*

1 in 6 homes in the UK are at serious risk of flooding, that’s 5.5 million households.

We are helping people to recover from flooding, providing them with advice and information and supporting communities to prepare for floods. But your help is crucial. Without members like you we could not do this vital work.

*It can take up to two years for homes to dry out and be restored and during this time, many families live in temporary accommodation. The process is stressful, time consuming and simply beyond some people, particularly those who are elderly or vulnerable. The dread of flooding again can cause long term distress and mental health problems.*

Despite this, many people are unprepared for the trauma of losing their home and possessions. This is where we can help.

Join the National Flood Forum and you will:

- Help raise awareness of the risks of flooding
- Help those who have been flooded to recover
- Help people to protect themselves



Individuals £25 per year  
Flood Action Groups £100  
Organisations  
Bronze £500  
Silver £1000  
Gold - please enquire

You can join the National Flood Forum online at [www.floodforum.org.uk](http://www.floodforum.org.uk), by telephone by calling **01299 403055** or by sending an application form and cheque through the post to **National Flood Forum, Old Snuff Mill Warehouse, Park Lane, Bewdley, Worcestershire DY12 2EL.**

# Benefits



The National Flood Forum aims to help everyone at risk, irrespective of membership. You can support this crucial work by becoming a member.

## Individuals

- Invitation to the annual conference at a significant discount
- Newsletter twice a year
- An opportunity to contribute to consultations, events, questionnaires
- Future access to a members only area of the National Flood Forum website, where there will be information on other groups and an opportunity to share experiences and get advice and support, early notice of events
- The opportunity to volunteer to help and support the National Flood Forum to do its work, manning the new flood support trailer at events, for example

**Annual membership      £25.00**

## Flood Action Groups

- Invitation to the annual conference at a reduced rate for up to four people
- Newsletter twice a year
- A members blog where you can talk to other people at risk of flooding and share experiences and get advice and support
- An opportunity to contribute to consultations, events, questionnaires
- Future access to a members only area of the National Flood Forum website
- The opportunity to volunteer and help the National Flood Forum do its work, manning the new flood information trailer at events, or raising funds, for example

**Annual Membership      £100**

## Corporate

- Invitation to the annual conference at a reduced rate
- Newsletter twice a year
- Access to reduced rates for training
- Listing on the website as a supporter of the National Flood Forum
- Free entry in Blue Pages for flood services suppliers

## Annual Membership

- Bronze      £500
- Silver £1000
- Gold   price on application