

Minutes of the Parrett Management Sub Committee Meeting held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 15 September 2015 at 14.15pm. Chairman: Mr P Maltby

- 1 **Attendance & Apologies for Absence:** as per register appended.
- 2 **Items Additional to the Agenda:** NWS – Enforcements update
- 3 **Declarations of interest:** None at this time
- 4 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 April 2015:** (appended) having previously been circulated, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held. All in favour.
- 5 **Matters Arising: (1) Item 5 Hallam Land Management:** members were advised that concern had been expressed for the safety of children playing around a structure. I Sturdy (IDS) advised that Hallam will reimburse costs for health and safety works; suitable conditions are to be agreed with Hallam.
Hallam have engaged a sub-contractor to undertake maintenance works once annually, however household debris lies constantly with in the watercourse i.e. televisions, bicycles, printers etc. Hallam have not yet concluded the planning obligations.
Item 10 Somerset Rivers Authority: concern was expressed that £40k had been included within the budget with £30k costs to date, however funds have not been reimbursed. Members were advised that there is currently no procurement mechanism in place, however Somerset County Council and the IDB are working to resolve this. NWS advised that SCC is aware that the IDB are anxious to resolve this matter.
- 6 **Finance Overview of expenditure and budget:** S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the tabled summary of cost of works report:
- £33k SRA related projects
 - Routine maintenance (out sourced) – very little undertaken to date
 - Re-charged works (Skanska) – negotiations to be concluded for outstanding invoices
 - Water control structures and Water level monitoring - £3k refurbishment work at Podimore Pumping Station and one year licence costs as well as telemetry costs
 - Thorney Pottery Ringbank – invoice to be forwarded to the Environment Agency
- The report was duly noted by members.
Rate Collection: there is currently £17k outstanding; £11,300 this time 2014 and £16k in 2013. Second reminder letters are due to be disseminated early October, with Liability Hearing November/December 2015.
- 7 **Engineering Report: Maintenance Report** (appended)
Insurance Claim: P Ham (PSH) advised that Mr Quick had advised that an insurance claim for the loss of an in-calf heifer had not been completed; following investigation, Mr Quick had not submitted the claim. PSH advised that the claim has since been submitted.
Park Brook: J Taylor declared an interest and left the room.
NWS recommended members give consideration to renewing the culvert under the track to assist the conveyance of water through the district:
- water from Park Brook flows to the Main Drain via a private watercourse and culvert
 - the road bridge is collapsing
 - consideration to cleaning roadside ditches as post flood relief work
 - disrepair of ditches - possible neglect of riparian owner
- P Maltby Proposed, D Spicer Seconded that 'IDB officers are given delegated authority to repair the culvert, undertake roadside ditch maintenance if necessary and serve notice on the Riparian owner to either undertake the works or reimburse costs.'** **Vote: unanimous**
RESOLUTION 1
- Mr Taylor returned to the meeting and expressed his gratitude to T Bradford and P Ham for their assistance in attempting to resolve a difficult situation.
Fordgate Farm: IDS advised that in a previous meeting the Board had discussed the eroding track adjacent an ordinary watercourse at Fordgate Farm; the agreement was for the Board to finalise the design and obtain prices for the required work, however the work would not be promoted by the Board. It was agreed for IDS to write to Mr Bere, Fordgate Farm with this update.
- Improvement Works:** I Sturdy (IDS) presented a verbal update of works (this list is not exhaustive):

Action

RES 1

IDS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations to the connection of Park Brook with the canal: B Martin is working on the detail of the structure, the concept of the scheme is to connect to the canal for discharge into the River Parrett. • Minehead: West Somerset Council has advised that up to £4,500 for this financial year has been approved to contribute towards restoration/maintenance to improve the overall drainage of the system; channel supply, attenuation ponds and connection into the viewed rhyne network, as well as the inaccessible areas in the vicinity of the nursery. These works would be the first stage in addressing surface water drainage in Minehead. Butlin's: correspondence from PSH to encourage Butlin's to clean the moat and improve access, however these works have not been undertaken. The Board had attempted to get betterment on-site via the planning process for future maintenance. Members expressed concern for the maintenance of the area and recommended serving Notice for works. It was agreed that B Maitland-Walker is briefed on the current situation. NWS advised that there is an initiative in the Flood Action Plan for urban drainage. However each body undertakes works individually; the SRA is giving consideration to producing a paper which the Boards would respectively be requested to uphold, to encourage the local authority planning departments to work with IDB's. It was agreed, but not voted on that the Board works with WSC to match fund maintenance operations and serve Notice to enforce Butlin's to undertake necessary operational works. 	NWS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perry Moor Bank: work have been completed by Bernard Perry within budget. • Elson's Clyce: chamber walls have been raised to prevent river levels returning through the chamber. Consideration is being requested of the Board and SRA to pump at Elson's Clyce. IDS advised that the EA had been asked if the additional capacity at the pumping station is sufficient to remove the need of temporary pumps at this site; it is considered that upgrades at Northmoor pumping station would mean that temporary pumps are not required. IDS opined that it would not be feasible to install pumps at Elson's Clyce, estimated cost £100k, as works have been completed at Northmoor pumping station. Members expressed concern that a cradle would be required for safe operation of the permanent pumps; IDS will investigate the stability of the pumps with the project engineer. 	IDS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A303: proposals have been received from Highways England, however concern was expressed for the impact of the proposal. The Board requires no detriment to up or down stream of the proposed works. IDS advised that the contractors are to meet with landowner Mr Masters and local Board member R Coombes, however a date has not yet been arranged. 	IDS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRA Dredge: the Board is promoting a maintenance dredge on 2.5km from Moorland House Farm to the pumping station, a pre-dredge survey is required at the start of the contract with post-dredge survey after completion. Tenders have been invited, to be accepted by the Board for report by exception to the SRA. If the cost received is over the estimated budget, the decision would be agreed with Board members. Funding, i.e. procurement mechanism, is to be agreed with the SRA prior to works being undertaken. The tenders' sub-committee was agreed as P Maltby, T Bradford, D Spicer and C Passmore. 	IDS
8	<p>Development Control: (appended) members noted the report.</p>	
9	<p>Alterations to Viewed Rhyne Network: (appended) PSH advised that approx. 1100m of watercourse known as Mildmay Rhyne at Henley Bridge, Low Ham Moor. Members were advised that the River Cary has a control structure feeding into the moor, however no in-view watercourse to allow the conveyance.</p>	
	<p>R Coombes Proposed, J Winslade Seconded that '1100m of watercourse at Low Ham Moor known as Mildmay Rhyne is taken into view and will receive maintenance annually.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2</p>	RES 2
	<p>Southbrook, Steart: the meeting was asked to give consideration to taking this watercourse into view; PSH advised that this matter will be raised at a future meeting.</p>	PSH
	<p>Enforcements: NWS advised that the Slabgate Sluice prosecution highlighted that the Board had not gathered its own evidence and that although lengthy interviews by the Police had taken place, these could not be relied upon in Court.</p>	

Members were advised that staff have received training from Ashford's Solicitors on evidence gathering. Ashford's will assist and review evidence gathered; charges will be incurred on an ad-hoc basis. A full discussion was held.

B Rowe Proposed, D Spicer Seconded that 'the Parrett IDB Management Committee is satisfied that Board Officers undertake evidence gathering with assistance from Ashford Solicitors as necessary.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3

RES 3

10 **F&G recommendation to set up a working group on admin costs and Board size:** NWS advised that the Finance & Governance meeting held in June 2015 recommended to reduce the number of Board meetings, therefore it would be necessary for there to be smaller boards with greater use of policies and more delegated powers to officers. After a full discussion, it was agreed, but not voted upon, for a Working Group to meet and discuss future options. The Working Group will consist of the Parrett Management Committee with the addition of Nick Plumley, SDC.

NWS/
C-AP

11 **Draft policy on Compensation and Land Purchase:** (appended) P Maltby declared an interest. NWS briefed members on the policy highlighting the proposals in Section 5: The following list proposes the Board's response to enquiries made on compensation payable for works undertaken under Section 15

- a) Annual weed cutting and flailing – no compensation where a linear operation
- b) Desilting an existing viewed rhyne channel – no compensation by reinstatement of silt deposited
- c) Desilting inly an existing non viewed rhyne when taken 'into view' – no compensation but reinstatement of silt deposited and accommodation works
- d) Widening an existing in view rhyne – compensation paid and reinstatement of land disturbed
- e) Widening an existing non viewed rhyne when taken 'into view' – compensation paid and reinstatement of land disturbed
- f) Cutting a new channel where none has previously existed – Section 14 work therefore compensation paid

Compensation paid in accordance with the current Land Compensation Act.

Members were advised that reinstatement would be level and re-seed.

T Bradford Proposed, D Spicer Seconded that 'the Parrett IDB Management Committee adopts the Compensation and Land Purchase Policy as submitted.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 4

RES 4

12 **Somerset Rivers Authority Update:** NWS advised that at a recent SRA funding review meeting, the IDB voted in favour of the SRA becoming a precepting body; this will require legislation, which may require submission of a Private Bill. Funding will be discussed at an SRA Board meeting to be held on 23 September.

13 **Special Correspondence:** NWS advised that there is an initiative for the Environment Agency to meet with stakeholders to discuss reduction of revenue; there are potential changes in revenue from Defra.

16.30 NWS left the meeting with apologies to the Chairman

It was agreed that the Board should meet with the Agency, as a consortium, to understand the impact reductions in revenue may have. This issue to be discussed at the Consortium Management meeting of 08 December.

14 **Any Other Business:** Members were advised that David Vigar's father, David Pople of Hawkins Boobyer had recently passed away. The Board's condolences are sent to their families.

15 **Date of Next Meeting:** Full Board 10 November 2015, Management Committee 05 Jan 2016, F&G 19 Jan 2016.

Unless stated all meetings will be held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 16.35hrs

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE