

BOSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WATER BAILIFF

MONTHLY REPORT – MARCH 2008

Executive Summary

A total of 77.3mm fell this month. Two bursts of double figures occurred on the 10th (more later) and the 15th and overall it was a fairly unsettled March.

The first item is an administrative one for me. I'm pleased to say that through the sterling efforts of the Parish Council clerk that my insurance situation has been clarified which has now enabled me to complete the last detail in my draft job description. Not only that but those named volunteers who have kindly agreed to assist me in my duties also enjoy the same insurance cover whilst working with me or under my knowledge and approval.

I also completed the annual Chichester District Council Flood survey which was returned on the due date of 31st March. I reported 11 areas this year and it is no surprise that the events of the 10th March bolstered this total somewhat.

The weather forecast for 10th March was pretty accurate. 3 days beforehand the team of (BA) helpers was already preparing themselves to take monitoring action in my absence (I was due to fly on the 10th). On the eve of the 9th it was clear to me that the weather was going to be severe both in terms of wind, rain and combined with a very high spring tide surge that flooding **would** occur. I therefore decided to postpone my flight from Luton, the drive alone would be foolhardy and instead remained at home – I'm glad I did! You will see in Appendix 1 my personal 'blow by blow' account which I have already circulated to some. Some fairly impressive pictures are available on the internet and I would recommend a visit to the Bosham Sailing Club site Gallery section to view the scene from that area on the day. What is important to remember is that Bosham is no stranger to sea flooding, many people told me that they had seen it worse and that this was not exceptional but the fact remains that areas of sea defences failed and these need to be rectified.

What is important now is what action needs to be carried out and by whom to repair the areas where existing sea defences and structures failed. To this end I have been working with the same team of BA experts who produced the much respected 2001 Flood Report and it is our intention to produce a similar report which captures the events and findings of the 10th March. This will contain recommendations for action and should be completed within the next week. I also need to examine sections of the Bosham Local Flood Plan to see if the theory stood the practical test especially with respect to sandbag provision. I attended the monthly Parish Council Amenities committee meeting on the 19th and my 10th March special report was discussed. I agreed to progress the issues raised and I'm pleased to say that working in conjunction with the BA the joint report should be the catalyst that does this.

A number of contacts were made as a result of the events of the 10th. I was able to supply the new Emergency Planning Manager at Chichester District Council with my details and a copy of the latest Flood Plan (his predecessor appeared not to hand this over!) and through my telephone calls on the day to the EA Floodline I was contacted by the Flood Awareness officer of the Sussex Flood Incident Team. We agreed to meet in due course to see if there was any assistance required which was useful.

I was made aware at the 19th March council meeting by the ever observant Litter Warden that there was a problem with the Chequer Lane ditch which contained rubbish and was in a fairly poor state. I agreed to make a visit and prepared a report for the Council Clerk to send to the ditch owner requesting a clear up operation. I attach some of the pictures in Appendix 2.

Finally, I met the Sussex Police PCSO Bruce Ives whilst on my rounds. He was unaware that Bosham had a flood warden but he kindly offered assistance if ever needed, especially in terms of investigating acts vandalism to water-related property. He also mentioned the ponding along Delling Lane (due to blocked gullies) and like me, often had to race past these large puddles to avoid getting splashed. I said that we were approaching the annual gulley/sump clearance programme of the West Sussex CC Highways so I expected this situation would ease once these had been cleared.

Action Required/Requested

- 1) The outer flap of the Stumps End sluice needs urgent attention. This has been already noted by the duty sluicekeeper on the 11th March. The hinges have fallen and the flap does not seal (see pix in Appendix 1). I request an update on its replacement/repair. **ACTION – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**
- 2) Request information on the eagerly awaited for timetable for May's gulley/drain/sump emptying with special attention to Delling Lane and Bosham Lane/Sunny Way junction. **ACTION – WSCC HIGHWAYS**
- 3) Following the flooding of Ratham Lane I request the EA to inspect the section of the stream adjacent to determine whether the vegetation caused the overtopping and if so, clear the section. (See pic in Appendix 2) **ACTION – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**



David West

6th April 2008

Copies, via e-mail, sent to:

Action, if required

Mr G Holder - Building Services, Chichester District Council
Mr A Davison - Flood Defence Strategy, Environment Agency
Mr M Ford - Environment Agency – Operations Delivery Tech Support
Mr J Thomas - Wastewater Networks Western Area Manager, Southern Water
Mrs V Treagust – Bosham Parish Council Clerk

Mr R Riley – Chichester District Council
Mr J Parsonage – Environment Agency – Operations Field Team Leader
Mr S Johnson - Highway Network Services (Western Area), WSCC
Mr A Adams - Sewerage Policy Manager, Southern Water

Information

Mr J Hinton- Chairman, Bosham Association
 Mr P Price - Bosham Association
 Mr E Hinkley – Bosham Association

Mrs P West - Chairman, Bosham Parish Council
 Mr P Stern - Co-author Bosham Flood and Sewerage Report 2001
 Mr P Newman – Bosham Association

Abbreviations:

PP - Peter Price	PS - Peter Stern	DW - Dave West (Author)	EA - Environment Agency
HWYs - Highways	HW - High Water	BA - Bosham Association	CDC - Chichester District Council
PN - Peter Newman	JH - John Hinton	U/S - Unserviceable	

Date	Site/Weather Situation	Observation	Action
Sunday 9 th	Millstream Hotel gauge Shore Road Trippett pipe	Showing 3.1m at 1015hrs (Sailing Club sluice open) Partially clogged with algae weed. Cleared a channel though
Monday 10 th	See Appendix 1 Ratham Lane, by field mini bridge on west side	I decided to catalogue the day chronologically and have included the actions/observations of the Local Flood Plan helpers present. Flooded, believed to be from stream Report to EA see pic in Appendix 2

Date	Site/ Weather Situation	Observation	Action
Tuesday 11 th	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 3.1m at 1020hrs	Cleared away the worst (see pic Appendix 2)
	Shore Road Trippett pipe	Clogged with debris from yesterday	
	Returned to harbour to monitor high tide at 1350hrs	Sea level nearly 6 inches below yesterday's level so no overtopping.	
Sunday 16 th	14mm fell over 24hrs Delling Lane	Nearly all gulleys clogged from fallen debris	Notified CDC to request road sweeping.
Wednesday 19 th	Shore Road Trippett pipe	Completely clogged with debris.	Cleared the worst through
	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 2.9m at 1115hrs	
Friday 21 st	Chequer Lane ditch	Inspected ditch following report from litter warden concerning rubbish.	Prepared a report for Parish Council
Saturday 22 nd	Bosham stream next to church	Quite a significant build up of debris in the middle of stream. Small planks, cut branches etc.	Cleared most of it onto stream bank. (thanks to Ken the birdman for drawing this to my attention)
	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 3.0m at 1130hrs	

Date	Site/ Weather Situation	Observation	Action
Tuesday 25 th	Delling Lane and Bosham Lane	CDC Road sweeper in operation	Thank you
	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 2.9m at 1115hrs	
	Met Bosham PCSO on my rounds		See Exec Summary
	Stumps End grille (seaward side)	Debris/seaweed cleared by JH	
Friday 28th	Intersection of Bosham Lane and Sunny Way 1200hrs (PS report).	Flooded. Standing water on east side not dispersing at 1245 when I inspected road drain intake on south side of Bosham Lane. All cars passing down Bosham Lane considerate and avoided water except one small red car which drenched me. Blockage must be in the Highways drain pipe along Bosham Lane south side between Sunny Way and old Bosham Service Station site,	Needing URGENT attention as this has been happening on a number of occasions. I will report this to the WSCC Hwys department. ACTION – Hwys Dept.

END OF REPORT

APPENDIX 1
SPECIAL REPORT ON SEA SURGE AT BOSHAM – 10TH MARCH 2008

Date/Time	Observations/Actions
7 th /8 th /9 th March	Weather forecast warnings for low pressure system to cross southern country on 10 th March. Strong southerly winds coupled with record high spring tides expected at 1313 on 10th.
9 th March	Stumps End grille cleared by JH in preparation
1243	PS measured the sea level at the south end of Bosham Sailing Club from the lower edge of a windowsill on the building: guesstimated sea level 5.3 m tide gauge (2.7 m Ordnance Datum) EH marked sea level at HT on "hump" on Shore Road/Stumps Lane for future level measurement.
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10 th March	
0100	EH marked sea level at HT on "hump" on Shore Road/Stumps Lane for future level measurement
0714	EA issue Flood Warning for Chichester Harbour to Selsey Bill section.
0730	Alan Moulton shuts Leat sluice.
1100	Flood Warning noted on EA website
1139	I issue storm warning to recipients on Local Flood Plan via email and stress that the risk is sea flooding rather than fluvial. Observers (EH, JH & PN) have already been organised by PP in his absence.
1142	I phone EA Floodline for information but am told no danger of flooding (at my postcode/home address it transpires!!)
1240	Arrive at Stumps End grille with EH PN positioned at The High Street/Quay area. PS visiting area.
1242	Concerned at the rising sea water levels at Stumps End grille sea wall I phone EA Ops Team on mobile. All resources are occupied at Selsey incidents.
1245 approx	PN reports tide level reaching Rev Inman's doorstep and water has entered electrical manhole and short-circuited causing arcing/explosion. Fire Service called. (Photo A1)
1250	I visit Trippett pipe/Harbour Way. Overtopping into Central Stream and sea water enters Meadow House garden and Harbour End garden.
1255	Sea water vents out of TOP of Stumps End grille chamber due to outer flap leaking seal. (Photo A2) Sea over-topping protective bank on Shore Road (Gosport side). Sea then flowing across field garden and down access track into Stumps Lane and therefore "bypassing" sea wall and hump. (Photo A3)
1300	Overtopping occurs opposite Stumps End grille and water flows around Shore Road hump and rushes to Stumps Lane. Tide level overtops Shore Road hump for about 10 mins. Attempt to ensure outer flap is fully down and closed. Turning mechanism underwater!! (Photo A4)

Date/Time	Observations/Actions
10 th March (contd)	
1310	I return to Harbour Way and witness approx 1ft water in Meadow House garden and rising. I contact Fire Service to report imminent flooding of property. I visit the property and meet neighbour, no occupants so cancel Fire Service call. (They subsequently attend!). (Photo A5)
1315	PS tries to revisit Sailing Club position of 9 th March. (Photo A6) This point is inaccessible, so measured sea level near the SW corner of the building from the top of the post on the wall supporting the flood barrier: guesstimated sea level 5.8m tide (3.3m OD). Water in Bosham Lane covered entrance to Bosham Walk, extending 10 -15 m further north. Very strong wind and pouring rain and hail. (Photo A7) Stumps Lane now flooded and has extended to junction with Taylors Lane. (Photo A8) EH marked sea level at HT on "hump" on Shore Road/Stumps Lane for future level measurement (estimated level 3.3 OD)
1330	Whilst at Meadow House garden I am asked by Mr Pollock (Trippett Meadow) to advise on his generator organisation in the event of power cut.
1350	Meet with PN at Stumps Lane to obtain update. Stumps Lane flood now dispersed into holding area.
1400	Return home
1410	I telephone and brief Patsy West (Parish Council Chairman) on situation.
1420	I telephone Quaymaster to enquire about possible power cut but power OK. He is bailing out his office. Sailing Club and Anchor Bleu flooded.
1505	Report the flooding to EA Floodline for their records. Difficulty is that they required every postcode for affected properties!!! The system can't cope with someone reporting third party flooding only personal property flooding it seems.
1605	Contact Loafers. They have had flooded utility room and pond is full. Pump RCD failed but as the Leat was closed by Alan Moulton earlier in the day I am concerned where extra water has come from. (PN visits on 11 th to discuss with them).
1730	JH cleared Stumps End grille and reports that all the inner flaps worked well.
1800	Meet with EH to inspect Stumps End outer flap. Mechanism works but the seal looks inadequate. Meet with TM who has offered to inspect grille at next high tide (0200!!). Very grateful for his offer.
2013	Email brief report with pictures to Chichester EA team.
2130	TM visits Stumps End grille and all OK.

Date/Time	Observations/Actions
11 th March	(Another high tide forecast at 1345)
0130	TM revisits Stumps End grille. Also clear. Tide level approx 6" below top of wooden structure around high level discharge pipe but outer lower level sluice flap had not sealed as water level on inside was approx 18" below top of brick wall. Wind westerly force 5ish and tide peaked just over the 5m mark according to www.cambermet.co.uk .
0930	EH visits Stumps End grille and clears weed from outer flap mechanism.
0940	I report the leaking outer flap to EA Operations team. A sluice keeper is to be sent.
0950	I contact EH to update.
1100	Meet Nick the sluice keeper at the outer flap (by chance). He inspects the flap and agrees that the seal is not tight and identifies a dropped hinge as the probable cause. He will report it and recommend a new outer flap!!
1320 - 1400	PS monitored water level at same site at Sailing Club windowsill as on Sunday 9th. Peak water level at 1355 hrs, guesstimated 5.4 tide gauge
1340	EH, JH and I meet at Stumps End for possible rerun. PN in place at Quay/High Street.
1400	High tide much lower than yesterday with no danger of overtopping.
1415	EH, JH and I inspect the area that caused the flood bypass and down into Stumps Lane. The existing protective bank at the site needs to be extended into the property to ensure water does not escape into garden and down driveway it seems. EA need to be informed.
1430	Returned home
1430	PN visits Loafers. The RCD on pump trips and won't reset, though it did set for long enough yesterday to drain the house. The very heavy rainfall around 1300 hrs on 10th caused temporary flooding of the road at the Bosham Lane/ Sunny Way intersection. This surface water creates a head that stalls the flow in the Leat past Loafers, in a pipe very close to the house, which leaks water into their mezzanine cellar. This has happened on a number of occasions in the past. The highways drainage outlet in Bosham Lane, though recently cleared, was probably blocked with leaves. (PS)
1756	EA issue another Flood Warning for Chichester Harbour to Selsey Bill.



David West
Bosham Parish Council Water Bailiff
12th March 2008

(Note – EH – Eric Hinckley, JH – John Hinton, PN – Peter Newman, PS – Peter Stern, TM – Tim Martell)



A1



A2



A3



A4



A5



A6



A7



A8

(Photos courtesy of Messrs Hinckley, Newman and West)

END OF SPECIAL REPORT

APPENDIX 2



Shore Road Trippett pipe blocked 11th March



Ratham Lane – stream constricted by vegetation



Chequer Lane ditch