

Minutes of the Axe Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge
Friday 28 August 2015 at 10:30hrs Chairman: Mr Jim Lukins

1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register appended	Action
2	Items additional to the agenda: Item 8: Cheddar Canal operation of structure	
3	Declarations of interest: Cllr A Gilling - Planning	
4	Opportunity for the public to address the meeting: Mr M Parsons; to address the meeting at Item 8, Engineering Report.	
5	Minutes of the Axe Catchment meeting held on 08 May 2015: (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held. Proposed J Fear, Seconded R Cook “that the minutes of the Axe Catchment meeting held on 08 May 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.” Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 1	RES 1
6	Matters Arising: Item 6 Bleadon Sluice N Stevens (NWS) advised that there is no update at this time and that works have not commenced. Item 8:7 Castle Mill MOT Centre M Wall (MSW) advised that the riparian owner has confirmed that the bridge will be replaced and instruction has been given to his contractor to undertake the works. The works will be monitored.	MSW
7	Finance – overview of expenditure and budget: (appended) S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the report. Members noted the report as submitted.	
8	Engineering Report: a) Maintenance and Improvements: MSW advised that maintenance is up to date; however an issue has been reported at Axbridge Moor with the quality of the work undertaken. MSW will undertake a site inspection with the contractor, A Tucker, to address the shortcomings. 2) Wedmore Moor Rhyne: T Tincknell advised that landowners are pleased with the result of maintenance works undertaken in this area. 3) Locks used on structures: MSW advised that security of structures is an issue to the Board with the use of combination locks and the availability of the code. Members discussed options for replacement locks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Squire locks are currently utilised by the Board with a combination lock • Current lock combinations are widely known due to the number of operators in the district • Locks disappear regularly • A larger lock with a combination barrel would also disappear over time • Locks with keys would provide greater control for the Board • Limited number of keys per supply of locks • Keys cannot be cut by a general locksmith • Lock and key would be marked with Board ID to prevent tampering • Lock would be daisy-chained onto existing gate chains After a full discussion the preferred option to be recommended to the Full Board at the November meeting is a key lock to have the Board ID visible, to be daisy-chained onto existing gate chains. However further investigation of key suiting is required before a final decision is made. 4) Presentation of works: MSW provided a photo presentation of works completed including Bailiffs Wall and the Old River Axe Outfall, advising members that the structure worked well during a recent rainfall event. 5) Knowle Moor – proposed re-routing of the upstream section of Ham Rhyne (viewed rhyne): (plan appended) members discussed the recommendation not to undertake works to re-route this section of watercourse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section of watercourse has never been in-view • The result of re-routing would be of no benefit to the Board • Maintenance would prove difficult as works can only be undertaken from the highway • Arisings and spoil deposit could be placed on the highway road side as long as it does not cause a statutory nuisance • Public are becoming less tolerant of arisings i.e. sight/smell There is increasing pressure to remove arisings from sensitive sites, which could prove expensive Proposed T Tincknell, Seconded Cllr A Gilling that ‘the Axe Catchment does not undertake works to re-route the upstream end of Ham Rhyne, Knowle Moor nor take this stretch of watercourse into view.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2	Full Bd
	It was further agreed that a paper on arisings and spoil deposit, to include the percentage of road side work undertaken by the Board, would be prepared for submission at a Full Board.	RES 2
		NWS

Cheddar Canal: (additional item) Mr M Parsons addressed the committee regarding the operation of a structure adjacent the Clewer pumping station; historically, although an Environment Agency (Agency) structure, Upper Axe members were given authority to operate the structure on the main river as necessary. However, the Agency have recently undertaken works to upgrade/refurbish the operating mechanism of the structure and to erect security fencing, to which the retired Board members no longer have permitted access.

Concern was expressed by Mr Parsons for landowners who find themselves flooded following recent rainfall, as the river is being penned to a higher level than previously. As this area does not lie within an SSSI there is no Water Level Management Plan to define its operation.

The structure is electrically driven but manually operated by the Agency, however landowners may contact either Matthew Wall or Anthony Dowden to request alternative pen levels when necessary.

The Agency have agreed a Board request to lower the pen level to 4.8m AOD.

Members discussed the possibility of a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement to access and operate the structure, with Board approved, named operators. However, for the Board to undertake the operation of this structure, minor works would be required to alter fencing to allow access from the opposite bank.

Recommendation to be put to the Full Board at the November meeting: PSCA for the Board to operate the structure, with control remaining with the Agency. A request is to be made to the Agency to cover the cost of fence alterations.

Full Bd

9 **Any Other Business:** None

10 **Date and venue for next meeting:** unless stated all future meetings will be held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge TA9 3BW commencing at 10:30hrs.

- Extra-ordinary joint Full Board meeting 03 September, 18:30hrs
- Full Board 03 November 2015
- Axe Catchment 27 November 2015

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.
The meeting was closed at 11:30hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE