

**Minutes of the Coastal Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 26 May 2015 at 10.30hrs** **Chairman: Mr Jeff Fear**

1	<b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as per register appended. Apologies S Gee (Responsible Finance Officer)	Action
2	<b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> M Wall (MSW) – fencing application	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> M Boley Item 10 culverting of Comple Rhyne at Lympsham School.	
4	<b>Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:</b> one member of the public present who did not wish to address the meeting.	
5	<b>Minutes of the Coastal Catchment meeting held on 09 December 2014:</b> (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.	
6	<b>Matters Arising: Item 8 Pitland Rhyne:</b> Bristol Water has requested the Board contribute towards works to replace the water main, however, after discussion it was agreed that as the water main was installed at the incorrect depth, the Board will decline the request.	
	<b>Item 9 BK01 Wick Rhyne Outfall:</b> the twin leaf door has been replaced with a tilting weir not, as stated in the last minutes, twin leaf gate.	
	<b>Item 9 Hatchers Lane:</b> a site visit to review the area is to be arranged with MSW, P Brewin and D Tratt in attendance.	MSW
	<b>Item 9 Transatlantic Cable:</b> Application plans for the transatlantic cable at Brean have been amended to show its installation alongside the southern side of the watercourse between Brean Leisure and Pontins, there will be no culverting of the watercourse, therefore no funding is available for mitigation work elsewhere.	
	<b>Item 14 Bleadon Sluice:</b> N Stevens (NWS) advised that the Bristol Water currently has a scheme out to tender for commencement in September 2015 and completion in December 2015, however it is not known what specification of works or operating procedures will be undertaken. Members were advised that water levels (post work) have not yet been discussed with the Agency but there is no reason to believe there will be alterations to the previous levels unless required by both parties..	
7	<b>Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:</b> (appended). NWS provided an overview of the Coastal Catchment finance report:	
	Members requested that the balance of routine maintenance is reviewed to ensure all contractor invoices have been settled, as some maintenance work was completed very late.	SMG
	Engineering: Burnham UDI – members were advised that the Board has allocated funds to a scheme in the Burnham area but they have remained uncommitted due to the lack of progress with any investigation or a scheme. However it was envisaged that a multi-agency approach might be a way forward especially as Wessex Water had identified funding in its next AMP programme for surface water improvements in the same area. It was agreed that NWS would prepare a paper for Board’s consideration when further investigation had taken place.	NWS
	The report was duly noted by members.	
8	<b>Maintenance Programme:</b> MSW advised that following the tenders meeting and the lack of a tender for the Burnham area it was agreed that tenders were to be re-invited for the Burnham area; 4 tenders were received, the contract was awarded to Spratt Plant Hire who submitted the lowest tender (29p per metre).	
	Tenders for the Coastal Catchment will be invited next year for a 3 year contract.	
	<b>1) Bleadon – pennywort:</b> pennywort, although not poisonous is an invasive weed that has accumulated in the Bleadon area. To try and eradicate it, a new procedure will be adopted following advice received from a specialist. It will comprise mechanical and manual removal followed by spraying; the Agency will assist with the spraying. Pennywort can be left on the banks to dry out and compost; it is not a danger to livestock if digested.	
	<b>2) Wick Lane:</b> MSW presented photographs of a road side ditch flooding caused by a partially damaged 200mm drainage pipe (approx.) under the unclassified road. The riparian owner has not responded to correspondence or home visits. Clerk does not believe that the IDB has the powers to enforce improvements. It was agreed to investigate installing a new highway culvert south of the damaged pipe that would outfall into the Wick Rhyne; The highway authority (SCC) would be invited to contribute to the cost of any necessary works identified following investigation.	RES 1
	<b>Proposed D Tratt, Seconded W Welland ‘that in principal the Axe Brue Board undertakes further investigations with a view to install a new highway culvert south of the damaged pipe to outfall into the Wick Rhyne during winter 2015 and for SCC Highways Agency to be invited to contribute funding to the scheme.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 1</b>	

**3) 9 Golf Links Road:** MSW advised that following surface water flooding in March 2015, jetting had been undertaken to clear a culvert, which identified a chamber in a garden shed. The culvert provides drainage for local residents. After discussion it was recommended to investigate further and advise riparian owners of their responsibilities.

**4) 24 Shelley Drive:** unconsented works to erect decking over a watercourse have been completed by the owner of the property. The Board has advised the owner that this work is a breach of the byelaws and has given 21 days' notice to remove decking, at the owners' expense; a retrospective planning application has been submitted to which the Board has objected. Should SDC refuse the application, removal of the decking will be enforced. After a full discussion it was agreed that the Board should proceed with enforcement action for removal of the decking if SDC does not. Members considered it reasonable that the decking would be permitted to remain up to the bank.

**Proposed W Welland, Seconded H Case 'that if following notice of a breach of byelaws giving 21 days' notice works are not undertaken at the landowners expense to remove decking that extends over a watercourse the Axe Brue Board will proceed with enforcement action.'** **Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2**

11:25hrs D Watts joined the meeting with apologies for late arrival

**5) Comple Rhyne, Lympsham School:** the Board routinely undertakes maintenance of this section of Comple Rhyne on a Saturday at the request of the school as operating equipment in school hours is considered too dangerous, however even with ground protection damage has been caused on the access route through the school grounds.

A developer on land adjacent the school has submitted a request to culvert approx. 26m of watercourse.

Governors of Lympsham School and the associated Pre-School have requested, the Boards approval in principal to culvert the section of Comple Rhyne through the school grounds. It was agreed after a full discussion to recommend the Board diverts from its normal no culverting policy in this instance. Members recommended to agree to undertake the future maintenance, jetting of the culvert and inspections of a new culvert through the school.

**Proposed W Welland, Seconded D Watts 'that subject to an adequate Land Drainage Consent application being submitted the Board in principal will approve to vary Board policy to culverting on this one occasion to reduce the liability of maintenance.'** **Vote: 4 for, 0 against, 2 abstain; motion carried. RESOLUTION 3**

**6) Pitland Rhyne:** MSW advised that Notaro have confirmed they will attenuate on-site so not increase the flow into the watercourse; members were satisfied with this proposal.

**7) East Rhyne Access Gate:** members were advised that the Board has undertaken works to replace an existing access on East Rhyne. A £1,000 contribution will now be requested from Mr Vowles.

**8) Stoddens Rhyne B11:** MSW advised that works to replace the weed screen and install an access gate have been completed to a satisfactory standard.

**9) Mill Green Close, West Huntspill:** members were advised that CCTV and jetting had taken place, with approx 70 tonnes of spoil removed. Wessex Water has installed a new access chamber above the sewer main. A weed screen and headwall is to be installed at the top end. The completed work has resulted in lowering water levels approx. 300/400mm to benefit the area, however further jetting is to be undertaken.

**9 Improvements and capital works programme: BK01 Wick Rhyne Outfall:** replacement of the split door has been completed by installation of a tilting weir by Pope & Son contractors. The old door is to be removed and gauge boards installed.

**Brent Street Culvert:** P Struck (PBS) advised that as requested from the Parish Council, design options are being investigated to improve surface water drainage of the area. Wessex Water has confirmed that a contribution of £50k will be made to a scheme which will result in works on 60 to 80m of watercourse from Church Lane to Brent Street.

**Fencing Application – Hopkins:** members were advised that at the November 2014 Full Board meeting under Item 11 the Board considered a Land Drainage Consent applications for fencing from Mr Bowden (granted permission for temporary fencing) and Mr Hopkins which resulted in the following resolution:

*M Watts Proposed, E Badman Seconded 'that a Land Drainage Consent application from Mr Hopkins to erect a permanent pig wire/barbed wire fence with posts be refused.'* **Vote: 20 for, 1 against, 2 abstain – motion carried. RESOLUTION 10**

Mr Hopkins has expressed discontent at the outcome and registered a complaint with the Board as he stated that his farm has a High Health status accreditation, therefore the value of his stock may decrease without adequate fencing to prevent contact with cattle from adjacent owners; After

RES 2

RES 3

discussion it was agreed that subject to application, a temporary fence would be permitted. It was further agreed that consideration is to be given to development control/Land Drainage Consents decisions being made available on the website.

- 10 **Development Control:** (appended). **1) Application 15/P/0167/0** outline planning permission for the erection of 79 dwellings at Bleadon Hill, Bleadon is incorrectly listed as being in the area of East Brent.
- 2) Application 12/14/00018/SJH** erection of agricultural building and formation of associated yard North of Glenavon, Bristol Road, Highbridge: members requested that the Board discourage further urbanisation. NWS advised that correspondence to the local authority includes advice to developers not to erect or construct further buildings within the maintenance strip as stated within the Board Byelaws.
- 3) North Somerset Coastal Path:** with compliance of the landowner, the IDB has secured a 9m maintenance strip adjacent the watercourse throughout Diamond Farm.
- 4) Martins Hill Farm:** NWS advised that the farm owner has been advised not to erect log cabins within 9m of the watercourse. Concern was expressed by members for historical in-filling of watercourses; it was agreed that NWS and MSW should investigate and report at a future meeting.
- 5) Motorway crossing:** members were advised that a Land Drainage Consent application has been received for three rhyme crossings required to install a gas main along Mark Rd just east of the M5 overbridge, confirmation and further information has been requested from the applicant.
- 11 **Special Correspondence and meetings:** NWS advised that a letter from Dan Rogerson MP makes reference to the annual statutory IDB1 return which amongst many other questions asks whether the Board has adopted a members' code of conduct, financial regulations and register of members' interests as well as reviewing the FRM Policy, therefore reminding Board members of their responsibilities. The letter also highlights flood risk policy which we have not reviewed since 205. The letter was duly noted by members.
- IDB1 form:** NWS advised that the annual Defra form may result in an investigation request to ADA of the Board, however the Board will undertake reviews of its policies throughout the year.
- Somerset Rivers Authority:** NWS advised that training for new members of the SRA which was scheduled to take place on 05 June 2015 has been postponed, to which the Board Working Group deputies had been invited.
- An SRA workshop, which is not open to the public, will take place on 22 June 2015 to discuss the funding review report, which is in the final stages of drafting; it is envisaged that this will be available for public consultation after the workshop.
- Lincolnshire visit:** Board members, officers and councilors visited Drainage Boards and the Lincolnshire Partnership in April 2015 The partnership is a long-standing partnership that works well, however additional funding was not sought as it would prove non-beneficial to the local authorities; Somerset is seeking additional funding, however no preferred option has been agreed by the SRA at this time.
- 12 **Any Other Business:** Nothing at this time.
- 13 **Date of next meeting:** Full Board 09 June 2015 and Coastal Catchment 29 September 2015. All meetings to take place at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge unless specified.

NWS/  
MSW

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.  
The meeting was closed at 12:45hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE