

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE at 7.30 pm on Monday, 7th August 2017

Present: Cllr A Avery Cllr T Clark Cllr S Collin Cllr J Crane
Cllr D Jackson Cllr P James-Moore Cllr T Mitcheson Cllr D Tilford
Cllr K Tremain

District Councillor Bruce Baker was also in attendance.

9 members of the public were present.

Introduction. The Footpaths Officer, Mr Mike Darley, gave a short presentation in which he explained the requirement to repair a 50m section of bridleway BM26 adjacent to Maund Bryan House and described a possible method of effecting the repair by creating a wall of used car tyres along the watercourse, the tyres being secured together and filled with soil. After answering Councillors' questions he left the Meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Layton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Mitcheson declared an interest in Item 12.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous Meeting were accepted as a correct record (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Clark).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Minute 4.1: Community Speedwatch (CSW) Scheme.** The Clerk reported that he had again emailed Mr Adnan Ali, the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator for Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police, who had replied that a Traffic Regulation Order is still awaited.
 - 4.2 **Minute 4.3: Parking on Public Land and Rubbish Burning at The Toll House.** Cllr Baker said that no offence from parking on public land is committed until damage is caused. He added that Herefordshire Council's Highways Department were not interested in pursuing the matter, but that he was considering asking Herefordshire Council to create a general bye-law to stop people parking on public land, such as that adjacent to The Toll House. Cllr Tilford suggested that placing posts along the edge of the land, as has been done in Church Road, might solve the problem.
 - 4.3 **Minute 4.5: Footpath BM11.** Cllr Clark reported that a path has now been cut through the maize field to mark the route of footpath BM11.
 - 4.4 **Minute 4.6: Hedges on the C1121.** The Clerk was asked to write again to the Hampton Court Estate about their part of the hedge along the C1121, which has still not been cut back. **ACTION: CS**
 - 4.5 **Minute 4.7: Lorries going to Berrington Water.** The Clerk noted that he had circulated an email from Marden's Parish Clerk about lorries using the C1120 to get to destinations in Marden, such as Berrington Water. He confirmed that he had replied, describing attempts by Bodenham Parish Council to solve the problem. Cllr Crane said that he had recently seen a large lorry taking the route. The Clerk reminded Councillors that, if details of such transgressions can be obtained, companies such as S&A and Berrington Water will trace the offender and inform them of the correct route.
 - 4.6 **Minute 6: Hedge on the C1125.** The Clerk reported that, as instructed, he had contacted Legal Services, Highways and Property Services at Herefordshire Council, but that only Property Services had replied. The Clerk said their reply had not been entirely correct, but, although he had informed them of this, he had not heard any more from them. However, he had also reported the hedge as a safety issue, had been given a case number and had

subsequently been contacted by the Locality Steward, Mr Matt Heeley, who had said that he would instruct the hedge-cutting team to cut the hedge - probably within "the next month".

5. **Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Parish Council.**

5.1 Mrs Gwen Bowden asked whether Bell Homes might help to restore the bus shelter opposite England's Gate Inn. Cllr Baker said that he had spoken to Mr Ed Thomas, the Planning Officer for the England's Field development, who had contacted Bell Homes and had received a positive response. Cllr Baker read an email from Bell Homes offering to "tidy up" or "rebuild" the bus shelter. He reported that Mrs Yvonne Coleman from Herefordshire Council had also contacted him about the matter. Cllr Baker added that creating disability access to the bus shelter might be a concern.

5.2 Mrs Roz Reader asked about the possibility of creating an area with exercise equipment for adults. Cllr Collin asked Mrs Reader what sort of equipment she had in mind and Mrs Reader gave examples. Cllr Tremain asked whether there were any similar existing facilities which could be viewed. Mrs Linda Creaton said that there was an adult exercise facility in Yazor Road in Hereford.

6. **Bridleway BM26.**

6.1 After Mr Mike Darley's presentation (see the Introduction above) Councillors discussed the way forward. Cllr Avery asked why the Parish Council should pay for the work to be done. Cllrs Tremain and Mitcheson pointed out that Balfour Beatty had paid for the repairs to footpath BM7 after the footpath had been closed by the then Locality Steward on safety grounds; she had also closed bridleway BM26 for the same reason, although it had subsequently reopened. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that Balfour Beatty be contacted about the bridleway to establish whether or not they would carry out the repair, or at least make a contribution towards it.

6.2 Cllr Clark queried the need for any work to be done, saying that the North Herefordshire Hunt walked its hounds down BM26 and the owner of Maund Cottage, to whom he had spoken, rode almost daily down the bridleway without difficulty. Cllr Collin asked whether the owner of Maund Bryan House could be contacted and asked to cut back the hedge between the ditch and his property. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr Les Harrison at the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board, Mr Michael Mable (Herefordshire Council's PRow Officer) and Balfour Beatty to ask for a site meeting. The Parish Clerk was also instructed to ask the owner of Maund Bryan House for the hedge to be cut back.

ACTION: CS

7. **Gates on the A417.** Cllr Crane said that a new set of guidelines about installing traffic-calming gates on roads was being drafted by Balfour Beatty. No progress could be made until these had been produced. Cllr Crane was asked to contact Steve Blakeway.

ACTION: JC

8. **Bus Shelter Roof Repairs.** See Minute 5.1 above

9. **Defects in Church Road.** Cllr Clark reported that the drain inspection cover in Church Road near the War Memorial had been knocked off again. He suggested that the only permanent solution would be to lower the cover to the level of the road. He also reported that, when renewing water mains in Church Road last year, Welsh Water appeared to have cut through drainage pipes. As a result water was leaking through the surface of Church Road and would create a hazard to vehicles if it froze over in cold weather. The Clerk was instructed to contact Welsh Water about the matter.

ACTION: CS

10. **Defects in Brockington Road.** Cllr Clark reported that holes have appeared along the side of the south end of Brockington Road where weeds had been removed. The Clerk was instructed to report this as a safety issue.

ACTION: CS

11. **Grass Cutting on the Village Green for the Open Village Weekend.** Cllr Crane reported that an expense of £125 had been incurred by the need to acquire a steel ramp to get classic cars on to the Village Green and there had been further expenditure of £120 to cut the grass on the Green for that event. Cllr Collin asked how much money had been raised by the Weekend and which

organisation(s) had benefitted. Cllr Crane said that just under £4000 had been raised for the benefit of St Michael's Church. Cllr Tilford said that the classic cars had made an important contribution to the success of the Weekend and the money raised was needed for repairs to the Church. He proposed that the expenses incurred for the grass cutting at the Green be paid by the Parish Council. This was second by Cllr Jackson and the proposal was accepted by four votes to nil with four abstentions.

12. Finance.

12.1 **Monthly Accounts Statements.** The monthly accounts had been circulated and were accepted (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Jackson). The accounts are attached as Annex A.

12.2 **Outstanding Invoices.** The following invoices were presented for payment:

- C D Smith (Clerk's expenses (printer cartridges and paper, envelopes, stamps)	£25.04
- Siward James and Arkwright Trust (BFPG room hire)	£13.50
- Mrs Babs Mitcheson (BFPG Barbecue food)	£28.00
- Cllr K A Mitcheson (Knapsack sprayer)	£179.94

12.3 Cllr Mitcheson explained that, although he already owned a knapsack sprayer, he had had to purchase a much higher quality one in order to meet the standard required for spraying herbicide on and near water, as he was now qualified to do. He was conscious that the Parish Council had already paid a large amount for his training courses and also that he would probably use the sprayer not only for his voluntary BFPG and Parish Council work, but occasionally for his own purposes. If, therefore, Councillors agreed, he would be prepared to refund the Parish Council £149.95, which would be its actual outlay after reclaiming VAT.

12.4 There being no objections, the payment of the invoices was approved (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Clark).

13. Planning

- 172384/AM: *Bodenham Manor: Proposed non-material amendment to planning permission ref 162506 (Demolition of former buildings and erection of three detached dwellings).* No comments were invited on this application, which records only minor changes.

- 172549: *Land at Brockington Hall: Proposed development of existing part of garden for two detached dwellings.* Cllr Tilford had prepared a planning statement outlining the details of the application. Cllr Crane pointed out that the application would require a revision to the settlement boundary proposed in the Regulation 16 draft of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and the development would also overlook some of the houses in England's Field. Cllr Clark said that he had talked to Bell Homes about the application and had been told that plots 15, 16 and 19 would be overlooked by the proposed houses, which would be on slightly higher ground. Cllr Baker said that he would take the application to the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee, if the Parish Council objected to it and if there was "sufficient local interest". It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to the application and that Cllr Tilford would amend his planning statement to reflect the discussion. **ACTION: DT**

- 172552: *Ashgrove Croft: Proposed two additional mobile homes, two touring caravans and the construction of a day room, associated hard standing drainage and re-aligned access track.* Cllr Tilford had prepared a planning statement outlining the details of the application. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would object to the application and that Cllr Tilford would amend his planning statement. **ACTION: DT**

- 172854/XA2: *Land adjacent to Stoneleigh: approval of details reserved by condition.* No comments were invited on this application, which seeks approval for only minor changes.

14. Updates

14.1 **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Mitcheson gave the BFPG's monthly report which is attached as Annex B.

14.2 **Parish Hall.** In Cllr Layton's absence Mrs Gwen Bowden reported that six new windows and a new fire door in the main hall would be installed "tomorrow", and that the toilets were to be deep-cleaned.

14.3 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

14.3.1 Cllr Mitcheson reported that he had now received the planning consultant's comments on the draft NDP and was amending it to incorporate her suggested changes. This would then become the Regulation 16 version of the Plan and he hoped to get the Parish Council's approval for it and its accompanying Consultation Statement at the next Parish Council Meeting on 4 September. The other documents which the Parish Council had to submit were the Basic Condition Statement, which the planning consultant had promised to provide and the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which Herefordshire Council's Planning Department will complete. Once all the documents were in final draft form they would be made available on the Parish Website.

14.3.2 Cllr Mitcheson added that it was planned to have a public meeting in September to provide feedback to residents on the responses to the Regulation 14 Consultation and the Parish Council's replies to those responses. The meeting would also provide an opportunity to ensure that everyone knows what will happen next, *i.e.* the Regulation 16 Consultation, followed by any necessary amendments to the draft Plan, then Examination of the Plan by an independent inspector, possibly some further modifications to the Plan, and finally the adoption or rejection of the Plan in a Referendum.

15. **Correspondence Not Previously Circulated.** The Clerk reported that he had received a copy of J Parker's Wholesale Bulb Catalogue. This was passed to Cllr Crane.

16. **Other Business (including the District Councillor's Report).**

16.1 **District Councillor's Report.** Cllr Baker reported that:

- Herefordshire Council had received a grant of £15m for road repairs and a further £300,00 for a feasibility study for the A49 bypass;
- Herefordshire Council had received Lottery money for Hereford Museum;
- the refurbishment of Blueschool House was some £1m over budget because defects had been found;
- Herefordshire Council had secured its first custodial sentence for a fly-tipper and large fines for two other fly-tippers.

16.2 Cllr Baker was asked about the opening date for the new link road in Hereford. He replied that the road was due to open in October and was on schedule.

16.3 Cllr James-Moore asked Cllr Clark about the signs to S&A, which had been taken down from outside Fairview on The Moor and given to Cllr Clark for safekeeping. Cllr Clark said that the signs were too large to be re-located nearby. Cllr Baker said that he would approach Mr Will Steel of Balfour Beatty about the matter.

16.4 Cllr Mitcheson asked what action was being taken to employ a new Lengthsman. Cllr James-Moore said that the Lengthsman Sub-committee should meet to find replacement persons to do the work on the revised schedule.

ACTION: LENGTHSMAN SUB-COMMITTEE

17. **Date of the Next Meeting.**

17.1 The next Meetings will be held on Mondays 4th September and 2nd October.

17.2 There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

July 2017 accounts

OPENING BALANCE on 16th JUNE 2017 = £33128.27

Date	Income	Expenditure	Comment
19th June 2017		£749.83	PWLB (Parish Hall car park loan)
20th June 2017		£37.84	Clerk's PAYE
21st June 2017		£13.50	BFPG room hire
28th June 2017		£53.26	Chairman's expenses
30th June 2017		£151.67	Clerk's salary
4th July 2017	£155.00		Newsletter advertising (£100) and BFPG donations (£55)
10th July 2017		£21.00	Clerk's expenses
10th July 2017 expenditure		£116.50	Open Spaces Project
10th July 2017		£840.00	Spraying courses
11th July 2017		£185.00	July/August Newsletter
12th July 2017	£100.00		Purchase of computer
13th July 2017		£420.00	Telemetry system maintenance
17th July 2017		£318.00	Lengthsman's June invoice
TOTALS	£255.00	£2906.60	

CLOSING BALANCE on 16th JULY = (£33128.27 + £255.00 - £2906.60) = £30476.67



BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(7 AUGUST 2017)

1. **Summary of the Past Month**

a. Despite the recent rainfall, there has been no increase in flood risk and thankfully the tenth anniversary of the 20 July 2007 flood passed without incident. In fact, there has not been very much rain overall. It is just that it has fallen at precisely the wrong times, spoiling the second day of the Open Village Weekend (16 July) and, from my own point of view, ruining a garden party which the Secretary and I were hosting on Saturday, 22 July.

b. On the subject of garden parties, I should like to thank all those Councillors and others who attended the BEM presentation, Garden Party and Annual Barbecue on Sunday, 23 July and made it such a success. My particular thanks go to everyone who contributed so much time, effort and expense to helping with the organisation of the event by making donations, contributing food, lending tents and helping to put them up and take them down, clearing things away at the end of the evening, and so on. Members have been extraordinarily generous and both the Secretary and I are most grateful. All of this combined with the good weather to make the event both enjoyable and memorable.

2. **Monthly Meeting.** The Group's monthly Meeting was held on Tuesday, 25 July and was attended by 22 members.

3. **The Ketch Lane Culverts.**

a. At the last Parish Council Meeting I reported on a meeting held at Millcroft Farm on Friday, 30 June. This was arranged by Cllr Bruce Baker and was also attended by Mr Geoff Hughes, Herefordshire Council's Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate, Mr Hockenull, and Mr Hodges, the Services Team Leader of Mr Hughes' Directorate. At that Meeting options for the possible replacement of the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts were discussed and some progress was made in deciding the way forward on these projects.

b. Following that Meeting, Cllr Baker kindly arranged for two Herefordshire Council Cabinet members to visit Millcroft Farm on Monday, 31 July to discuss the Ketch Lane culverts. The Councillors were Cllr Philip Price (Infrastructure) and Cllr Barry Durkin (Transport and Roads from 1 September) and, after I had briefed them on the reasons why the culverts needed to be replaced, Cllr Baker and I showed them the culverts in question. The Meeting was a positive one and Cllr Price even suggested that Balfour Beatty's proposed 'Option 2' for a replacement culvert did not go far enough - that a longer culvert fully aligned with the Millcroft Brook upstream of the junction would, he felt, provide a better solution and the possible extra cost could partly be balanced by eliminating the need to demolish the existing Victorian (East) culvert. Cllr Price undertook to speak to Mr Hodges on the subject and we await further developments.

4. **Natural Flood Management.**

- a. Councillors will be aware of media reports that the Government has allocated £15m for natural flood management schemes across the country and that £1m of this is to be spent on three sites in Worcestershire and 8 sites in Herefordshire, one of the latter being Bodenham.
- b. According to the Environment Agency's website the funding allocated to the eight sites in Herefordshire is to protect 3,800 dwellings and totals £626k, while £500k is to be allocated to five (not three) sites in Worcestershire. The date for the approval of the Herefordshire business case is shown as September this year with construction starting in January 2018 and finishing in March 2021.
- c. Although £626k is a large sum, it seems unlikely to go far when spread across eight sites. Cllr Price touched on this at the 31 July Meeting at Millcroft Farm and it is probable that the £626k is for feasibility studies rather than actual construction work.

5. **External Contacts.**

- a. **BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester.** The Secretary was interviewed live on air at 4.25pm on Thursday, 20 July, the subject being the tenth anniversary of the July 2007 flood and the subsequent formation and work of the BFPG.
- b. **Ryedale District Council.** On 4 August we received an e-mail from the Council Solicitor at Ryedale District Council in Malton in North Yorkshire asking a series of questions about the BFPG's legal status and our use of pumps. This was because a Parish Meeting in the Ryedale area is considering applying for a grant to purchase pumps to alleviate flooding during periods of high rainfall. I replied appropriately, although it would seem that Ryedale propose to use large pumps to lower the level of a watercourse during rainfall, whereas our small pumps are only for pumping water out of single dwellings in, or after, an emergency.

6. **Working Parties.**

- a. **Friday, 7 July.** Eleven members contributed to clearing the first stretch of the Millcroft Brook downstream from Millcroft Farm. The session was followed by refreshments there.
- b. **Friday, 28 July.** The session on 28 July was postponed owing to poor weather and was re-arranged for Friday, 4 August when 16 members gathered at Millcroft Farm to continue work clearing the Brook, followed by refreshments.
- c. **Future Working Party Dates.** The next working party sessions will be on Friday, 11 August and Friday, 25 August. During the first of these we will probably move the sandbag cage from the Parish Hall to the school car park, while on the second we will carry on working on the Millcroft Brook. Both sessions will, of course, be followed by refreshments!

7. **Social Calendar**

- a. **Annual Bonfire Party.** The Annual Bonfire Party will be held on Saturday, 21 October at Millcroft Farm starting at 6.00pm. Councillors are, of course, welcome to attend. There will be the usual light refreshments, but those attending are entirely free to bring their own food and food for others to share.

b. **Annual Quiz Night**. The Annual Quiz Night will be on Friday, 24 November at the Parish Hall. The start time has yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Councillors are, as always, welcome to attend and perhaps form one or more teams.

K.A.M.