

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES
CENTRE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 8th APRIL 2013****Attendance**

Cllr Robin Knott (Chair)
 Cllr Roger Austin
 Cllr Alec Avery
 Cllr Stan Davis
 Cllr Dennis Jackson
 Cllr Pam James-Moore
 Cllr Tony Mitcheson
 Cllr Jeff Pollard
 Cllr Rhian Powell

Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor)

8 members of the public were present.

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>1. CSO Steph Annette addressed the meeting and reported that Bromyard police station is to close, but not in the immediate future. CSO Annette further reported that later in April the Police are running their Rogue Trader Week, about which further details will be circulated for older residents. Mrs Gwen Bowden asked about speeding traffic on the A417. CSO Annette said that the speed camera van had been operating on the A417 in Bodenham.</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>2. Apologies were received from Cllr Clarke. In the temporary absence of Cllr Knott, Cllr Mitcheson chaired the meeting as far as Minute 7.</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>3. No declarations of interest were received.</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>4. The Minutes were accepted as a true record. (Proposer: Cllr Austin. Seconder: Cllr Avery).</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <p>5. Minute 4: Speeding Traffic on the A417. The Clerk reported that a meeting with Mr Lee-Jones had taken place that morning and would be reported on under Agenda Item 8.</p> <p>6. Minute 7: Playground Repairs and Painting. The Clerk reported that obtaining quotes was still in progress. Cllr Davis suggested that the problem of the drainage in the area around the swings might be solved by regular raking of the surface chippings and that this could be added to the Lengthsman's schedule. Cllr Jackson suggested that the painting of the playground equipment by volunteers should be postponed until the weather has improved</p> <p>7. Minute 21: Footpaths Officer. The Clerk reported that the post had been advertised in the last two editions of the <i>Newsletter</i>, but that the only person to have expressed an interest had later decided not to apply for the post. It was agreed that the Clerk should advertise the post in the <i>Newsletter</i> again.</p> <p>8. Minute 29: Letter from Mrs Alison Tutty. Cllr James-Moore reported that she and Cllr Pollard had visited Mrs Tutty and had suggested that she attend this Meeting. See Minute 9 below.</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u></p> <p>9. Mrs Alison Tutty said that problems were still continuing around the development at Upper Holbatch Farm, despite all procedures having been followed correctly, and that many issues remained. She reported that, for example, the police had visited on four occasions following alleged intimidation and aggression from the new owner, that drains and ditches had been blocked (and in one case a drain had been put in without permission) and that the road had been blocked for an unreasonable length of time while vehicles were unloading. Mrs Tutty said</p>	<p>CS</p>

<p>that all the residents in Holbatch Lane were concerned about the matter. Cllr Powell pointed out that, however unfortunate the situation might be, it was not one which the Parish Council had any power to resolve. Cllr James-Moore suggested that the best way forward was for Cllr Millar to advise. Cllr Millar replied that the enforcement and planning officers at Herefordshire Council had said that nothing had been done at the site which was not included in the planning permission, but that work had now stopped, while the owner restored hedges and other aspects of the site which should have been completed before work began there. Cllr Millar reported that the owner had to complete the restorative work within three months and could not start work on the new buildings until this work had been finished. Mrs Tutty replied that the Council Highways Advisor had told her that some of the work was sub-standard, but had then changed his mind. Cllr Millar said that he would approach Mr Kevin Bishop – the area planner – and the Police Liaison Officer.</p>	JM	
<p>10. Mrs Liz Davies expressed concern about walking towards the village green past the hedges near Berrington Drive. The Clerk was instructed to write to the owners of the hedges, if the names of the owners were sent to him.</p>		CS
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING</u></p>		
<p>11. The Clerk reported that Mr David Tilford had been asked to arrange and chair a meeting of a working group to carry forward the proposal to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Bodenham, but had declined to do so, though he was willing to be a member of the working group. Cllr Knott suggested that the members of the Planning Sub-Committee should form the core membership of the working group. Cllr Mitcheson agreed to serve on the working group. Cllr Clarke was nominated to be chairman by Cllr Austin. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Mitcheson and was agreed unanimously.</p>	Lengthsman Sub-Group	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7 – LENGTHSMAN: SCHEDULE FOR 2013-14</u></p>		
<p>12. It was agreed that the Lengthsman Sub-Group should consider this matter in time for the next Meeting. Cllr Powell suggested that the playground and the grips around the Parish should be added to the schedule. Cllr Jackson suggested that, in the light of Mrs Tutty's concerns (see Minute 9 above), the Lengthsman should make regular visits to Holbatch Lane to attend to and report on problems there. (See also Minute 28).</p>		
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 8 – REPORT ON MEETING WITH MR ANDREW LEE-JONES</u></p>		
<p>13. Cllr Mitcheson reported on the meeting with Mr Lee-Jones of Herefordshire Council, which had taken place that morning and had been attended by himself, Cllr Jackson and the Clerk. An email from Mr Lee-Jones' after the Meeting is attached as Annex A. Minutes of the Meeting taken by the Clerk are attached as Annex B.</p>	CS	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 9 – REPORT ON THE LITTER PICK</u></p>		
<p>14. The Clerk reported that a litter pick had taken place on 6th April, which was attended by 20 people, and that a large amount of rubbish had been collected. The full list of the items of rubbish, which had been collected, and a photograph of the rubbish are attached as Annex C.</p>		
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10 – REPORT ON THE PARISH WALK</u></p>		
<p>15. The Clerk reported that a Parish Walk had taken place on Friday 5th April involving Cllrs James-Moore, Mitcheson and Pollard, the Clerk and a representative of Amey. A list of the items identified as requiring action by Amey is attached as Annex D.</p>		
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 11 – APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR</u></p>		
<p>16. The Clerk reported that the annual external audit had to be completed by 30th June and that an internal audit was required before submission of the audit form. Cllr Powell proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that Mr Paul Hemmings should be invited to act as internal auditor. This was agreed unanimously. The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr Hemmings.</p>		
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 12 – FOOTPATHS OFFICER</u></p>		
<p>17. This item was covered under Minute 7 above.</p>		
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 13 – FINANCE</u></p>		
<p>18. Cllr Knott reported that he had circulated the monthly accounts, which are attached as Annex E, and that the balance of the Parish Council's account was £6,890. He recalled that at the previous Parish Council Meeting Cllr Mitcheson had asked for the accounts to include a projection for a few months into the next financial year. Cllr Knott apologized that, because of pressure of work, he had been unable to meet this request and said that he would do so for the next set of accounts. Cllr Austin proposed and Cllr Avery seconded that the accounts be</p>		

accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

19. The Clerk reported that the following invoices had been received:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| - DC Gardening Services (Lengthsman) | £440.00 |
| - Leominster Community Resource Centre
(November 2012 <i>Newsletter</i>) | £184.88 |
| - Leominster Community Resource Centre
(March 2013 <i>Newsletter</i>) | £222.65 |
| - Mr R Hemming (BFPG equipment) | £44.90 |

20. Cllr Mitcheson proposed and Cllr Pollard seconded that these invoices be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14 – PLANNING

21. The Clerk reported that a planning application (ref. N130590/FH) had been received for a two-storey extension at Little Brockington. Cllr James-Moore said that she and Cllr Pollard had visited the site. Cllr Pollard said that the proposed extension would have no impact on other residents. Cllr James-Moore proposed and Cllr Pollard seconded that the application be supported. This was agreed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15 – UPDATES

22. **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Mitcheson gave a report on the activities of the Bodenham Flood Protection Group, which is attached as Annex F.

23. **Parish Hall.** Cllr Knott reported that the next meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee would take place on 10th April, when the main item on the agenda would be the replacement of the kitchen, for which a grant of £9-10k had been received towards the total cost of around £20k, leaving a similar amount to be funded from Parish Hall funds. Cllr Knott also reported that the seats in the Parish Hall are to be replaced and that a broadband connection has now been installed.

24. **Lengthsman.** This item was covered under Agenda Item 7 (Minute 12 above).

AGENDA ITEM 16 - CORRESPONDENCE NOT PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED

25. The Clerk reported that no correspondence had been received, which had not been previously circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 17 – OTHER BUSINESS (INCLUDING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS)

26. Cllr Millar reported that:

- a. Herefordshire Council Adult Social Services are seeking to increase their funding by £3-4m in order to meet their standards targets.
- b. The Highways Agency have agreed to conduct a safety survey on the A49 from Hereford northwards to the Shropshire border. The Dinmore to Ford Bridge stretch of the road is believed to be the most dangerous section.
- c. Inflation will add £2m to Herefordshire Council's costs in 2013-14. £50m has to be saved over 5 years – equivalent to one third of government funding. Details would be given to parish councils in the near future.
- d. From 1st April Herefordshire Council became responsible for administering the Social Fund, which was previously administered by the Department of Work and Pensions and which helps to meet the emergency needs of individuals.
- e. Herefordshire Council is to decrease in size from 58 to 53 councillors from April 2015. Changes to the Hampton Court Ward include the loss of Dinmore and the gain of Pencombe and Much Cowarne. The Ward will be renamed Hampton Ward
- f. £1.4 of extra funding has been obtained for repairing potholes and making other road improvements. Priority will be given to smaller roads – according to usage.

27. Cllr James-Moore reported that the Bodenham Newsletter website is still out of date. Cllr Powell noted that at least it still has a link to the Bodenham Parish website. Cllr Mitcheson pointed out that the Newsletter website is still incorrectly copyrighted to Mrs Haworth, which the Council should not allow to continue any longer. He added that he found it disappointing that the work which he and others put into ensuring that the Parish Website was kept up to date and presented Bodenham as being an active and forward-looking community was being undermined by the Newsletter Website which gives the impression that nothing has happened in the Parish since last September. It was agreed that the Chairman would be asked to write to Mrs Haworth on the subject.

28. Cllr Powell enquired about the grass-cutting by the War Memorial and elsewhere, which was not done by the Lengthsman, and whether this should be added to the Lengthsman's schedule. Cllr Knott asked whether any agreement was in place concerning this work. The Clerk

BC

<p>reported that he had been unable to find any reference to an agreement in previous minutes and had written to the person concerned, who had confirmed that no agreement existed. It was agreed that the Lengthsman Sub-Committee would consider the matter as part of its consideration of the Lengthsman's 2013-14 schedule.</p>	<p>Lengthsman Sub- Committee</p>	
<p>29. Cllr Pollard remarked that in its present position the grit bin outside the Church rather detracted from wedding and other photographs there and asked whether it could be moved slightly to one side. It was agreed that the possibility of doing this should be investigated.</p>		<p>CS</p>
<p>30. Cllr Austin reported that the litter bin on the village green had been overflowing with rubbish, but had now been emptied. The Clerk replied that this situation had not occurred for some time because Focsa had been emptying the bin on a regular basis. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored.</p>		<p>CS</p>
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 18 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p>		
<p>31. The next Meeting will be held in the Siward James Centre at 7.00pm on Monday, 13th May 2013 following the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.</p>		
<p>The Meeting ended at 9.25pm.</p>		

Report by Mr Andrew Lee-Jones on Meeting Held on 8th April 2013

Further to our meeting yesterday I wish to confirm as follows:-

I will contact the Safer Roads Partnership asking that they provide information upon the enforcement activities on the A417 and also highlight your request for consideration of enforcement along the C1125, but advise that the Parish contact them on this element.

Gateways – I am happy to consider designs and ideas for gating on the entrances to the village and would suggest that any proposals are linked to the existing speed limit terminals. There are many options and designs across the country but would direct you towards wooden gate type structures rather than 'harder' features i.e. stone walls/planters from a safety point of view. I have attached a couple of guide lines that although not directly featuring this type do provide current thinking and trial areas reports.

I have made some enquiries about the hedge to the left of Woodhouse Lane and following our meeting last year with residents of the lane, it was cut back as far as we were able to get the owner to do helping to improve the visibility.

The last quotation we have for solar powered vehicle actuated (VA) signs is higher than I mentioned this morning in that supply and erect would be in the region of £4500.00 this would have the speed limit sign plus the text 'SLOW DOWN'. We would take on the maintenance once in place..

I will arrange for a review of signing with regards to providing road narrows and possibly pedestrians in road, for the post office and bridge on the C1125.

As discussed the request for the 20mph limit at the school should be channelled through the Councils Transportation team, I did have a look after our meeting and note that although there are signs in place an interim measure may be the provision of flashing lights as have been provided at other schools, again through the Safer Routes to Schools team.

I have looked on the current footway ranking list and cannot locate Millcroft Lane, and understand that there are no plans to re-rank (including new requests) at this time as there are currently 52 items on it with a projected budget of £20K this year. Similarly the footway at Englands Gate is on file waiting to be ranked.

Regards

Andrew

Report on Meeting with Mr Andrew Lee-Jones (Amey) with Bodenham Parish Councillors

Present: Mr Andrew Lee-Jones; Cllr Tony Mitcheson; Cllr Dennis Jackson; Mr Chris Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Jeff Pollard; Cllr Rhian Powell

The Clerk had prepared an agenda, which was circulated.

Item 1: Notes of last meeting held on 3rd October 2011

The notes of the previous meeting held on 3rd October 2011 were circulated. With respect to the Safer Roads Partnership Mr Lee-Jones said that he would request that information on their activities on the A417 be provided to the Parish Council, but that the Parish Council should make its own request for speed enforcement on the C1125. Cllr Mitcheson said that SID data exists for the C1125 and the C1121.

Item 2: Pelican or similar crossing on the A417:

After discussion it was agreed that it was not practical or affordable to install a pelican or similar crossing on the A417.

Item 3: False gates on the A417

Mr Lee-Jones said that he would supply information about false gates, but that installation would require a licence from the Highways Agency and that relevant regulations be met. The Parish Council would have to fund the cost of the gates and their installation, but Amey would fund speed limit signs.

Item 4: 30mph limit on the A417

Mr Lee-Jones said that a 30mph speed limit would not be observed and might increase traffic speeds. He said that he would look at whether the hedge on the corner of Wood House Lane could be cut back further. Cllr Jackson suggested that a 'Concealed Exit' sign could be installed, but Mr Lee-Jones said that such signs are unofficial and that Amey, therefore, could not install them.

Item 5: Installing a SID on the A417

Mr Lee-Jones said that Amey now control SIDs and that he would look for suitable locations on the A417, but he thought that it would be possible to install a SID on the A417. He said that he would find prices for a SID, but that it could not be installed near to false gates. Perhaps gates could be installed on the A417 at one end of the village and a SID at the other

Item 6: traffic calming on the C1125 near the post office and Dunfield Lane

and

Item 7: installing a pavement by the post office

Mr Lee-Jones said that the most effective form of traffic calming is 'sleeping policemen', but these are not supported these days. He said that he would consider 'Road Narrows', 'Pedestrians In Road' and 'Narrow bridge signs' on the C1125, but that, while installing a pavement might improve drivers' behaviour, it might also increase danger.

Item 8: a 20mph speed limit by St Michael's School

Cllr Mitcheson said that this item was now in the St Michael's School Traffic Plan. Mr Lee-Jones said that the C1121 was eligible for a 20mph limit and that, if the proposal for a 20mph limit was in the School's Plan, it would be added automatically to the Herefordshire Council list of speed limits to be introduced. He said that the School should expedite the proposal, but the Parish Council might ensure that the School did this.

Item 9: installing a pavement along Millcroft Road

It was agreed that a installing a pavement along Millcroft Road is not a practical proposition.

Item 10: extending the footpath between the A417 and Englands Gate

Cllr Mitcheson said that the owner of Englands Gate was happy to lose some land from her field, so that a pavement could be installed – with the hedge replaced by a post and rail fence. Mr Lee-Jones said that he would check whether the proposal was on the 3-year rolling programme.

Item 11: remodelling of the A417/C1125 junction

Mr Lee-Jones said that he would check whether the junction could be remodelled, but that remodelling was normally based on the number of accidents which had occurred at a junction. He added that the installation of a pavement would largely obviate the need for the junction to be remodelled.

List of Items Collected on the 6th April Litter Pick

1 full dustbin
3 gas canisters
9 tyres
1 pouffe
1 bedside table
4 square metres of vinyl flooring (approximately)
2 fly-tipped bags of rubbish
1 printer
A few small slabs
Part of a car bumper
The bottom half of a blue water butt
1 large flowerpot
25 black bags of collected rubbish



Outcomes from the Parish Walk Held on 5th April 2013

Present:

Cllr Jeff Pollard
 Cllr Tony Mitcheson
 Cllr Pam James-Moore
 Supervisor, Amey Bromyard
 Mr Chris Smith (Clerk)

Item No	Co-ordinates/ Rd number/ name	Location	Defect Number	Problem	Defect Category	Action By and Time Scale
1.	C1121	Millcroft Road near junction with Ketch Lane		Two open gullies – one dangerous		Fit letterbox gullies (?) and flap valves.
2.	C1121	Millcroft Road near England's Gate		Water rising through road surface		Investigate
3.	C1125	Outside Bache's Bargains	120781	Lines need re-tracing		Retrace lines
4.	C1125	Across front of England's Gate	120782	Lines need re-tracing		Retrace lines
5.	C1121	Lay-by outside no 15 Millcroft Rd	120785	Clean out gully & check pipework – drainage investigation needed		Jet the drain back towards the C1125
6.	U94021	Dunfield Lane (also known as Smeadal's Lane)		Head wall over drainage pipe damaged		Repair
7.	U94021	Dunfield Lane at junction with C1125		Speed limit sign moved by flail		Restore to correct angle
8.	C1114	Berrington , Chapel Lane	120789	Drainage – but house owner willing to install pipe under drive at own expense.		Occupier is Mr Graham Parker (01568 797555), who requests supply of verge posts after the drainage pipe has been installed.
9.	C1114	Chapel Lane		Road surface very smooth		Resurfacing

10.	U94018	Rowberry Lane – Junction with C1125		Speed limit sign moved by flail		Restore to correct angle
11.	U94018	Rowberry Lane	120801	Bad potholes near Blue Cedar Cottage		Remake road surface
12	U94018	Rowberry Lane between Linton's Farm and A417		Culverts fail to prevent road from flooding. Also grips and gabions need attention.		Repair/remake as appropriate
13	C1125	Pugh's Farm		Slurry leaking into drains through holes in wall		Contact farmer
14	C1125	Littlefield (last house on right in Hereford direction) and Fairview		Blocked drains		Jet throughout Bodenham along C1125

Bodenham Parish Council

	July 12	Aug 15	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Income										
PC Opening Balance	7263.00	5657.00	5413.97	4361.26	7457.05	7062.44	5558.87	5329.99	5921.03	4499.7
Newsletter	231.00	232.38	25.00	425.00	325.00	245.00	204.5	392.5	128.78	250
Vat Refund	0.00	123.95								200
Car Park Loan	0.00					374.91				
Community Plan	0.00				7.00			510		
Lengthsman			778.25			778.25	535.00			480
		42.38								
Precept	0.00			4890.00						
TOTAL	7494.00	6055.71	6217.22	9676.26	7789.05	8460.60	6298.37	6232.49	6049.81	5429.7
Expenditure										
Car Park Loan	0.00					749.83				
Church Grant	0.00			825.00						
Clerk Salary	152.00	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29
Clerk Expenses	31.00	62.13	19.00	66.00	31.00		13		21	40
HM Rev and Customs		30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32
Insurance	0.00									
Website	0.00					400.00	14.5			
Newsletter	367.00		236.25			294.25	175.5	159.85	184.8	222.65
Playground repairs	648.00									
Hall Rental	44.00				117.00				128.25	50
Lengthsman	495.00	428.00	720.00	960.00		20.00			25	440
Playground Inspection				54.60						
Audit				162.00						

Parish Hall Grant						1200.00				
Jubilee	100.00									
Grass Cutting										650
Notice Boards			60.00							
Chapel			500.00							
Parish Plan					427.00	6.04				
chq 638			169.10							
BFPG						30.00	6			
IT equipment							607.77			
Festival									400	
CT Equipment Grant									639.45	
British Legion Grant						50.00				
TOTAL PC Expenditure	1837.00	641.74	1855.96	2219.21	726.61	2901.73	968.38	311.46	1550.11	1554.26
PC Closing Balance	5657.00	5413.97	4361.26	7457.05	7062.44	5558.87	5329.99	5921.03	4499.7	3875.44
BFPG Open Balance	1721.00	1737.00	1737.53	1687.53	1667.28	1667.28	2014.21	1900.27	2250.27	2232.96
BFPG Inc	146.00	33.81				428.00	33.6	350	60	0
BFPG Ex	130.00	33.28	50.00	20.25		81.07	147.54		77.31	141.02
BFPG Closing Balance	1737.00	1737.53	1687.53	1667.28	1667.28	2014.21	1900.27	2250.27	2232.96	2091.94
LADY Close Orchard	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00
Tot Closing Balance	7552.00	7309.50	6206.79	9282.33	8887.72	7731.08	7388.26	8329.3	6890.66	6125.38

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(8 APRIL 2013)

1. **Water Levels.** There has only been one occasion in the past month when the water level in the Millcroft Brook has risen above 0.5m. That was on Friday, 22 March at 2.45pm and it peaked at just under 0.8m at 4.10pm, so did not present any problem at all.
2. **Outstanding Tasks.**
 - a. Amey Herefordshire have finally cleared away the pile of debris from the Ketch Lane junction, possibly because the Parish Walk was imminent.
 - b. We took the opportunity of the Walk to show the Amey representative the constant flow of water down the North side of Millcroft Road. The water is said to be coming from a spring in the field East of the telephone kiosk, but we could see no sign of this. The Amey supervisor said that he would have the problem investigated and we await the outcome with interest.
 - c. The Parish Walk also looked at the damage to the unclassified roads (U94017 and U94018) and their adjacent ditches in the Maund Bryan area reported by Mr Grumbley and this has also been listed for follow up action. In particular, the collapsed sides to the roadway in several places just East of Rowberry Court present a potentially serious risk to traffic.
3. **External Contacts.**
 - a. **Visit of the CEO of Herefordshire Council.**
 - (1) Just over nine months ago (25 June 2012) Cllr Jeremy Millar arranged for the then CEO of Herefordshire Council, Mr Chris Bull, to visit us. We used that opportunity to ask for Mr Bull's help in resolving two issues – the clearance of the culvert in Mr Pugh's field and the replacement of the Ketch Lane culverts. Mr Bull promised to investigate and get back to us, but, despite pressure from Cllr Millar for an answer, no response was forthcoming before Mr Bull departed from his post.
 - (2) Cllr Millar arranged for the new CEO of Herefordshire Council, Mr Alistair Neill, to visit us on Tuesday, 26th March 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.
 - b. **Presentation to Mordiford Annual Parish Meeting.** 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.
4. **Monthly Meeting.** Our most recent Meeting was held on Tuesday, 26 March and, despite the cold, was very well attended, with nearly 30 members present. Amongst other items, the potential for increased run off - and as a result a heightened risk of flooding - created by the Maund Court planning application was once again raised and this led on to a discussion of the importance of the Parish having a neighbourhood plan.
5. **Working Party Sessions.**
 - a. Given that both Spring and British Summer Time have officially started, we have begun to think about working parties. Weather and water levels permitting, the first session is planned for Friday, 26 April and the initial aim will be to clear the drains and flap valves. As always, Councillors are very welcome to take part!

b. Meanwhile, we have already carried out two training sessions to teach members how to operate our pumps. These were held outside Millcroft Farm on Saturday 16 March and Saturday 23 March. Although the conditions were not ideal - there was snow on the ground on the second occasion - the ten members who attended got a lot of value out of the training and there was general agreement that we ought to hold refresher courses every six months or so.

K.A.M.