

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, BODENHAM
MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2011**

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Cllr Derek Ling (Chair) Cllr Robin Knott (Vice-Chair) Cllr Bob Clarke Cllr Stan Davis Cllr Dennis Jackson Cllr Mrs Pam James-Moore Cllr Tony Mitcheson Cllr Ms Rhian Powell Cllr Mrs Katy Wrathall</p> <p>Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor)</p> <p>Mr Chris Smith (Clerk)</p> <p>CSO Steph Annette was present for the introductory session.</p> <p>9 members of the public were present.</p>	<p>DL RK BC SD DJ PJ-M AM RP KW</p> <p>JM</p> <p>CS</p>
1.0	<p>Introduction</p> <p><u>Report from CSO Steph Annette.</u> CSO Annette reported that things were generally quiet. Cllr Mrs James-Moore asked about an accident in Sutton St Nicholas, where a girl had been knocked off her bicycle. CSO Annette said that a member of the public had come forward with information about the accident. Cllr Ling thanked CSO Annette for having attended the litter pick on Saturday 1st October.</p>	
2.0	<p>Apologies for Absence.</p> <p>Cllr Jeff Pollard had sent apologies for his absence.</p>	
3.0	<p>Declarations of Interest.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were received.</p>	
4.0	<p>Minutes of previous meetings</p> <p>The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as a correct record.</p>	
5.0	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p>	
5.1	<p><u>Minute 5.1: Large vehicles using Chapel Lane.</u> The Clerk was instructed to seek to contact the milk company to request that their tankers stop using the lower half of Chapel Lane as a short cut.</p>	CS
5.2	<p><u>Minute 5.2: Provision of a playground slide.</u> The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for painting, repairs and maintenance of the playground.</p>	CS
5.3	<p><u>Minute 5.4: Speed Indicator Device.</u> Cllr Mitcheson reported that the SID has been left in covert mode on the C1125 for a second week, because Cllr Pollard is away and, therefore, unable to assist in moving the SID.</p>	
5.4	<p><u>Minute 8.0: Parish car park first registration.</u> The Clerk was instructed to expedite the</p>	

matter.

CS

6.0 Action points from the minutes of the July and August meetings

Action points not covered in Minute 5.0 were accepted.

7.0 Matters raised by members of the public

7.1 Litter Pick. Following a request from member of the public Cllr Ling expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Mr Tony Clark and Mrs Kay Clark for their work in organizing the litter pick. Mr Clark then reported that 27.5 bags of rubbish had been collected and had been removed by Amey that morning. Cllr Ms Powell asked whether the litter pick was to be repeated. Cllr Ling replied that it was the intention to hold litter picks quarterly, but that more volunteers were needed.

7.2 Damage to the bus stop at Chapel Lane. Mr Tony Clark reported that the bus stop at Chapel Lane had been damaged.

7.3 Horse riding. Mrs Gwen Bowden asked about the legality of riding a horse on a footway. Cllr Ms Powell said that a horse should not be ridden on a footway, unless it was a matter of safety. Mrs Bowden then asked whether it was a legal requirement for a rider to clear up horse manure left on a footway. Cllr Mrs Wrathall thought that it was not a legal requirement.

8.0 The Localism Bill.

Cllr Mrs Wrathall gave a presentation on the Localism Bill. A summary of the presentation is included as Annex A. Cllr Ling asked how much progress the Bill had made through Parliament. Cllr Millar said that he thought the Government was intentionally progressing the Bill slowly. The Clerk was instructed to email Annex A to Parish Councillors.

CS

9.0 Lengthsman Scheme.

Cllr Ling reported that nine councillors had met to discuss the Lengthsman Scheme and were unanimous in their view that the Parish Council should apply. Cllr Ling reported that an application had been made and that a reply was due to be received in October.

10.0 Broadband.

Cllr Ms Powell reported on a meeting she had attended about establishing fast broadband in Herefordshire, but asked for a volunteer to act as broadband champion, while she is away. Cllr Mrs Wrathall agreed to do so. Cllr Ling asked about the timing and the process of the campaign. Cllr Millar said that questionnaires would be distributed in October. Cllr Ms Powell suggested that publicity was needed. Cllr Mrs Wrathall agreed to prepare some fliers. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare some simple, explanatory notices for the noticeboards and bus shelters, Cllr Clarke commented that the 01568-797xxx exchange was one of the slowest in the UK.

CS

11.0 Sustainability Action Plan (Ecohere)

Cllr Ling reported that a request had been received at the CLP Open Day that a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) should be set up in Bodenham. Two areas in Herefordshire had already agreed to set up a SAP. Cllr Ling asked for comments. Cllr Knott was in favour and, after discussion, it was agreed to explore this further. Cllr Ling agreed to act as the contact person.

DL

12.0 Village SOS scheme

Cllr Ling reported that information had been received and circulated about the National Lottery-funded Village SOS Scheme, for which the deadline was 20th October. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that a package of measures could be put forward in an application, but he and Cllrs Clarke and Jackson thought that there was insufficient

time. Cllr Ling agreed to explore the matter further and to circulate ideas and proposals.

DL

13.0 Speeding traffic on the A417

13.1 Meeting with Mr Andrew Lee-Jones of Amey. Cllr Ling reported that he, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Ms Powell and the Clerk had met with Mr Andrew Lee-Jones of Amey to discuss speeding traffic on the A417 and other traffic-related matters. Cllr Ling reported that Mr Lee-Jones had agreed to write a report of the meeting which would address the following points:

- Introducing a 30mph limit on the A417, which Mr Lee-Jones thought would be unlikely to be considered by Herefordshire Council.
- Placing a Pelican crossing by the Parish Hall. Mr Lee-Jones thought that this was suitable, but would have to be funded by Bodenham Parish Council. It would cost about £60,000.
- Improving signage to reduce the speed of traffic. Mr Lee-Jones thought that speeds could be reduced by changes to signage and roadside structures.
- Speeding traffic near the war memorial. Mr Lee-Jones reported that Herefordshire Council has a policy of roads in the vicinity of schools having a 20mph speed limit.
- Mr Lee-Jones agreed to remove the '(A465) Hereford' signpost at the A417/C1125 junction.

13.2 Cllr Ling reported that, after feedback has been received from Mr Lee-Jones, it would be circulated and priorities would be drawn up.

13.3 Cllr Davis reported that the give way sign at the end of Ketch Lane is partially obscured and is pointing in the wrong direction. The Clerk was instructed to report this to Amey.

CS

13.4 Mrs Gwen Bowden reported the 40mph sign on the northbound carriageway near to Saffrons Garage has been restored, but has been located in the field rather than in its previous location on the bridge. The Clerk was instructed to report this to Amey.

CS

13.5 Cllr Ling read out a letter received from Mr Norman Tarbath complaining of excessive traffic speed at the southern end of the C1125 in Bodenham. Following a suggestion from Cllr Clarke, it was agreed that the Clerk should inform Mr Tarbath of the meeting between councillors and Mr Lee-Jones and the possible outcomes mentioned by Mr Lee-Jones.

CS

14.0 Finance

14.1 Monthly accounts statements. Cllr Ling produced the monthly account statements, which are attached as Annex B. The accounts were accepted. Cllr Ling thanked Cllr Mrs James-Moore for collecting cheques for *Newsletter* advertising. Cllr Ling reported that the second instalment of the precept had arrived, as had a refund of VAT.

14.2 Outstanding invoices.

- A B Clark (BFPG expenses)	£40.00
- Leominster Community Resource Centre	£868.60
- Alpha Web Design	£40.00

15.0 Planning applications.

15.1 Cllr Millar reported that a district councillor can request that a planning application is presented to a full planning meeting at Herefordshire Council.

15.2 The following applications had been received:

- DMN/103008/O: Land adj. Maund Bryan Cottages: single storey dwelling (outline). **It was agreed that the Parish Council objected to this application.**
- DMN/112521/F: Upper Moor Farm: installation of photovoltaic panels on agricultural buildings. **It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.**

15.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMN/112452/L: Maund Farm: remodelling of existing 1990 barn conversion, including formation of bedrooms to first floor. It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application. DMN/111723/F: Land south of Broxmere: extension of stables/barn and siting of a storage container and access track (retrospective). It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application with the condition that no further development or change of use takes place. <p>The following application had been approved by Herefordshire Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMS/112159/F: Charnwood, Litmarsh: resubmitted application for 2-storey dwelling with garage block. 	
16.0	Updates	
16.1	<u>Bodenham Flood Protection Group.</u> Cllr Mitcheson gave an update on the work of the BFPG. This is attached as Annex C.	
16.2	<u>Community-Led Plan.</u> Cllr Ling gave an update on the work of the Community-Led Plan committee. He reported that the CLP steering group had held an open day for local people to see the results of the Planning for Real weekend event and the results of the questionnaires. It was very professional with detailed graphs and analysis of all parts of the proposed plan. The action plan was also shown and feedback was very good, albeit only 70 people attended the day. Cllr Ling also reported that the first event, a village litter pick was organized by Mrs Kay Clark and 27 bags of rubbish were collected. Regular litter picks will be organized for the future. Cllr Ling reported that the steering group will now develop the final plan and hope to publish by the end of the year.	
16.3	<u>Parish Hall.</u> Cllr Jackson gave an update on the word of the Parish Hall Committee. This is attached as Annex D.	
17.0	Correspondence not previously circulated Cllr Ling reported that he had received a letter from Mrs Veronica Howell asking who would represent the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service. Cllr Mitcheson volunteered to do this. Cllr Ling suggested that a donation of £50 should be given to the British Legion. This was agreed unanimously. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mrs Howell.	CS
18.0	Any Other Business	
18.1	<u>District Councillor's report.</u> Cllr Millar gave a report, which is attached as Annex E.	
18.2	<u>Rural Media Company meeting.</u> Cllr Clarke agreed to attend a meeting of the Rural Media Company in Leominster. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Company of Cllr Clarke's attendance.	CS
19.0	Date of next meeting The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 8 th November in the Siward James Centre.	

BRIEF DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED LOCALISM BILL

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE

Groups, including Parish councils and voluntary Groups, will be given the right to challenge to run services provided by the Council. Anything from transport to childcare.

MOST WANTED LIST

Councils will be required to draw up a register of local assets like pubs, shops, libraries. If these are subsequently put up for sale then Parish Councils and local groups will be invited to bid and have priority to purchase and run on behalf of the community.

COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUMS

If Councils or Fire and Police authorities wish to set Council tax above a ceiling set by central government a local Referendum will automatically be called.

LOCAL ISSUES REFERENDUMS

People can call for a referendum on local issues. The Council will have to consider, but not necessarily abide by, any results.

POWER OF COMPETENCE

According to the BBC summary “A "power of competence" would give local authorities - including some parish councils - the right to do "anything apart from that which is specifically prohibited", something the government says will let them run services "free from Whitehall diktat" and help them "innovate and work together with others to drive down costs". The bill also includes measure to allow councils to go back to being run by committees - instead of by a mayor and cabinet.”

ELECTED MAYORS

Does not affect Herefordshire

COUNCILLORS RIGHT TO CAMPAIGN

Councillors will be allowed to campaign on issues even if they opposed them at election, but can be prosecuted if they withhold or hide information on an interest they hold.

RULES ON SETTING PAY FOR SENIOR OFFICERS

Councils and Fire and Police authorities have to create rules to set pay for senior officers and abide by them

PLANNING

Probably the area of greatest impact for the Parish Council, and wide ranging, also ties in with the proposed new National Planning Policy Framework. In brief it is proposed that:

“Communities will be given the freedom to build new homes and amenities in their area – rural or urban – with opportunities to secure substantial funding at a local level.

1. Local communities will be given the power to grant planning permission on new developments where a local majority are in favour. Communities will need support to identify suitable land, sources of finance and hold a local referendum for their proposals.
2. New Homes Bonus will be paid on each new home with a large proportion ring fenced for the local level, including parish councils.
3. Neighbourhood Plans will become the building blocks of the planning system, providing a framework to develop homes and amenities independent of existing targets. A ‘Neighbourhood Panel’ will lead the implementation of these plans.”

(Extracted from Community Sense: The Localism Bill: Key Points for Local Partners One Page Summary)
Financial considerations will be a “major consideration”, although amendments to this have been requested.

COUNCIL TENANCIES

Councils will be given more freedom to say who goes on their housing list, will retain more of the rental income, can use more private housing rather than social housing, use more flexible contracts. The TSA is abolished and handling of complaints will change.

SOME COMMENTS

RTPI

The proposed neighbourhood planning system remains overly complex and this may mean that neighbourhood planning will not be as visionary, inclusive, widespread or effective as intended. Government amendments still do not deal with many of the key issues.

www.rtpi.org.uk

Localism Bill: Changes needed to improve the Bill further

PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION

"The Patients Association is deeply concerned by some of the changes proposed in the Localism Bill. Community groups may be well placed to take over and run libraries and playgrounds but we have reservations about them taking over nursing homes. These need to be managed by people who have a background in nursing and medicine to ensure patients have access to safe and high quality care."

<http://www.patients-association.com/>

Patients Association response to the announcement of the Localism Bill

NATIONAL TRUST

The giveaway is clause 124 in the localism bill. This privileges ‘local financial considerations’, to promote ‘a presumption in favour of sustainable development’. The word sustainable is here vacuous. This is a direct reversal of the past presumption AGAINST the development of countryside land.

This is enhanced by the leaked draft of the national planning policy framework. Here paragraph 19 states that “the government’s clear expectation is that we move to a system where the default answer to development is yes” except where it would compromise “key sustainable principles”. These principles are vacuous and again left unstated.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Trust for the Future: The Role of the National Trust and the Voluntary Sector in the Planning System

By Sir Simon Jenkins, Chairman of the National Trust

Wednesday 20 July, 2011

CIPFA (CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING)

A final, but significant, concern is that local authorities will be responsible for paying compensation to private land owners for any real costs incurred when they are required to go through the CRtB process.

The consultation suggests that the level of compensation will be covered in monies provided to local government under the government's New Burdens Assessment. Local authorities, however, will clearly want some reassurance that these funds will adequately cover the potential costs of compensation payments, and there is no mention of associated legal or administration costs of handling such claims.

<http://www.publicfinance.co.uk/features/2011/08/community-right-or-wrong/>

Community right or wrong

COUNCIL TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

CPRE believes the Bill, which is central to the government's decentralising agenda, leaves too much power in the hands of developers, making neighbourhoods vulnerable to unwanted and damaging projects being forced upon them with no mechanism available to appeal.

www.cpre.org.uk

(published by Agenda)

FEDERATION OF MASTER BUILDERS

The decision to retain the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will also hamper housing delivery as it is expected to add around £18,000 per unit to production costs. The FMB is calling on the Government to return to the pre-election commitment made by the Conservative Party to 'scrap CIL and non-site specific planning obligations and instead introduce a single unified local tariff'.

www.fmb.org.uk

(published by Agenda)

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES

Details re progress, amendments, latest draft etc

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/localism.html>

Plain English Guide to the Bill

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishguide>

RTPI activity re Bill

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/3741>

LGA discussion

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=15692252>

Planning resources coverage

http://www.planningresource.co.uk/go/localism_bill/

Community Sense

http://www.communitysense.co.uk/reports/Localism_Community_Summary.pdf

BALANCE AT 5 APRIL	BALANCE AT 18 AUGUST	
LLOYDS	4147	5985
TOTAL BALANCE	4147	5985
INCOME		
ADVERTISING	418	
VAT		
REFUND	1464	
CAR PARK LOAN	375	
COMMUNITY PLAN	0	
PRECEPT	4075	
FLOOD GROUP	123	
TOTAL INCOME	6455	0
EXPENSES		
CAR PARK LOAN	750	0
COMMUNITY PLAN	416	0
CHURCH GRANT	0	
CLERK SALARY	758	152
CLERK EXPENSES	259	52
CAR PARK	1020	0
INSURANCE	610	0
WEBSITE	0	
NEWSLETTER	0	
FLOOD GROUP	209	112
ADVERT	0	
HALL RENTAL	105	61
SOCIETY OF COUNCIL CLERKS	0	
PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	53	53
AUDIT	0	
PARISH HALL GRANT	0	
BUNTING	26	
GRASS CUTTING	0	
OAK POSTS	842	
BRITISH LEGION GRANT	0	
TOTAL EXPENSES	5048	430
BALANCE AT 14 SEPTEMBER	5554	5555
CHEQUES RAISED NOT BANKED		
TOTAL	0	

CHEQUES/INCOME NOT BANKED

ADVERTISING	599
VAT	
REFUND	222
PRECEPT	4075
TOTAL	4297

BALANCE **9851**

INVOICES AWAITING APPROVAL

NEWSLETTER	869
WEBSITE	40
FLOOD GROUP	40

TOTAL **949**

BALANCE **8902**

REPRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

LADYCLOSE ORCHARD	158
FLOOD GROUP	1552
COMMUNITY PLAN	194
PARISH COUNCIL	6998

FUTURE COMMITTED EXPENDITURE

WEBSITE	200
COMMUNITY PLAN	750
TOTAL	950

FUTURE INCOME

COMMUNITY PLAN	750
TOTAL	750

REMAINING FUNDS **6798**

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT (3 OCTOBER 2011)**‘Private Viewing’ – Monday, 12 September.**

The ‘Private Viewing’ was held as planned for all those residents whose properties had been surveyed, whether or not they were eligible for the Environment Agency Property-Level Flood Protection Grant. All but two of those nominated on the list attended and completed the equipment selection forms. The other two were chased up by the Secretary and all the selection forms have now been sent to the Amey Project Officer, Mr Ziad Malik.

Amey now have to work with the chosen suppliers and their surveyors to cost the flood protection measures for each property and set up the contracts for supplying and installing them. We hope that installation can start within the next month or so. We also hope that the project will come in under budget and that, if so, the Environment Agency will be prepared to allow the underspend to be allocated to those who, for various reasons, have been assessed by a narrow margin to be ineligible.

‘Village Evening’ – Tuesday, 13 September.

The ‘Village Evening’ was the opportunity for all the other residents in Bodenham to see the property-level flood protection measures available and to meet Mrs Mary Dhonau. In all some 40 people attended, including the Chairman and Parish Clerk from Brimfield and Little Hereford Parish Council and the former Mayor of Hereford, Cllr Anna Toon, who lives at Sutton St Nicholas.

Launch of the *Know Your Flood Risk* Campaign – Monday, 7 November

The *Know Your Flood Risk* Campaign is now headed by Mrs Mary Dhonau and she has persuaded her colleagues to use Bodenham as the venue for the launch of the 2011 Campaign before it moves on to the House of Commons later in the week. This will be a county-wide event sponsored by the Campaign and by both the Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council.

It will be held in the Parish Hall and will start at 2.00pm with a flood protection exhibition similar to the ones held at the Siward James Centre, but with the suppliers present and available to talk about their products. Only suppliers with “kite marked” products will be invited. This part of the event will finish at 6.30pm and from 7.30pm to 9.30pm there will be an Open Forum chaired by Mrs Dhonau on Flood Insurance.

Working Party Sessions.

Friday, 16 September. The Group cleared the section of the Millcroft Brook between Brockington Bridge and the C1125, and then the stretch behind 15, Ash Grove Close.

Friday, 30 September. The Group cleared the section of the Millcroft Brook from 15, Ash Grove Close to Millcroft Farm.

Monthly Meeting (27 September). The BFPG's monthly Meeting was held on Tuesday, 27 September and, in the absence of Cllr and Mrs Mitcheson, Mr Tony Clark and Mrs Jean Fryer stood in as Chairman and Secretary respectively.

Social Events.

Saturday, 15 October. The BFPG's Annual Bonfire Party will be held at Millcroft Farm from 6.30pm. All members of the Parish Council who wish to attend will be very welcome. Sausage rolls and mulled wine will be provided.

Saturday, 12 November. The Group's Annual Quiz Night will be held in the Parish Hall. The Parish Council are invited to form a team.

Pride of Herefordshire Awards.

The BFPG have been nominated for a Pride of Herefordshire Award in the 'Environment' Category. There is stiff competition from the other two nominees in this category but, even if the Group does not win, it is still very gratifying to have been recognised as being worth nominating. The Secretary and Chairman have been invited to represent the Group at the Awards Ceremony, which will take place on Wednesday, 12 October in Hereford.

Annex D**Bodenham Parish Hall Report**

Last meeting date: 13 Sept.

There was a general discussion on the Hall and if we are currently optimising the use of our facility.

Refurbishment of Kitchen/Toilets. Work group to investigate what is needed to update the kitchen and refurbish the toilets to acceptable current standards. They will report back with findings and recommendations at the next meeting on 7th Dec.

We have also just received a positive email which indicates funding may be available to help with the kitchen. Chris Smith has been liaising with Rob Grunsell, Development officer, Community Buildings.

Website: One of the committee recently pointed out the Parish Hall section of the website is thin on content with a very out of date photo (pre car park). This Wednesday, another work group will meet to explore ideas for improvement. Again, a report and recommendations will be prepared before the next Committee meeting.

Flicks/Sticks: First film of the new season shown on 23 Sept. It may be worth exploring if we can run this operation independently of Arts Alive (e.g. If we can independently obtain the film performance rights)

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the month's Report:

The Local Development Plan	Refreshing Herefordshire's Transport Strategy
Localism	Health Changes
Herefordshire's Brand and Logo	The Pride of Herefordshire Awards

- **Local Development Plan**

Just a reminder that the Ward consultation on the LDP for Herefordshire is taking place on Tuesday 25th October 2011 in Bodenham Village Hall at 7:30 pm. All Parish Councillors and other interested parties within the Ward welcome.

- **Refreshing Herefordshire's Transport Strategy**

Work has commenced on the future transport Strategy for Herefordshire, aimed at identifying plans for short term (up to 2015), medium term (up to 2021) and long-term (up to 2031) time horizons. I hope to be able to provide more information shortly.

- **Localism**

The new localities structure for Herefordshire is starting to take shape. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the way the localities have been created – far too complicated to discuss here – Hampton Court Ward falls into 2 separate localities. The majority of parishes are in Leominster Locality, and just two parishes are in Bromyard Locality. Watch this space for news about how these changes might affect the Ward – it's still too early to say.

- **Health Changes**

The new McMillan/Renton Unit opens on 15th October at the County Hospital, further improving the services available in Hereford.

- **Herefordshire's new Brand and Logo**

As many of you may have seen in local newspapers, the County has a new Brand and Logo, designed to get **Herefordshire** noticed and recognised more easily – whether used in tourism, commerce, or industry. It provides an easily recognisable visual identity for the County in any context saying this is **Herefordshire**.

- **The Pride of Herefordshire Awards**

I'm delighted to be able to report on the success of the Bodenham Flood Prevention Group in the 2011 Pride of Herefordshire Awards. Against strong competition the Group was awarded the Environmental Champions Award – a fitting tribute for the hard work everyone involved has done over a number of years.

Many congratulations to the Bodenham Flood Protection Group.

If you need to contact me please either email me on jmillar2@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone me on 07767 441003, and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Jeremy Millar
District Councillor, Hampton Court Ward
October 2011