

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 4th AUGUST 2014**

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

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

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jeff Pollard and District Cllr Jeremy Millar.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllrs Powell and Mitcheson declared an interest in Item 13.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**
 - 3.1 Item 5.2 of the Minutes of the previous Meeting were to be amended to say that Mr Tony Clark had reported that the missing kissing gate had been replaced by a gate which was secured at one end by barbed wire and at the other end by a chain.
 - 3.2 The Minutes were then accepted as a correct record (Proposer; Cllr Powell: Seconder; Cllr Austin).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Minute 4.2: Obscured Sign on the A417.** The Clerk reported that the foliage obscuring the sign had been cut back.
 - 4.2 **Minute 4.3: Vacancy for a Footpaths Officer.** The Clerk was instructed to place an item in the September *Newsletter* about the vacancy. **ACTION: CS**
 - 4.3 **Minute 4.4: Communications.** Cllr Mitcheson said that he had not yet taken action to find a successor to Mr Richard Horlock to maintain the Parish Website. He added that Cllr Powell had given him the name of a person, who might be suitable. **ACTION: TM**
 - 4.4 **Minute 4.5: Reinstatement of the Bridleway.** The Clerk reported that the Locality Steward had informed him that work to reinstate the bridleway was to commence in August. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Locality Steward to keep him informed about the matter. **ACTION: CS**
 - 4.5 **Minute 4.6: Chapel Lane Bus Shelter Path.** The Clerk was instructed to take the matter up again with the Locality Steward. **ACTION: CS**
 - 4.6 **Minute 4.7: Road Safety.** The Clerk was instructed to ask Mrs Justine Heath for an update on the data which had been obtained on traffic speeds at the narrow bridge on the C1125. **ACTION:CS**
 - 4.7 **Minute 4.8: Vacancy on the Parish Council.** See Minute 7.1 below.
 - 4.8 **Minute 4.9: First World War Commemoration.** Cllr Clarke reported that he had contacted the School, but had not heard back, perhaps because of the holiday period. He was asked to contact the School again. **ACTION: BC**
 - 4.9 **Minute 5.2: Missing Kissing Gate.** In the light of the error in the Minutes of the previous Meeting - see Minute 3.1 above - the Clerk was instructed to report the matter again to the Locality Steward. **ACTION:CS**
 - 4.10 **Minute 5.3: Missing Granite Setts.** The Clerk was instructed to report the matter again to the Locality Steward. **ACTION:CS**
 - 4.11 **Minute 5.4: Grass Verge along Millcroft Brook.** The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had strimmed the verge along Millcroft Brook.
 - 4.12 **Minute 8.4: Bodenham Lake.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted Cllr Millar about the covenant on Bodenham Lake and that Cllr Millar had replied to the effect that any covenants cease to exist upon change of ownership. (See also Minute 5.3 below).
 - 4.13 **Minute 9.1: Playground Repainting.** Cllr Jackson confirmed that the playground repainting had been completed by Cllr Pollard.

4.14 **Minute 9.2: Unsafe Bolt on the Playground Swing.** The Clerk reported that Cllr Pollard had tightened the bolt on the playground swing.

4.15 **Minute 13.4: Drain Cover alongside Eastfields Farm.** The Clerk said that he had reported to the Locality Steward that a drain cover had been removed and not replaced alongside Eastfields Farm. Mr Tony Clark said that the cover had now been “partially replaced”. The Clerk was instructed to report the matter again. **ACTION:CS**

4.16 **Minute 15.1: Loose Drain Cover on the C1125.** Cllr Davis said that the loose drain cover had not been repaired. The Clerk said that he had reported the matter. The Clerk was instructed to report the matter again. **ACTION:CS**

4.17 **Minute 15.2: Parish Walk.** The Clerk was instructed to contact the Locality Steward again about holding a parish walk, which she had said she was willing to do. **ACTION:CS**

4.18 **Minute 15.4: The North Herefordshire Hunt.** The Clerk reported that he had spoken to one of the joint masters of the Hunt, who had agreed to take the Parish Council’s concerns about fouling by the hounds to a meeting of the Hunt’s committee. Cllr Mitcheson remarked that Mr David Tilford had recently circulated an email about his concerns on the same subject. Mr Tilford said that all that was needed was for the Hunt to obey the law. Cllr Powell said that a long-serving previous huntsman had allowed the hounds to relieve themselves on Hunt land before going out on the roads and that, if this practice was resumed, it would go a long way to solving the problem.

5. **Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Parish Council.**

5.1 Mrs Liz Davies asked if the Lengthsman could be asked to tidy the car park opposite the School. The Clerk said that he was meeting the Lengthsman later in the week and would ask him then. **ACTION: CS**

5.2 Mr David Tilford said that, although the Housing Needs Survey was supposed to have been posted to all 487 households in Bodenham, he knew of some households which had not received it, including several in Bowley Lane. The Clerk was instructed to inform the authors of the Survey of this. **ACTION:CS**

5.3 Mrs Joanna Weightman asked whether the Parish Council had heard whether there was to be further consultation on the proposals for Bodenham Lake and whether Cllr Millar could expedite matters. Cllr Mitcheson said that his understanding was that existing covenants would cease when a new agreement was signed, but any new arrangements would provide the same kinds of protection as had previously existed. Mrs Weightman said that Herefordshire Council officers had dismissed the idea of establishing a new covenant. Cllr Mitcheson replied that he understood that this was because the new arrangements would be based on a lease that would cover any elements of protection present in the earlier covenant, but that commercial confidentiality prevented scrutiny of the terms of the lease.

5.4 Mrs Gwen Bowden expressed the opinion that, after conversion to a library, the telephone box should not be moved from its present position to the Green as had been suggested. Cllr Clarke suggested that a reduction in the number of buses would make access to the proposed library easier. (See also Minutes 10.1, 10.2, 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 below).

5.5 Mrs Bowden said that the item about noticeboards in the last *Newsletter* had been incorrect. The Clerk was instructed to liaise with Mrs Bowden to produce a correct entry for the next edition. **ACTION: CS**

6. **Councillors’ Reports on the Parish Plan.**

6.1 **Road Safety.** See Minute 4.6.

6.2 **Communications.** See Minute 4.3.

6.3 **Health.** Cllr Powell reported that a coffee morning had been arranged by the Bodenham Carers Group to raise funds for the defibrillators.

7. **Vacancy on the Parish Council.**

7.1 Mr Robin Knott was the only nomination for the vacancy on the Parish Council. Mr Knott explained that, after serving for many years on the Council, he had resigned from it a few months ago for personal and family reasons, which had now been resolved. He now

wished to return. Mr Knott's application was proposed by Cllr Clarke and seconded by Cllr Jackson. Mr Knott was duly co-opted unanimously.

8. **Litter Pick.**

8.1 Cllr Powell said that a litter pick was usually held in early October. Cllr Mitcheson remarked that the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th were the Saturdays in October and that his own preference was for the 11th. Cllr Powell was asked to liaise with Councillors and other interested parties to agree a date. **ACTION: RP**

9. **Lorries Going to Berrington Water.**

9.1 Cllr Powell reported that she had encountered a traffic jam in Smeadal's Lane caused by a large lorry taking empty bottles to Berrington Water. The lorry had damaged a tree, had probably damaged itself, and had forced other drivers to back up to allow it to pass. She had spoken to the driver, who said that Berrington Water had given him instructions to follow that route. Cllr Mitcheson said that large lorries going down Smeadals Lane was a fairly frequent occurrence. The Clerk was instructed to write to Berrington Water to ask them to direct their lorries *via* Marden by following the S & A signs. **ACTION: CS**

10. **Telephone Box.**

10.1 Cllr Mitcheson said that suggestions for the future of the telephone box included its use as a location for a defibrillator or as a library. Cllr Powell said that a defibrillator needed to be stored at zero degrees centigrade, which would not be possible in the telephone box. She added that the telephone box might not be the best location for quick access in an emergency and that two other possible sites had already been identified, namely the Golf Club and the Surgery.

10.2 Cllr Clarke said that he and Mr Jonathan Sant were interested in using the box as a library in the form of a book exchange. Mr Sant said that he had looked at the box and had ascertained that there was space for bookcases and there were secure fixing points where the telephone used to be. Cllr Mitcheson asked Cllr Clarke and Mr Sant to pursue the matter and establish the likely cost of converting the box. Cllr Clarke replied that he and Mr Sant would establish what conversion work was necessary and he would approach Cllr Pollard and Mr Peter Tomlinson to establish the probable cost. Cllr Avery asked whether the box could be moved to the village green. Cllr Mitcheson said that this might be feasible, but the costs of preparing a new site, moving the box and installing an electricity supply to it were likely to be considerable. **ACTION: BC**

11. **The 426 Bus Service**

11.1 Cllr Mitcheson noted that Mr Steve Lavender had circulated a draft bus timetable for the reduced service which is likely to start on 1st September. Mr Lavender said that First Group would now provide the service, which would consist of four buses going into Hereford - all in the morning - and five returning. There would only be one bus each way to Leominster and these would be at inconvenient hours. Cllr Davis condemned the changes to the timetable, but added that some services would go to Stoke Prior on request. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Stoke Prior Parish Clerk about the new timetable. **ACTION: CS**

11.2 Cllr Mitcheson said that the changes to the service were being made for pressing financial reasons and it was unlikely to be possible to secure any improvements to the timetable. Cllr Powell suggested that community transport should be investigated. Cllr Mitcheson said that details of Community Wheels would be placed on the website and the Clerk would include them in the *Newsletter*. Cllr Mitcheson noted that those using Community Wheels had to pay charges for doing so. Mr David Tilford said that these would be no greater than the cost of using the bus, but journeys had to be requested 24 hours in advance. **ACTION: CS**

11.3 Cllr Avery asked what the effect on those using the GP Surgery in Bodenham would be. Cllr Mitcheson said that he thought it likely that there would be an increased demand for appointments here and correspondingly longer delays in getting them.

12. **Community Asset Transfer**

12.1 Cllr Powell noted that an email about Community Asset Transfer had been circulated and suggested that possible sites for transfer in Bodenham are the village green and the canoe landing site. Cllr Mitcheson said that there was a fairly comprehensive list of possible sites in Annex C of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. He suggested that, before any action was taken, it would be best to find out from Herefordshire Council whether the sites listed in Annex C needed to become community assets and what level of protection would be offered to them by community asset transfer. After discussion it was decided that the matter would be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG).

ACTION: NPSG

13. **Finance.**

13.1 **Monthly Statement of Account.** Cllr Mitcheson said that the monthly Statement of Account now differentiated between expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan attributable to the Locality Grant and that to be borne by the Parish Council. The monthly Statement was approved (Proposer; Cllr Clarke: Seconder; Cllr Davis) and is attached as Annex A.

13.2 **Outstanding Invoices.** It was agreed that the following outstanding invoices should be paid (Proposer; Cllr Clarke: Seconder; Cllr Avery):

- Claire Rawlings (Neighbourhood Plan consultancy)	£595.00
- Mr D Tilford (Neighbourhood Plan expenses)	£51.40
- Clerk's expenses (printer cartridges; paper)	£25.50
- Mrs B A Mitcheson (BFPG expenses)	£72.96
- Bodenham Parish Hall (Neighbourhood Plan/litter pick room hire)	£25.00

14. **Planning.**

14.1 **141936/FH: Wynmoor: Drop Kerb and Reinstate Pavement.** Cllr James-Moore said that the application was to create access for two vehicles. Cllr Jackson reported that the site had been marked out and did not obstruct the footpath. Mr David Tilford said that he had produced comments and that the reference in them to footpath BM12 should read BM13. It was agreed unanimously to support the application (Proposer; Cllr James-Moore: Seconder; Cllr Clarke).

14.2 **Housing Needs Survey.** Cllr Mitcheson summarised the results of the Housing Needs Survey and noted that the major finding was that two people reported that they needed affordable housing compared to nine in the last such survey.

14.3 **141720: Land Opposite England's Gate: Section 106 Agreement.**

14.3.1 Cllr Mitcheson reminded Councillors of the copy of an internal Herefordshire Council memorandum which had been circulated. This dealt with the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) contribution relating to public open space to be expected from the proposed development on the field opposite England's Gate. Hughes Architects had passed it to the Parish Council asking for the Council's comments on whether any such Section 106 contribution should be allocated to installing a small new playground on the site of the development or to upgrading the existing playground on the Green. The memorandum highlighted the main advantages and disadvantages associated with each of these options.

14.3.2 Cllr Jackson said that a playground on the new site would be on the wrong side of the road for the rest of the Village. Cllr Clarke suggested using the new site and reducing the number of houses built there. Cllr Avery considered that creating a new site would result in two inadequate playgrounds. Cllr Mitcheson noted that the Parish Council was likely to have to bear the maintenance costs of a new playground if that was built. Cllr Avery proposed and Cllr Davis seconded that any Section 106 contribution arising under the public open spaces heading should be spent on upgrading the existing playground. The proposal was accepted unanimously and Cllr Mitcheson agreed to respond to Hughes Architects accordingly. **ACTION: TM**

14.4 **Letter from Bovis Homes.** Cllr Mitcheson drew attention to a letter from Mrs Milden, an Associate Planning Director at Bovis Homes, which had been circulated. In discussion Councillors noted the points she had made, particularly that the key material

issues can only be addressed in the context of a full planning application, which, she indicated, would be made “later this summer”. Although Mrs Milden suggested a meeting with the Parish Council, the general feeling was that the recent exhibition held by Bovis Homes and the very full opportunity it had afforded to examine their proposals obviated the need for this. It was agreed that clearly both developers are fully entitled to apply for planning permission and that the Parish Council can do little to influence matters while the current hiatus in planning legislation exists. A member of the public asked about the sewerage situation. Cllr Mitcheson said that Welsh Water have a legal obligation to provide adequate sewerage. Cllr Clarke added that the Parish Council is aware of this issue.

15. **Updates.**

15.1 **Bodenham Flood Protection Group.** Cllr Mitcheson gave a report, which is attached as Annex B.

15.2 **Parish Hall.** Cllr Powell gave a report, which is attached as Annex C.

15.3 **Lengthsman.** The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had carried out his regular schedule, apart from a holiday break, as a result of which no monthly invoice had been received. He had also carried out all other requests, including spraying weeds in gutters. The Clerk added that the first quarterly payment under the Lengthsman scheme for this financial year had been received from Herefordshire Council. (See also Minutes 4.11 and 5.1 above).

15.4 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

15.4.1 Cllr Mitcheson reported that over the past month work on the Neighbourhood Plan had concentrated on the drafting of the questionnaire for the survey which Claire Rawlings, the planning consultant, had advised was needed to update the information obtained during the development of the Parish Plan. An initial draft had been circulated to Steering Group members and as a result of their comments a second draft had been prepared. This would be further refined when Steering Group members met Ms Rawlings later in the week. At that meeting it was also hoped to clarify a number of issues relating to the content and structure of the Neighbourhood Plan as well as the future timetable of the project.

15.4.2 Although much still needed to be done, it was likely that the survey questionnaires would be distributed in mid-September and that this would be preceded by a public meeting to advertise the survey and answer any questions about it. On present plans about three weeks would be allowed for questionnaires to be completed and they would be collected back in in early October. It would then, of course, take several weeks for the data in them to be analysed.

15.4.3 Turning to project funding, Cllr Mitcheson added that the need to engage a planning consultant and to carry out a survey had not been anticipated when the bid for government funding to cover the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan project had originally been submitted. He had therefore not applied for the full £7,000 grant available. However, he had now submitted an application to increase the £4,424 already allocated by a further £2,576 to secure the full £7K. This bid had been only partially successful because, even though the project may not be completed until early 2016, all grant money has to be spent by the end of December this year, and we had not been able to show that we can spend the full £2,576 by then. The additional grant had accordingly been limited to £1,000.

16. **Correspondence not Previously Circulated.**

16.1 The Clerk confirmed that there was no correspondence which had not been circulated previously.

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

17.1 Cllr Avery reported that a drain on the C1125 near Sycamore Close was blocked. The Clerk was instructed to report this to the Locality Steward and to ask whether the promised jetting of all the drains on the C1125 had taken place. **ACTION: CS**

17.2 Cllr Austin asked if the Speed Indicator Device (SID) data could be passed to the police as support for traffic-calming measures. Cllr Mitcheson replied that this had been

done in the past, but the data had not been used, because the SID is regarded by the authorities as not calibrated accurately enough to provide evidence on which they should take action. Cllr Avery suggested the purchase of a new device like the one in Sutton St Nicholas, which he felt was better at persuading drivers to slow down. Cllr Mitcheson said that the device in Sutton was not strictly comparable because it was next to the school there. He added that data collected over many deployments did indicate that the Council's own SID encouraged about 25% of drivers to slow down. The Clerk was instructed to ask CSO Annette to instigate speed checks on the C1125. **ACTION: CS**

18. **Date of Next Meeting.**

18.1 The next Meetings will be held on 1st September, 6th October and 3rd November.

18.2 There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Bodenham Parish Council 14/15

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Income												
PC Opening Balance	12514.2	19411.54	18414.53	19994.39	19292.18	19525.77	18647.45	26712.74	26084.54	23597.82	16878.74	16319.18
Newsletter	209.5	325	165	125.00	190	77.5	180	180.6	238	0	230	470
VAT Refund			103.53									
Car Park Loan			374.92						374.91			
Lengthsman					778.25		778.25			778.25		
Neighbourhood Plan												
Precept	7875.75						7875.75					
TOTAL	20599.45	19736.54	19057.98	20119.39	20260.43	19603.27	27481.45	26893.34	26697.45	24376.07	17108.74	16789.18
Expenditure												
Miscellaneous		28.00	488.16	180.00								
Car Park Loan			749.83						749.83			
Church Grant									1000			
Clerk Salary	431.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29	121.29
Clerk Expenses		16.92	6.36	19	283	33.36	13	127.19	52	26.47	27.95	36.00
HMRC	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		503.98										
Website									200			
Newsletter		336.5	185	186.6	159.85	250	169.1	250	381.19	191.25	250	26.00
Playground repairs							200		400			200
Room Hire		15				65.25		15		63		55
Lengthsman	463.4	270	565	290	140.2	245	235	265	115	365	360	
Playground Inspection						40.6						
Audit						170						
Parish Hall Grant										1200		
Parish Plan	114											
Telemetry System												
Speeding initiatives	148.9									5000		
C C Recharge										500		
British Legion Grant									50			

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
TOTAL PC Expenditure	1187.91	1322.01	2145.96	827.21	734.66	955.82	768.71	808.8	3099.63	7497.33	789.56	468.61
PC Closing Balance	19411.54	18414.53	16912.02	19292.18	19525.77	18647.45	26712.74	26084.54	23597.82	16878.74	16319.18	16320.57
BFPG Opening Balance	2815.07	2815.07	2827.07	2734.37	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81
BFPG Inc		30		30								
BFPG Ex		18	92.7	20.56								
BFPG Closing Balance	2815.07	2827.07	2734.37	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81	2743.81
N Plan Open Balance	3982	3982	3630.34	3618.42								
N Plan Income												
N Plan Expenditure		351.66	11.92	52.5								
N Plan Closing Balance	3982	3630.34	3618.42	3565.92								
LADY Close Orchard	158.00	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158.00
BLHG	190.00	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190	190.00
Tot Closing Balance	22574.61	21589.60	19994.39	22383.99	22617.58	21739.26	29804.55	29176.35	26689.63	19970.55	19410.99	19412.38

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(4 AUGUST 2014)

1. **Summary of the Past Month.** While the recent hot weather has brought some thunderstorms, the rain that accompanied them has not amounted to much and the water level in the Millcroft Brook has remained extremely low. However, as the recent flash flooding in South-East England has shown, there is no room for complacency.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** Our seventh Meeting of the year on Tuesday, 29 July was attended by 36 members.
3. **External Contacts.**
 - a. **Herefordshire Council.** We continue to await a response about the Ketch Lane and Pugh's Field culverts and about our offer to help Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty with monitoring and signing road closures when the Ketch Lane junction is flooded.
 - b. **Environment Agency Visit to Survey the Relief Channel.** As reported at previous Meetings, the Environment Agency have agreed to carry out a survey of the relief channel. The survey was originally planned for 22 May, but had to be postponed first because of the forecast of bad weather for that day, then because the Agency had problems with their equipment, and next because the person carrying out the survey had a fall and could not walk. It is now due to take place in the next week or two.
 - c. **Property Flood Resilience Database.**
 - (1) Defra have alerted us to a government funded project to develop a Property Flood Resilience Database. This will combine existing environmental data about flood risk (for example, flood zone maps) with information about the measures which the government and individuals have taken to protect properties from flooding. Local examples of the latter were the construction of the relief channel by the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (RLIDB) in 2007-08 and the property-level flood protection which 35 houses in Bodenham received in 2011-12 under the Environment Agency grant.
 - (2) At present, when setting premiums for flood insurance, companies rely almost entirely on the Environment Agency's flood risk maps. The ultimate aim of the Project would be to provide the insurance industry with additional and much more accurate data on the actual flood resilience of properties which has resulted from investment in flood defences of all kinds, such as barriers, non-return valves, automatic air bricks and so on. The hope is that this will eventually result in insurance premiums being more closely related to the real flood risks to properties.
 - (3) The project is being conducted by BRE Scotland and at the moment is concentrating on developing a pilot version of the database which might then be tried out in a number of different areas. Defra have suggested that we might be able to contribute and we have indicated that the BFPG would be happy to give what help it can.
4. **Sandbags.** We are pleased to report that 150 sandbags have recently been delivered to the Parish Hall. We will eventually need to build up our central reserve by about the same amount again, but meanwhile we have written to the Locality Steward for Leominster, Ms Tregenza, to thank her for her help.

5. **Orchard Close Drainage System.**

a. We have raised the issue of the blocked culvert in the Orchard Close drainage system on many occasions in the past and have yet to receive a response from Herefordshire Council. There is, however, another perennial problem with this watercourse – the cutting of the hedges alongside it and in many places growing over it. We believe that this and keeping the ditches clear should be the responsibility of the landowner concerned.

b. In some past years we have managed to persuade the RLIDB to cut the hedges as a goodwill gesture. BFPG members are then able to get into the ditches and clear them of vegetation – not their responsibility, but a task they are prepared to do on a voluntary basis. However, the RLIDB cannot cut hedges until 15 July and yet again by that date this year the field has been planted with maize. As a result the RLIDB contractors have been unable to gain access to cut the hedges and, in turn, the BFPG cannot do its work. Furthermore, access is further impeded because the public footpath across the field has been ploughed and planted so the only approach is *via* the perimeter of the field.

c. As a first step we will try to resolve the issue by approaching the landowner.

6. **Working Parties.**

a. On Friday, 11 July 2014 12 members completed the clearance of silt and vegetation from the bed of the Millcroft Brook down to the Ketch Lane culverts. This last stretch took less than half an hour and this had allowed us to move on to the Moor Brook and remove a major obstruction blocking the watercourse just upstream of where the Brook passes under the C1121. As before the session was followed by refreshments at Millcroft Farm.

b. So much had been achieved on the previous four working parties that it was decided to cancel the planned session on Friday, 25 July 2014, especially as it would have clashed with the Church's "Dean's Delight" fund raiser.

c. The next working party session will take place on Friday, 8 August 2014 and will aim to clear the Moor Brook flap valve. If Balfour Beatty have delivered the reserve sandbags and there are sufficient working party members, the cage at the Parish Hall will be filled to replace those used last winter. The following session will be on Friday, 29 August 2014, with its task to be decided at the Group's next Meeting.

7. **Annual Bonfire Party.** The next event on the Group's social calendar will be the Annual Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 27 September, starting at 6.00pm. Details will be on the Website and, as always, Councillors are very welcome to attend.

K.A.M.

Parish Hall Report to Parish Council Meeting 4th August 2013

The postponed management committee meeting from 9th July will now be held on Wednesday, 13th August at 7pm.

Flicks in the Sticks start again in September, and the programme up to the end of December, arranged by Chris and Mike James, is available on the Arts Alive website <http://www.artsalive.co.uk/venue.aspx?id=220>. The programme starts on Friday 26th September, with a showing of The Monuments Men (starring George Clooney), and on subsequent months we will have Grand Budapest Hotel (31/10), The Book Thief (28/11), and Saving Mr Banks (12/12).

On Sunday 12 October at 8pm the Kali Theatre Company will present My Big Fat Cowpat Wedding, which is described as “a celebration of a mixed marriage between a country girl and a lad from the city, with all their friends and family”, and “a fun, light-hearted exploration of relationships”. Further information is also available from the Arts Alive website.

Improvements have been made to the Hall's lighting, including an automatic light to illuminate the heating control panel.