

Minutes of the Parrett Board Meeting held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 2.15 pm. Chairman: Mr P Maltby

1	Attendance & Apologies for Absence: as per register appended.	Action
2	Items Additional to the Agenda: (1) NWS: B Hall ratepayer	
3	Declarations of interest: J Taylor Fordgate ring bank	
4	Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board meeting: None	
5	Minutes of the Full Board Meeting held on 27 January 2015: (appended) having been previously circulated the following amendments were agreed: (1) Item 6 Steart: 'Steart' should read 'Northmoor' (2) Item 6 Northmoor: 'member for the west die of the railway...' should read 'member for the west side of the railway...' (3) Item 9 Budget 2015/16: Board schemes 'budget of £289k of which £186k is grant funding' should read 'cost of £289k of which £186k is Board funding' With the agreed amendments the Chairman signed the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting held. All in favour.	
6	Matters Arising: Item 6 Northmoor: NWS advised that following instruction to write to Natural England (NE), the Board may be requested to undertake investigations on behalf of NE, who have advised that they are aware of the concerns of residents. This matter will be discussed at greater length within Item 11 Engineering Report a) Maintenance Works. Item 10 King Sedgemoor Drain: IDS advised that the Boards' gratitude was conveyed verbally during discussions with the Environment Agency (the Agency).	
7	Draft minutes of the Employment & Machinery meeting 24 February 2015: (appended) Having been previously circulated for information purposes the minutes were duly noted by members with the following comments: Item 5 (3) Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) <i>previously Somerset Rivers Board:</i> members expressed concern that work is being undertaken by IDB staff for other bodies rather than IDB projects and schemes, and that ratepayers may not be represented adequately. It was suggested that large projects undertaken for the SRA will indirectly benefit ratepayers. At the recent Axe Brue Full Board meeting, Board members opined that there was too much Engineer involvement; officers are receiving mixed messages from members. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the August Somerset Drainage Board Consortium Management meeting. Legislation permits one public authority to undertake works on behalf of another and can be carried out by way of Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCA). Item 5 Minehead Investigations: concern was expressed for surface water in Minehead; IDS advised that the Board had provided a price to undertake maintenance on un-maintained attenuation ponds, however no response was received from WSDC. It was agreed after further discussion that IDS would arrange a meeting to discuss this matter. IDS advised that there has been a change in the process of planning; Somerset County Council is now a Statutory Consultee, however the Board continues to respond to applications as a non-statutory consultee.	IDS
8	Draft minutes of the Management Sub-Committee of 24 February 2015: (appended) Having been previously circulated the minutes were duly noted by members with the following comments: Land owners/occupiers continue to request assistance from Mike Philips; could it be made known that Mr Philips has retired? It was agreed that this would be addressed.	NWS
9	Item 8 Resolution 1: NWS advised that financial reimbursement for the operation of structures within the raised water level schemes relates to Wetmoor, however no works have been undertaken; with the formation of PSCA this matter could be re-addressed.	
9	Draft minutes of the Finance & Governance Committee of 13 January 2015: (appended) Having been previously circulated the minutes were duly noted by members.	
10	Approval of Accounts and Annual Report for Year End 31 March 2015: (appended) C Gunn was welcomed to the meeting. SMG briefed members on the reports highlighting that the surplus in plat is due to external works rather than planned Board schemes and projects and that Grant in Aid is included within current assets and funds not yet utilised are recorded as cash flow items.	
	D Spicer Proposed M Winslade Seconded 'that the Parrett IDB approve and adopt the accounts for year ending 31 March 2014.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION1 Annual Governance Statement (Section 2): SMG discussed the Governance Statements in	RES 1

turn for Board members' understanding, recommending that the eight statements be approved.

15:15 Cllr I Dyer joined the meeting (appointed member)

C Gunn advised that following internal audit undertakings, the controls documents formulated by SMG is appropriate.

It was agreed that the Risk Register, as a live document, is disseminated annually to all Board members with the November Full Board meeting pack.

D Spicer Proposed Cllr I Dyer Seconded 'that the Parrett IDB approve statements 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 of the Annual Governance Statement.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2

The annual accounts and Annual Governance Statement will be duly signed by the Chairman, Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer at the end of the meeting.

Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium: SMG advised that the SDBC annual accounts 2014/15 had been approved by the Axe Brue Board at the meeting of 09 June.

The accounts had been discussed in full at the F&G meeting of 19 May 2014 at which time Resolution 2 was a recommendation to the Full Board to adopt the accounts.

D Spicer Proposed J Healey Seconded 'that the Parrett IDB approve and adopt the Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium accounts for year ending 31 March 2015.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3

11 **Engineering Report:** (appended) **a) Maintenance Works:** P Ham (PSH) provided a brief overview of the maintenance report, which was duly noted by members.

Bank Flailing: the Environment Agency (the Agency) has confirmed that landowners were advised prior to flailing works being undertaken, however Board members within the area have stated that no notification was presented. The works undertaken had resulted in damage to posts, fences and gates. It was agreed after discussion that the IDB would work with the Agency to contact landowners, by supplying landowner/occupier details.

Rhynne maintenance: all weed cleaning operations are conducted mechanically except for invasive plants, when herbicides are used in conjunction with assured/licenced contractors.

Kitchens Lane: the Board has allocated £10k for this project, however PSH has requested this be increased to £15k. NWS recommended that this scheme is re-investigated to re-evaluate the required costs.

Nythe Road: it was agreed that a meeting will be arranged with Highways England to discuss highway culverts in general, as concern was expressed for the weight and amount of traffic on this road.

Aller Drove: (as report) members concurred that damage had been caused by a contributory factor rather than Board activities; an inspection had identified evidence that a small tree had been growing into the base of the wall immediately below foundation cracking. A Full discussion was held in which members were reminded that this watercourse is not in-view.

P Maltby Proposed J Lock Seconded 'that the Clerk writes to the landowner to advise that Parrett IDB works are not considered to be contributory to the condition of the wall. Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 4

Mildmay Rhynne: a meeting will be held with D Vigar and R Vaux to consider taking 1km of this watercourse into view; if necessary, a recommendation will be put to the Full Board meeting in November.

b) Improvement Works: I Sturdy (IDS) presented an overview of the summary engineers report:

- Thorney Ring Bank Scheme: residents have a high opinion of the Board and its works (10 properties protected)
- Thorney Pottery Rink Bank Scheme: 14 properties protected via the scheme which was completed by a PSCA and 100% re-charged to the Agency
- Insurance: there is a resilience thread within the Flood Action Plan to which South Somerset District Council are taking the lead
- The Thorney schemes benefit the whole village
- IDB will fund the fuel for the pumps which will remove incident rainfall – surface water that is not gravity fed with other watercourses
- Parrett and Tone dredging: 10 locations have been assessed; consequences, benefits and disadvantages of all assessments will be considered upon receipt of tenders. Works to commence October 2015; members expressed concern for road closures and diversions. IDS to check start date; however strategies and permissions have yet to be sought for works to commence
- Maintenance Dredging: the Board has undertaken 42 cross sections to compare with post dredge cross sections, however very little difference was found in most areas
- Much discussion regarding tidal barrier versus dredging; at this stage no decision has been made

RES 2

RES 3

IDS

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IDS/
NWS

RES 4

IDS

- The Board has been requested to undertake maintenance of dredged area
During the discussion the following members left the meeting:

16:20 R Archer (appointed member)

16:30 Cllr A Moore (appointed member)

16:45 D Spicer (appointed member)

16:47 Cllr I Dyer (appointed member)

IDS

A372 Seven Bends Phase 3: M Winslade declared an interest: Othery Parish Council. D Vigar declared an interest: Chairman, High Ham Parish Council.

Members expressed dis-content at the continuing road closure on the A372. It was agreed that a meeting is to be held with full delegated authority given to the sub-committee to be set up for this purpose. Members would prefer the meeting to be held following a decision by the Agency on current dredging discussions **lain please update this section.**

Maintenance Sub-Committee: M Bere, C Passmore, D Vigar, M Winslade, J Lock, J Taylor, A Gilling, P Betty, T Bradford, R Roberts, P Maltby and B Bryer. No proposal or vote was made.

17:00 J Lock left the meeting (elected member)

IDS advised that the Highways Agency is now known as Highways England.

XI Additional ring banks: (as report) a report has been used to identify and prioritise works to carry out as part of the SRA 5 year programme: J Taylor to receive a copy of the report. A public meeting has been requested by residents of Moorland with the Agency to view plans a proposals of the report.

17:10 J Healey left the meeting (appointed member)

XIV Penzoy river de-silt: The Board supports the Agency's use of IDB precept to fund a maintenance de-silt of the full length of the Penzoy River, along with improvements to Chedzoy Flap and localised bank raising of the KSD.

17:20 J Taylor (appointed member) and B Rowe (elected member) left the meeting

KSD removal of concrete: NWS advised that scour protection works and removal of concrete were due to be completed at the bridge, however investigation has found the concrete supports the bank and formation of the road therefore acting as a bridge abutment.

It was agreed after further discussion that the Board would disseminate a letter from a contractor to local residents/land owners regarding Greylake to the outfall and Beer wall to the outfall. A meeting may be held in August.

- 12 **Election October 2015; Register of Electors:** C-A Porter (C-AP) Assistant Clerk, explained the election process and timetable to members, advising that during August they will receive notification to remind them of termination and that in September the date for close of nominations will be set and a Public Notice of Election will be published. Nomination papers with instruction sheets will be provided to current Board members as well as being available to download from the Board's website in due course; a Returning Officer will be required to receive completed nomination forms. An Electoral Register has been available for public inspection for two weeks following publication of Notice of Deposit, however no objections have been received.

IDS/
NWS?

P Maltby Proposed, C Passmore Seconded 'that the Parrett Internal Drainage Board approves the Electoral Register and Notice of Approval of Register and appoints Nick Stevens Clerk to the Board as Returning Officer and Carrie-Anne Porter Assistant Clerk to the Board as Assistant Returning Officer for Election of the Parrett Internal Drainage Board 2015.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 5

RES 5

- 13 **Local Government Pension Scheme Enrolment:** SMG with reference to the following resolution from the Employment & Machinery meeting of September 2014, advised members that contributions to the LGPS would be increased by £4k approx. due to required contributions to a deficit fund:

T Bradford proposed, M Young seconded 'to standardise the pension entitlement of staff with the Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board to enable eligible in-house staff to be enrolled in the Local Government Pension Scheme from January 2016 if Somerset County council permits.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2

Members opined that further deliberation would be required on this matter.

T Bradford Proposed, C Passmore Seconded 'that discussion on Local Government Pension Scheme Enrolment be deferred to the Finance & Governance meeting of 01 September 2015.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 6

RES 6

- 14 **Somerset Rivers Authority update of proceedings:** NWS provided an update of the Flood Action Plan (FAP) and Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) advising that production of the Funding Review Report has been delayed, therefore all scheduled meetings may require re-arrangement. Members were reminded that the report is a review not provision of preferred option/s. After discussion it was agreed that delegated authority should be given to SRA IDB representatives to

advise the SRA of the Board's preferred response. Axe Brue members of the SRA have delegated authority of the Full Board.

C Passmore Proposed, T Bradford Seconded 'that delegated authority be given to Parrett Internal Drainage Board representatives of the Somerset Rivers Authority to agree the Board's preferred option.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 7

RES 7

- 15 Local Authority appointments post-local elections:** Following local elections, district councils have vacancies and appointments as listed:
Sedgemoor District Council: J Taylor returns as a non-councillor appointed member. 2 vacancies (to replace David Baker, Nobby Turner)
South Somerset District Council: 2 vacancies (to replace Roy Mills and Patrick Palmer)
Taunton Deane Borough Council: 1 vacancy (to replace G Slattery)
West Somerset District Council: appointed Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker (to replace Richard Lillis).

- 16 Special Correspondence and meetings:** None

July Full Board meeting with site inspections 21 July 2015: following a brief discussion members concurred that a July meeting with site inspections were not necessary; the July meeting was originally to enable approval of annual accounts which now takes place in June.

T Bradford Proposed, M Young Seconded 'that an annual July meeting and 2015 site inspection is removed from the annual meetings schedule as surplus to requirements however annual site inspections from 2016 to continue.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 8

RES 8

T Bradford advised that Witham Fourth Drainage Board has expressed an interest in site inspections and visit to Somerset circa July 2016.

- 18 Any Other Business: (1) Mr B Hall:** NWS advised that a request has been received from a rate payer for review of drainage rates. It was agreed after discussion, however no proposal or vote was set, for delegated authority to be awarded to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to review Mr Hall's drainage rates.

(2) Kings Cliff Brook, Fordgate: M Bere declared a personal interest.

IDS advised the outcome of a meeting organised by Matthew Bere in January 2015 that included representatives from Somerset County Council Footpaths, Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT), the IDB, and Mr Bere as well as 2 local residents. The meeting concluded that

- Canal & Rivers Trust (C&RT) would fund the piles to the value of £2.5k. However C&RT did not have the appropriate piles but would fund the IDB to purchase them.
- IDB may be able to supply machinery to install piles but this would be dependent on their length and weight.
- Riparian owner (M Bere) to arrange to undertake bank repairs to support the road.

IDS further advised that the watercourse is not a viewed rhyne and there is evidence of bank erosion. The Board has completed a design which the Board could complete or take the lead on. It was agreed, but not voted upon, that the IDB would co-ordinate tendering the work for Board consideration, however the Board would not undertake the necessary works.

IDS

(3) Public Sector Co-operation Agreements: members were advised that the Board has not yet signed any agreements as works need to be agreed.

(4) Attendance: Members opined that attendance is not acceptable. Reasons for non-attendance were discussed. It was suggested that remuneration should be considered as cost of employing labourer to cover absence whilst at a Board meeting is expensive; NWS advised that if demonstration of reasonable expenses was evident, it may be reimbursed.

18:00 C Passmore left the meeting (elected member)

- 14 Date of Next Meeting:** Consortium Management Committee 25 August, Finance and Governance 01 September, Employment & Machinery 08 September, Management Committee 15 September and Full Board 10 November.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 18:00hrs

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE