

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE at 7.30 pm on Monday, 5th June 2017

Present: Cllr T Clark Cllr S Collin Cllr D Jackson Cllr P James-Moore
 Cllr T Mitcheson Cllr D Tilford Cllr K Tremain

District Councillor Bruce Baker was also in attendance.

10 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Avery, Crane and Layton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr James-Moore declared an interest in Item 12.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous Meeting were accepted as a correct record (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Mitcheson).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
 - 4.1 **Minute 4.1: Community Speedwatch Scheme.** Cllr Tilford asked whether the Clerk had received a reply to his query to the Safer Roads Partnership about the validity of the data about the speed of traffic on the A417. The Clerk reported that he had not received a reply and would ask again. **ACTION: CS**
 - 4.2 **Minute 4.2: Drain Cover in Church Lane.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that the drain cover had been put back in place and cemented in.
 - 4.3 **Minute 4.5: Bus Stop opposite Chapel Lane.** The Clerk reported that he had asked the property owner to cut the hedge next to the bus stop, but did not know whether or not this had been done.
 - 4.4 **Minute 6.1: Dates of Litter Picks.** The Clerk reported that the dates of the next three litter picks had been agreed with Mrs Babs Mitcheson, Mrs Lyn Pollard and Mr Jeff Pollard, and have been passed on to Balfour Beatty. The dates are 4th November 2017, 24th March 2018 and 3rd November 2018.
5. **Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Parish Council.**
 - 5.1 Mrs Anne Stephens said that the playground was full of weeds. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Lengthsman to weed the playground. **ACTION: CS**
 - 5.2 Cllr Collin reported that there was concern that at the Toll House rubbish was being burned which appeared to be being brought in from elsewhere. In addition, vehicles had been parked in Bowley Lane which caused inconvenience to other road users and also on public land at the corner of Bowley Lane, which had prevented the Lengthsman from strimming the grass. Cllr Collin further reported that a hole had been made in the property's hedge in Bowley Lane to allow access to the parked vehicles. Cllr Baker said that he would investigate the matter. **ACTION: BB**
6. **Planning Sub-Committee.** It was agreed that the membership of the Planning Sub-Committee should be Cllrs Clark, Crane, James-Moore and Tilford.
7. **Playground Sub-Committee.** It was agreed that a Playground Sub-Committee be set up to plan the use of the Section 106 money allocated to the Playground, and that the membership of the Sub-Committee should be Cllrs Collin, James-Moore and Tremain, plus the Clerk.

8. **Transport Sub-Committee.** It was agreed that a Transport Sub-Committee be set up to plan the use of the Section 106 money allocated to address local transport issues, and that the membership of the Transport Sub-Committee should be Cllrs Crane and Mitcheson, plus the Clerk.

9. **Nominative Trustee to Bodenham Community Charity.** The Clerk reported that he had circulated a proposal from Mrs Sue Newbould, Secretary and Trustee of Bodenham Community Charity, that, following the retirement of Dr Carolyn Knight a vacancy for a nominative trustee of the Charity should be filled by the appointment of Mrs Margaret James as a Trustee on the formal nomination of the Parish Council. Cllr Tilford proposed and Cllr Tremain seconded that Mrs James be appointed. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

10. **The Speed Indicator Device (SID).** Cllr Mitcheson said the SID's PDA had failed and that, although he had got it working again, it was probable that it would fail again soon. The SID itself was working satisfactorily and to that extent was performing its function in 'educating' drivers to observe the speed limit. He suggested, therefore, that no immediate decision about replacing the SID was necessary, but that the situation should be reviews when the 2018-19 precept was being decided. Cllr Tilford noted that the PDA for the SID at Kingsland had failed several years ago and that the SID there had continued to be used without data being obtained from it.

11. **Herefordshire Council's Code of Conduct.** Cllr Mitcheson suggested that Herefordshire Council's Code of Conduct should be accepted as the model to replace the Parish Council's own existing Code. He undertook to modify the wording accordingly in time for the Code to be formally adopted at the next Parish Council Meeting. **ACTION: TM**

12. **Finance.**

12.1 **Monthly Accounts Statements.** The monthly accounts had been circulated and were accepted (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Mitcheson). The accounts are attached as Annex A.

12.2 Cllr Tremain asked about the £158 which appears in the accounts under the heading of Lady Close Orchard. Cllr Tilford explained that the money had been donated to the Parish Council for safekeeping, after the creation of the Lady Close Orchard had been achieved with an underspend of that amount. Cllr Tilford proposed and Cllr Tremain seconded that the money be donated to Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

12.3 **Outstanding Invoices.** Payment of the following invoices was approved (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Mitcheson).

- Chairman's <i>Newsletter</i> expenses (Printer cartridges; stationery, etc.)	£53.26
- DC Gardening Services (Lengthsman's May invoice)	£282.00
- C D Smith (Clerk's expenses: stamps)	£10.60
- Leominster Community Resource Centre (June <i>Newsletter</i>)	£168.25
- Siward James and Arkwright Trust (BFPG room hire)	£13.50
- Zurich Municipal (Insurance premium)	£536.04
- Mr M Darley (Footpath work)	£180.00

13. **Planning**

- 171507/XA2: *The White House, Bodenham: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 & 4 attached to planning permission 163496 and listed building consent 163497.* The Parish Council made no objection to this application.

- 171578 - *Peas Green, Bodenham: Fell one Norwegian Spruce in the back garden of the property. It is on the South side of the garden, very dense and 20-30m tall, providing excessively dry and shady conditions. It is not native and has a low biodiversity value, the plan is to improve conditions in the garden for existing shrubs and fruit trees, and plant more sympathetically.* The Parish Council ratified its decision necessarily made before the Meeting to make no objection to this application.

14. **Correspondence Not Previously Circulated.** The Clerk reported that no correspondence had been received, which had not been previously circulated.

15. **Other Business (including the District Councillor's Report).**

15.1 **District Councillor's Report.** Cllr Baker reported that:

15.1.1 Herefordshire Council has adopted a revised constitution.

15.1.2 The recent cutting of verges by a contractor had not been carried out satisfactorily. Following complaints, Balfour Beatty had done the work themselves in some places.

15.1.3 The acquisition of new signs for S&A was still being researched.

15.1.4 He had toured the area with Mr Matt Heeley, the new interim Locality Steward.

15.2 Cllr James-Moore said that an email had been received from Mr David Hill, reporting that no path had been cut through the maize along the route of footpath BM11, as was required by law. The Clerk was instructed to write to the landowner requesting that a path be cut through the maize. **ACTION: CS**

15.3 Cllr Tilford asked that an email which had been circulated from Mr Jeff Pollard about vegetation obstructing traffic on the C1121 could be considered. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the landowners along the C1121 between Bodenham Manor and The Railway Inn. **ACTION: CS**

15.4 Cllr Tremain asked about the term 'sleeper benches', which it is proposed should be installed on the Green as part of the Open Spaces Project. Cllr Jackson said that the sleeper benches would be plain, backless benches, the locations of which have yet to be decided, but would be near to the 'Huddle of Bullocks' sculpture on the Green.

15.5 Cllr Clark reported that lorries heading towards the premises of Berrington Water had caused obstructions and delays on several occasions recently. Cllr Collin said that she would speak to the owners of Berrington Water. **ACTION: SC**

16. **Date of Next Meeting.**

16.1 The next Meeting will be held on Monday, 3rd July.

16.2 There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

May 2017 Accounts

OPENING BALANCE on APRIL 18th 2017 = £26829.91

Date	Income	Expenditure	Comment
20th April 2017		£37.84	Clerk's PAYE
21st April 2017	£3170.00		Neighbourhood Plan grant
21st April 2017	£6500.00		First (50%) precept payment
2nd May 2017		£151.67	Clerk's salary
9th May 2017	£120.00		Newsletter advertising income
11th May 2017		£92.40	Mrs Babs Mitcheson (BFPG expenses)
15th May 2017	£65.00		Newsletter advertising income
15th May 2017		£25.00	Clerk's expenses
15th May 2017		£282.00	Lengthsman's April invoice
15th May 2017		£828.00	Robert Parker's bus stop invoice
16th May 2017		£194.25	May Newsletter
TOTALS	£9855.00	£1611.16	

CLOSING BALANCE on 16th MAY = (£26829.91 + £9855 - £1611.16) = £35073.75



BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT **(5 JUNE 2017)**

1. **Summary of the Past Month.** Although there has been some rain over the past month, it has not amounted to much and with the ground so dry it has not affected levels in our watercourses.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** The Group's monthly Meeting was held on Tuesday, 30 May and was attended by 17 members.
3. **Working Parties.**
 - a. **18 May 2017.** The third working party was held on Thursday, 18 May, and was attended by 10 members who cleared silt build up under the Brockington Road Bridge and started clearing vegetation and silt downstream from the Bridge.
 - b. **9 June 2017.** The next working party session will be at 6.00pm on Friday, 9 June and will aim to clear the section of the Millcroft Brook adjacent to the North end of Ash Grove Close.
 - c. **23 June 2017.** If sufficient members attend the following session at 6.00pm on Friday, 23 June work will continue on the Millcroft Brook. However, the main task will be to move the sandbag cage and its contents from the front of the Parish Hall to join the existing sandbag cage at the school car park. This is in order to double the stock of sandbags held West of the river and reduce the need in future to take emergency action to replenish them there, as happened in the winter of 2013-14. (**Afternote.** It may be necessary to delay this task to a subsequent session, in which case work will continue on clearing the Brook).
4. **The Ketch Lane and Orchard Close Culverts.**
 - a. You will all be aware of the need to replace the Ketch Lane and Orchard Close culverts. On 24 August last year Cllr Baker arranged a meeting with Mr Geoff Hughes, Herefordshire Council's Director for Economy, Communities and Corporate, to discuss this issue and this resulted in Herefordshire Council commissioning Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP) to carry out studies of the culverts, with the study reports being promised for shortly before or after Christmas.
 - b. Since then there has been some apparent progress relating to the Orchard Close culvert with an on-site meeting on 8 February attended by Mr Joel Hockenull, the Drainage Team Leader at BBLP, and the landowners, Mr and Mrs Pugh. At this some possible designs for a replacement culvert were discussed, but since then nothing has been heard.
 - c. Given that the study reports promised for last Christmas have not been issued, Cllr Baker has kindly arranged for a further meeting with Mr Hughes. This will take place at Millcroft Farm on Friday (30 June) and, in addition to Cllr Baker and Mr Hughes, will be

attended by Mr Hockenhull and Mr Hodges, the Directorate Services Team Leader at Herefordshire Council.

5. **Social Calendar**. The Group's next social event remains the Garden Party and Barbecue at Millcroft Farm on Sunday, 23 July, as I reported at the last Meeting. Councillors will shortly receive their invitations to attend.

K.A.M.