

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP



MINUTES OF THE BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP'S MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2019

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>ITEM 1 - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u></p> <p>1. The Chairman welcomed members to the November Meeting and noted that it was the last for 2019, there being no meeting in December. He commented that the past month had been 'interesting', with a great deal of rain falling from time to time on ground already saturated from the flooding of 26-29 October and before. This had resulted in a further flood in the middle of the month, a subject to which he would return later.</p> <p>2. <u>Apologies.</u> There were 17 members present and apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Bowden, Mr and Mrs Burnill, Mr Clemence, Mr and Mrs Dowler, Mrs Fryer, Miss Gibson, Mr Maxwell and Mr Rice. The Chairman also noted that Mr and Mrs Avery had resigned from the Group in advance of their planned house move away from Bodenham.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>3. The Chairman asked members to approve the Minutes of the October Meeting as amended. These had been circulated earlier with the Agenda, and corrected versions were also available in hard copy on the tables. Subject to the removal of a duplicated paragraph, acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Mr House, seconded by Mr Clark and agreed.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>4. <u>Sandbags.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that there had been further requests for empty sandbags during the month and as a result the stock had been reduced from over 60 to only 9. Rather than take the risk of running out over the Winter, he and the Secretary had purchased a further 100 empty sandbags from Radbournes. These had cost £60.00, including £10.00 VAT, and he had asked the Parish Council to refund this amount.</p> <p>b. He added that the message about planning ahead and preparing for flooding by, for example, checking and repairing sandbags was clearly not getting through to some members of the local community. He had therefore asked that the 'Wake Up Call' notice which had appeared on the Parish Website and on <i>NextDoor</i> should be repeated in the December-January edition of the <i>Newsletter</i> as well.</p> <p>5. <u>Second NFM Community Group Meeting.</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reminded members that the Second Bodenham Brooks NFM Community Group Meeting would be held from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Thursday,</p>	

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<p>28 November at the Siward James Centre. The Agenda would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the NFM Project • Update on Bodenham Brooks Catchment • The Catchment Delivery Plan • Monitoring • AOB <p>b. All were welcome to attend the Meeting and all those who had signed up to contribute to the Project should have already received an invitation. If anybody wished to attend, they should let Bethany Lewis know on 01432-260739 or 07792-880030 or at Bethany.lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk .</p>	All
<p><u>ITEM 4 - TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>6. On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairman reported that the balance in the Group's account at the end of September had stood at £4,255.41. There had been one item of income during November, a donation of £30 towards the hire of the Parish Hall for the Quiz Night, and no expenditure. The balance at the end of November was therefore now £4,285.41, not counting the refund of the VAT of £5.99 from the purchase of the DPC for the sandbag cages which was still outstanding.</p> <p>7. The Chairman added that a donation of £20 had just been received and this would appear in the January statement of accounts.</p>	
<p><u>ITEM 5 –FLOODING (14-18 NOVEMBER 2019)</u></p> <p>8. Returning to the subject of flooding, the Chairman said that after the flood of 26-29 October, the River Lugg had flooded the Ketch Lane junction again on 4-5 November. There had then been a respite until the morning of Thursday, 14 November when the telemetry system had issued a first (0.5m) warning to himself and the Secretary at 5.00am. Using a graph of the data from the system, the Chairman showed how this had been followed by the second, more general (0.9m) warning at 6.30am when the water was running about 2 inches below the underside of the sewage pipe at the Brockington Road bridge.</p> <p>9. By this time water was surging through the relief channel at Millcroft Farm and water from the Brook soon also began spilling onto Millcroft Road. As a result by 9.30am water at the Ketch Lane junction was about 6 inches deep, and about 9 inches deep at the South end of Ketch Lane itself. Although it was not obvious on the ground, the water level at the telemetry system peaked at 7.05am and fell right back down to below 0.5m by 1.15pm. It then rose again and we had a 0.5m warning for the second time that day at 2.35pm and a second 0.9m warning at 4.40pm. The water peaked at that point and was down below 0.5m again by 8.50pm that evening.</p> <p>10. The River Lugg then took over and its water level at Leominster (Butts Bridge) remained for some time at 3.20m. The effect of this was that the Ketch Lane junction remained flooded from 14 – 18 November, reaching a maximum depth on 15 November of 24 inches on Millcroft Road (C1121) and 28 inches on the C1113 at the South end of Ketch Lane and the North end of Smeadals Lane.</p> <p>11. The Chairman said that there were two points which were perhaps worth mentioning. The first was that somebody had cleared some of the debris from the Millcroft Brook above the Ketch Lane culverts and deposited it on the roadside. This was</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>a great help because, when he had come to clear the culverts himself on Saturday, 23 November, only the West culvert was blocked and he had been able to clear it by himself without too much difficulty. Although he had not yet been able to confirm it, he thought that this clearance work might have been done by Balfour Beatty and might have been a product of the meeting which Cllr Bruce Baker had arranged with Mr Joel Hockenhull, Balfour Beatty's Senior Drainage Engineer, on 22 February. Certainly, for the first time in recent years, Balfour Beatty had put out 'Road Closed' and 'Flood' signs on the C1121.</p> <p>12. However, Mr and Mrs Schwartz responded by reporting that contractors employed by the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board (IDB) had recently cleared the watercourse running in front of Willow Cottage, and they suggested that it might have been the IDB, rather than Balfour Beatty, who had done the work at the Ketch Lane culverts. The Chairman said that he would email Mr Harrison, the IDB's Area Engineer, to see if he could throw any light on the subject</p> <p>13. The Chairman said that his second point was that he normally waded down to check water levels at Ketch Lane during periods of flooding, but this was the first time he had posted these on the Parish Website and on <i>NextDoor</i>. This seemed to have been welcomed by local residents and he would try to continue the practice in future.</p> <p>14. Finally, turning to other parts of the Parish, the Chairman noted that the garden of Brook House had again been flooded by its relief channel, although he understood that no water had entered the house itself. There had also been significant surface water for a time on the C1125 outside Eastfields Farm and between Berrington Drive and England's Field, as well as in front of the Chapel in Chapel Lane (C1114). There the problem had been the usual one of leaves blocking the drain unless the drain was constantly kept clear. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr Robert Pritchard who, despite having health issues, had done much to ensure that this clearance work was done. Fortunately, on this occasion the flow had not been sufficient to spill across the C1125 into Orchard Close, so the Close had not been affected.</p> <p>15. In discussion, Mr and Mrs Schwartz reported that the A417 at Maund Bryan had been closed for a short period. The Secretary said that she had been made aware of this and had posted a note on <i>Nextdoor</i>. Mrs Schwartz added that although their orchard, garage and stables had been flooded, no water had got into their house.</p> <p>16. Miss Easson noted that, although Flap Valve 4 had silted up, there was a trickle coming through from the surface water drains. The Secretary remarked that the valve had been thoroughly cleared earlier in the year as part of the Group's maintenance scheme and she would note that it needed to be done again.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p><u>ITEM 6 – EXTERNAL CONTACTS</u></p> <p>17. <u>BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester</u>. The Chairman reported that at about 9.40am on Wednesday, 13 November the Secretary had been invited to speak on BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester's 'Elliott and Toni at Breakfast' Show. The subject, inevitably, had been flooding and the Secretary had been able to spend about 5 minutes expounding the BFPG's philosophy of self-help.</p>	

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<u>ITEM 7 – SOCIAL CALENDAR</u>	
<p>18. <u>Annual Quiz Night (Friday, 29 November).</u></p> <p>a. The Chairman reported that, unfortunately, Mr Bob Bowden had been taken to hospital on 25 November and Mrs Gwen Bowden was therefore unable to continue as the organiser of the Quiz Night on Friday (29 November). The Secretary had delivered a Get Well card for Mr Bowden from the Group, wishing him a speedy and complete recovery. Meanwhile, Mr and Mrs House had very kindly stepped into the breach and taken over the task of organising the event, for which the Chairman expressed his thanks.</p> <p>b. The Chairman reminded members that the Hall had been booked from 5.00pm on Friday for setting up, the doors would open at 7.00pm and the Quiz would start at 7.30pm. To date seven tables had been booked and there was room for more tables and/or individuals to take part. The cost of tickets was £5.00 per person; some nibbles would be provided; and everybody was free to bring their own nibbles and drink. Mr House asked those who had not yet booked a table, but wished to do so to contact the Secretary.</p> <p>c. Mr Clark said that so far he had eight prizes for the raffle and would be pleased if a further two could be donated to bring the number to 10, which was the norm for the event.</p> <p>d. The Chairman confirmed that posters and flyers had been put around the Parish, that the Secretary had sent the details to the Marden and Sutton Newsletters, and that they were on the Parish Website. The Thursday edition of <i>The Hereford Times</i> would have a notice in their village section and the Quiz Night had been advertised regularly on <i>Nextdoor</i>. The new flyers advertising future events were also on each table and members were asked to hand these out to anyone they thought would be interested in joining the Group.</p> <p>19. <u>Fund-Raising Coffee Morning (8 February 2020).</u> The Chairman reminded members that Mrs Davies had kindly agreed to organise the fund-raising Coffee Morning in 2020, as she has done over the past 10 years. The Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 8 February 2020 at the Siward James Centre from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon. It will feature a Bring and Buy Table, as well as the Cake Stall, Raffle and refreshments. Mrs Davies confirmed that she had sufficient volunteers to make up her team and would give a final update at the January Meeting.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Mrs Davies</p>
<u>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
<p>20. <u>Date of the Next Meeting.</u> The next Meeting will be held at the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 28 January 2020.</p> <p>21. There being no further business the Chairman wished all members a Happy and Flood-free Christmas and New Year and declared the Meeting closed at 7.55pm.</p>	<p>All</p>