

The Hanneys Flood Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 7th, 2010 at the Hanney War Memorial Hall, Old Hanney Room

Present:	Stewart Scott (Chair)	Tony Day
	Max Derrick (Minutes)	Keith Diment
	Paul Dyer	Dickon Green
	Ian Green	Steve Kendall
	Jason Kent	Dave Pryce
	Carleen Rosette	
Apologies:	Alan Miles	

1	Introduction and opening of Meeting
	Stewart Scott opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting
2	Minutes of the previous meeting (13th May 2010)
	Minutes of the last meeting were circulated and approved by members present
3	Presentation of 2009-2010 activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2009 Gravel removal: Iain Brown designed and made some gravel buckets to remove excess gravel from Letcombe Brook and the volunteer team moved the gravel upstream • July 2009 Environmental Agency Silt removal: The silt was removed over a stretch of Letcombe brook from below Lower Mill to almost Venn Mill • July 2009 – May 2010 Letcombe Brook weed management: The regular monthly Saturday morning activities averaged approximately 8 volunteers per session. There is a constant need to remove the weeds as it continues to grow back increasing the water level of the brook • January 2010 Floods: Flooding was noted just outside West Hanney by the road bridge. The villages of West and East Hanney did not flood • October 2009 – February 2010 Childrey Brook: The brook was becoming blocked by fallen trees. Neil Walker moved the larger trees along with the volunteers. 99% of the work has been completed and there is still a small amount of maintenance work to be done • March 2010 Storm water drain: The storm water drain from Brookside was unblocked and the silt was removed by a pump • January 2010 Environmental Agency Flood Heroes: A community award was given to the Hanneys Flood Group and was presented to Stewart Scott by David Cameron MP • March 2010 Unsung heroes of the Vale: Photographs of the volunteers were shown in action • Other matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Horse box trailer and Boat: have been purchased to assist storage of the volunteer equipment and to enable access to overhanging branches from the brooks. The current insurance covers the cost of equipment ○ Environmental Agency Flood Map: revised in 2009 showing the potential local flood areas and identifies some of the activities required to reduce the risk of flooding

- **Sewerage:** it has been observed that there are occasional rapid rises and changes in the colour of the water. These changes are not necessarily due to the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Grove. Volunteers have been requested to note the time when these observations are made and to contact the Environment Agency. The Hotline number has been distributed to the Hanneys Flood Group.
 - **Insurance:** The Public Liability and Personal Accident insurance has been renewed
 - **Grove Bridge:** A small bridge has been removed in Grove
 - **Grove Balancing Ponds:** have been dug out
 - **Additional Flood Warning Station:** has been set up in Wantage. A telephone number is available 0845 988 1188 for the Flood Warnings Direct and Floodline Services. Phone, text and email messages are sent to warn members of the community of potential flooding
 - **Website:** (<http://www.thehanneysfloodgroup.org.uk>) is being well maintained by Adam Kozlowski and is well used
 - **Graph of water levels:** was presented and showed that average water levels were reduced and more stable over the last two years as a result of the Hanney Flood Group involvement, particularly during high rain falls
 - **The flood Group are Members of the National Flood Forum (NFF):** The NFF actively campaign on a variety of flood related issues, one of these is to persuade the government to get involved in the problem of excessive premiums for flooding cover. The NFF are pressing for a flood insurance summit. To help with the campaign the NFF require as much information as possible in order to lobby the government on behalf of local communities.
- Plans for 2010 - 2011**
- **Willow Walk Flood Alleviation Scheme (Wantage):** the idea is to turn Willow Walk into a planned and designed flood alleviation scheme to assist flood control. It has the support of the Environmental Agency and the Vale of the White Horse District Council
 - **Botney Bridgein West Hanney:** Mud could be removed from under the bridge but this is low priority
 - **Reduce the height of the fixed weir at Lower Mill**
 - **Wantage developments:** Grove Airfield and Wantage Crab Hill developments will affect both Childrey and Letcombe Brooks. The designs of the drainage systems will be carefully monitored.
 - **Flood Group Training Day:** will be organised and presented by H R Wallingford on 9th October 2010 and is aimed at Parish and Town Councils who do not currently have an active flood group.

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Accounts 2009/2010

Income	£
Oxfordshire County Council & Vale of White Horse & EA Grant	2,740.00
Environmental Agency	2,500.00
Total Income	5,240.00
Expenditure	£
Tools	459.83
Planting advice and flowers	223.60
Trailer	1,228.15

	<table> <tr> <td>Boat</td> <td>418.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td> <td>467.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td> <td>2,797.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance in Hand</td> <td>2,442.66</td> </tr> </table>	Boat	418.59	Insurance	467.17	Total Expenditure	2,797.34	Balance in Hand	2,442.66
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5	Questions								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of the Planting? It assists the security of the brook banks and helps to prevent soil erosion. There are now 150 x 6inch pots of wild flowers that require planting in June and July. All stinging nettles should first be removed. • What are the Flood Groups priorities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Botney Bridge flooding: Childrey Brook is lower than the road and water drains off the land into the Brook and ditches. Tony day thought that the ditches are insufficient to hold the water as a temporary reservoir and so the water floods into the Brook. ○ Ditch in Main Street, Westt Hanney: is blocked and requires unblocking. The County Council were going to use a camera to locate the blockage ○ Weed control in Letcombe Brook : the weed continues to grow in Letcombe Brook and maintains the water level at 2 feet as measured at the Iron Bridge. There is a volunteer group activity next Saturday when weeds will be removed from Letcombe Brook ○ Water from the Downs: Some of the water draining from the Downs is pumped into Letcombe Brook to manage the water flow, but this has the effect of increasing the water level in Letcombe Brook. The group are investigating this. 								
6	Any Other Business								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTCV: offers a “Grow Your Own Food” scheme to reduce the impact of food growth and enjoyment on the environment • Photograph of Swans swimming in Letcombe brook: Keith Diment presented the photograph to Stewart Scott to thank him and the Flood Group Committee for all their efforts in coordinating and energising the community into action and for their liaison with the Environmental Agency and local councils. The meeting attendees all endorsed and thanked the committee for their actions. Stewart Scott thanked the meeting and said that the efforts were down to the Volunteers and he thanked them for all their time and hard work • Hanney News: Stewart Scott will ensure that the Volunteer Activity Saturdays will be printed in the Hanney News to inform the community of the activity days, times and places 								
7	Meeting closure								
	The meeting closed at 20.15								