

Bosham Association.

Meeting with Environment Agency 17 April 2009

Present Mike Ford, Dave Hopgood - EA

Peter Price, Peter Newman - BA

Tony Black - Bosham Parish Council Water Bailiff

The main purpose of the meeting, one of a series with CDC and the Highways Agency was to introduce Tony Black , the new Parish Water Bailiff.

1. After some discussion about the people the BA should know in the EA, such as Alan Hopkins, the main budget holder and John O' Flynn, the Flood Risk Manager, the EA agreed to send the BA the latest list of contact names.
2. Western Section
  - a) It was agreed that the Water Bailiff could raise the penstock (probably to around 54) in order to increase the flow to the Millstream (Bosham Stream) as the leat was no longer flowing and the ponds were beginning to dry out.
  - b) Stream clearance. Last year the downstream section from the penstock was cleared in the autumn – this seemed to exacerbate the low flow of the stream in high summer. The BA asked if this clearance work could be brought forward somewhat, appreciating that no work could start before July 15 (nesting etc) and that dealing with flood risk was a priority.
  - c) The concrete sandbags containing the outer bend of the stream below the penstock were working well. The BA suggested that they could be slightly modified by controlling the high water weir effect by introducing a notch in or near the top row of sandbags. There is a substantial leak at the inner side of the bend opposite the sandbags that need fixing if summer water loss is to be kept to a minimum.
  - d) There was some discussion regarding the potential priority of water users in low water conditions ie farmers, the Village and wildlife, the trout farm, the Sailing Club etc. This was considered to difficult to pursue, but did underline the need for stream water conservation and the avoidance of leaks.
  - e) Extraction. The BA explained their concern that extraction had taken place in excess of the consents in previous years. Mike Ford undertook to let the BA know who was the local person who dealt with the licences.
3. Central Section.
  - a) The garage site remains a concern. The rubble has been rearranged to make it look better but the pipe feeding the Central Waterway (Main River) remains blocked and needs to be replaced as shown in the drawings in the approved plan. After the heavy rains in March severe flooding was avoided only because copious water flowed over the site into Benedict's Pond. This has been discussed with the CDC (Gavin Holder) and Highways (Steve Johnson) –

curiously it seems that the EA are outside the loop even though it is the only feed to a Main River. The EA undertook to relook at this.

- b) It was noted that the Central Waterway should be one metre wide after the pond.
  - c) Morton Road Sluice. The temporary repair made over a year ago is just still standing but leaking into the old millpond. This was discussed with the EA at the time when it was expected that a proper repair could be made (brick piers and boards) not only to stop the leak but to act as a fast acting safety relief in the event of a fast rising stream. At that time the land owner(s) had no objection. (ps since the meeting the BA had been asked to assist the Quaymaster as water had been flooding the Dinghy Park as a direct result of the Morton Road leak. Tony Black has assisted the Quaymaster in clearing the exit to reduce the flooding.)
4. Eastern Section
- a) The East Ditch was well cleared last year with the exception of the southern end where the digger was inhibited by telecom cables. Peter Price undertook to speak to the landowners affected to see if they would be prepared to allow the telephone poles to be resited onto the Gestetner Trust Land.
  - b) The grill at Stumps End is cleared by volunteers who leave a heap of debris near the grill. It would be appreciated if the EA would move this when next in the area as it washes back.
  - c) The BA expressed their thanks for the new flap – a great improvement.
  - d) Southwood Farm Corner. The BA expressed concern at the deteriorating condition of the 4 meter bund protecting the properties in the area. It really is necessary to establish the responsibility for remedial work before a severe winter and storm surge potentially destroy the bund. (see separate report attached)
  - e) Cossicks Sea Wall. This minor repair must be done soon to avoid another sea flooding of the area. The Stumps End sewage pumping station is particularly vulnerable to this flooding. Mike Ford undertook to talk to Tony Davidson in order to establish responsibility and get something done.
5. Sewage. There is a rising indignation in the Village at the unacceptable number of times raw, untreated sewage is pumped effectively into the heart of the Village. We raised this as clearly the EA is involved in giving the consents to Southern Water (presumably in exceptional conditions). On a number of occasions this year CSO discharge has taken place with no inclement weather – presumably due to equipment malfunction.

The BA would greatly appreciate it if the EA could give a 15 minute talk at the BA AGM in November this year to emphasise the work they do in the Bosham area. Mike Ford undertook to discuss this and advise.