

BOSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WATER BAILIFF

MONTHLY REPORT – January 2010

Executive Summary

A total of 90 mm of rain fell this month – about average for the time of year. Most of it fell on the 16th and 23rd (25mm each day)

It was a reasonably uneventful month *to begin with*; normal activities of myself and team members clearing a few blockages and undertaking basic maintenance. **Then** on the 22nd it all came at once.... the snow was melting fast and the ground already sodden. Flooding in Brooks Lane and Crede Lane; the Millstream rising rapidly; manhole covers bursting open, damaged tarmac, CSO discharges etc. My phone ringing off the hook, I needed help. Fast!

Fortuitously, I happened to have a meeting arranged with **Gavin Holder (CDC)** that day here in Bosham. He stayed with me for most of the afternoon and into the evening witnessing events and making calls. We both learnt a lot from each other that day and I'm very grateful for his friendship and support.

I had already called **WSCC Highways** in the morning and they dealt with the drains in Crede Lane and (beyond the call of duty) also cleared pipes in the ditches on Walton Lane (thank you very much, and thank you also to James Course who alerted me and then guided them in the right direction). My thanks too must go to Alan Moulton who opened the Leat and to PP who spent a good few hours monitoring and reporting on most areas. I am attaching his report on the day as an Appendix (B) and so won't repeat the details here. It's a helpful indicator of what team members do.

By 16:00hrs the Millstream had exceeded "level 5", twice its normal height and it became clear that, although the EA had somewhat opened the Penstock the previous week, it surely needed to be opened to the max? Being unable to adjust it myself presently under temporary health & safety rules, the EA were called. **Mike Ford** and co-worker (Dave) were there within 25 minutes. The Penstock was lowered.

Mike and Dave stayed with us for two hours and we visited a few areas together in our waders, including some of the houses in Brooks Lane. Interesting to note that many of these have elevated door steps (as per Bosham High Street) and, I was told by residents the flooding was nothing unusual, in fact "not particularly high". They are sitting in a "saucer" (a dip). This may be so, but it cannot be the end of the matter. Be assured it is on the "agenda".

By midnight the Millstream had fallen to 2.5. Main problem solved - but of course not all challenges yet resolved.

There is a lot more I could say about the day's activities and discussions; about emergency sandbags (not needed in the end), drains, sewers, CSO, control mechanisms, weak spots and regulations and about the people involved. But there are a few things which I would like to note which I think are of primary, actually paramount importance.

Firstly, and no exaggeration, the one simple step of lowering the Penstock probably saved the lower end of Bosham Lane from serious flooding (imagine water breaking the bank at the Millstream Hotel and flowing south!) and illustrates its **extreme importance**. However, it also highlights our **dependency** on others (what if the EA had been busy elsewhere?). Not ideal. I'll not say more pending further meetings with the EA (perhaps with the full BPC), other than; frankly I don't see a problem here. I am sure that any issues can and will be resolved. Our relationship is strong with all the statutory bodies.

Secondly, it is without doubt thanks to the efforts by existing members of the **BA Flood Team** during the past nine years (by which I mean: expertise, reports, plans, surveys and practical hands-on support etc.) that Bosham has a system in place which has been tried, tested and well proven. The events above clearly indicate this. True that it is now largely a matter of maintenance and co-ordination – but there is lot of this required.

I take no credit for the past, but looking toward the future as we must, it is my job to ensure that we continue to have a robust and willing team in place. I am grateful that we have a significant number of potential volunteers and will be discussing this with BPC and existing team members in due course. Please also be aware that your Council under the Chairmanship of **Cllr Bernard Trinkwon** and with my line manager (Lisa Roberts) are deeply involved in all matters and many discussions are taking place. It is not for me to say more at this stage, but I want everyone to be assured that the village is in safe hands.

In conclusion: As my American friends would say “No big deal”! The Village was tested and passed. Lots still to do, yes. There always will be. But no need for panic and certainly no need to think that Bosham is in any way under serious risk of flooding – **provided** we just get the basics right. Overall, in my view there is no problem or issue that cannot be resolved. I’m looking forward to continuing to develop our relationship with the various statutory bodies and to working alongside everyone involved.

Health & safety issues: None to report other than as already mentioned.

Anthony Black (Tony / AB)
Feb 11th 2010.

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:

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			

Appendix A



This stuff melts!



WSCC Jetter in Crede Lane



Beyond the call of duty (Walton Lane)



James Course, Walton Lane grille



CDC & EA monitoring post Penstock



John Hinton helps clear fallen branches

Appendix B

Flooding situation 22/1/2010 at 1530 hrs

Rainfall 0900 to 1600 was 15mm. Nothing exceptional.

All below reported to Tony Black.

- 1) Stumps End Ok. No need to raise the flap. Junction of Taylors Lane and Stumps Lane heavy ponding as usual as drain in centre not working. (Highways are unable to jet it out).
- 2) Taylors Lane. Drains hardly coping as a result of the broken pipe at the junction of Taylors Lane and Stumps Lane and the small diversion pipe is hardly coping. However this small pipe is working so this should correct itself when the rain stops.
- 3) Bosham Stream well over the alarm level at 5m. The penstock had been lowered earlier on request but apparently not enough. Reported immediately to Tony Black who was there with the CDC waiting for the EA by 1622. At 1646 Tony reported that they had been able to lower the Penstock further. Watergate: John Lippiett unable to move his slats as water pressure too high but passed a message to Tony that the EA were welcomed to try. That would provide the last main opening. Not known if already flowing over the lip in his garden.
- 4) Walton Lane. Flowing and no flooding but pipes to the south of "Green Oak" still partially blocked. Grill OK. Level in East Ditch OK. Understand that Highways had done some jetting there earlier in the day on the long pipe section at Tony's request.
- 5) Chequer Lane not checked.
- 6) Creed Lane looked OK but understand it had been flooded earlier and Tony had dealt with it in conjunction with Highways.
- 7) Brooks Lane N. Bosham badly flooded with water flowing into properties to the West. Flooding between the Church Hall and Fairfield road BUT not north of that. Water jetting out of manholes and also clearly the drainage system is not coping for some reason as it is surging out of the drains on either side of the road. Problem is usually N of Fairfield lane where I believe there is only a soakaway. Odd! Reported immediately to Tony. He and the CDC arranging for sandbags but fear it is too late this time. Urgent that the drains are jetted out quickly.
- 8) Sheila Barton at Loafers is OK but pump working hard. She will call of it gets worse. The Leat should have been closed much earlier but this has not been checked.
- 9) Sunny Way Junction OK.
- 10) Delling Lane flooded as usual but not serious. Water not as high as Green lane. This situation will remain until the direct west drain is connected straight the road southwards near the Berkeley Arms.
- 11) CSO gushing out at 1230. Stopped by 1600. Asked Eric Hinkley to report to the EA.
- 12) Ratham Lane OK but stream very high. Would have flooded ages ago if the road had not been raised.
- 13) Pictures taken of most areas.

PJP 22/1/2010 at 1650

For info: key areas.

