

## BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE, BODENHAM  
MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011**

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <p>Cllr Derek Ling (Chair) Cllr Robin Knott (Vice-Chair) Cllr Bob Clarke Cllr Stan Davis Cllr Mrs Pam James-Moore Cllr Tony Mitcheson Cllr Jeff Pollard Cllr Ms Rhian Powell Cllr Mrs Katy Wrathall</p> <p>Mr Chris Smith (Clerk)</p> <p>Mr Keith Grumbley and CSO Steph Annette were present for the introductory session.</p> <p>11 members of the public were present.</p>	<p>DL RK BC SD PJ-M AM JP RP KW</p> <p>CS</p>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
1.1	1. <b>Presentation by Keith Grumbley on the CLP.</b> Keith Grumbley gave an update presentation on the Bodenham Community-Led Plan. The brief for the presentation is attached as Annex A.	
1.2	2. <b>Report from CSO Steph Annette.</b> CSO Annette reported that a Rural Watch briefing was distributed recently covering incidents, suspicious vehicles, etc. Briefings can be distributed by email or viewed at <a href="http://www.bodenhamparish.org.uk">www.bodenhamparish.org.uk</a> . She also reported that, as in most villages, the Neighbourhood Watch group in Bodenham is not active, but it is still running. A group needs to be proactive, but cannot be run by the Police. CSO Annette suggested that the CLP meeting on 24 <sup>th</sup> September might be an opportunity to encourage more participation. She advised that, because thefts of scrap metal are widespread, any scrap metal should be traded in as soon as possible.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor) and Cllr Dennis Jackson had sent apologies for their absence.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest.</b> No declarations of interest were received.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meetings</b> The minutes of the July and August meetings were accepted as a correct record, except that references to Mr Howard Cosgrave of the North Herefordshire Hunt should read Mr Howard Colegrave.	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Matters arising from the minutes</b>	
5.1	<u>Large vehicles using Chapel Lane.</u> Cllr Clarke reported that a usage survey had been undertaken in Chapel Lane. The Clerk was instructed to seek to obtain the results of	

	<p>this survey. A member of the public had reported to the Clerk that S&amp;A Produce vehicles had been using Chapel Lane once again. The Clerk was instructed to contact S&amp;A Produce about this and to contact Simon Wells about the installation of a 'right turn only' at the exit from the grain store to prevent milk tankers using the lower half of Chapel Lane. Cllr Clarke suggested that a sign be placed on the A417 before the junction with Chapel Lane instructing drivers of HGVs not to use their satnav.</p>	CS
5.2	<p><u>Speeding traffic on the A417.</u> No reply had been received to the request to Herefordshire Council for the details of the traffic survey to be made available. The Clerk was instructed to email again.</p>	CS
5.3	<p><u>Provision of a playground slide.</u> No quotes had been received. The Clerk was instructed to pursue the matter.</p>	CS
5.4	<p><u>Speed Indicator Device.</u> Cllr Mitcheson reported that he had received a verbal quotation of £20 for each moving of the SID. Cllr Pollard offered to help with the transporting of the SID. It was agreed that he and Cllr Mitcheson would arrange to do this. Cllr Pollard asked about the use of the speed gun and whether it could be used more frequently in the village. Cllr Mitcheson replied that the Police deployed it very infrequently, owing to their lack of resources.</p>	JP/TM
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Action points from the minutes of the July and August meetings</b> See the previous item. Other action points from the list provided by the Clerk were accepted.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>Matters raised by members of the public</b></p>	
7.1	<p><u>Noticeboards.</u> Mrs Ronnie Parker asked whether new noticeboards could be provided. Cllr Ling reported that this was under consideration. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that noticeboards should be placed inside the new bus shelters.</p>	
7.2	<p><u>Hunt Open Day.</u> Mrs Liz Davies asked whether a letter of thanks could be sent to the North Herefordshire Hunt for their open day on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Ling agreed to write to the Hunt.</p>	DL
7.3	<p><u>SID timetable.</u> Mr Tony Clark reported that the approved timetable for the locations for the SID would expire shortly. The Clerk was instructed to seek approval for a new timetable from Herefordshire Council and to notify the police, when the new timetable had been approved.</p>	CS
7.4	<p><u>Footpath defects.</u> Mr Tony Clark reported the following defects in public footpath signage: (1) The finger &amp; post marking footpath No. BM18 where it leaves the A417 is missing. (2) The finger &amp; post marking footpath No. BM18 where it leaves Ketch Lane has been broken off and was when last seen lying in the hedge by the stile at Ketch Lane. (3) Just the finger post marking footpath No. BM23 where it leaves the A417 near Grit Farm is missing. The post/pole is still in place. The Clerk was instructed to inform the Parish footpaths officer and the PROW Officer at Amey about these defects.</p>	
7.5	<p><u>SID deployment.</u> Mr David Tilford suggested that the SID did not need to be moved fortnightly and could be left in one place for a month, which would reduce transport costs. However, Cllr Mitcheson stated that this would not result in much of a saving since the battery had to be changed and the data downloaded once a week.</p>	CS
7.6	<p><u>Speeding traffic on the A417.</u> Mr David Tilford commented that the Safer Road Partnership had been contacted about speeding traffic on the A417. He suggested that the Clerk should contact the SRP again. The Clerk was instructed to do so.</p>	CS
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Parish car park first registration</b> Ms Sue Newbould was emailed on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. No reply had been received.</p>	

**9.0 Housing strategy**

Herefordshire Council had asked parish councils about five themes within its joint housing strategy, which had been developed with Shropshire Council. Cllr Ling asked for views on these five issues. Cllr Ling said that the responses to the CLP questionnaire were relevant, although they did not cover the theme of fuel poverty, on which, as Cllr Mitcheson noted, the Parish Council has no information. Cllr Wrathall pointed out that new housing would require improved services, such as transport. Mrs Babs Mitcheson commented that the list of themes did not include lack of infrastructure, such as an inadequate drainage system. Cllr Wrathall said that homelessness – another theme – was not a problem in Bodenham. The Clerk was instructed to draft a response on behalf of the Parish Council and to circulate it to members.

CS

**10.0 Local Development Framework Consultation**

Cllr Millar had emailed about possible dates for an LDF meeting for the Hampton Court ward to be held in Bodenham Parish Hall. 7.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October was chosen as the most suitable date. The Clerk was instructed to inform Cllr Millar about this.

CS

**11.0 Speeding traffic near the war memorial**

Emails had been received complaining of speeding traffic in the vicinity of the war memorial and requesting that the Parish Council take action to reduce this. Cllr Wrathall said that speed bumps were not an appropriate solution, although Cllr Pollard suggested that small island speed bumps might be successful in slowing the traffic. Cllr Wrathall also commented that a permanent SID and speed signs, as are installed in Sutton St Nicholas, might be a solution. Cllr Ling said that the Parish Council and the CLP sub-group needed to jointly produce a clear solution and that the matter will be raised at the CLP Open Day. Cllr Wrathall suggested that CSO Annette should be consulted. Cllr Powell suggested that CSO Annette should talk to St Michael's School. Cllr Ling said that, when this was raised with Chris Gooding, he suggested looking at the School's travel plan, but nothing had come of this. Cllr Mitcheson suggested consulting Amey. The Clerk was instructed to contact Andrew Lee-Jones at Amey for advice.

CS

**12.0 BFPG exhibition of flood protection systems**

Cllr Mitcheson outlined the Exhibition, its sponsorship and the speakers. Bodenham is the launch of the *Know Your Flood Risk* national campaign – with the support and sponsorship of Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency. The Exhibition will be held in the afternoon of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. In the evening there will be a 'brains trust' on flood insurance.

**13.0 Finance**

13.1 Monthly account statements. Cllr Ling produced the monthly account statements, which are attached as Annex B. The accounts were accepted.

13.2 Outstanding invoices. The following invoices had been received and were approved:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| • Clerk's expenses                              | £52.07 |
| • Herefordshire Council (playground inspection) | £53.06 |
| • Siward James and Arkwright Trust (room hire)  | £60.75 |
| • Mrs Babs Mitcheson (BFPG expenses)            | £70.00 |
| • Mrs S Avery (purchase of BFPG equipment)      | £41.74 |

**14.0 Planning applications**

14.1 The following planning applications had been received:

- DMS/112159/F: Building plot adj. Charnwood, Marden: replacement of a 2-storey to include an attached garage (resubmission). **It was agreed that the**

<p>14.2</p>	<p><b>Parish Council had no objection to this application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMN/111325/CD: St. Michael's School, Church Lane: alterations to rear of school, including a walkway, timber pergolas, timber pavilion and three timber play village buildings. <b>It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application</b></li> <li>• DMN/112209/F: Brockington Golf Club: revision of layout to alleviate concerns of dominance of proposed new lodge design on surrounding area. <b>It was agreed that the Parish Council objected to this application.</b></li> </ul> <p>The following planning application had been approved by Herefordshire Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMS/111536/F: Hillside, Litmarsh: Proposed replacement dwelling: (Revised scheme of DMS/103039/F).</li> </ul>	
<p>15.0</p> <p>15.1</p> <p>15.2</p> <p>15.3</p>	<p><b>15.0 Updates</b></p> <p><u>Bodenham Flood Protection Group</u>. Cllr Mitcheson gave an update on the work of the BFPG. This is attached as Annex C.</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed to contact Amey about Millcroft Brook, which is dry for the first time in living memory.</p> <p>The Clerk was also instructed to inform Amey that no sandbags were needed this autumn.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CS</p>
<p>16.0</p>	<p><b>16.0 Correspondence not previously circulated</b></p> <p>An email had been received from Herefordshire Council requesting that Bodenham Parish Council send a representative to a meeting on broadband to be held in Yarpole on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm. It was agreed that Cllr Powell would attend</p>	<p>RP</p>
<p>17.0</p> <p>17.1</p> <p>17.2</p> <p>17.3</p>	<p><b>17.0 Other business (including District Councillor's comments)</b></p> <p><u>District Councillor's report</u>. Cllr Millar had been unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a report, which is attached as Annex D.</p> <p><u>Queenswood Advisory Board</u>. Cllr Mrs James-Moore gave a report on the latest meeting of the Queenswood Advisory Board.</p> <p><u>Localism Bill</u>. Cllr Davis had received notification from HALC of a meeting about the Localism Bill. Cllr Wrathall is to do a presentation on the Localism Bill at the next meeting.</p>	<p>KW</p>
<p>18.0</p>	<p><b>18.0 Date and time of November meeting</b></p> <p>Because the Flood Protection Exhibition is being held in the afternoon and evening of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November, it was agreed that the Parish Council meeting scheduled for that day would now take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 7.30pm.</p>	
<p>19.0</p>	<p><b>19.0 Date of next meeting.</b></p> <p>The next Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September in the Seward James Centre.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.45pm</p>		

Bodenham Community Led Plan.  
Brief for Parish Council – 5 Sep 2011

1. Introduction. Early in 2010 you approved a motion to proceed with a “Community Led Plan” – formerly known as a “Parish Plan”. A 14-member volunteer steering group, chaired by Derek Ling, was established. A budget of £3049 (PC £1549 + HC £1500 grants) was agreed; currently around £1,000 remains. The bulk of this will be spent on the final production (be it Booklet, CD, Loose Leaf Folder) which has yet to be agreed. Planning for Real events were held in July and from these questionnaires (Adult & Youth) were devised which were distributed to all Parish households in October. Out of 761 adult forms distributed, 529 (70%) were returned and an additional 66 youth (18 yrs -) questionnaires received. Survey results were analysed by Herefordshire Council and from these the Steering Group will produce an Action Plan covering the many aspirations expressed by residents.
2. Aim. Your Steering Group is now reasonably well advanced on the Action Plan and the aim of this presentation is to update the Parish Council on progress. Your agreement (or “buy in”) to this action plan is essential, so if you disagree with any findings it would be helpful to indicate such this evening. The next stage will be to seek “community buy in” at an open day at Siward James on 24 September.
3. Highways/Transportation. 12 questions covered road/ditch/drain maintenance, Lengthsman, winter gritting, road safety and bus services. Maintenance was generally perceived as “average”, apart from ditches and drains. There was not a mandate for entering the Lengthsman and winter maintenance was generally adequate with some local issues on grit bins and gritting. There are numerous road safety concerns – particularly at some junctions and speeding. Bus services will be considered in the Youth section at para 13. The Parish Clerk should remain the central point of contact with Amey for Highways matters.
  - a. Quick Wins. New bus shelters. Continue SID deployment. PC to continue annual Parish Walk programme. Keep engaging with Police/Safer Roads Partnership.
  - b. Medium Term Wins. Start a “Parish Road Watch” scheme. Winter: Emphasise the desirability of residents clearing their own pavements/driveways – NO PUBLIC LIABILITY; Consider PC paying local contractor to grit local estate roads; Grit bins at England’s Gate and Lugg Bridge.
  - c. Longer Term Projects. Traffic calming: Light controlled crossing of A 417 near Village Hall; Chicanes near Post Office and Dunfield Lane junction. New footways along Moor beyond Post Office, Millcroft Road – school and near War memorial. Signage change at E Gate junction (“A 465 Hereford”) to point to Burley gate).
4. Environment. 8 questions covered litter, dog fouling, bins and the general appearance of the place. Hedge maintenance came up but is dealt with in Highways. Many seemed unaware of wildlife/nature reserves so these have been clarified/defined as 3 in the Parish.
  - a. Quick Wins. Regular litter picks instituted – first one on Saturday 1 October. Existing litter bins to be “sharpened up” in respect of dog mess stickers, emptying and liners.
  - b. Medium Term Wins. 3 new litterbins to be requested (with dog mess stickers) for Orchard Close (footbridge), Brockington Road, A 417 footway.
  - c. Longer Term Projects. Identify an “Environment/Biodiversity” sub group to work on issues like provision of Bird/Owl/Bat boxes around the Parish.
5. Flood Alleviation/Drainage. 4 questions on this, answered by 480 people. Of this 41 (9%) had houses flooded, 90 (20%) had outbuildings flooded and 155 (32%) had gardens flooded. The vast majority suffered flooding from water run-off, blocked drains or combination. 218 respondents said

they would volunteer for a self-help group, although BFPG has only 35 members. Work on Environment Agency individual property protection grants is well advanced for closing date 12 Sep. Flood Exhibition @ S James on 7 Nov.

- a. Medium Term Wins. Parish Council needs to keep this as a high priority/visibility matter and press Amey/HC to better discharge duties in respect of ditch and drain maintenance.
- b. Longer Term Projects. Ketch Lane/Millcroft Road culvert needs replacing with a functional, straightened out underpass.

6. Facilities. 6 questions, mainly directed at the Parish Hall. 523 answered, of which 409 use the Hall at least occasionally. Most were satisfied with the facility but 20 or so suggested refurbishment of kitchen and toilets is necessary. Some commented on harsh lighting and poor acoustics. Of other village facilities suggested, the most popular would be a communal composting facility. 129 suggested this and 13 agreed they would help run it. Other local facilities scored well in terms of use – Garage, Post Office, Pub, Dispensary. Some said a cashpoint was needed. Difficulties with access to facilities mainly centred on distance to them.

- a. Quick Wins. CLP Open Day to identify people prepared to help with new facilities (Composting, Allotments, Bulk Food Buying, Car Share etc). Use Newsletter to better publicise what is available (eg the cash withdrawal facility at the PO), and “Community Wheels”.
- b. Medium Term Wins. Parish Hall committee to move forward on Kitchen and Toilet refurbishment.
- c. Longer Term Projects. Community Compost scheme.

7. Leisure. 6 questions ranged from new leisure facilities to use of footpaths and bridleways. 15 leisure activities were suggested; the most popular were Sailing/Canoeing, Outdoor Fitness trail, Kickabout/Play area and Film shows with over 100 for each. 75 respondents said they would help organise these activities. Many locals use the footpaths/bridleways and would like better maintenance, information and signage.

- a. Quick Wins. Sailing/Canoeing taster session with HC Youth Service. Open Day and newsletter to publicise current activities, like the new Bodenham Anglers Association and the regular health walks.
- b. Medium Term Wins. Ask Bodenham ramblers if they can re-issue the footpath booklet.
- c. Longer Term Projects. Outdoor fitness trail

8. Healthcare. 3 questions basically established that the vast majority of 495 respondents are satisfied with the local health service. Suggestions for chiropody, physiotherapy, repeat prescriptions by e mail and longer (ie evening) opening hours were the most popular improvements.

- a. Quick Wins. Repeat prescription facility has been implemented. Carer support through working together with Herefordshire Carers Support.
- b. Medium Term Wins. Set up Foot Care Clinic in partnership with AGE UK.
- c. Longer Term Projects. Practice to consider re-instatement of physiotherapy service at health centre and opening hours.

9. Communications. 8 questions ranged across Broadband, the Parish Website, Influencing local decisions, attending Parish Council meetings and how people found out about things. Out of 508 responses, 436 used the Parish Newsletter as a main source of information. Most would support High Speed Broadband provided it didn't cost more than at present.

- a. Quick Wins. PC to continue with the Newsletter and use it to push the website. Generic e-mail for the village.
- b. Medium Term Wins. Chalk board at Garage for event organisers' publicity use.
- c. Longer Term Projects. Improve Parish Council image and notice boards. Website Phase 2.

10. **Businesses.** 1 question asked whether more businesses should be encouraged, and 253 (54%) out of 469 supported more small business development. Opinion was against larger businesses but workshops would be OK. Local services seem to be well-used – Garage, Post Office, Pub scored most highly. A separate survey of 20 local businesses employing over 90 people was conducted – most operate in Bodenham because the premises are right, not because the location gives any great business advantage.

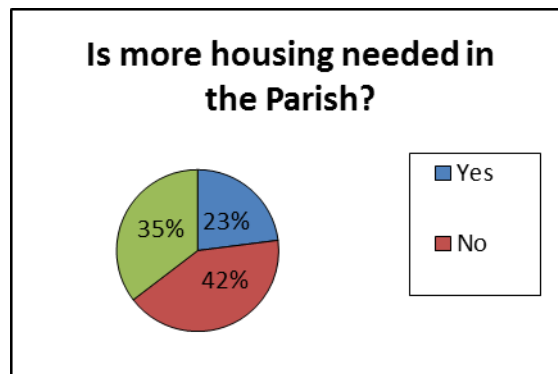
a. **Quick Wins.** Local Services and business listing to go onto parish website.

11. **Crime & Safety.** 5 questions drew 513 responses (97%) and only 8 people (2%) felt “fairly unsafe” living here. Police service was generally perceived as “average”. 236 said they would like a return to “Neighbourhood Watch” and 132 were prepared to help administer it. 358 were unaware of “Rural Watch” and 131 want to be registered for it.

a. **Quick Wins.** Rural Watch poster going out in September’s newsletter and on website.

b. **Medium Term Wins.** Identify Neighbourhood Watch administrators at the CLP Open day and form sub-group.

12. **Housing.** 5 questions with 466 responses – 194 said “no more housing”, 107 said “yes more housing”. Housing Needs Survey showed need for 9 affordable homes for village residents. If more housing was to be built, around 300 responses indicated that a balance between the various types would probably be preferred, but with a propensity for realistically priced “starter” type homes.



13. **Young People.** 66 responded, evenly split from age 5 – 17. Very few had jobs, but 31 said they’d like to either work or volunteer for something. For transport, most are heavily dependent on family/friends for lifts. 13 (20%) use the bus, and others walk (35%) or cycle (23%). Although most consider Bodenham a safe place, there were comments on speeding traffic, and lack of footpaths on narrow roads. The most popular facilities requested were film shows, BMX/Trail Bike track, kick-about area and adventure playground. 22 were very keen on the idea of a Youth Club, probably for ages 11-16, and another 20 reasonably keen. 52 wanted holiday activities organised and made suggestions like water sports, arts/crafts, drama and tennis. 3 cared for someone at home. The vast majority are very happy in Bodenham.

a. **Quick Wins.** Form a Youth Sub-Group of the steering group to take forward the many ideas and suggestions – use the Open day to identify sub-group members.

b. **Medium Term Wins.** Sub-group to work on Taster sailing/BMX days, Summer Activities and publicity, PTA for film shows, Kickabout area at school playing field. Small slide for play area.

c. **Longer Term Projects.** Youth Club centred on the Chapel.

14. **Next Steps.** Work will ultimately lead to an Action Plan which is currently at 2<sup>nd</sup> draft stage. The next step will be the Village CLP Open Day on 24 September. We very much seek your strong support for this which is aimed at the community and identifying the many who offered help in moving many of these ideas forward. In particular may I draw your attention to 2 matters for consideration:

Buses. Whilst the mandate for support of buses was not conclusive in this work, it may be something you support as a Parish Council, particularly as the service is used by young people.  
Housing. Again the mandate is not strong, but the Housing Needs Survey showed there are 9 families living in inappropriate accommodation in the village and needing affordable housing.  
Marches Housing seem to have stopped work and perhaps need to be encouraged to start again?

In parallel with this the action plan in its draft form will be circulated to various Council departments for comment and feasibility checks.



<b>BALANCE AT 5 APRIL</b>	<b>05-Apr-11</b>	<b>BALANCE AT 15 JUNE</b>	
LLOYDS	4147		8913
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>4147</b>		<b>8913</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
ADVERTISING	418		
VAT REFUND	1464		
CAR PARK LOAN	375		
COMMUNITY PLAN	0		
PRECEPT	4075		
FLOOD GROUP	123		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6455</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
CAR PARK LOAN	750		750
COMMUNITY PLAN	416		16
CHURCH GRANT	0		
CLERK SALARY	606		303
CLERK EXPENSES	207		207
CAR PARK	1020		1020
INSURANCE	610		610
WEBSITE	0		
NEWSLETTER	0		
FLOOD GROUP	97		23
ADVERT	0		
HALL RENTAL	44		
SOCIETY OF COUNCIL CLERKS	0		
PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	0		
AUDIT	0		
PARISH HALL GRANT	0		
BUNTING	26		
GRASS CUTTING	0		
OAK POSTS	842		
BRITISH LEGION GRANT	0		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4618</b>		<b>2929</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 1 AUGUST</b>	<b>5984</b>		<b>5984</b>
<b>CHEQUES RAISED NOT BANKED</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>		

**CHEQUES/INCOME NOT BANKED**

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>5984</b>
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**INVOICES AWAITING APPROVAL**

CLERK EXPENSES	52
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PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	53
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HALL RENTAL	61
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>
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<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>5818</b>
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**REPRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

<b>LADYCLOSE ORCHARD</b>	<b>158</b>
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<b>FLOOD GROUP</b>	<b>1704</b>
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<b>COMMUNITY PLAN</b>	<b>194</b>
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<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>	<b>3762</b>
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**FUTURE COMMITTED EXPENDITURE**

WEBSITE	100
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COMMUNITY PLAN	750
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>850</b>
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**FUTURE INCOME**

COMMUNITY PLAN	750
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VAT REFUND	200
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PRECEPT	4075
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5025</b>
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<b>REMAINING FUNDS</b>	<b>7937</b>
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**BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT**  
**TO THE PARISH COUNCIL (5 SEPTEMBER 2011)**

**Environment Agency Property-Level Grant**

1. The Survey Reports were issued to property owners in late July. Of the properties surveyed 33 houses were assessed as being eligible for funding. 10 houses were excluded.
2. **‘Private Viewing’ (Monday, 12 September).**
  - a. All those who are eligible for funding have agreed to remain in the Scheme and will attend a special ‘Private Viewing’ session here in Siward James on Monday, 12 September. This is being organised on behalf of Herefordshire Council by Mrs Mary Dhonau, the former CEO of the National Flood Forum and now an independent consultant.
  - b. The purpose of the ‘Private Viewing’ is to show eligible property owners the range of flood protection equipments available and to answer any questions they may have. They will then be required to decide which items they want fitted to their houses, and by which manufacturer.
  - c. The aim is to complete the decision-making process the same day so that Amey can place the orders as quickly as possible. This will allow us to be ahead of the other 30 places in the country which are also receiving Environment Agency grants and thus allow our equipment to be installed as soon as possible – preferably before Christmas, and certainly well before the deadline of 31 March next year.

**‘Village Evening’ (Tuesday, 13 September)**

3. We have always regarded it as very important that everyone in the Parish - not just those qualified for Grant funding - has an opportunity to see and, if they wish, to purchase flood protection equipment. We are therefore holding a second session from 5.00pm to 7.00pm the following day (Tuesday, 13 September also here in Siward James) which will be open to all residents.
4. This event is also being organised by Mary Dhonau, who is kindly not charging us for this and who will be present to explain the equipment and answer any questions about flooding, flood insurance, etc. that people may have. We hope that for those who want to purchase items we may be able to negotiate discounts on the back of the main order for grant-funded equipment.
5. Refreshments will be provided and obviously all members of the Parish Council are very welcome to attend.

### **Flood Protection Exhibition**

6. The Flood Protection Exhibition on 7 November was discussed earlier in the Meeting.

### **Report on the BFPG Visit to Brimfield & Little Hereford**

7. On 26 July three members of Brimfield & Little Hereford Parish Council visited the BFPG, were shown round our flood risk areas and attended our monthly Meeting.

8. On Thursday, 25th August Cllr Tony Mitcheson, Mr Tony Clark, and the Secretary, Mrs Babs Mitcheson, were invited to attend a Public Meeting on Flooding in Brimfield Parish Hall.

9. Before the Meeting we were taken to see the series of choke points along the Brimfield Brook, the problems that the overgrown and silted up state of the Brook caused, and the height to which the flood water had risen in 2007 when some 17 houses had been affected. Lack of maintenance over many years has allowed large trees to grow along and into the Brook in a number of places; in some sections it has become narrowed to a few feet; in others it has become silted up; in places there is debris, including sleepers, in the stream bed; there are a number of bridges and fences which restrict the flow of water; and there is heavy vegetation along much of the banks. In short, the local community is faced with significant, but not insuperable, problems.

10. The Public Meeting was attended by about 30 residents and we were invited to give a presentation on the BFPG as an example of what can be achieved by a local community. To support this we set up our display boards of photographs, stocks of all the various flood-related booklets, and a display of flood protection equipment (automatic airbricks, non-return valve, etc). Tony Mitcheson gave the presentation and was followed by a short talk by Mr Dan Trewin of the Environment Agency who, amongst other things, said that Bodenham was now seen as one of the best examples in the country of what can be achieved.

11. Mr Martin Jackson from Amey then described the problems of the Brimfield Brook from maps and photographs as an introduction to the development of an Action Plan for the village. In essence, he supported the BFPG as an example to be followed and told the Meeting that Brimfield had no chance whatever of getting anyone to clear their brook for them. Furthermore, he indicated that they were most unlikely to get a property-level flood protection grant like Bodenham unless, like Bodenham, they could demonstrate a community commitment to doing something about their problems for themselves.

12. There was then a discussion period, during which there was a certain amount of internal wrangling over responsibility for a particular obstruction to the Brook and a disappointingly defeatist attitude to most of the other contributions from the floor. Those present seemed to have difficulty in grasping the reality that no one was going to help them, but themselves; they kept worrying about legal issues and why riparian owners could not be forced to carry out their responsibilities; they also tended to focus on the big problems and how big they are - and therefore how hopeless it was to do anything at all - while not appreciating how much can be achieved by starting with the simple tasks of clearing vegetation, etc.; and there seemed to be a view that, if only they could do enough to persuade

the Environment Agency to give them a flood protection grant like Bodenham, they could then sit back and let the Brook itself go from bad to worse.

13. In short, Brimfield seem to be where we were in early 2008. We did our best to encourage them to be more positive, but they clearly have some way to go. To help them further we have invited anyone who wishes to visit one of our meetings or working party sessions and one of their Parish Councillors and their District Councillor, Cllr John Stone, came to our most recent working party session last Friday.

### **Working Party Sessions**

14. **5 August.** We cleared vegetation from the Millcroft Brook in the stretch from Millcroft Farm down to the Ketch Lane culverts.

15. **19 September.**

a. From 12 September the Millcroft Brook has been dry, apart from one or two small pools. This seems quite exceptional and may be owing to the dry weather. However, the possibility that it has been dammed or diverted higher up has also been raised. (The other Brooks and the River Lugg are low, but running normally).

b. On 19 September the Group took advantage of the dry Brook to start clearing the old (East) Ketch Lane culvert from the build up of silt over the past year

16. **3 September.** We finished clearing the old (East) Ketch Lane culvert.

17. **Walking the Brook.** Cllr Tony Mitcheson, Mr Tony Clark, Mr Peter Watson and Mrs Babs Mitcheson walked the Millcroft Brook from Millcroft Farm up through the Village, on through the Golf Course and nearly to the A417. In the process we identified areas that need attention.

18. **Sandbags.** There is no need for more sandbags at present. In addition to existing stocks we have 250 filled bags at the Parish Hall and 440 empty ones.

19. **Annual General Meeting.** We held our AGM and regular monthly Meeting last Monday (30 August), at which the Committee and Area Representative posts were elected for the next 12 months. Mrs Tricia Sanford stood down as Chairman and was succeeded by Cllr Tony Mitcheson. Mr Tony Clark agreed to remain as Treasurer, but stood down as Operations Manager and was succeeded by Mr Mike Stephens.

### **Social Calendar**

20. Mr and Mrs Nickols kindly hosted the Annual Barbecue at The Forge last Saturday (3 September).

21. The next event is the Annual Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm on 15 October.

## District Councillor's Report

Despite the allegedly quiet month of August, there are several items to report:

<b>New livestock market</b>	<b>Old market site</b>	<b>Transport</b>
<b>Marches Enterprise Zone</b>	<b>Council Accounts</b>	<b>Car Parking charges</b>

- **New Livestock Market**

As you know, after 150 years the gavel has come down for the last time at Hereford's city centre Livestock Market and the new Market opened on the Roman Road on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It has a capacity for 500 cattle and 8,000 sheep, with 29 loading bays, 2 sale rings and 8 wash out bays. Venders and purchases are very pleased with the design and layout and the opening Market had nearly 6,000 animals.

- **Old Market site**

The detailed planning application has been submitted to the Council for the development of this site, which will begin with demolition of the old buildings in September. The new build should begin in January. All the businesses on the site have been relocated. Watch this space for the announcement of new department store to support a multi-plex cinema and Waitrose.

The plans are to open the new retail development in October 2013 ready for the Christmas market.

- **Transport**

Despite fears of many changes in rural bus services, residents of Hampton Court Ward are largely unaffected by the changes recently announced.

Although the 426 between Leominster & Hereford has been withdrawn on Friday and Saturday evenings, the other two main services serving our locality, the 482 and 492, remain unchanged.

We should not however be complacent as many routes may be reviewed further when the bus network tenders come up for review in the autumn.

- **Marches Enterprise Zone**

Probably the most important announcement for Herefordshire this summer was made Minister Eric Pickles MP, who has announced that the County's bid to establish an Enterprise Zone has been approved.

Hereford was the only zone announced in the west midlands.

- The bid submitted jointly by the Council and the private sector is to identify Rotherwas Business Park as a zone for supporting new business.

- The site which extends to 160 acres is 80% owned by Herefordshire Council and has had over 20 million pounds worth of investment including a new access road.

- Hereford being internationally known as the home of the SAS a particular feature of the bid is develop a specialist centre for defence and security businesses. Already we have identified over 70 local companies in this sector.

- It is hoped that this development on top of the 2,000 jobs already there will help retain a greater number of college leavers in Herefordshire, and increase graduate opportunities within the County with sufficient land and infrastructure to provide up to 6,000 jobs or 270 businesses.

- The Council is now working on the management and governance structures to ensure lift off – a success story for the Council working with the private sector, our MPs, Councillors and officers, and putting together a first class bid. We should remember that this bid has been successful in part because of the Rotherwas access road built during the last administration and demonstrating the Council's determination to deliver for the people of Herefordshire.

- **Council Accounts in Balance**

The Council delivered a balanced budget for 2010/11 of 142 million pounds. Included in these figures is a call on the earmarked reserves for Social Care and Winter Maintenance to cover the costs of Adult care and the severe winter weather.

Adult Care was over 4 million pound over budget with overspends in Mental Health of £1,075,000( including 201 residential places), Older People of £1,884,000 Physical disabilities £1,028,000 (huge rise in homecare costs and rising costs of residential and nursing packages in both areas), and adults with learning disabilities of £592,000.

The recovery programmes in other council service areas covered these overspends as well as good financial management of borrowing and investments.

- **Car parking charges**

Local media have recently run stories about increases in parking charges in the city and market towns.

As reported last time, charges have not increased for 3 years, and now need to be increased to contribute to the savings the Council has to make this year, and in the future. The good news is that charges in Council run car parks will remain competitive with neighbouring towns and cities.

The three Councillors with Wards abutting Queenswood and Bodenham Lake Country Park have obtained an assurance that charging will not be introduced on these sites by the Council. Any future decision to introduce charges will be the responsibility of the Queenswood and Bodenham Lake Management Board.

If you need to contact me please either email me on [jmillar2@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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  
August/September 2011