

# **BOSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WATER BAILIFF**

## **MONTHLY REPORT – December 2009**

### **Executive Summary**

**A total of 115.1 mm of rain fell this month** – Most fell 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you DW.

A slight delay with this report because we have been awaiting news from the EA (Environment Agency) concerning some important issues which could have serious ramifications on how we operate as a flood team, and indeed the overall duties of the Water Bailiff.

The Health & Safety department at the EA are extremely busy following a fatality at Medmerry Beach, Selsey a few weeks back and, in light of this sad incident they are currently undertaking a full review of their policies. In the meantime all members of “the public”, including flood team members have been asked “to refrain from operating any Environment Agency structures.”

As we are not yet sure precisely what this means our Chairman Cllr Trinkwon has written to the EA to clarify matters and to ascertain in particular whether I, as an employee of the Parish Council (and thus being covered by our Liability Insurance) am also not allowed to enter or operate the various control points and mechanisms (e.g. the Penstock or the BSC sluice, and does it exclude me from entering the structure at School Rythe to clear regular blockages? etc.).

At this stage it would seem so, at least with regard to the Penstock. For example, the significant recent increase in water flow due to thawing snow has meant a sharp rise in the Millstream level (3.8 at one point) and the urgent need for it to be lowered, thus redirecting water away from the Village and into Colner Creek. I was not given permission to do this, however Barry Killner of the EA has arranged to have it done by his staff asap.

This has put additional pressure on the EA, as will any other requests for duties which I would normally have undertaken as standard, but am not currently authorised to do. This is somewhat a shame but is completely understandable at this point. I have assured the EA of our continued support and availability for anything they wish to delegate to me or other team members.

This aside it has in many ways been business as usual for the time of year. By “usual” I mean clearing myriad blockages of leaves and branches that require regular attention. I’m not going to note them all because it’s standard stuff, but I would like to thank everyone who has sent in reports, and especially to team members who in my absence (toward the end of the month) got on with the job without needing to be asked.

As for future operations, we hope matters will become clear within the next week or so and Cllr Trinkwon will be presenting a report to Council in February.

**Other health & safety issues:** New High Viz winter jacket received with thanks.

Anthony Black (Tony / AB)

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2009.

### Action, if required

Mr G Holder - Building Services, Chichester District Council  
Mr G Wilson – Assets Systems Manager, Environment Agency  
Mr M Ford - Environment Agency – Operations Delivery Tech Support  
Mr J Thomas - Wastewater Networks Western Area Manager, Southern Water  
Ms. Lisa Roberts – Bosham Parish Council Clerk

Mr R Riley – Chichester District Council  
Mr B Killner – 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- Bosham Association  
Mr P Price - Bosham Association  
Mr E Hinkley – Bosham Association

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

### Abbreviations:

<b>PP</b>	-	Peter Price	<b>PS</b>	-	Peter Stern	<b>DW</b>	-	Dave West	<b>EA</b>	-	Environment Agency
<b>HWYs</b>	-	Highways	<b>HW</b>	-	High Water	<b>BA</b>	-	Bosham Association	<b>CDC</b>	-	Chichester District Council
<b>PN</b>	-	Peter Newman	<b>JH</b>	-	John Hinton	<b>U/S</b>	-	Unserviceable	<b>AB</b>	-	Anthony Black (Tony) Author
<b>BPC</b>	-	Bosham Parish Council	<b>LR</b>	-	Lisa Roberts	<b>MM</b>	-	Mike McGrail			