

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday,
2nd September 2013 at the Seward James Centre at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr Bob Clarke (Chair), Cllr Roger Austin, Cllr Alec Avery, Cllr Stan Davis, Cllr Dennis Jackson, Cllr Pam James-Moore, Cllr Robin Knott, Cllr Tony Mitcheson, Cllr Rhian Powell.

District Cllr Jeremy Millar was also present.

Twenty-three members of the public were present at the start of the Meeting.

Introduction: CSO Sue Berrett reported that a group of young men, believed to be from the Nottinghamshire or Middlesbrough area, had been seen in the area of Bodenham, Stoke Prior and Stoke Lacy selling dusters and cleaning products. She said that the men should have a licence and ID, and that the CSOs would be grateful for any further information about them. CSO Berrett also reported that Hope-under-Dinmore Church had been broken into, but nothing appeared to have been stolen. She asked that any suspicious vehicles be reported, and said that a burnt out vehicle on the A417 near Hope-under-Dinmore Church had been identified as having been stolen from an industrial estate in Hereford.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** No apologies for absence were received.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Powell declared an interest in Item 13; Cllr Mitcheson declared an interest in Item 14.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** A correction was made to the Minutes of the previous Meeting. Minute 15 should have referred to The Nook. The Minutes were then approved (Proposer, Cllr Mitcheson; seconder, Cllr Austin).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Minute 4.2: Bin on the Village Green.** The Clerk was instructed to contact Herefordshire Council again, no reply to previous contact having been received
ACTION: CS
 - 4.2 **Minute 4.3: The North Herefordshire Hunt.** Cllr Davis said that he had received complaints about the hounds' mess in Ketch Lane not having been cleaned up. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Hunt about this.
ACTION: CS
 - 4.3 **Minute 4.6: Piece of Car Bumper in Millcroft Brook.** The Clerk said that he had reported the matter.
 - 4.4 **Minute 4.9: Telephone kiosk.** The Clerk said that he had included an item in the September *Newsletter*.
 - 4.5 **Minute 5.1: Missing 30mph Sign outside Steppes Mill.** The Clerk reported that the missing sign had been replaced.
 - 4.6 **Minute 5.2: Gravel outside England's Gate Inn.** The Clerk reported that he had been unable to contact the owner and would make a further attempt to do so.
ACTION: CS
 - 4.7 **Minute 6.1: Footpath BM13.** Cllr Millar said that the objection to the extinguishment of the footpath had been made by the Ramblers' Association.
 - 4.8 **Minute 7.1: Footpath at The Isle of Rhea.** The Clerk was instructed to check whether he had contacted Cllr Millar, as he had been instructed to do.
ACTION: CS

- 4.9 **Minute 8.1: Telephone Kiosk.** Mr Adam Holt said that he would raise the issue of Bodenham School making use of the telephone kiosk at a meeting of the School Governors.
- 4.10 **Minute 9.1: First World War Commemoration.** Mr Adam Holt said that he would also raise this issue at a meeting of the School Governors.
- 4.11 **Minute 10.1: Vacancy on the Parish Council.** The Clerk reported that the vacancy had been advertised in accordance with the procedures determined by Herefordshire Council. If no request was made for an election by 17th September, the Parish Council would be able to co-opt at the October meeting of the Parish Council.
- 4.12 **Minute 12.1: Enclosure of Publicly Accessible Land.** The Clerk reported that he had not completed his investigation of the situation. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that the Clerk check the previous minutes on the registration of the village green. The Clerk was instructed to do this and to write to the Enforcement Officer at Herefordshire Council, with, as Cllr Knott suggested, copies of the letter to be sent to the owners of the land. **ACTION: CS**
- 4.13 **Minute 13.1: Police and Crime Commissioner's Report.** The Clerk reported that he had completed the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 4.14 **Minute 14: Dog Mess on Footpath BM12.** This item was discussed under Agenda Item 11.
- 4.15 **Minute 15.1: Milestone Outside Steppes Cottage.** The Clerk reported that he had written to the householder, who had taken action.
- 4.16 **Minute 17.1: Laxton Barn Planning Application.** The Clerk reported that he had responded on behalf of the Parish Council and that no decision on the planning application had been made yet. Cllr Millar said that he would be meeting the planning officers soon.
- 4.17 **Minute 18.5: Lengthsman: Grass Cutting at Isle of Rhea.** The Clerk said that he had reported the matter to Amey, but had yet to receive a reply.
- 4.18 **Minute 20.4: Gravel on the C1121 opposite Bunhill.** The Clerk said that he had reported this to the Lengthsman, who had taken action.
- 4.19 **Minute 20.5: Maps.** The Clerk said that he had not identified the cost of maps, but would do so by the next meeting. **ACTION: CS**
- 4.20 **Minute 20.6: Puddles at the Playground.** The Clerk said that he had reported the matter to the Lengthsman.
- 4.21 **Minute 20.7: Obscured Sign in Ketch Lane.** The Clerk said that he had reported the matter to the Lengthsman, who had cut back the hedge.
- 4.22 **Minute 20.8:** Progress regarding the provision of a slide for the playground was raised by Councillor Knott. Cllr Jackson reported that the original suggestion was raised by Councillor Davis, who was requested to obtain quotes. After looking back through the minutes, Councillor Jackson found that in Sept, Oct and November 2012, Councillor Davis reported no progress towards the acquisition of a slide and that no mention of the slide was recorded after the November 2012 meeting. It was agreed to abandon the idea of obtaining a slide.

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

- 5.1 Mr Graham Mitchell said that he was fronting an application from a number of residents to Herefordshire Council to have Ladywell Lane declared to be a public footpath. Mr Mitchell requested that Bodenham Parish Council should act as a contact point with Herefordshire Council to monitor the progress of the application, because he was soon to be out of the country for a lengthy period. Cllr Mitcheson said that the Parish Council should be consistent in its policy of not becoming involved in legal disputes over the status of footpaths which it had no power to resolve. This was exemplified by the disputed path between the Isle of Rhea and Bowley Lane and, so far as he could see, this latest proposal was exactly similar. At this point Cllr Knott declared an interest, because his land is adjacent to this latter footpath. Mr Mitchell said that this matter was not a footpath dispute, but, rather, was an application to have the Ladywell Lane footpath put on the

definitive map. Cllr Jackson said that the IoR request was for the Parish Council to deal with an obstruction and take action against the landowner. Cllr Clarke suggested writing to the IoR residents to explain the difference between the two matters and what, if anything, the Parish Council was doing with respect to the Ladywell Lane footpath. Cllr Powell said that Herefordshire Council should be asked what the formal nature of the Parish Council's role would be, if it agreed to Mr Mitchell's request. Cllr Millar said that the scarcity of resources meant that parish councils may be asked take on more work and that Bodenham Parish Council should be cautious about doing so, given that Herefordshire Council has legal and technical expertise in footpath matters. Cllr Millar said that, however, a watching brief over the application while the residents are away was acceptable. Cllr Mitcheson said that, because Herefordshire Council have agreed to keep in email contact with the Ladywell Lane applicants, while they are away, the Parish Council does not need to be involved. This was agreed. Cllr Millar said that Herefordshire Council should be asked to keep the Parish Council informed about the progress of any footpath applications in Bodenham.

5.2 Mr Norman Tarbath requested that action be taken about speeding traffic at the Hereford end of the C1125 in the built-up area in Bodenham. Mr Tarbath said that, in his opinion, it was not acceptable to do nothing. Cllr Clarke said that the Parish Council had requested various measures, such as a chicane near Gravel Farm and moving the 30mph signs on the Hereford side nearer to the Village, but cost was an issue - a chicane would cost twice the annual precept. Cllr Powell suggested that any evidence which could support a reduction in speed limits - such as broken wing mirrors - should be collected and logged.

5.3 Mrs Gwen Bowden reported that smoke from bonfires had affected many residents in Bodenham recently. The Clerk was instructed to put a notice about bonfires in the October Newsletter. **ACTION: CS**

5.4 Mrs Bowden reported that noticeboards were being misused by notices being placed over Parish Council notices and over notices about services and functions in Bodenham. The Clerk was instructed to put an item about noticeboards on the next Agenda. **ACTION: CS**

5.5 Mr Tony Clark reported that the headwall in Dunfield Lane had been repaired.

5.6 Mrs Liz Davies reported that many residents had been kept awake by loud music on the night of Saturday, 31st August. The Clerk was instructed to put a notice about noise in the October *Newsletter*. **ACTION: CS**

6. **Signage to Bodenham School**

6.1 Mr Adam Holt - a Bodenham School Governor - said that he had asked Herefordshire Council to install a 'School Zone' speed limit on the C1121, but Herefordshire Council had replied that they were unable to fund this at the moment. Mr Holt added that, as an alternative, he had suggested a meeting with Herefordshire Council to discuss installing hatching on the road and signage about traffic speed. Mr Holt went on to remark that there are no road signs to Bodenham School, which results in visitors being unable to find the School and a lack of public awareness that there is a school in Bodenham. Mr Holt noted that there are signs to Bodenham Church, and suggested that signs to the School could be added to these existing signs. Cllr Clarke said that awareness of the School's existence is not helped by its entry in league tables being "St Michael's, Hereford", but that he would look into the situation and report back.

ACTION: BC

7. **Playground Report.**

7.1 The Clerk reported that the annual playground report had been received and circulated, and that there were no issues requiring immediate attention.

8. **The Clerk's Printer.**

8.1 The Clerk reported that his printer is still working in black and white, but does not print properly in colour. The Clerk was instructed to provide details of a replacement printer. **ACTION: CS**

9. **Litter Pick.**

9.1 Cllr Powell suggested that Saturday, 26th October was the most suitable date to hold a litter pick. This was agreed. The Clerk was instructed to make the necessary arrangements. **ACTION: CS**

10. **Grass cutting.**

10.1 This item was deferred to the next Meeting.

11. **Dog Bin in Orchard Close.**

11.1 This item was deferred to the next Meeting.

12. **Chapel Lane HGVs and Speed Limit.**

12.1 This item was deferred to the next Meeting.

13. **Finance.**

13.1 Cllr Knott presented the accounts, which were accepted (Proposer; Cllr Austin: Seconder; Cllr Mitcheson), and are attached as Annex A.

13.2 The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Bodenham Parish Hall (room hire)	£67.50
- Clerk's expenses (PC grant for Clerk's computer)	£33.26
- Grant Thornton LLP (annual audit)	£150.00
- Herefordshire Council (playground inspection)	£40.60
- DC Gardening Services (Lengthsman's invoice)	£245.00
- Siward James and Arkwright Trust (room hire)	£65.25

14. **Planning.**

14.1 **132141/F: Land to the south of Eastfields Farm off U94021: erection of agricultural worker's dwelling with garage and new vehicular access.** Cllr Clarke read letters from Mrs Carol Kirkpatrick and Mr Tony and Mrs Kay Clark, which raised various objections and identified various errors in the application, among which were that:

- the application refers to a bungalow, but the application is for a two-storey dwelling
- the size of the proposed dwelling relative to the site is wrong on the location plan.

Cllr James-Moore said that the site of the application lay outside the settlement boundary and that a previous application had been refused for reasons which apply today. Cllr Avery proposed and Cllr Jackson seconded that the Council should request that the application be refused for the reasons given in the Mr and Mrs Clark's and Mrs Kirkpatrick's letters and because the proposed property lies outside the settlement boundary. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

14.2 **132081/F: Millcroft Farm: construction of a shed for agricultural implements and to provide occasional cover for livestock.** The Parish Council made no objection to this application.

14.3 **132112/F: Bache's Bargains: proposed change of use of A1 storage area to business use (B1) and change of use of external area to storage of caravans (B8).** Cllr Clarke said that the only concern was the potential noise hazard for Orchard Close. Cllr Avery asked about opening hours for the units and for caravan exchange. Mr Tony Troia said that the units would be closed on Sundays, but caravan exchange would be permitted at any time when Bache's Bargains was open. Cllr Davis said that he had been approached by residents concerned about increased traffic arising from the proposals. Cllr Clarke said that

speed restrictions were needed around the Post Office, but the application might lead to a reduction in traffic. Cllr Powell asked about the projected number of caravan moves. Mr Troia said that he anticipated that there would be about 200 movements of caravans *per annum*. Cllr Mitcheson asked whether owners could work on the caravans, while they were stored at Bache's Bargains. Mr Troia said that he was unsure about this, but that no overnight stays in the caravans would be permitted. Mr Mike Sutton expressed concern about the units being allowed to stay open until 7pm. Mr Troia said that he would change the time to 6pm. It was proposed by Cllr James-Moore and seconded by Cllr Austin that the Parish Council supported the application with the conditions that the units would close at 6pm and that overnight stays in the caravans would not be permitted. This was agreed unanimously.

15. **Updates**

- 15.1 **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Mitcheson gave a report, which is attached as Annex B.
- 15.2 **Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Clarke thanked Cllrs Avery, James-Moore and Mitcheson, Mr David Tilford and Mrs Gwen Bowden for their efforts generally and for their success in obtaining a grant of over £4000 to facilitate public consultation. Cllr Mitcheson said that 90% of the grant had been received, and that he and Mr Tilford were to have a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan with Herefordshire Council. He added that the next meeting of the sub-group would take place at 7pm on Monday, 16th September in the Parish Hall and that this meeting would be open to members of the public.
- 15.3 **Parish Hall.** Cllr Knott reported that a new Treasurer had been appointed and that work on the new kitchen was progressing well.
- 15.4 **Parish Plan.** Cllr Powell reported that a public meeting had been arranged by the Health Sub-Group for 18th November to review progress and discuss options.
- 15.5 **Other Reports.** The remaining reports from Councillors were deferred to the next Meeting.
- 15.6 **Lengthsman.** The Clerk said that he had asked the Lengthsman to do several additional tasks (see Minutes 4.17, 4.18 and 4.21 above). The Clerk also reported that he had submitted an invoice to Amey, which had been paid.

16. **Correspondence.**

- 16.1 The Clerk reported that no correspondence had been received, which had not already been circulated.

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

- 17.1 Cllr Millar did not make a report, because of the holiday period. There was no other business.
- 17.2 The Clerk had circulated an email with an attachment from Mr Paul Johnson, representing a group who wish to restore sailing facilities for disabled people at Bodenham Lake. Cllr Millar's suggestion - that the group should contact Countryside Services at Herefordshire Council - was agreed.

18. **Date of Next Meeting.**

- 18.1 There being no other business, the Meeting ended at 9.35pm.
- 18.2 The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday, 7th October at 7.30pm.

Bodenham Parish Council 13/14

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Income												
PC Opening Balance	5045.87	9526.56	8004.99	6938.22	7444.81	5756.21	8055.77	6218.54	6064.69	5819.89	4971.89	5049.14
Newsletter	114.50	112.50	197.50	463.00	125.00	145.00	204	192	128	190	185	190
Vat Refund									123			
Car Park Loan		374.92				374.91						
Lengthsman				778.25		778.25	535.00				778.25	
Community Tech Grant			306.54									
Precept	4972.50					4973.00						
TOTAL	10132.87	10013.98	8509.03	8179.47	7569.81	12027.37	8794.77	6410.54	6315.69	6009.89	5935.14	5239.14
Expenditure												
Car Park Loan		749.83					749.83					
Church Grant						825.00						
Clerk Salary	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68	125.68
Clerk Expenses	47.17		19.00	283.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
HM Rev and Customs	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32	30.32
Insurance		499.96										
Website						200.00						
Newsletter	407.53	200.25	186.60	159.85	163.00	294.10	175	159.85	184.8		200.00	200.00
Playground repairs							445.4					
Room Hire					100.00				100			33
Lengthsman		395.00	594.60	140.20	360.00	960.00	20		25	352		
Playground Inspection					54.60							
Audit					200.00							
Parish Hall Grant						1200.00						
Grass Cutting			583.00									
Parish Plan					500.00		500				500	
Neighbourhood Plan		12.34			250.00	241.50	500			500		
Telemetry System			36.00									
British Legion Grant						65.00						
TOTAL PC Expenditure	606.31	2008.99	1570.81	734.66	1813.60	3971.60	2576.23	345.85	495.8	1038	886	419
PC Closing Balance	9526.56	8004.99	6938.22	7444.81	5756.21	8055.77	6218.5	6064.7	5819.9	4971.9	5049.1	4820.1

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
BFPG Open Balance	2210.27	2210.27	2113.37	2099.87	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88
BFPG Inc				30.00								
BFPG Ex		96.90	13.50	70.99								
BFPG Closing Balance	2210.27	2113.37	2099.87	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88	2058.88
LADY Close Orchard	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00	158.00
Tot Closing Balance	11894.83	10276.36	9196.09	9661.69	7973.09	10272.65	8435.42	8281.57	8036.77	77188.77	7266.02	7037.02

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(2 SEPTEMBER 2013)

1. **Water Levels.** The dry spell has continued, so the water levels in our main watercourses have remained low and there have been no periods of heavy rain which might have caused concern about possible flash flooding.
2. **Monthly Meeting.**
 - a. Our most recent Meeting was our AGM held last Tuesday (27 August), during which the committee members and area representatives for the next 12 months were elected and the Group's Constitution was updated with an annex setting out the responsibilities of area representatives. There were 30 members and one member of the public present.
 - b. Our next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 24 September.
3. **High Visibility Jackets.** Some time ago we approached the Environment Agency to see if they could provide area representatives with high visibility jackets. We have now heard that, although the Agency would be unable to provide the heavy duty high visibility jackets we had asked for, they would be able to provide light weight waistcoats with some wording on the back of the jackets, such as "FLOOD GROUP". We have replied that any help of this kind would be most gratefully received.
4. **Water Leak on Millcroft Road.** Amey Herefordshire have dug a new ditch, complete with grips, along the North side of Millcroft Road from No1 up to No 27. This will not cure the long-standing issue of water running down that side of the road, but it should at least remove the danger to pedestrians and vehicles in icy weather by ensuring that the water is kept off the road surface.
5. **Working Party Sessions.** We held working party sessions on the evenings of Friday, 16 August and Friday 30 August, during which we managed to finish clearing the very badly overgrown ditch system in Mr Pugh's Field, just West of Orchard Close.
6. **Annual Bonfire Party.** The annual Bonfire Party will be held at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 21 September, starting at 6.00pm. The now traditional mulled wine and sausage rolls will be provided, with those attending being free to bring any other additional drinks or food they wish. As always, Parish Councillors are most welcome to attend.

K.A.M.