

## BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday, 1st July 2013 at the Seward James Centre at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr Alec Avery, Cllr Stan Davis, Cllr Pam James-Moore, Cllr Robin Knott (Chair), Cllr Tony Mitcheson, Cllr Rhian Powell

Six members of the public were present at the start of the Meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Austin, Clarke, Jackson, Millar and Pollard.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Mitcheson and Cllr Powell each declared an interest with respect to Item 12.3.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the Council's Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
  - 4.1 **Minute 4: Footpaths Officers.** The Clerk reported that Mr and Mrs Russell had met with Rachel Dixon - Herefordshire Council's PRow Officer - and were considering whether or not to accept the post, because of their concerns about having to deal with landowners. Cllr Knott said that it was the Parish Council's responsibility to deal with landowners. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mr and Mrs Russell of this. **ACTION: CS**
  - 4.2 **Minute 5: Hedges near Berrington Drive.** The Clerk reported that he had written to the owners of the relevant properties, one of whom had replied that he regularly cut his hedge, but could not cut it further, because of a bank which would be insurmountable for pedestrians.
  - 4.3 **Minute 9: Bin on the Village Green.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted both FCC Environment and Herefordshire Council about the bin on the village green, but had received no definite commitment to empty it. Mr Tony Clark reported that the bin had been emptied on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June.
  - 4.4 **Minute 10: The North Herefordshire Hunt.** The Clerk reported that a meeting would be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July between councillors and representatives of the Hunt to discuss a timetable for walking the hounds and other matters.
  - 4.5 **Minute 12: Slurry Leaking from Eastfields Farm.** The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the matter to Herefordshire Council.
  - 4.6 **Minute 14: Hunt Timetable.** See Minute 4.4 above.
  - 4.7 **Minute 15: Strip of Ground at England's Gate Inn.** The Clerk reported that he had mentioned the matter again to the owner of England's Gate Inn.
  - 4.8 **Minute 18: Park and Share and Park and Cycle Scheme.** The Clerk reported that he had asked Herefordshire Council about placing a cycle locker or rack on the car park at England's Gate Inn, rather than at the bus stop, and

had been told that to use spaces of this kind was common practice. The Clerk further reported that he had then approached the owner of England's Gate Inn, who had expressed her willingness to have the locker or rack on the car park. The Clerk was instructed to liaise between the owner and Herefordshire Council.

**ACTION: CS**

- 4.9 **Minute 19: Clerk's Remuneration.** Cllr Knott said that Cllr Clarke had consulted other Councillors as to whether the Parish Council should make a contribution towards the cost of a new computer for the Clerk's use. The Clerk then left the Meeting while the matter was discussed. Cllr Knott minuted that Cllr Davis proposed and Cllr Avery seconded that the Parish Council should pay one-third of the cost of the Clerk's new computer. This was agreed unanimously.
- 4.10 **Minute 22: Speed Camera on the A417.** The Clerk reported that the Safer Roads Partnership had been requested to monitor the A417 in the early morning.
- 4.11 **Minute 25: Blocked Drains on the A417.** The Clerk said that he had reported the blocked drains to Amey.
- 4.12 **Minute 26: Piece of Car Bumper in Millcroft Brook.** The Clerk confirmed that he had reported to Amey that there was still a large piece of a car bumper in the brook at the junction of Millcroft Brook and Moor Brook.
- 4.13 **Minute 39: Footpath BM13.** See Agenda Item 7 below.

## 5. **Issues Raised by Members of the Public.**

- 5.1 Mr Tony Clark reported that the name of Mr Martin Field appears in the County Times section of *The Hereford Times* as correspondent for Bodenham. Cllr Knott explained that Mr Field is paid for items he places in the paper. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that Mr Field might be using the parish website as a source of information for these items.
- 5.2 Mr Tony Clark reported that the 40mph and 'road junction' signs on the A417 between Saffrons Garage and the C1125 junction are obscured by a hedge. The Clerk was instructed to report this to Amey. **ACTION: CS**
- 5.3 Mrs Gwen Bowden reported that the verge along the A417 had been strimmed, but the strimmings had not been tidied. The Clerk was instructed to report this to Amey. **ACTION: CS**

## 6. **The Bodenham Newsletter.**

- 6.1 Discussion of this item was deferred.

## 7. **Footpath BM13.**

- 7.1 In the absence of both Cllr Clarke and Cllr Millar, the Clerk reported that both Councillors had visited the site of the proposed diversion of footpath BM13. Cllr Knott reported that Cllr Clarke was going to contact the Vice-Chairman of the Seward James Trust on the matter. It was agreed that further discussion should be deferred until the next Meeting.

## 8. **The Telephone Kiosk.**

- 8.1 The Clerk said that he had composed an item for the *Newsletter* about the kiosk, but, because it had not appeared, he might have sent an incomplete file to the Editor of the *Newsletter*. The Clerk was instructed to send the missing item to Cllr Mitcheson for it to be placed on the website and to place copies on the noticeboards. **ACTION: CS**

## 9. **Parish Plan.**

- 9.1 Cllr Knott said that short- and medium-term improvements to road safety were underway, but long-term improvements required funding to be obtained. Cllr Mitcheson reminded Councillors that a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June with Mr Andrew Lee-Jones of Herefordshire Council/Amey had discussed the various options. Mr Lee-Jones had ruled out a pedestrian crossing on the A417 near the Parish Hall and also chicanes on the main road, but had said that 'gates' on the verge at either end of the 40mph zone would be acceptable. However, while the Parish could get these made locally, they would have to be installed by Amey.
- 9.2 A permanent SID on the A417 was another possibility - or, indeed, two, one facing each way. Each of these would cost approximately £4k. Mr Lee-Jones had also said that a chicane on the C1125 near the Post Office would not be acceptable, nor would a footpath along the stretch from there to Orchard Close because the road was not wide enough. However, he had agreed to look at the possibility of installing 'Road Narrows' signs both there and at the C1125 bridge over the Moor Brook. Finally, Mr Lee-Jones had said that a 20mph restriction on the C1121 near St Michael's School might well be possible, but that the School would have to initiate a proposal for this.
- 9.3 Cllr Powell supported the idea of gates. The Clerk was instructed to remind Mr Lee-Jones about his promise to install 'Road Narrows' signs near the Post Office and to circulate Mr Lee-Jones' report of the meeting with parish councillors to Cllrs Knott and Clarke and to Mrs Gwen Bowden. **ACTION: CS**

## 10. **Car Park Registration.**

- 10.1 The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Mrs Sue Newbould requesting that the registration of the car park be completed as soon as possible. The Clerk added that he thought the registration had already been completed. Cllr Mitcheson reported that the May 2011 Parish Council Minutes record the proposal to register the car park and the November 2011 Minutes record that the registration is proceeding. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mrs Newbould to ask her to proceed with the registration. **ACTION: CS**

## 11. **Venue for Future Meetings.**

- 11.1 Cllr Knott reported that Cllr Clarke had requested that this item be placed on the Agenda, because he thought that the wi-fi connection and other facilities at the Parish Hall could facilitate Parish Council meetings. Cllr Knott said that the Parish Hall was available at 7.45 pm on Monday evenings or 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Cllr Mitcheson said that he saw no

particular need to change the venue and that, while the Parish Hall committee room was too small, its stage and main hall were too large. Cllr Powell expressed concern at the absence of wi-fi facilities at the Siward James Centre. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that the Siward James and Arkwright Trust Charity might wish to consider providing this facility.

## 12. Finance.

- 12.1 Cllr Knott presented the accounts, which were accepted, and are attached as Annex A.
- 12.2 The Clerk reported that the audit documents had been sent to the External Auditor.
- 12.3 The following invoices were approved for payment:
- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| - Mrs Babs Mitcheson (telemetry credits)                                    | £36.00  |
| - Clerk's expenses (printer cartridges and paper)                           | £19.00  |
| - Leominster Community Resource Centre<br>(June <i>Newsletter</i> printing) | £186.60 |
| - DC Gardening Services (Lengthsman's invoice)                              | £410.00 |
| - DC Gardening Services (playground chippings)                              | £184.60 |

## 13. Planning.

- 13.1 **131296/O: Maund Bryan Cottages: Proposed two storey dwelling on land adjacent to Maund Bryan Cottages.** Cllr Knott reported that, like the previous application, this application was intended to provide accommodation for a disabled relative of the applicant. He added that the site lay outside the settlement boundary and that the previous application had not been supported because the site is on the flood plain. Mrs Babs Mitcheson said that the next door property had flooded in 2007 and again in November 2012. Cllr James-Moore proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that the application be refused on the grounds that the site is known to flood and is outside the settlement boundary. The proposal was accepted unanimously.
- 13.2 **131304/F: Bowley Court Farm: Proposed timber lorry loading/turning points; upgrading existing forestry tracks including timber processing points.** Cllr Knott proposed that a site meeting be held. It was agreed that this should take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

## 14. Updates.

- 14.1 **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Mitcheson gave a report, which is attached as Annex B.
- 14.2 **Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had met and discussed an initial draft of the Plan prepared by Mr David Tilford. At the same time he had drafted an application

for some £4k of Government funding to support the planning process. He asked whether the Parish Council wished to see the application before it was submitted. Cllr Powell said that this would be helpful. Cllr Mitcheson added that the next Steering Group Meeting was scheduled for 7.00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July in the Parish Hall; the meeting was open to the public and members of the Parish Council would be especially welcome to attend.

14.3 **Parish Hall.** Cllr Powell said that no meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee had taken place since the last Parish Council Meeting and that the next Committee Meeting would take place in July.

14.4 **Lengthsman.** The Clerk said that the first quarterly invoice would be submitted shortly. Cllr Davis asked if the lengthsman could look at the corner posts in the playground fence. **ACTION: CS**

15. **Correspondence.**

15.1 No correspondence had been received that had not already been circulated by the Clerk.

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

16.1 No items of other business were raised.

17. **Date of Next Meeting.**

17.1 There being no other business the Meeting ended at 9.03pm.

17.2 The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm.

## Bodenham Parish Council 13/14

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
<b>Income</b>										
PC Opening Balance	5045.87	9526.56	8004.99	6807.99	4720.49	3786.49	7152.55	5760.72	5606.87	5362.07
Newsletter	114.50	112.50	25.00	225.00	125.00	145.00	204	192	128	190
Vat Refund									123	
Car Park Loan		374.92				374.91				
Lengthsman			778.25			778.25	535.00			
Precept	4972.50					4973.00				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10132.87</b>	<b>10013.98</b>	<b>8808.24</b>	<b>7032.99</b>	<b>4845.49</b>	<b>10057.65</b>	<b>7891.55</b>	<b>5952.72</b>	<b>5857.87</b>	<b>5552.07</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>										
Car Park Loan		749.83					749.83			
Church Grant				825.00						
Clerk Salary	121.29	121.29	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68
Clerk Expenses	47.17		30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
HM Rev and Customs	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32
Insurance		499.96								
Website						200.00				
Newsletter	407.53	200.25	236.25		163.00	294.10	175	159.85	184.8	
Playground repairs				445.40						
Room Hire					100.00				100	
Lengthsman		395.00	495.00	360.00	360.00	960.00	20		25	352
Playground Inspection				54.60						
Audit				200.00						
Parish Hall Grant						1200.00				
Grass Cutting			583.00							
Parish Plan			500.00				500			
Neighbourhood Plan		12.34		241.50	250.00		500			500
British Legion Grant						65.00				
<b>TOTAL PC Expenditure</b>	<b>606.31</b>	<b>2008.99</b>	<b>2000.25</b>	<b>2312.50</b>	<b>1059.00</b>	<b>2905.10</b>	<b>2130.83</b>	<b>345.85</b>	<b>495.80</b>	<b>1038.00</b>

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
<b>PC Closing Balance</b>	<b>9526.56</b>	<b>8004.99</b>	<b>6807.99</b>	<b>4720.49</b>	<b>3786.49</b>	<b>7152.55</b>	<b>5760.72</b>	<b>5606.87</b>	<b>5362.07</b>	<b>4514.07</b>
BFPG Open Balance	2210.27	2210.27	2113.37	2099.87	2099.87	2099.87	2099.87	2099.87	2099.87	2099.87
BFPG Inc										
BFPG Ex		96.90	13.50							
<b>BFPG Closing Balance</b>	<b>2210.27</b>	<b>2113.37</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>	<b>2099.87</b>
Lady Close Orchard	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00
<b>Tot Closing Balance</b>	<b>11894.83</b>	<b>10276.36</b>	<b>9065.86</b>	<b>6978.36</b>	<b>6044.36</b>	<b>9410.42</b>	<b>8018.59</b>	<b>7864.74</b>	<b>7619.94</b>	<b>6771.94</b>

**BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT**  
**(1 JULY 2013)**

1. **Water Levels.** Since some kind of Summer seems finally to have arrived, there has been little rain and the water level in the Millcroft Brook has remained very low.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** Our most recent Meeting was held last Tuesday (25 June) with 30 members of the Group and one member of the public present.
3. **Working Party Sessions.**
  - a. We held a working party session on the evening of Friday, 7 June, during which we continued our campaign to jet out the drains which empty into the Millcroft Brook downstream of the Brockington Road bridge. Other members of the Group started the task of clearing the banks of the Brook in the same area.
  - b. Our most recent working party session was on Friday, 21 June when members started clearing the ditch in Mr Pugh's Field, just West of Orchard Close. The ditch was badly overgrown, but the working party achieved a great deal in a short space of time and nearly finished the first stretch up to the entrance of the culvert.
4. **Early Warning Telemetry System.**
  - a. We have replenished our 'credits' on the early warning telemetry system. These pay for the telephone alarm messages we get from the system and the bad weather over the Winter has meant that our balance has been rather reduced. As Councillors will have seen under Item 12, the Secretary paid for a 'package' worth £36, for which you have just reimbursed her.
  - b. Having now amassed a full year's experience of the system and, through it, of the behaviour of the Millcroft Brook, we have also carried out another review of when alerts are issued and who receives them. This was with the aim of reducing costs still further and also lowering the risk that, if the system is set to send out alarms at relatively low water levels, and many alerts are then generated which result in no real emergency, residents will start to become complacent and ignore them altogether. At our Meeting last Tuesday we, therefore, agreed to ask Hydro-Logic Ltd to raise the water level at which the first general alarm is triggered from 0.5m to 0.9m.
5. **Flood Insurance.**
  - a. The 'Statement of Principle' is the agreement between the Government and the Association of British Insurers (ABI) under which insurers guarantee to provide flood cover for all households in return for the Government undertaking to fund the construction of flood



defences across the country. The 'Statement' was due to end by 30 June and, despite all indications to the contrary (since the talks between the two sides seemed for several months to have been going nowhere), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was at least agreed by that date.

b. This MoU is an agreement in principle between UK insurers and the Government to develop a not-for-profit flood fund – known as Flood Re – to ensure that flood insurance remains affordable and available to homeowners at high flood risk. It will provide a fund to offer cover at a set price to people at high flood risk who might otherwise struggle to get affordable flood insurance. Insurers will put into the fund those high flood risk homes they feel unable to insure themselves, with the premium to cover the flood risk part of the household premium being capped.

c. The cap will be based on Council Tax bands, starting at no more than £210 *per annum* in Bands A and B, rising to £540 *p.a* in Band G, these figures being on top of the premium for non-flood risk insurance. (Band H properties and, as happens now, houses built after 1 January 2009 will not be covered). The capped premiums will go into the fund to help pay flood claims. To help finance this, all home insurers will be subject to a collective levy averaging £10.50 a year on all home insurance policies. (Homeowners apparently already pay this, as some cross-subsidy has always existed between lower and higher flood risks).

d. The aim is for Flood Re to be in place in the Summer of 2015. Meanwhile, insurers will continue to meet their commitments to their existing customers under the 'Statement of Principle' agreement. This means that they will continue to offer cover to existing customers where flood risk is not 'significant' according to the Environment Agency, or where the Government has announced plans to reduce flood risk below 'significant' within five years. The premium and excess will reflect the insurer's understanding of the flood risk.

6. **Annual Barbecue.** With their kind permission, we are holding our Annual Barbecue at Kay and Tony Clark's house on the evening of Saturday, 27 July. I am sure that any councillor who would like to attend would most welcome, but to help the catering arrangements they should contact Kay and Tony in advance.

K.A.M.