BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY, 13th MAY 2013

ITEM

ACTION

Attendance

Cllr Bob Clarke (Chair)

Cllr Robin Knott

Cllr Roger Austin Cllr Alec Avery Cllr Dennis Jackson Cllr Tony Mitcheson

Cllr Jeff Pollard

Cllr Rhian Powell

Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor)

10 members of the public were present.

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AGENDA ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Davis and James-Moore.	
AGENDA ITEM 2 – POLICE MATTERS 2. No representative of the police was present to address this Item.	
AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 3. The Minutes were accepted as a true record. (Proposer: Cllr Avery. Seconder: Cllr Jackson).	
AGENDA ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 4. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.	
AGENDA ITEM 5 – THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 5. Cllr Clarke presented the Chairman's Report, which is attached as Annex A.	
AGENDA ITEM 6 – REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS 6. Mrs Gwen Bowden presented reports from Bodenham Chapel and Bodenham Leisure Group, which are attached as Annexes B and C. Cllr Mitcheson presented the annual report of Bodenham Flood Protection Group, which is attached as Annex D. A report was tabled from Bodenham Community Charity, which is attached as Annex E.	
AGENDA ITEM 7 – COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC 7. No comments were made by members of the public.	
There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 7.22pm.	

Chairman's Report 2012/2013

Rather unexpectedly I find myself in the position of having to make the Chairman's report. It has been a rather turbulent year for the Council, having sadly lost the previous chairman last year. Derek Ling was an excellent chair and will be sorely missed on the Council. He helped to promote a whole range of initiatives, not least the "Parish Plan" which was finally published in this council year. The Council adopted the plan as a guide to the future development of the village and gave responsibility for the various activities to councillors, who with the assistance of willing volunteers, hope to promote the aims suggested in the plan. Subsequently the Council has launched the plan with a very successful presentation on Road Safety and Crime Prevention. The plan will influence the subsequent production of a "Neighbourhood Development Plan". The preliminary work is being undertaken by a sub-committee including Councillors Avery and Mitcheson with the help of Mr David Tilford; many thanks.

The Council has at last managed to co-opt the required number to operate on a full complement of councillors. I must thank my colleagues for all their hard work over the year and to the Parish Clerk without whose tremendous efforts the Council would flounder. We have produced and adopted several new pieces of helpful guidance over the year. We now have a new "Code of Conduct for Councillors", new "Standing Orders" and a "Freedom of Information Publication Scheme". I am grateful to everyone for their efforts in putting these ideas together but I would like to thank Councillors Mitcheson and Powell, in particular, for their help in formulating these proposals.

Over the year, a grant was made to assist the acquisition of modern internet and lecturing facilities at the Parish Hall (aided by a Community Technology Grant). I am indebted to Councillors Knott and Jackson and the rest of the Parish Hall Management Committee for their continued hard work in maintaining such a high quality asset in the village. I would also like to thank Councillor Knott, personally, for standing in for me at meetings where I have been absent.

We have adopted the red telephone kiosk and look forward to its future development. The village celebrated the Queens Jubilee last year and the Council helped with a grant towards the costs. We have similarly supported the first and very successful Bodenham Festival just last week.

The Flood Committee continues with its excellent work, we are most grateful to all those who willingly give of their time in this and other areas for the benefit of us all. We now have the benefit of telemetric warnings when the Millcroft stream rises. We are very grateful for the kindness shown by a local company in the gift of this equipment and its maintenance. The early warning system has been shown to operate very successfully but fortunately without any associated flooding.

The Village Web Site goes from strength to strength ably administered by Councillor Tony Mitcheson. The continued efforts of Susan Haworth have maintained the very high standards of the Newsletter, for which many thanks. We are indebted to Paul Hemmings as Internal Auditor and to Sue Hack who has acted as a very able Footpaths Officer for many years. Sadly, Sue has decided to resign so we are looking for a replacement volunteer.

Our meetings are made more useful by the presence of Councillor Jeremy Millar, who offers advice on Herefordshire Council's views on matters under discussion and has carried the Parish Council's thoughts through to Hereford. We are most grateful to the Community Support Officer, Stephanie Annette, who is also a most useful addition to our deliberations with her reports on local crime and the Rural Watch Scheme, many thanks. The operation of our SID continues to discourage the speeding problems that so plague the village. Thanks are due to Councillors Mitcheson and Pollard for the maintenance of this service. How people can live with the knowledge that they have driven at over 70 m.p.h. along our roads is beyond my comprehension. May the smiley face be seen much more often.

We continue to advise Herefordshire Council on planning matters and to forward the problems that have arisen by footpath closures and redirections over the year. My thanks are due to Councillors James-Moore and Pollard for their work on the planning subcommittee. The problems associated with road maintenance occupy much of our time and are made worse by the financial constraints imposed on Herefordshire Council and their main contractor, Amey. Councillor James-Moore continues to act on our behalf with the Queenswood Committee, many thanks.

Perhaps one of the best initiatives taken by the Council this year has been the adoption of the Lengthsman scheme, which has seen a significant improvement to the housekeeping needs of the village Many thanks to the subcommittee that works out what needs to be done and to the Parish Clerk for organising it. I am pleased to say that the funding will continue to be received from Herefordshire Council for the next year.

I would like to thank all the willing volunteers whose work continues to enhance village life and particularly to my colleagues who give so freely of their time, good will and wisdom to help the village to prosper.

R W Clarke Chairman Bodenham Parish Council 13th May 2013





Annual Report April 2012 - March 2013

The Fellowship is independent of any denomination and is a member of 'Churches Together in Hereford' and the national organisation 'The Evangelical Alliance'. The Fellowship is run on a week by week basis by its members, with a body of Trustees (including three Fellowship members) overseeing the work.

The Fellowship welcomes visitors to any of its services and meetings.

During the year to 31^{st} March 2013, donations of £2,537 were made to Christian missionary and international aid organisations.

Sunday Worship

During the year Bodenham Christian Fellowship has continued worship at the Chapel each Sunday from 10.30am - 11.45. The regular attendance at Sunday morning worship varies from 12 to 25. The services included a monthly fellowship service when members take part, with speakers from the Fellowship and other churches, chapels & mission organisations on the remaining Sundays. Services are informal and are followed by refreshments.

On the first Sunday of each month there is also a one hour service of Praise & Worship at 9am which is followed by coffee & croissants.

During the year we welcomed the following speakers for their first visit to the Chapel: John Barton (from Open Doors); John Cartledge (from Ghana); Les Crosthwaite (from Wellington Chapel); and Harry Hewat (from Birmingham).

Bible Study & Prayer Meetings

A weekly Bible Study & Prayer meeting has been held on Thursday evenings at the homes of members. Studies in the last year have included "The gift of freedom"; "The Sermon on the Mount" and a study in the book of Isaiah

Newsletter

A monthly newsletter is produced which is available from the Chapel and Post Office or can be delivered on request.

Ladies' Bible Study

A Ladies Bible Study is held twice a month at the Chapel on Tuesday mornings. This is led by Margaret Seccombe. Studies have included "Poverty & Plenty" and "The King has come" from the books of Ruth & Matthew respectively.

Café@Chapel

Café@Chapel is a joint venture with St. Michael's Church. This continued on Thursday mornings from 10.30am - 12noon throughout the year and is an opportunity for anyone to call in for coffee and a chat. Attendances during these mornings are now regularly in double figures and have on occasions exceeded 20. Donations of £500 (£125 each) from the proceeds have been given to:-

Hereford City Night Shelter for homeless (via St. Peter's Church)

Midlands Air Ambulance

TEAR Fund - Toilet Twinning project with Cambodia (Burundi in 2011/12)

World Vision (for clean water supply)

Mission.

Mike Smith made two further two-week visits to Nepal, leading medical teams in the provision of E.N.T. clinics and surgery.

Arthur & Yvonne Etheridge continued leading the Hereford based Hope Carriers Trust, which sends aid to Romania mainly for disadvantaged children. Several truckloads of aid were sent during the year, and the Trust is also involved with the provision of facilities for young adults.

Chapel

During 2012 the 'Ladies Toilet' was converted for use by those with disabilities. The Fellowship is grateful to the Parish Council for the grant of £500 towards the £3,000 cost of this work.

Seasonal Workers

For the ninth year members of the Fellowship hosted evening meals for migrant workers employed by S&A at Marden. 30+ fruit-pickers (from Bulgaria, Romania & Poland) attended on 6 occasions during the spring.

25th Anniversary of Extension

In September the Chapel celebrated the 25th anniversary of the construction of the extension. Several former members returned for these celebrations including Paul & Joyce Timbrell (from Essex), Rick Morgan (Sussex), Ray & Maureen Williams & Robin & Anne Wright. Presentations and memorabilia were shown throughout the weekend. £142 was donated towards the Nepal & Romania charities.

Evening Presentations

The Chapel was hired out for a series of slide shows on Wednesday & Friday evenings entitled 'Travels with a Camera' with presentations including St. Cuthbert's Way (Northumberland), the Eastern Orthodox Church, Vietnam U.S.A., Galapagos, Cuba, Barcelona & Switzerland. £270 was raised for Hope Carriers Trust during these evenings and a further £64 for charities chosen by speakers.

Other events

An evening was held in June to hear about the work of S.A.S.R.A. (The Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association).

Hire of Chapel

During the year the Chapel has been hired on Wednesdays for Art Classes led by Rob Pritchard and occasionally by the Bodenham Women's group. The Chapel continues to be available for regular or occasional use by other village organisations or individuals, with hire charges currently being £6 per hour, £12 per session or £18 per day.

Bodenham Christian Fellowship can be visited on the internet at:
www.findachurch.co.uk/churches/so/so55/bodenhamcf/index.html
Entries and events are also included in the Bodenham newsletter and on the Bodenham Village website
www.bodenhamparish.org.uk

Contacts:

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BODENHAM LEISURE CLUB

REPORT FROM AGM APRIL 2012 – AGM APRIL 2013

The Leisure Club has 40 members and averages approximately 25 each meeting. The meetings are held twice monthly, mostly held in the Parish Hall.

We have had a variety of interesting talks including strawberry production, Herefordshire Nature Trust 50 years on, all you need to know about Wills, Bridges on the River Wye, a day at the seaside but our big event was the fundraising event for the Army Benevolent Fund last October which raised £221.70. We have had quizzes, bingo, social and musical afternoons. There are usually three trips a year and three lunches which the committee organise in the Parish Hall. We always go out for the Christmas Lunch, last year to the Brockington Golf Club. The meetings, in the Parish Hall, always have a Raffle, Sales Table and light refreshments.

Unfortunately, we have had two committee members stand down and we are looking to replace them. New members are always welcome as it is important to keep this Club going.

Thank you.

Gwenllian Bowden Secretary/Programme Secretary

Annex D

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (13 MAY 2013)

The past year saw the fifth anniversary of the flooding which affected so much of Bodenham on 20 July 2007 and it is pleasing to be able to report two successes. First, despite weather which has, at times, left the ground saturated and the risk of flooding increased to 2007 levels, there has been no repetition of that kind of event. Second, 2013 also saw the fourth anniversary of the formation of the BFPG on 19 August 2008 and, despite the passage of time and, indeed, the absence of any flooding emergencies, the Group continues to flourish with both its meetings and its working parties, as well as its social events, being well supported.

MEETINGS

The Group has held its monthly Meetings as usual throughout the year, with the exception of December. The AGM was on Tuesday, 28 August when all committee and area representative posts were again open for election. All the current incumbents volunteered to serve for another year, with the exception of the Chairman and Secretary. However, there being no other nominees for these two posts, they, too, were voted back into office. A list of committee members and area representatives is attached for the record.

'PROJECT BODENHAM'

Project Bodenham was the provision of flood protection equipment to 35 houses in the Village, funded by a grant of some £160,000 from the Environment Agency. The deadline for its completion had been 31 March 2012, but issues over whether a few houses should, or should not, be included in the Project and, if so, to what extent, had led to delays in decision-making which, in turn, had resulted in it being subject to manufacturing and installation delays which could, and should, have been avoided.

By May last year the Project was therefore still not complete. Barriers still had to be fitted to two houses and this work was not eventually finished until September. By then problems had been reported with some doors provided by Flash Flood Doors Limited which did not appear to be completely watertight. These were finally resolved at an on-site meeting on 6 November 2012 at which point Project Bodenham was finally signed off with Amey Herefordshire and with the main suppliers, UK Flood Barriers Limited. Particular thanks go to the latter who provided a superb service to the Village throughout. None of the delays were of their making, but they worked round them and, despite major other contracts elsewhere in the country, they remained committed to resolving our local problems efficiently and effectively right to the end.

SEVERE WEATHER

Like the rest of the UK Bodenham suffered from unusually heavy rainfall throughout much of the past year, with periodic bouts of heavy rain falling on already saturated ground having the potential to cause flash flooding at almost any time. In this situation the Hydro-Logic flood warning telemetry system, generously donated to the Parish by Mr Rod Hawnt, proved invaluable. It was installed in the Millcroft Brook at the Brockington Road bridge on 9 May 2012, was commissioned two days later, and over the past 12 months has provided a continuous record of the water level in the Brook, sending out alarms when this has risen significantly. Initially it was set to trigger alerts when the water level rose to 0.5m and 1.0m, but experience over several months showed that these could be adjusted, both to avoid alerting residents unnecessarily early during an incident and to save money on messaging costs. As a result of this 'calibration' process only a few key members of the Group now receive warnings at the 0.5m point, with the remainder receiving a first warning at 0.8m and a second at1.2m.

Over the past 12 months the Brook has risen above 0.5m a total of 23 times, but has only exceeded 1.0m on 5 occasions, these being on 18 July, 24 September, 25 November, 27 January and 14 February. During these episodes some householders have taken the sensible precaution of fitting their flood protection equipment, but on no occasion, even on 25 November when the water level peaked at 1.8m, has there been any real danger of flooding. The Millcroft Brook has been properly maintained, the relief channel at

Millcroft Farm has operated well when required and, although the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts have once again repeatedly proved inadequate, the water has generally been able to get away quickly to the River Lugg. The only exceptions to this have been on 25 November, during the period 21 December to New Year's Day, and again on 28 January when the River has been up and the Millcroft Road Ketch Lane junction, as well as stretches of Ketch Lane and Smeadal Lane have been flooded.

Although attention tends to focus on the Millcroft Brook, the Group has also kept an eye on other areas at risk, notably Orchard Close and Maund Bryan, where there is a long standing issue over culverts which are badly aligned, causing flooding which is affecting the stability of the road.

In summary, the Group's system for monitoring and maintaining watercourses and for alerting neighbours when necessary has been working well and this, coupled with the flood protection equipment provided by the Environment Agency, means that residents now generally feel much less concerned about the risk of flooding than before. The aim must now be to guard against concern being replaced by complacency!

WORKING PARTY SESSIONS

Fortnightly working party sessions continued over what passed for the summer months last year and were always well attended, with around a dozen members taking part on average. On a couple of occasions bad weather caused sessions to be cancelled, but fortunately the maintenance work carried out in earlier years meant that the effects of such cancellations were not too serious. Work concentrated on the drainage system in Mr Pugh's field, which takes water from Orchard Close to the Moor Brook, on the Ketch Lane ditches, on the Millcroft Brook immediately above and below the Brockington Road bridge, on checking and replacing sandbags in the stockpiles around the Village, and – inevitably – around the Ketch Lane culverts. Here we discovered that the old (East) culvert was unexpectedly clear of silt and were actually able to cancel the final working party session of 2012 for lack of work to do.

We are now, however, already into the 2013 'season' and have carried out two training sessions to teach members how to operate our pumps, as well as a working party for the clearance of flap valves along the Brook downstream of the Brockington Road bridge.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

On Monday, 18 June 2012 Mr Chris Bull, the then CEO of Herefordshire Council, was taken round the Hampton Court Ward by Cllr Jeremy Millar. They visited Millcroft Farm for tea, accompanied by another official, Ms Anne Brooks, and by Mr Philip Brown, the Clerk of Humber, Ford and Stoke Prior Parish Council. This gave us the opportunity to brief the CEO on the BFPG and, more importantly, to raise two issues with him. The first was the need for the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts to be replaced, and the second was for Amey Herefordshire to clear the culvert in Mr Pugh's Field. Mr Bull agreed to investigate and to respond to us on both matters. However, despite prompting, he never did so.

On Tuesday, 26 March this year Cllr Millar arranged for the new CEO of Herefordshire Council, Mr Alistair Neill, to visit us to discuss BFPG matters, accompanied by Mr Paul Nicholas, the Locality Manager for Leominster. Not surprisingly, we raised the same two issues with Mr Neill and added a third – the bad design of the culverts taking the Moor Brook across the road South of Maund Bryan. Mr Neill expressed great interest in what the Group has been doing and was especially concerned to understand how Herefordshire Council could connect better with local communities. We await developments.

EXTERNAL CONTACTS

Hope-under-Dinmore. The Chairman and Secretary were invited to talk to Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council about the BFPG on 29 November. We spent a stimulating hour or two there and did what we could to explain our approach to flooding matters. We also issued invitations to residents of Hope-under-Dinmore to attend our monthly meetings and, indeed, we were pleased to welcome two members of the Parish Council and one local resident to our January Meeting, as well as one Councillor and a resident to our Coffee Morning.

Mordiford. The Chairman was invited to give a presentation on the BFPG to the Annual Parish Meeting at Mordiford on Tuesday, 2 April. He and the Secretary attended and, in addition to the talk, provided a display of photographs illustrating the Group's work, as well as a range of pamphlets relating to flood protection and insurance, all of which seemed to be well received.

Brimfield & Little Hereford. We have heard from Brimfield & Little Hereford, which we visited in 2011, that the flood group which they subsequently established is going well, is now fully constituted with its own finances, has held some fund-raising events and, apart from some general on-going clearance work, have been investigating the replacement of a farm bridge, all of which is very good news.

Other Contacts. In addition to providing what advice and help we can to Bodenham residents, we have been in touch with individuals living in several other parishes, notably Marden, Cradley and West Hide.

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

ITV's *Tonight* Programme. On Friday, 11 May 2012 we received a visit from Jonathan Maitland and a team from ITV who were preparing a programme on climate change. They spent the afternoon filming the installation of flood protection measures at 40, Brockington Road by UK Flood Barriers Limited, where they met the CEO, Mrs Sarah Vaughan. Also in Brockington Road they met Mr Rod Hawnt of Hydro-Logic Limited, who had just finished commissioning the flood warning telemetry system there. At The Forge they interviewed Mrs Dhonau on flood insurance issues and at Millcroft Farm Mr Maitland interviewed the Secretary at some length on the origins and work of the Group. The team were also introduced to the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Derek Ling, and to our District Councillor, Cllr Jeremy Millar. Finally, they filmed the regular Friday evening work party session at the Ketch Lane culverts where Mr Maitland donned a set of waders and personally contributed to the removal of silt from the brook. The results were shown in ITV's *Tonight* programme about 'Weird Weather' which was broadcast on 17 May 2012.

Hereford Times Article. Mr Keith Grumbley drafted a 'good news' story about the flood warning telemetry system donated by Mr Rod Hawnt to the Village and submitted it to *The Hereford Times*. It duly appeared, complete with photograph, in the 5 July 2012 edition.

Local Council Review. Information about the Group on the Bodenham Parish Website prompted the Editor of the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) magazine – The Local Council Review – to contact us and in due course an article on flood prevention featuring the BFPG appeared in the magazine.

BBC Hereford & Worcester Website. In July BBC Hereford & Worcester contacted us for information and photographs for an article to mark the fifth anniversary of the 2007 floods. This appeared on the BBC Hereford & Worcester Website (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-18803795) later that month where it is still available.

BBC Midlands 'Wild Weather in 2012'. In mid-July we were approached by BBC Midlands who, at very short notice, expressed an interest in filming members carrying out maintenance work to mark the fifth anniversary of the 2007 floods. However, they rather lost interest when told that, because of the high water level, we would be filling sandbags, rather than working in the brook, and also that this would be on a Friday evening. However, on Friday, 23 November we were visited by First Look TV who were producing material for the BBC Midlands *Inside Out* programme. We briefed them extensively on the BFPG and showed them round the Village. They interviewed the Secretary at the Ketch Lane culverts and at home, saw the telemetry system, and interviewed Mr David Harris at his house. The results were eventually transmitted on BBC 1 on Sunday, 30 December in a programme called *Wild Weather in 2012*.

Daily Mail. During November when there were reports of flooding across the country we received a call from a Daily Mail reporter who was keen to interview people who had been flooded more than once. When we said that we did not fall into that category, but could offer her a 'good news' story instead, she chose not to pursue this further.

SOCIAL EVENTS

As always, the BFPG has been rather more than just a flood protection group over the past year and, once again, has held its now traditional four social events. The Annual Barbecue was held on Saturday, 28 July at 32, Brockington Road by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Burnill. This was followed by the Annual Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 6 October, by the Annual Quiz Night on Saturday, 17 November in the Parish Hall and by the Coffee Morning in the Siward James Centre on Saturday, 2 February 2013. All were very well attended and successful and besides being enjoyable, raised a substantial sum of money towards the Group's funds.

SUMMARY

This has been another successful year for the Group and sincere thanks must go to the Environment Agency, to Amey Herefordshire and to UK Flood Barriers Limited for their contributions to the successful completion of 'Project Bodenham', as well as to Mr Hawnt and Hydro-Logic Limited for the generous donation of the telemetry system. However, as always, particular thanks go to all those who have continued to support the Group, whether by taking an active part in working party sessions, by attending and contributing to meetings, by helping to organise social events, or by lending their support in any other way.

K.A.M.

Annex E

Report of the Bodenham Community Charity 2012/3

The Bodenham Community Charity is a registered charity Number 218404

The current trustees are

Dr Carolyn Knight
Mrs Susan Hack
Mr Stan Davis
Col Hugh Diamond
Mrs Louise Layton

Dr Knight and Col Diamond are nominative trustees and are appointed by nomination of the Parish Council for a term of 4 years. Their appointments were reconfirmed by the Parish Council in 2011. The remaining three trustees are co-optative trustees.

The Trustees normally meet twice a year in May and November when any applications are considered. The Trustees will, if required, arrange additional special meetings to consider urgent applications.

The objects of the charity are to help "either generally or individuals resident in the Parish who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons"

There is further detailed guidance in the charity scheme concerning the making of grants but the objects enable the trustees to make a wide range of grants. For example, the charity has in the past assisted with medical equipment and expenses not otherwise available on the NHS, travelling expenses, fuel costs, equipment and books for students and the cost of extra-curricular school expenses such as school trips and music tuition. It has also in the past made grants to Parish organisations including a past Bodenham Youth Club, the CAP as well as assisting the Flood Protection Group. It is an express criterion for the making of any grant that all other sources of finance (particularly public funds) have been considered or otherwise exhausted. There is no means testing but the trustees consider carefully what applicants tell them about their personal circumstances or the funding of any group or organisation.

All applications and grants are treated in the strictest confidence and the identities of individuals receiving grants are not disclosed.

During 2012 a grant was made to assist pupils attending Bodenham School with trips and other activities and a grant was made to an individual within the Parish.

S Hack Secretary April 10 2013