

**BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE  
at 7.30 pm on Monday, 6th June 2016**

**Present:** Cllr Roger Austin, Cllr Tony Clark, Cllr Jim Crane, Cllr Stan Davis, Cllr Pam James-Moore (Chair), Cllr Tony Mitcheson, Cllr David Tilford.

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

0. Mr Mike Darley, the Footpath Officer, gave a report. He said that, although the Herefordshire Walking Festival was imminent, he had been unable to obtain all the supplies from Balfour Beatty to complete some of the approved footpath work. The Clerk said that he had contacted Cllr Baker about the matter, and that Cllr Baker had been in touch with the Locality Steward. Mr Darley also mentioned the repairs which were needed to footpath BM26 and said that manpower would be required to carry them out. He asked whether the Bodenheim Flood Protection Group might be able to help and Cllr Mitcheson replied that, if Mr Darley could meet him and explain what was required, he would see what could be done. **ACTION: CS**
1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Alec Avery, Dennis Jackson and Richard Layton. District Cllr Bruce Baker also sent his apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** No declarations of interest were made.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** Cllr Clark said that Minute 3 needed further amendment by removing the rest of the sentence after the word "Clark". He added that Minute 4.1 should be amended by removing the reference to Queenswood. The previous Minutes were then accepted as a correct record (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Crane).
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
  - 4.1 **Minute 4.2.** The Clerk reported that he had had a meeting with Mr Derek Pritchard to discuss slabbing around the bus stop opposite Chapel Lane, but had yet to receive a quotation from Mr Pritchard.
  - 4.2 **Minutes 4.3.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Locality Steward about the overhanging hedge behind 23, Brockington Road.
  - 4.3 **Minute 4.5.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Lengthsman about the grass growing in the Playground, and understood that the grass had now been removed.
  - 4.4 **Minutes 4.6.** The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Locality Steward about the misplaced metal drain cover in Church Road near the War Memorial
  - 4.5 **Minute 4.8.** Cllr Tilford reported that he had installed dog fouling signs at Orchard Close and at the entrance to Mr Powis' field in Millcroft Road. He further reported that he had contacted Herefordshire Wildlife Trust about installing similar signs at Bodenheim Lake and was awaiting a meeting with the ranger at the Lake to discuss this.
  - 4.6 **Minute 5.1.** The Clerk reported that he had spoken to a representative of the North Herefordshire Hunt about a timetable for walking the hounds in Bodenheim. The Clerk said that the hounds would be walked two or three times a week on a circuit which largely avoided the C1125.
  - 4.7 **Minute 6.** The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made with Balfour Beatty for the litter pick on 19th November.
5. **Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Parish Council.**
  - 5.1 Mrs Tracy Ricketts, Mrs Sophie Allen and Mrs Rebecca Fletcher raised the issue of speeding traffic on the C1125 and A417. They said that they felt that the speed of traffic on the C1125 had been increasing and they had had concerns, in particular, about recently taking a

group of children from the Parish Hall along the A417 to beyond Saffrons Garage. Mrs Ricketts asked whether the actions and recommendations listed in the Parish Plan had been implemented. Cllrs James-Moore and Mitcheson summarised the efforts made by the Parish Council to address the issues raised in the Parish Plan (see Minutes *passim*). Cllr Mitcheson added that he was unable to undertake any further attempts to introduce traffic calming measures himself until he had completed work on the Neighbourhood Plan, but he would be happy to brief any councillor who volunteered to take on the task. Cllr Crane volunteered to do so. Cllr Mitcheson agreed to talk to Cllr Crane about road safety. **ACTION: TM**

5.2 Mr Graham Terry spoke about the land he had sold to the owners of Wynmoor, which allowed access to the land at the rear of Wynmoor from Brockington Road. Mr Terry said that he had been told repeatedly that only one house would be built on the land. Mr Leslie Bick said that he had been shown plans for one bungalow on the site, which were totally different from the current proposals to build two two-storey houses there.

5.3 Mrs Gwen Bowden asked that the Lengthsman be thanked for cleaning rubbish from the bus shelters.

5.4 Mrs Eileen Watson asked for a dog fouling sign to be installed at the entrance to the field at the top of Orchard Close.

6. **Defibrillators.** The Clerk reported that the British Heart Foundation had made more funds available for the purchase of defibrillators. It was agreed that the Parish Council should request a defibrillator for installation at the Parish Hall, as had been agreed previously with the Parish Hall Management Committee (Proposer; Cllr Clark: Seconder; Cllr Austin). The Clerk was requested to produce figures for any funding implications for the Parish Council.

**ACTION: CS**

7. **Formation of a Sub-Committee to Consider Insurance.** It was agreed that the members of the Sub-Committee to consider insurance should be Cllrs Crane and Avery. The Clerk was instructed to provide relevant information to Cllrs Crane and Avery in due course.

**ACTION: CS**

8. **Sandbags.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that Herefordshire Council had revised its policy on sandbags in order to save £7,500 per annum. The Council would now provide a maximum of 150 empty sandbags per parish in 2016-17 and none in 2017-18 and thereafter. No filled sandbags or sand for sandbags would be provided in this financial year or in future. (Further details can be found in the BFPG Report at Annex B). Cllr Mitcheson said that 150 empty sandbags, together with existing stocks, would be sufficient for Bodenham this year, but in future it would be necessary to decide whether to buy filled sandbags or to procure empty sandbags and sand and fill them ourselves.

9. **Solar Farm Contract.** The Clerk reported that he had circulated a draft contract, which included suggested amendments made by Marden Parish Council. After discussion, it was proposed that the Clerk should ask Mrs Sue Hack for her opinion on the terms of the contract (Proposer; Cllr Crane: Seconder; Cllr Mitcheson). It was agreed that, if Mrs Hack's opinion was favourable, the Chairman and the Clerk should sign the contract.

**ACTION: CS**

10. **Solar Farm Parish Benefits.** The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the owners of the solar farm to the effect that financial difficulties meant that the company was unable to fund any additional benefits to Marden and Bodenham Parish Councils.

11. **Footpath near Tan-y-Bryn.** The Clerk reported that he had been asked if the pavement near Tan-y-Bryn could be repaired. The Clerk was instructed to contact Balfour Beatty about the matter.

**ACTION: CS**

## 12 Finance

12.1 **Monthly Accounts.** The Clerk presented the monthly accounts which are attached as Annex A. Cllr Tilford proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that the annual accounts be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

12.2 **Outstanding Invoices.** It was agreed that the following invoices be paid (Proposer; Cllr Tilford: Seconder; Cllr Austin).

- DC Gardening Services (Lengthsman's May invoice)	£558.00
- Mrs P James-Moore (expenses)	£26.99
- Zurich Insurance (2016-17 insurance premium)	£533.22
- Mr M Darley (Footpath Officer's invoice 217)	£175.00
- Leominster Community Resource Centre (June <i>Newsletter</i> )	£194.25
- Clerk's expenses (printer paper and cartridges)	£25.99

13. **Planning**

13.1 **161279: Shortlands, Pool Head, Chapel Lane, Bodenham, HR1 3HP: Proposed demolition of existing single-storey extension. Erection of two-storey & single-storey extension. Replacement of detached single-storey garage with proposed double garage.** Cllr Crane, James-Moore and Tilford had made a site visit. Cllr Tilford had produced a planning statement. Cllr Mitcheson proposed and Cllr Clark seconded that the Parish Council should make no objection to the application, subject to a suitable method of sewage disposal being adopted.

13.2 **161435: 1-2 Venns Green Cottages: Proposed erection of two replacement dwellings and garages. Construction of associated works.** Cllr Tilford reported that he had circulated a planning statement and a photograph of the existing property. Cllr Tilford said that Bodenham Parish Council should only comment on the application, because the property is in Marden. Cllr Mitcheson said that the planning statement should be amended to refer to the potential impact on the amenity of residents in the vicinity of the existing property. It was agreed that Cllr Tilford would amend the planning statement accordingly.

**ACTION: DT**

13.3 **161559: Land at Wynmoor: Application for Reserved Matters for 152415: proposed site for two dwellings.** Cllrs Crane, James-Moore and Tilford had visited the site. Cllr Crane said that building two-storey houses on the site was inappropriate and obtrusive, given that all nearby houses are single storey. Cllr Crane said that turning one dwelling at an angle, as is proposed, means that nearby houses are overlooked, and that, if two dwellings are allowed on the site, they should both be bungalows. Cllr Tilford had prepared a planning statement, which, it was decided, he should amend to state that the Parish Council objects very strongly to the application,

**ACTION: DT**

14. **Updates.**

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

14.2 **Parish Hall.** In the absence of Cllr Layton no report was given.

14.3 **Lengthsman.** The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman had requested that someone water the plants around the War Memorial during the current hot weather. Cllr Clark volunteered to do so. It was agreed that repairs to two broken wooden posts and stone setts on the C1121 would not be effected until the water works had been completed. **ACTION:TC**

14.4 **Neighbourhood Plan.** Cllr Tilford said that a draft of the Neighbourhood Plan had been sent to Herefordshire council for comment, and that a complimentary reply had been received, together with some suggestions for amendments and additional material.

15. **Correspondence Not Previously Circulated.** The Clerk reported that there was no correspondence which had not been previously circulated.

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

16.1 In Cllr Baker's absence there was no District Councillor's Report.

16.2 Cllr Tilford circulated a photograph of a badly parked car outside the Surgery.

16.3 Cllr Mitcheson said that, after Cllr Baker had encountered HGVs in both Chapel Lane and Hollybush Lane, Cllr Baker had asked him to raise the issue of large commercial vehicles using narrow local roads. Cllr Baker had suggested that the Parish Council should arrange a meeting with S&A Produce, himself and any interested parish councillors to discuss the issue and whether additional signage could be installed. The Clerk was instructed to arrange a meeting.

**ACTION: CS**

16.4 Cllr Mitcheson and the Clerk described a report they had received about a slurry spillage in Bodenham at which representatives of the Environment Agency had attended. The Clerk was instructed to keep a log of such spillages. **ACTION: CS**

16.5 Cllr Mitcheson reported that the bench seat near the War Memorial was in need of refurbishment. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Lengthsman to quote for the work. **ACTION: CS**

16.6 Cllr Davis asked whether the stile on footpath BM13 at the Brockington Road end could be replaced by a kissing gate. Ms Kathy Tremain suggested removing the stile altogether and leaving a gap. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Footpath Officer to remove the stile. **ACTION: CS**

17. **Date of Next Meeting.**

17.1 The next Meeting will be held on Monday, 4th July 2016.

17.2 There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

May 2016 accounts

OPENING BALANCE on APRIL 18TH = £18801.90

Date	Income	Expenditure	Comment
18th April 2016	£6500.00		First precept payment (of two)
20th April 2016		£37.84	<b>Clerk's</b> PAYE
21st April 2016	£272.37		VAT refund
22nd April 2016	£1896.00		Q3 and Q4 for lengthsman and footpath officer
3rd May 2016		£151.67	<b>Clerk's</b> salary
10th May 2016	£242.00		Newsletter advertising
13th May 2016		£177.50	May Newsletter
16th May 2016		£45.00	L. Stephens (BFPG barbecue)
16th May 2016		£46.40	<b>Clerk's</b> expenses
17th May 2016		£43.14	Mrs B Mitcheson (BFPG expenses)
17th May 2016	£250.00		Newsletter advertising
18th May 2016		£498.00	<b>Lengthsman's</b> April invoice
18th may 2016		£1000	Church grant
TOTALS	£240.00	£1667.96	

CLOSING BALANCE = (£18801.90 + £9160.37 - £1999.55) = £25962.72



## **BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT** **(6 JUNE 2016)**

1. **Summary of the Past Month.** Summer appears to have arrived and the weather has been fair over the past month, so there is nothing to report as regards flood risk.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** The Group's monthly Meeting was held on Tuesday, 31 May and was attended by 24 members.
3. **Household Flood Protection Survey.** On 10 May we received an e-mail from Carly Rose, a PhD Researcher at the University of the West of England in Bristol, regarding an on-line survey looking at how people deal with the risk of flooding. The Survey comprised a series of questions about the respondent's experience of flooding and the measures taken to protect against a recurrence. These were then followed by questions which appeared to be designed to assess the respondent's psychological profile and approach to risks in general. The e-mail was circulated to those BFPG members with internet access to give anyone who wished to respond the opportunity to do so.
4. **Herefordshire Council's Revised Sandbag Policy.**
  - a. On 16 May Herefordshire Council agreed a revised policy on the provision of sandbags. In brief, the Council has decided that, to save it about £7,500 a year, with effect from 20 May 2016:
    - (1) During this financial year only, parishes will be offered a maximum of 150 empty sandbags free of charge. If they require more than this, they will be pointed to local suppliers who will be able to provide sandbags at a cost to the parish. The expectation will be that parishes will make their own arrangements to order sand and fill the empty bags. Alternatively, parishes will be provided with the contact details of local suppliers who will be able to provide sand and potentially facilities to fill the empty bags.
    - (2) If parishes wish to be provided with "pre-filled" sandbags, they will be able to arrange delivery of these through Balfour Beatty Living Places. The actual cost of supply and delivery will be charged to those parishes that wish to take up this option.
    - (3) From April 2017 Herefordshire Council will no longer provide sandbags to any parish or community group. Contact details of local suppliers will be provided to the parishes to enable them to arrange delivery of either empty or filled sandbags to the parish.

(4) Herefordshire Council expect parishes to continue to advertise locally, either through websites, parish newsletters or the parish notice board, where the sandbags will be available

b. The revised policy can be found at:

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3273>

c. It raises a number of issues, including:

(1) What the most cost-effective source for sandbags is likely to be. There are a number of options, for example, purchasing filled sandbags from a supplier, purchasing sand and empty bags separately and filling them ourselves, making an arrangement with one or more other parishes to purchase filled sandbags jointly in bulk to try and obtain a discount, and so on;

(2) As a result of this what the likely annual cost of sandbags is;

(3) How that extra cost is to be funded;

(4) The security of our sandbag stocks if they now become a more attractive item.

5. **Working Parties.** The first two working party sessions of the ‘season’ were very well supported:

a. On Friday, 6 May 15 members came to Maund Bryan to help clear the watercourse next to Willow Cottage and were rewarded with refreshments afterwards kindly provided by Mr and Mrs Schwartz.

b. On Friday, 20 May 20 members started work on the Millcroft Brook from the Golf Course to Brockington Road. This was followed by *al fresco* refreshments in the Hamwyn Joinery forecourt.

6. **Social Events.** Councillors are very welcome to attend the BFPG’s social events:

a. **Annual Barbecue.** The next such event is the Annual Barbecue, which this year is being hosted by Mr and Mrs Stephens on Saturday, 30 July at Rowberry Lane.

b. **Annual Bonfire Party.** That is followed by the Bonfire Party at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 8 October.

K.A.M.