

BOSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WATER BAILIFF

MONTHLY REPORT – November 2009

Executive Summary

A total of 242.0 mm of rain fell this month – the highest on record in the past 12 years. Most fell 12th-15th & 26th-29th. Thank you DW.

As you can imagine, it's been “all hands on deck” this month and my first thanks must go the bodies upon whom we are so reliant:

The Environment Agency has been very active in the Village. They recently undertook a “Grill run” (a full check of all areas with extra clearances and remedial actions). I have been asked by Bosham Parish Council (BPC) to thank them for their invaluable work, much of which is unseen and unsung. I have conveyed our sincere gratitude and also let them know that we are not unsympathetic to their budgetary limitations. In this respect I have been directed to inform them that BPC is possibly willing to contribute financially toward outstanding projects, these currently being in debate. I shall also be working more closely and “hands on” with the EA teams in the coming weeks, which will also be particularly helpful in increasing my broader “knowledge base”.

Southern Water has also been very active, most notably inspecting the entire system of foul-water pipes. This entailed not least removing some very old covers, not an easy job. The **CDC road sweeper** has been here on several occasions clearing myriad leaves. **WSCC Highways** has also been here on a regular basis and thanks to their recent visit with the big jetter (not a cheap exercise) things have largely gone well, with only a few “occasional” problem areas: most notably Sunny Way and Delling Lane where some pooling has occurred.

Current conditions: It has been often been commented on how well things have gone considering the exceptional downfall. **However**, it has only just begun. The ditches were empty a few weeks back; the Downs chalk (i.e. Chilgrove) not yet saturated and the fields still soaking up the rain. That has **all changed** in the last 10 days and the real test will come in the next few weeks. If we get as much rain as is forecast the flow will increase considerably. We must be alert and well co-ordinated. In the meantime I have and will continue to chat with the EA, Highways, CDC, S Water and various riparian owners, for example Richard Strange who in the last few days has been digging **new ditches** (and clearing others) to get the water off what is now a VERY sodden ground. Such has been the problem that an entire Spinach harvest has been lost, sadly.

Last but not least, my sincere thanks to our flood team members, too many to mention all here but in particular: John Hinton for several works he has undertaken and Peter Stern, Peter Price and David West who have nurtured things from the outset. We are in a good position today to take things forward; to progress the issues that remain outstanding in a diplomatic manner and to strengthen the relationship with the overstretched (and rapidly changing) statutory bodies upon whom we are reliant – and in many ways to whom we are **accountable**.

Health & safety issues: **a) Problem of the spikes** at Moreton Rd bend: **resolved** (removed). **B) Issues** of me working with statutory bodies: **covered** (by Council liability and subject to health and safety guidelines.) **But.. c) access to “assets”:** under new **EA health and safety guidelines:** I am told that flood team members are no longer permitted access to “control points” (e.g. Penstock, Leat etc). This is a worry and I am seeking the appropriate consents for “delegation”, hoping it will not be an issue – otherwise I'll have to do all the work! I will report again on this a.s.a.p. I don't mind doing the work but it does sound as though this means that – as just **two** examples – **JH** who regularly clears Stumps Lane sluice and the Trippet grill and pipe, and **PP** who is always vigilant about potential trouble spots will “theoretically” no longer be able to take remedial action unless an “official” is there or they are “helping me”.

That would be a BIG shame. The whole point of having a flood team and working together is that everyone gets involved and makes valuable contributions. We all enjoy doing it; I truly appreciate the support and I know that the Council is very grateful. If it gets to the point to where everything has to be approved or delegated by me I'll be in even more trouble with anyone who might think I'm already above my station!

I have spoken again with the EA today and am informed that, under various departmental changes as from Dec 1st we need to build relationships with other departments, particularly their "Assets Systems Managers" who will be issuing instructions to "Incident Response Managers" (the chaps I will be working with). This said, I am grateful to have good lines of communication and that I am being welcomed to work alongside them. I'm looking forward to it; it's a pleasure and a privilege to serve in our beautiful Village.

In conclusion:

- **A big change from the summer months, all goes well but vigilance is needed.**
- **Some health and safety issues to be clarified.**
- **New relationships within changing statutory bodies to be formed.**

Anthony Black (Tony / AB)

Dec 3rd 2009.

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
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- Chairman, 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:

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

Date	Site/ Weather Situation	Observation	Action
Sun 1st	Walton Lane	Ditches largely dry but clearances needed in several spots.	Cleared by hand.
Mon 2 nd	East Ditch	Wrongly assumed EA had not yet cleared as more blockages were seen. Mostly a build up of leaves. EA had cleared 2 wks previous.	My apologies sent. Wondered if better to clear later each year but this is hard to gauge, dependent upon when the rainfall begins.
Fri 6 th	Kendalcroft, Viking Way	Team meeting	Overall review.
Fri 13th	Everywhere. ----- Moreton Rd bend (break) sluice. The spikes.	Gales & heavy rain forecast. Checked all areas. ----- Removed spikes using chain and sledgehammer and attempted to remove board (as an exercise for the future!). Impossible to shift. Not a satisfactory solution. I'm not an engineer but I am the one who will have to remove these in freezing water under high volume and pressure! If this is such a key area surely we need a long term solution. Please?	
Tues 17 th	Penstock and corner break	Penstock had been cleared of growth but corner break almost too overgrown at this time of year to observe. Surprisingly low flow after such heavy rain. Very little leakage. Observed other areas in Village also low (but see report for explanation).	Will chat with EA. We have volunteered help to sort these once and for all.
Thurs 19 th	Various areas	Several team members out and about and sending reports. JH clears Trippet Grill.	Thank you all
Remainder of the month.	All areas	Remaining vigilant. All is well. Some pooling the usual areas.	Made frequent trips around the Village. Highways informed.

END OF REPORT