

**BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
Held on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at the Seward James Centre at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr Avery, Cllr Clark, Cllr Davis, Cllr Herbert, Cllr James-Moore, Cllr Knott, Cllr Ling, Cllr Mitcheson, Cllr Mullenger and Cllr Tilford, together with the Parish Clerk.  
Cllr Grumbley was also in attendance.

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

1. **Apologies for Absence.** No apologies for absence were received.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising.**
  - 4.1 **Bus Pass Start Times (Minute 6.1).** Cllr Grumbley reported that the 09.30 starting time for bus passes comes into effect on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Passes will be valid from 09.30 until 23.00 from Monday to Friday and at all times at weekends. Cllr Grumbley also reported that bus service operators may offer reduced pre-09.30 tickets or may alter their timetables slightly to allow passengers to benefit from the 09.30 starting time.
  - 4.2 **Bus Stop by the Green (Minute 12.2).** Cllr Clark reported that Amey have assigned a job number to the widening of the footpath by the bus stop alongside the village green.
  - 4.3 **Large Vehicles Using Chapel Lane (Minute 12.3).** Cllr Clark reported that he had seen two large Spanish lorries using Chapel Lane.
5. **Progressing Outstanding Issues.**
  - 5.1 **Highway Defects – Protection of Grass Verges.** Cllr Tilford reported that Mr Ray Taylor had now installed the posts.
  - 5.2 **Speeding Traffic on the A417.** Replies were still awaited to letters sent to Mr Andrew Lee-Jones and the Highway Authority.
  - 5.3 **Provision of a Handrail for the Footpath Adjacent to the Southern End of The Green.** Cllr Tilford reported that the handrail had now been installed.
  - 5.4 **Parish Website.** Cllr Mitcheson reported that a draft specification for Phase 2 of the Website has been drawn up, but will only be finalized once the responses to the questions relating to the website in the CLP survey are known and have been taken into account. Implementation will then be discussed with Alpha Web Design.

- 5.5 **Community-Led Plan (CLP).** Cllr Ling reported that the external consultant is still working on a fully detailed report, which Cllr Ling hopes to have in March.
- 5.6 **Bus Shelter Roofs.** Cllr Tilford reported that the necessary documentation has been submitted for the Herefordshire Community Projects grant of £1419.
- 5.7 **Additional Name on the War Memorial.** There was no further progress to report on this issue.
- 5.8 **Provision of a Playground Slide.** Cllr Tilford reported that one quotation had been obtained, but a second quotation was needed before an application for a grant under the Herefordshire Pride scheme could be made. A second quotation was now being sought.
- 5.9 **Road Safety – Ketch Lane/Millcroft Road Junction.** Action by Amey on repainting the white lines is still awaited.
- 5.10 **Ownership of the Parish Hall and the Car Park.** Cllr Tilford reported that registration of the car park is still ongoing. Cllr Clark asked about compiling a master ledger of Parish Council records. Cllr Tilford said that he had a detailed list of documentation and would check this.
- 5.11 **A417 Footpath Extension near England's Gate.** Cllr Tilford reported that an opportunity to provide input to the screening process for inclusion of the project in the next three year footway improvement programme was still awaited.
- 5.12 **Unauthorized Signage on Public Roads.** Action by the Highway Authority is still awaited.

## 6. **Issues Raised by Members of the Public.**

- 6.1 **Dog Fouling.** Mrs Gwen Bowden reported that dog fouling was occurring on the gravel at the Parish Hall. Cllr Knott said that there were horse droppings on the gravel, too.
- 6.2 **Newsletter Copyright.** Mrs Ronnie Parker asked whether the Parish Council has copyright over the Bodenham Newsletter. Cllr Tilford was of the opinion that the Parish Council does not have copyright.

## 7. **Bodenham Flood Alleviation/Protection – Amey Correspondence.**

- 7.1 Cllr Tilford reported that a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> February had been received from Mr Martin Jackson of Amey about the recent collapse of the stone retaining wall near the Millcroft Brook culverts, together with a copy of a letter from Mr Jackson sent in September 2008. Both letters referred to the need to obtain prior approval before any silt was removed from the stream bed where it adjoined the concrete highway retaining wall. Mr Jackson indicated in his earlier letter that he would not, in fact, grant approval for such work to be undertaken by the Bodenham Flood Protection Group (BFPG), since in his opinion removal could affect the integrity of the wall.
- 7.2 Cllr Mitcheson pointed out that, although in the past two years working parties had cleared detritus and vegetation from the Brook, they had deliberately refrained from

clearing silt from the area mentioned by Mr Jackson. In any case the present situation was quite different; the BFPG's recent work, about which Mr Jackson complained, had been concerned, not with removing silt near a wall in good repair, but with emergency action to remove from the watercourse the stonework of one which had already collapsed. Cllr. Tilford said that on 14<sup>th</sup> February he had replied to Mr Jackson's most recent letter pointing out that his 2008 letter referred to a different section of the Brook and that all the work undertaken by the BFPG had been in accordance with the self-help recommendations of the Sir Michael Pitt Report.

- 7.3 Cllr Tilford then asked whether Councillors felt that any further action by the Parish Council was needed, since he had made clear in his letter of 14 February that he would be consulting all Parish Councillors. Cllr Clark suggested waiting until a reply had been received to Cllr Tilford's letter. However, Cllr Mitcheson said that, strictly speaking, a formal reply from the Parish Council ought to be sent to Mr Jackson because in his response Cllr Tilford had indicated that he was simply expressing his own personal views. Cllr Grumbley suggested contacting Mr David Harvey, Amey's Technical Director to acquaint him with all the background information and ask him for a response to the correspondence, because the Parish Council and the BFPG felt strongly that the line taken by Mr Jackson since the major flooding that occurred in July 2007 was not appropriate or supportive of the partnership working recommended by Pitt.
- 7.4 Cllr Mitcheson commented that the Amey's work on the collapsed retaining wall near the culverts in Millcroft Road had been started, only to be stopped and left unfinished for two weeks. He also queried why the Faulkner Report had assumed that only six houses in Bodenham were at risk of flooding, when forty houses were flooded in July 2007. He felt that there was a real danger that Herefordshire Council would make decisions on the basis of an assumption which, as Mr Falkner himself acknowledged, had not been fully tested. Cllr Ling asked whether the Faulkner Report had been discussed at Herefordshire Council. Cllr Grumbley replied that it had not been addressed, but that he had requested that the full Report be placed on the Herefordshire Council website and that questions would be raised at a Herefordshire Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> April. He also commented on the Defra Property Level Grant Scheme under which Herefordshire Council had been awarded £148,200 to protect houses in Withington as part of Round 2. Another such scheme is imminent. Cllr Tilford remarked that Herefordshire Council had also been awarded £119,000 for flood alleviation and associated work in the current financial year, yet Mr Jackson had appeared to be unaware of this.
- 7.5 A member of the public – Mrs Babs Mitcheson – suggested that the full record of the talk Mr Jackson had given to the BFPG on 22 February should be sent to Mr David Harvey, Amey's Technical Director. Cllr Mitcheson added that in his view any such correspondence should also raise the issue of the maintenance of the drainage system between Orchard Close and the Moors Brook. The Parish Council held a letter from Mr Tom Davies which accepted that responsibility for this system lay with Herefordshire Council. This letter should be copied to Mr Harvey since Mr Jackson had expressed doubt as to whether Herefordshire Council/ Amey had any such responsibility and the matter needed to be decided once and for all.

## 8. Finance.

8.1 **Monthly Accounts Statements.** Cllr Ling presented the statement of accounts, which was approved and is attached as Annex A. He commented that the level of reserves is low, but should be sufficient to meet current commitments.

8.2 **Outstanding Invoices.** Cllr Tilford reported that four new invoices had been received. Cheques were raised for the following amounts:

• David J Griffiths	£601
• Hillend Sawmills	£3480
• Leominster Community Resource Centre	£347.25
• Growell Garden Care	£185

## 9. **Planning Applications.**

9.1 **DMN/103110/FH and DMN/103110/L, Rose Cottage, Bodenham. (Lean-to extension).** It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.

9.2 **DMN/110257/FH, Cheney Court, Sutton St Nicholas, (Change of use from agricultural to mixed use agricultural and electrical generation, construction of a wildlife pond, installation of photovoltaic panels at ground level).** It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.

10. **Elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May.** Cllr Tilford reported that elections would be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May for the Parish Council and Herefordshire Council, and that there would be a national Referendum on the Alternative Vote system. He added that nominations for the Parish Council must be submitted by noon on 4<sup>th</sup> April and that nomination forms can be obtained from the Clerk.

11. **Correspondence Not Previously Circulated.** There was no correspondence which had not been previously circulated.

## 12. **Any Other Business (including District Councillor's Comments).**

### 12.1 **District Councillor's Comments.**

12.1.1 Cllr Grumbley announced that he would not be standing in the forthcoming election on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

12.1.2 He commented that Bodenham was in danger of being left out of the superfast broadband scheme. This was because, whereas other parishes had carried out surveys on this specific issue, Bodenham was relying on the responses to its CLP questionnaires which, unfortunately, had yet to be returned by Herefordshire Council's Research Team.

12.1.3 He concluded by noting that Herefordshire Council had £1m available for pothole repair.

12.1.4 Cllr Tilford expressed the Parish Council's appreciation of Cllr Grumbley's hard work over the last eight years in support of the Parish Council.

- 12.2 **Community Support Officer (CSO).** Cllr Tilford reported that the policing reorganization in North Herefordshire had been delayed and that CSO Annette would remain in post as CSO for Bodenham at least until September.
- 12.3 **Bridge Repair at Saffon's Cross Garage.** Cllr Davis asked about the bridge repairs which were in progress close to the Garage. Cllr Tilford replied that a vehicle had swerved to avoid a cat and had demolished the parapet of the bridge.
- 12.4 **Speed Indicator Device (SID) Update.** Cllr Tilford reported that the SID was now on the C1121 in Bodenham Village. He reported that the data gathered from the SID consistently show that traffic slows when the SID is in overt mode, but that covert mode has no effect on traffic speed.

13. **Date of Next Meeting.**

- 13.1 There being no other business, the Meeting ended at 8.32pm.
- 13.2 The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.

	CUMULATIVE	FEBRUARY
BALANCE AT 5 APRIL		BALANCE AT 18 JANUARY
LLOYDS	23769	6857
BANK OF IRELAND	5660	0
<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>	<b>29429</b>	<b>6857</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
BANK OF IRELAND	5660	
ADVERTISING	1785	255
VAT		
REFUND	5864	
PARISH HALL LOAN	15749	
COMMUNITY PLAN	750	
PRECEPT	8150	
FLOOD GROUP	690	20
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>38648</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
CAR PARK LOAN	1500	
COMMUNITY PLAN	1640	
BANK OF IRELAND	5660	
CLERK SALARY	1228	152
CLERK EXPENSES	379	44
CAR PARK	39548	
CHURCH LANE SIGNS	151	
LAND REGISTRATION	251	
INSURANCE	598	
WEBSITE	400	
NEWSLETTER	1752	
FLOOD GROUP	906	
ADVERT	57	
COUNCIL HALL RENTAL	190	49
MESH SAND BAG CAGE	165	
SOCIETY OF COUNCIL CLERKS	66	
SIDS	5312	
PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	52	
AUDIT	335	
PARISH HALL GRANT	800	
PRINTER	150	
BRITISH LEGION GRANT	50	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>61190</b>	<b>245</b>

555

<b>BANK ACCOUNT 17 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>6887</b>	<b>6887</b>
<b>CHEQUES RAISED NOT BANKED</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>CHEQUES/INCOME NOT BANKED</b>		
ADVERTISING	130	
FLOOD GROUP	481	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>611</b>	
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>7498</b>	
<b>INVOICES AWAITING APPROVAL</b>		
BUS SHELTER	3480	
NEWSLETTER PRINTING	347	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3827</b>	
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>3671</b>	
<b>REPRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS</b>		
<b>LADYCLOSE ORCHARD</b>	<b>158</b>	
<b>FLOOD GROUP</b>	<b>1643</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY PLAN</b>	<b>610</b>	
<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b>	<b>1260</b>	
<b>FUTURE COMMITTED EXPENDITURE</b>		
WEBSITE	100	
COMMUNITY PLAN	750	
OAK POSTS	842	
CAR PARK RETENTION	1001	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2693</b>	
<b>FUTURE INCOME</b>		
BUS SHELTER GRANT	1419	
COMMUNITY PLAN	750	
VAT		
REFUND	747	
PRECEPT	4075	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6991</b>	
<b>REMAINING FUNDS</b>	<b>5558</b>	