

**Minutes of the Brue Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Highbridge
on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 10.30 am Chairman: Mr Ray Adlam**

1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register appended	Action
2	Items additional to the agenda: None	
3	Declarations of interest: None at this time	
4	Opportunity for the public to address the meeting: none	
5	Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 02 December 2014: Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.	
6	Matters Arising: Item 6/8 additional maintenance work completed- Middle Rhyne, Cross is in the Axe Catchment.	
7	Board membership: Vacancies - Glastonbury, Mark & Meare areas. Suggestions for members' consideration were: David Baker, Meare area and Ross Whitcombe, Westhay – R Adlam will visit these landowners. John Sutton, Glastonbury – C-A Porter to visit.	R Adlam C-AP
8	Finance – overview of expenditure and budget: (appended) S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the Brue Valley Catchment finance report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance is approx. £9,500 under budget for the year for routine and non-routine • Costs of employing M Andrews, Tractor Operative have increased as he is now employed 4 days per week. This is offset by reduced payments to contractors for those lots. • Engineering schemes: includes the conclusion of Favourable Conditions Projects on the North and South drains, as well as work undertaken on East & West Waste • Surplus is due to works not completed (non-routine) these generally are works added as contingency but subsequently deemed not necessary • Soft bottom ditches i.e. Godney Rhyne may require use of a silt pump; it was agreed that A Dowden (AJD) would investigate and report at a future meeting <p>The report was duly noted by members.</p>	AJD
9	Maintenance Programme: M Wall (MSW) briefed members on the results of tenders meeting advising that tenders were awarded on a new offset three year cycle. To get the cycles initially established it was necessary to award the Brue 3 years, Axe 2 years and Coastal 1 year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Andrews will be deployed throughout the Axe Brue area not just the upper area. MA may also undertake works in the Parrett area which will be re-chargeable. • All contracts include a clause to cancel the contract if work is not undertaken/completed to the Board's satisfaction. • A Notice of Board works will be advertised in Western Daily Press on Saturday 16 May 2015, as well as on the Board's website. • Powers of Entry and Enforcements have been reviewed by the Home Office to ensure there is no breach of European Regulations. A code of practice is now available. <p>Forceable entry: there are no precedents to use the Land Drainage Act 1991 (LDA) to force entry and little or no case law around the prosecution of Byelaws; legal advice states that we may enter land as long as it is left in the condition in which it was found.</p> <p>Old Barn: Mrs Pickles has requested the Board installs a new viewing gate to prevent using the residential drive way. MSW advised that access via a residential property is not a preferred option. After discussion members agreed a new access would improve the area.</p> <p>Proposed P Duckett, Seconded P Thorne 'that the Axe Brue Board creates a new access with a 15 foot gate to allow routine maintenance to be undertaken via The Old Barn and Jessamine Farm.' Vote: unanimous. RESOLUTION 1</p> <p>Enforcement work Northwick Road: Letters have been sent on riparian owners on Northwick Road in Mark to undertake works to improve drainage of the area. Members were advised that some works have been undertaken, however there are areas where no work has yet been undertaken.</p>	RES 1
	Proposed J Fear, Seconded M Watts 'that the Axe Brue Board will serve notice to undertake essential maintenance works to improve the drainage of the area and re-charge riparian owners where necessary if works have not been completed by the riparian owners by the end of September 2015.' Vote: unanimous. RESOLUTION 2	RES 2
	Highway culverts: Members were advised that there are almost 700 crossings of highways with viewed rhynes within the Axe Brue and Parrett IDB districts. It was agreed that discussion would be held with SCC Highways to review maintenance and necessary repairs/upgrades. It was agreed that a funding request would be submitted to SCC and the Somerset Rivers Authority for possible	MSW
		MSW

match-funding.

Woolavington Angling Club: members were advised that a request has been received to install a structure to maintain levels within the ponds, following completion of works to improve the channel and culverts agreed at a previous application; the Angling Club would like to replace a temporary bund. NWS recommended the Angling Club submit a Land Drainage Consent (LDC) application for consideration of the Board. It was agreed that MSW would arrange a site visit for members' understanding, prior to the LDC application being received.

East and West Waste: Ashton Rhyne inlet and New Close inlet have been completed by Spratts Plant Hire to a satisfactory standard.

- 10 **Improvements and capital works programme:** I Sturdy (IDS) advised that the East and West Waste Favourable Conditions Projects (FC) is almost complete. The Board is currently designing final arrangements for Dog Leg Ditch, to be funded by FC.

Outstanding FC works: members were advised that no new funds are to be claimed as this is the final year of the FC projects, however projects to be completed include:

- Installation of a tilting weir up stream at West Hay Drove/North Chine Drove
- A meeting is to be held 04 June 2015 to discuss West Hay Moor
- All FC structures are to be monitored over the winter prior to closing the project

Health and Safety: following a review of the upper areas, works have been identified as high priority projects for submission of a Grant in Aid application.

SRA: Enhanced Maintenance Programme and Common Works Programme (EMP & CWP): CWP is work undertaken as normal routine works.

EMP includes:

- Tree removal works in the Lower Brue area will be completed this financial year – North Drain pumping station to Highbridge
- de-silting in Mark Yeo where the Environment Agency cannot work
- River Brue banks: strategy for the operation of routine works is being discussed with the Board; Precept may be directed to these works in the future
- It was brought to the Boards' attention that the River Brue banks upstream of Meare are in poor condition; Officers are mindful of water mains in the banks which may restrict opportunities for working on the rear of the banks.
- IDS advised that he is encouraged that the Environment Agency wishes to engage the Board in discussions

- 11 **Development Control:** IDS advised that National Grid has an application submitted for power lines from Hinkley to Avonmouth; the Board is engaged in discussions with the planning inspector regarding the haul road and impact of works.

A signed statement of common ground is now in place.

NG's intention to dis-apply byelaws remains, however this is being resisted by the Board and Environment Agency.

NG has proposed to meet the additional financial burden for enhanced service of LDC, however this is being resisted by the Board to allow full scrutiny of the application.

The application is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2015.

- 12 **Special Correspondence:** NWS advised that a letter from Dan Rogerson MP makes reference to an annual statutory IDB1 form which confirms whether the Board has adopted a members' code of conduct, financial regulations and register of members' interests, therefore reminding Board members of their responsibilities. The letter also highlights flood risk policy. The letter was duly noted by members.

- 13 **Any Other Business: 1)** P Judah opined that Henry Cator and Jean Venables had been encouraging the Boards not to become an incorporated association, as it may be nationally detrimental to other drainage boards.

NWS advised that the SRA will be discussed at the next full board meeting.

Members expressed concern for the SRA option(s) being forwarded to Minister.

2) SRA Funding: NWS advised that Lincolnshire FRM bodies work together under a partnership arrangement with the County Council ; a report was produced of how they should work and all partners signed it.

- Lincolnshire now has a partnership arrangement which began approx. 8 years ago and has settled over time
- It appeared that there was immediate urgency for additional funding.
- Members were advised that in the SRA £1.9m was received from Defra for first years funding, and that the Minister provided 6 weeks for the formalisation of the SRA

IDS

Full Board

- Members expressed concern for funding availability, trust and transparency
- Options for funding are not yet known; the Minister will review proposals and make an announcement in June 2015
- Public consultation will follow the public announcement, circa 22 June 2015
- A meeting of the joint SRA Working Group will be held 25 June 2015

NWS/
C-AP

3) Funding of works & staff: IDS advised that the next section of dredging on the River Parrett is being undertaken by the Environment Agency, partly funded by the Enhanced Maintenance Programme.

- Maintenance of the sections already dredged is being undertaken by the Board, funded by the EMP
- A spread of work throughout the County, being delivered by the IDB, Environment Agency and the County is being funded by the EMP
- To undertake this work, there may be two new recruits on one year temporary contracts, as well as two existing employees

4) P Thorne thanked Carrie-Anne Porter and all involved with arranging the SWADA meeting held on 29 April 2015 at the Oaktree Arena; other members concurred with this sentiment.

14 **Date of next meeting:** Full Board 09 June 2015 and Brue Catchment 22 September 2015. All meetings to be held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 12:38hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE