

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE
AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 6th October 2014**

Present: Cllr Roger Austin, Cllr Alex Avery, Cllr Bob Clarke, Cllr Stan Davis, Cllr Dennis Jackson, Cllr Pam James-Moore, Cllr Robin Knott, Cllr Tony Mitcheson (Chair), Cllr Jeff Pollard

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

1. Introduction 1: Presentation by Mrs Fiona Milden and Ms Victoria Trotman of Bovis Homes.

1.1 Mrs Fiona Milden and Ms Victoria Trotman of Bovis Homes gave a presentation on Bovis Homes' plans for the development of the area in Bodenham Moor known as Shuker's Field, which is a 3 hectare greenfield site with existing agricultural access off Chapel Lane.

1.2 Mrs Milden summarized the proposals, which are for up to 50 homes, 35% of which will be affordable, with access from the C1125. (Details can be found at www.bovishomes.co.uk/bodenhammoor). She said that Bovis Homes, having met with Herefordshire Council on 3rd October, intend to submit a full planning application in November.

1.3 Cllr Mitcheson thanked Mrs Milden for the presentation and for her recent letter commenting on the Bodenham Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. He asked Councillors whether they had any questions.

1.4 Cllr Jackson asked about the status of Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. Cllr Mitcheson said that the draft Core Strategy was expected to go to examination shortly. Mrs Milden added that she thought it likely that a decision on whether or not it could be adopted would be made early in 2015.

1.5 Cllr Jackson also asked whether the drainage of the land to the north and south of the Shuker's Field site would have any impact on housing density. Mrs Milden replied that the northern and southern edges of the housing on the site were likely to be moved further inwards than had previously been outlined to allow for larger attenuation ponds, and that ground remodelling would also be undertaken. She added that the results of a full drainage survey would be used to determine the size of the ponds and that Bovis Homes was liaising with Welsh Water about the drainage of the site.

1.6 Cllr Knott asked about water storage. Mrs Milden said that the pumping station would be upgraded by Bovis Homes, if a full utilities survey, which would accompany the application, found that this was necessary.

1.7 Cllr Mitcheson asked if the development was to be phased. Mrs Milden replied that it would not be phased, adding that Bovis Homes do not normally phase developments of the size of the proposed development.

1.8 Cllr Mitcheson asked what was meant by the reference to flooding issues in the wider area, which had been mentioned in the presentation. Mrs Milden indicated that this referred to the potential for flooding further north and south along the C1125.

1.9 Cllr Mitcheson asked whether the drainage system serving Orchard Close was also being considered. Mrs Milden said that she understood that part of the problem in Orchard Close resulted from the backfilling of a ditch.

1.10 Cllr Austin asked what guarantees Bovis Homes would give about drainage and about traffic on the C1125. Mrs Milden replied that any requirements would be defined when the planning application was considered and the subsequent development would have to meet the conditions contained in any planning consent. She added that a management company would be responsible for the site itself and that Bovis Homes could not be responsible for people's behaviour elsewhere.

1.11 Cllr Avery questioned whether adding water to the Moor Brook would not make the work of the Bodenham Flood Protection Group harder. Mrs Milden said that Bovis Homes had commissioned a survey which would make recommendations and these would be

incorporated into the planning application. Proposals for surface water run-off would have to be approved by Herefordshire Council and the Internal Drainage Board.

1.12 Cllr Austin asked about grey and black water discharge. Mrs Milden referred to her previous answer and added that Bovis Homes was aware of Welsh Water's infrastructure problems.

1.13 Cllr Austin asked whether Bovis Homes had any intention of expanding the site or developing elsewhere in Bodenham. Cllr Clarke pointed out that adjacent land was in the same ownership as Shuker's Field. Mrs Milden said that Bovis Homes had no further interest in Bodenham.

1.14 Cllr Mitcheson said that there were many other concerns about the development, such as employment, traffic and the reduced bus service, but these would all have to be tested as part of the planning process.

1.15 Cllr Mitcheson thanked Mrs Milden and Ms Trotman for their presentation and for taking the time to answer questions.

2. **Introduction 2: Report by CSO Steph Annette**

2.1 CSO Annette outlined the reduction in police numbers in the Bromyard area.

2.2 She reported that a blue van had been seen in the Chapel Lane area and was presumed to belong to poachers. She asked residents to report any suspicious activity of this nature.

2.3 She also reported that there had been some thefts in Bromyard, including the theft of a Cambridge roller, and it seemed likely that the resultant increased police focus on the town would cause the thieves to move on to target areas elsewhere.

2.4 She said that the Parish Council's request for data to be recorded on traffic speed on the C1125 would not be undertaken by the Safer Roads Partnership. It would not accept the data from the Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device, because that had not been calibrated. She suggested that the Parish Council consider joining the Community Speed Watch scheme. (See Minute 10 below).

2.5 Cllr Davis asked how he could report that he had lost his wallet. CSO Annette said that he should ring 101.

2.6 Cllr Clarke asked about reports that safes had been stolen from Brockington Golf Club. CSO Annette said that three businesses had been targeted in the same way and that an investigation was ongoing.

3. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rhian Powell and District Cllr Jeremy Millar.

4. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

5.1 Cllr Davies said that Minute 1.3 should record that the defective drain cover was outside 'Broadmead', not opposite the bus stop.

5.2 Cllr James-Moore said that the person named in Minute 1.12 was Mrs Margaret Hughes, not Mrs Margaret Thomas, as minuted.

5.3 The Minutes were then accepted as a correct record (Proposer; Cllr Austin: Seconder; Cllr Davis).

6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

6.1 **Minute 1.8: Missing Stone Setts.** See Minute 15 and Annex B below.

6.2 **Minute 5.2: Communications.** Cllr Mitcheson said that he yet to take action to find a successor to Mr Richard Horlock to maintain the Parish Website. **ACTION: TM**

6.3 **Minute 5.6: First World War Commemoration.** Cllr Clarke agreed to contact the School about any plans it might have to commemorate the First World War.

ACTION: BC

6.4 **Minute 5.17: Community Wheels.** The Clerk confirmed that he had included full contact details for Community Wheels in the October *Newsletter*.

6.5 **Minute 5.18: Community Asset Transfer.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had had insufficient time as yet to consider the matter.

ACTION: NPSG

6.6 **Minute 5.19: Speed Traps on the C1125.** The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted CSO Steph Annette. (See Minute 2.4 above).

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

7.1 Mr David Tilford asked that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's thanks to Saffron's Cross Garage and Bodenham Post Office for their allowing their premises to be used for boxes for the collection of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires be recorded. Cllr Mitcheson thanked Mr Tilford himself for providing the boxes.

7.2 Mr David Tilford added that the Herefordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) would be holding its AGM in Bodenham Parish Hall on Saturday, 18 October. He distributed copies of the Branch's Annual Report and the Agenda for the Meeting.

7.3 Mrs Liz Davies reported that there had been considerable parking congestion in the area around the Surgery. She asked whether the Surgery car park could be extended. Cllr Clarke said that connected issues were the removal of the bus service to Leominster and the Surgery only offering flu jabs in Leominster. He said that it would be useful if the Parish Council could have a representative on the Surgery's consultative group. In her absence, it was suggested that Cllr Powell might be willing to represent the Parish Council on this forum. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Surgery to request that a notice about considerate parking be placed in the Surgery. He was further instructed to ask whether a representative of the Parish Council could join the Surgery's consultative group.

ACTION: CS

7.4 Mrs Dimbylow asked whether a member of the public could be co-opted onto the Parish Council to contribute to the consideration of the planning application for the field opposite England's Gate Inn. Cllr Mitcheson replied that this would not be possible since there was no vacancy on the Parish Council. Similarly, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group did not co-opt members who were only concerned to represent particular interest groups rather than the community as a whole. He pointed out that all Parish Council and Steering Group meetings were open to the public and that there were ample opportunities for members of the public to express their views.

7.5 Mrs Gwen Bowden asked about the removal of notices posted around the Parish after the date of the events they were advertising had passed. Cllr Mitcheson said that this was to be encouraged and could be done by anyone who came across such notices.

8. **Councillors' Reports on the Parish Plan.**

8.1 **Road Safety.** Cllr Clarke said that nothing had been heard from Mrs Justine Heath about the meeting which had taken place in April and the subsequent data collection which had been undertaken on the C1125. The Clerk confirmed that the Locality Steward had been asked to look into the matter, but had not yet reported back.

ACTION: CS

8.2 **Communications.** No report was given.

8.3 **Health.** Cllr Powell was unable to attend the Meeting, but had provided a report, which is attached as Annex A.

9. **Telephone Box.**

9.1 Cllr Clarke produced a plan for converting the interior of the telephone box into a book exchange. He reported that Mr Jonathan Sant has already begun work on excavating the ground behind the box. Cllr Mitcheson asked who would monitor the use of the box after conversion. Cllr Clarke said that he and Mr Sant would do this. Cllr Clarke proposed that £200 be set aside for materials, including paint. This was seconded by Cllr James-Moore and unanimously agreed.

10. **Community Speed Watch.**

10.1 Cllr Mitcheson reminded Councillors that details of the new Community Speed Watch Scheme had been circulated to them. He noted that the first hurdle to be overcome was that the Scheme's operation required at least 6 volunteers. Cllr Pollard said that there

was considerable evidence that such schemes have been very successful, especially if reports of speeding motorists are followed up by the police. Cllr Clarke asked why the previous scheme in 2003 had not been successful. It was suggested that it had failed for organisational reasons rather than concerns about the identification and intimidation of volunteers. Cllr Austin volunteered to participate if the Scheme was re-instated. Cllr James-Moore suggested that the Clerk should put an item in the next *Newsletter* about the Scheme and asking for volunteers. The Clerk was instructed to do this. **ACTION: CS**

11. **The 426 Bus Service.**

11.1 Cllr Mitcheson reported that, after concerns had been raised about many aspects of the revised bus service, a meeting had been arranged for 14 October between himself, the Clerk and Chairman from Stoke Prior, Cllr Millar and Cllr Rone (Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport). Cllr Davis reported that a 426 bus had passed the Merton Hotel bus stop without stopping, causing him to have to wait for two hours for the next bus. Cllr Mitcheson said that he would add this to the list of issues to be raised at the forthcoming meeting. **ACTION: TM**

12. **Remembrance Day Service on 9th November.**

12.1 Cllr Mitcheson asked Cllr Davis if he would be willing to represent the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service on 9th November, as he done in previous years. Cllr Davis agreed to do so. It was also agreed that a donation of £50 should be given to the Royal British Legion. (Proposer; Cllr Knott: Seconder; Cllr Pollard). **ACTION: SD & CS**

13. **Cascading Emails.**

13.1 The Clerk proposed that he should set up an email list of residents who might wish to receive some of the emails of general interest which he receives on a regular basis. It was agreed that the Clerk should put an item in the *Newsletter* inviting anyone interested to contact him. **ACTION: CS**

14. **Storage of Wheelie Bins.**

14.1 Cllr Pollard reported that some residents were leaving their wheelie bins on the pavement outside their properties permanently, including the new black wheelie bins which are not yet in use. The Clerk was instructed to check whether legislation existed which requires that wheelie bins are kept within a property except on the day of collection, and then to place an item about this in the next *Newsletter*. **ACTION: CS**

15. **Parish Walk Report**

15.1 The Clerk reported that a parish walk had taken place on 2nd October, details of which are attached as Annex B. He further reported that the Locality Steward had noted the defects identified on the Walk and would request that Balfour Beatty attend to them as soon as possible. The Clerk thanked Cllr Pollard and Mr Tony Clark for the work they had done in preparing for the Walk and for accompanying himself and the Locality Steward on it.

16. **Finance.**

16.1 **Monthly Statement of Accounts.** Cllr Knott noted that the half-yearly income from the Precept had been duplicated in the September and October columns of the monthly statement of accounts. Subject to this being corrected, the Statement was accepted and is attached as Annex C.

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

- DC Gardening Services (Lengthsman's July invoice)	£215.00
- Rivers Media (N Plan questionnaire printing)	£791.00
- Bodenham Parish Hall (Neighbourhood Plan room hire)	£45.00
- Parochial Church Council (Churchyard grant)	£1000.00
- Leominster Community Resource Centre (September Newsletter)	£168.25
- Clerk's expenses (printer paper; cartridges; stamps)	£27.36
- Jeff Pollard (paint and materials for playground)	£120.00

- Leominster Community Resource Centre (October Newsletter)

£185.00

17. **Planning.**

17.1 Cllr Mitcheson reported that he had attended the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee's hearing of the outline planning application for the field opposite England's Gate Inn. Mrs Dimbylow had spoken in objection to the application, Mr Hughes of Hughes Architects had supported it and Cllr Millar had spoken in more general terms about the issues for Bodenham. The Committee had discussed the proposal at some length and were of the view that it might be possible to reduce the development's impact on the neighbouring listed building, England's Gate Inn, by altering its proposed layout and/ or better landscaping. Also, if the application was approved, there might be scope for installing a pavement along Millcroft Road between the C1125 and Brockington Road to allow pedestrians from the site to access the Surgery and Post Office safely. The Committee approved the application subject to all reserved matters being resolved and a Section 106 agreement being finalised.

17.2 Cllr Mitcheson added that several of the speakers had praised the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Bodenham Flood Protection Group for their work. Cllr Knott asked about a report in *The Hereford Times* to the effect that the Parish Council had supported the application. Cllr Mitcheson said that this was an error: although a large number of local residents had submitted letters of support to Herefordshire Council, the Parish Council had not formally expressed a view.

18. **Updates.**

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

18.2 **Parish Hall.** Cllr Knott reported that the Parish Hall Management Committee were considering several improvements to the Parish Hall, such as decoration work and upgrading the toilets.

18.3 **Lengthsman.** The Clerk reported that, in addition to his normal duties, the Lengthsman had undertaken some additional requests. He also reported that, following successful trials in September, Balfour Beatty intended to introduce an 'Enhanced Lengthsman Scheme' in 2015, details of which have not yet been finalised. The revised scheme may include changes to the financial arrangements for lengthsman and may also allow them to repair minor potholes.

18.4 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

18.4.1 Cllr Mitcheson reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire had been 'launched', as planned, at the Steering Group Meeting in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 16 September. Residents had been given an update on the Neighbourhood Plan project overall and, with the help of a copy of the Questionnaire projected on the screen, had been taken through the document. The process for the distribution of Questionnaires and their collection once completed had been described and the way in which the analysis of responses would be carried out had also been outlined.

18.4.2 This had been followed by a question and answer session, during which Mrs Fiona Milden of Bovis Homes had been asked to provide an update on that firm's plans for Shuker's Field. She had indicated that Bovis Homes were due to have a meeting with Herefordshire Council in early October and intended to submit a formal planning application later in that month. As mentioned in her presentation at the start of the Meeting, this submission was now likely to be in November.

18.4.3 The main issue raised at the Steering Group Meeting had been that, by chance, the 'launch' of the Survey was taking place on the day before the Herefordshire Council Planning Committee's hearing of the outline planning application for the development of the field opposite England's Gate Inn. It was suggested that residents taking part in the Survey ought to be informed of the outcome of the hearing since it might affect their responses to parts of the Questionnaire. The Steering Group had acknowledged this and taken action to print 900 update notices which had been inserted into the individual Questionnaires as they were being distributed. The same notice had been sent to all residents on the

Neighbourhood Plan e-mail distribution list and had also been published on the Parish Website.

18.4.4 Volunteers had distributed all the Questionnaires by hand and this had been completed early in the week beginning 22 September, the only delays being caused by residents not being at home when the volunteer first called. The completed questionnaires had then been collected, again by hand, from each household starting on the weekend 4-5 October, although by then a large number had already been placed in the boxes provided at the Post Office and at Saffron's Cross Garage.

18.4.5 Cllr Mitcheson concluded by saying that, as the completed Questionnaires had come in, Cllr Bob Clarke had delivered them in batches of a hundred or so at a time to Data Orchard CIC for analysis. This was now in progress and the outcome was awaited, although it was not yet known when the work would be finished.

18.4.6 Cllr Clarke reported that 890 questionnaires had been distributed, 460 had already been sent for analysis and 35 were awaiting dispatch. He added that the overall response rate was between 56% and 58%, but the deadline for receipt of completed questionnaires was being extended by a week.

19. **Correspondence Not Previously Circulated.**

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

20. **Other Business.**

20.1 Cllr Mitcheson drew Councillors' attention to the forthcoming litter pick on 11 October and the Keep Herefordshire Warm sessions to be held from 11.00am to 4.00pm in Weobley Village Hall on 23rd October.

21. **Date of Next Meeting.**

21.1 The next Meetings will be held on 3rd November, 1st December and 5th January.

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

Defibrillator Report for Bodenham Parish Council's Meeting on 6th October 2014

St Michael's School have agreed in principle to site the second defibrillator on the exterior of the building, though the technicalities of wiring in the box have yet to be addressed.

For the British Heart Foundation to part-fund the defibrillators they require that the boxes in which they are stored should not be lockable, unless we can argue that there is a very strong risk. As neither the GP surgery nor the School is in a very public area such as a town centre, we felt we should agree to this. The cost of an 'alarmed' but non-lockable box from St John Ambulance is around £330.

The finalised application has now been sent for consideration by the BHF.

The next step is to plan further fundraising. (We currently have about enough for one box, but need to raise a further £1150 or so to cover our contribution to the cost of two defibrillators, plus a further box; and there may be additional costs associated with wiring in the boxes). Suggestions (and contributions) will be gratefully received.

Rhian Powell and Margaret James

Report on the Parish Walk Held on 2nd October 2014

In attendance: Tony Clark
 Jeff Pollard
 Chris Smith
 Donna Tregenza (Locality Steward)

The following defects were inspected and were noted by Donna Tregenza:

1. Various defects at flap valves 2-7.
2. A broken finger post at the point where BM24 leaves the A417.
3. The drain on the A417 opposite Hollybush Lane needs to be cleared.
4. The first drains on either side of Hollybush Lane after leaving the A417 need to be cleared.
5. Two potholes opposite Orchard Close were noted, as was.....
6. a missing reflective marker on the verge in front of the Orchard Close bus stop.
7. The white lines marking the edge of the road in front of Bache's have worn away.
8. The white lines marking the edge of the road in front of England's Gate have worn away.
9. The hedge on the C1125 between the Surgery and the back of the garden of the house next to the Surgery needs to be cut back. It is owned by Herefordshire Council.
10. Footpath BM13 is blocked at Berrington House following the installation of electronic gates.
11. Parts of the road surface in Chapel Lane are shiny and glassy - and slippery in wet and icy weather.
12. Potholes on a stretch of Rowberry Lane near Blue Cedar Cottage have been patched repeatedly and need to be attended to again. It was pointed out that Amey had noted that the stretch of road needs to be re-made and that kit is in Herefordshire Council's programme.
13. The bridleway post on the C1125 has been turned through 180 degrees and so is pointing in the wrong direction.
14. There is a collapsed pipe across the driveway at 'Littlefields' on the C1125. This was marked by Amey two years ago.
15. The kissing gate on BM12 at Dunfield Lane is missing.
16. There are missing granite setts on the C1121 opposite The Forge and two are coming loose by the war memorial.
17. The 'Road Narrows' sign at the junction of Ketch Lane and Millcroft Road is leaning.
18. One of the two drains between Millcroft Farm and the junction with Ketch Lane lacks a cover. Both drains need flap valves to be fitted.
19. There is no fingerpost or stile where footpath BM18 meets Ketch Lane
20. On the A417 opposite the Isle of Rhea the sign is very indistinct and the fingerpost is leaning over badly.

	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Speeding initiatives	148.9									5000		
C C Recharge										500		
British Legion Grant									50			
TOTAL PC Expenditure	1187.91	1322.01	2145.96	827.21	544.66	1997.64	768.71	808.8	3099.63	7497.33	789.56	468.61
PC closing Balance	19411.54	18414.53	16912.02	19292.18	19695.77	24174.3	32239.59	31611.39	29124.67	22405.59	21846.03	21847.42
BFPG Open Balance	2815.07	2815.07	2827.07	2734.37	2743.81	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29
BFPG Inc		30.00		30.00								
BFPG Ex		18.00	92.70	20.56	93.52							
BFPG Closing Balance	2815.07	2827.07	2734.37	2743.81	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29	2650.29
N Plan Open Balance	3982	3982	3630.34	3618.42	3565.92	2920.52						
N Plan Income						900.00						
N Plan Expenditure		351.66	11.92	52.50	646.40							
N Plan Closing Balance	3982	3630.34	3618.42	3565.92	2920.52	3820.52						
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
Defibrillator Fund Opening Balance					0.00	167.3						
D Fund income					167.30	205.00						
D Fund expenditure					0.00							
Defibrillator Fund Closing Balance					167.30	372.3						
BLHG	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00
Tot Closing Balance	22574.61	21589.60	19994.39	22383.99	22694.06	27172.59	35237.88	34609.68	32122.96	25403.88	24844.32	24845.71

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(6 OCTOBER 2014)

1. **Summary of the Past Month.** Given that last month was the driest September for a hundred years and one of the five warmest in the same period, the risk of flooding has not been a major concern recently. Nevertheless, the Group has continued its work.
2. **Monthly Meeting.** Our monthly Meeting on Tuesday, 30 September was attended by 28 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. **Balfour Beatty.** Mr Mark Watkins from Balfour Beatty visited Millcroft Farm on 11 September and the Chairman and Secretary briefed him on the Ketch Lane culverts, on the culvert in Mr Pugh's field, and on the BFPG's offer to assist Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council with flood reporting and signage. Mr Watkins noted details of the 2010 Faulkner Report to Herefordshire Council on the inadequacy of the Ketch Lane culverts and took away a copy of Mr Rod Hawnt's Report on the same subject, as well as photographs showing how badly the culverts become blocked in winter. He promised to brief his superiors on these issues.
4. **Recent Working Parties.**
 - a. **Friday, 29 August 2014.** The clearance of vegetation in the drainage system at the rear of Orchard Close has been a priority and short work was made of the first stretch of ditch.
 - b. **Friday, 12 September 2014.** Work continued on clearing the overgrown vegetation in the Orchard Close drainage system. However, it was not possible to carry out the planned jetting of the Moor Brook flap valve owing to the low water level in the Brook. Mr and Mrs Stephens kindly provided refreshments for members after the session.
 - c. **Friday, 26 September 2014.** The final stretch of the ditch around Mr Pugh's field was completed. Only the jetting of the flap valve remains to be done. Once again Mr and Mrs Stephens generously provided hospitality after the session.
5. **Next Working Party Session.** Mr Tony Clark has recently walked the Millcroft Brook and provided a report which highlights the work which needs to be done clearing vegetation and blocked valves in the stretch of the Brook downstream from the Brockington Road bridge. At the Group's Meeting it was agreed that, because the nights are beginning to draw in, the next session on Friday, 10 October will have to be the last day for tackling these tasks this year. Mr Clark also listed a number of damaged or defective flap valves which are the responsibility of Balfour Beatty and he reported these to the Locality Steward at the Parish Walk on Thursday, 2 October.

6. **Social Calendar.**

- a. **Annual Bonfire Party.** The Annual Bonfire Party was held at Millcroft Farm on Saturday, 27 September and 35 members and guests were treated to mulled cider, a variety of other refreshments and an exceptionally spectacular conflagration.
- b. **Annual Quiz Night.** The Quiz Night will be held in the Parish Hall on Friday, 14 November 2014 and the attendance of Councillors and their guests will, as always, be most welcome.
- c. **Annual Coffee Morning.** The Coffee Morning will be in the Seward James Centre on Saturday, 14 February 2015 and, of course, Councillors will be most welcome to attend.

K.A.M.