

**Minutes of the Brue Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Highbridge**  
**on Tuesday 22 September 2015 at 10.30 am** **Chairman: Mr CJ Fear**

1	<b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as per register appended	Action
2	<b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> M S Wall (MSW) – Unconsented works at Middlemoor Water Park, Woolavington and Mr C Sweet works south of Knowle View Farm	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> A Chidgey – item 9 Rhyne extension	
4	<b>Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:</b> none	
5	<b>Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 12 May 2015:</b> The minutes having been previously circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.	
6	<b>Matters Arising: Item 10:</b> D Banwell reported invasive Himalayan Balsam on the River Brue Glastonbury/Westhay Bridge banks, also north side of Tealham Moor. I Sturdy (IDS) was asked to investigate. N Stevens (NWS) advised that he is unaware of any initiative to systematically remove this invasive species. It was further agreed that MSW should investigate the suspected existence of Japanese Knott Weed in the vicinity of Nut Tree Farm. <b>Item 8 Godney Rhyne:</b> A Dowden (AJD) advised that he is currently investigating machine use to control the plant appropriate for the area. <b>Item 9 White Horse Inn, Mark:</b> MSW advised that the ditch work has been completed.	IDS MSW
7	<b>Board membership:</b> Vacancies: C-A Porter (C-A P) reported that she had identified candidates for the vacant seats - P Judah-Glastonbury, R Whitcombe-Meare and P Duckett-Mark (if J Fear moved to H&B district). All to be invited to Nov meeting for consideration of co-option onto the Board.	
8	<b>Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:</b> (appended) S Gee (SMG) provided an overview of the report, advising that balances of completed schemes are to be ring fenced for flood/surface water drainage works. The report was duly noted by members.	
9	<b>Maintenance Programme: Report from upper areas</b> AJD advised that the in-house machine had been working in Parrett area on a re-chargeable basis, And that the machine service is due on 25 September 2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Bowling Green outlet:</b> EA has completed works in the area which had been identified by the Board; two silt banks will be monitored and re-visited by EA if required, however trees and some vegetation have been removed</li> <li>● <b>Badger licence:</b> MSW advised the Board now holds a licence to enable works to be undertaken in vicinity of badger setts</li> <li>● <b>North Drain level:</b> dropped to 1.75 AOD to 1 October 2015</li> <li>● <b>South Drain level:</b> dropped to 1.50 AOD to 1 October 2015</li> <li>● <b>Maintenance:</b> John Tucker &amp; Son has postponed maintenance of Northwick Rhyne as a BT line is in the watercourse; BT may put cable in ducting within the bank as a temporary repair</li> <li>● <b>Invasive Weeds:</b> Himalayan Balsam, as discussed earlier in the meeting, is a riparian issue. Berrow Parish Council have contacted IDB to remove weed from West Rhyne. Bargeman's Cabbage has been identified in the upper catchment; Phil Brewin (PAB) (ecologist) is aware of this. NWS advised that no selective herbicides approved for use near watercourses, therefore flailing or pulling may be only option for roadside verges  Grazed/managed areas have no identified problems, however it is worse in fenced/ungrazed areas.  Grant funding for invasive weed control may be available; it was agreed, but not voted upon, that PAB and AJD investigate trial maintenance or flail flowering stem to break cycle of seed production with a budget of £750-£1000. However concern was expressed for the cost of this additional maintenance</li> <li>● <b>Pennywort:</b> (MSW) advised that flailing of banks and hand pulling had been completed at Bleadon with EA undertaking the spot spraying within the channel. North Somerset IDB reported major issues of pennywort.</li> <li>● <b>Kingsway</b> (section in front of the bungalows) has not been cleaned, weed arisings need to be removed from this site by tractor &amp; trailer, as is done over a small number of sites</li> <li>● <b>Queensway estate maintenance strip:</b> members were advised that the Board does</li> </ul>	PAB/AJD

- undertake maintenance in this area. Concern was expressed for an estimated 200m strip being untidy; it was agreed after discussion that the contractor would be asked to top it
- **Padlocks:** samples were provided for members' views. Members preferred key locks rather than combination. Comments to be received at the full Board meeting in November – photo presentation by MSW
  - **Back Lane Rhyne:** the proposed viewing gate was completed at a cost of £2,750
  - **Northwick Road Enforcement work :** all maintenance work is now complete
  - **East & West Waste Project:** 50/50 funding part of drop project almost complete. An additional £7k funding has been received for the project from SCC for additional monitoring equipment to be installed in the Lake Village area.
  - **Bason Bridge:** A new investigation is proposed to consider improving flood risk to properties at Bason Bridge on the west side of the road (opp. Old milk factory site). The current pipe is damaged and a new outfall arrangement is required to reduce flooding from blockage. A new development on Factory Lane in the locality may provide some opportunity for relief. A scheme will need to be developed to consider options however, as there are a limited number of properties it may not qualify for Flood Risk Grant in Aid (GIA)
  - **Stepping Stones Rhyne:** H&S works are needed for upgrading of structures
  - **Littlemoor Rhyne:** following investigation a new penstock is to be fixed to the existing structure
  - **Watts Rd Rhyne:** place new level control structure on existing headwall
  - **Woolavington Proposed Chilpitts Rhyne Extension:** A Chidgey will undertake required works and cover costs of bringing up to standard the section of ordinary watercourse adjacent to Meadow Farm, it was agreed to hold a site meeting and report to full board meeting in November. N Lukins, P Thorne, A Chidgey, J Fear – MSW to organise
  - **Unconsented works:** Mr Sweet, Southwick. Existing gateways have been removed and replaced, however no consent applications have been received by the Board. Several culverts used 300mm pipes which are less than Board recommended size. There is also a 600mm pipe in new gateway. All 6m access gates are reasonably constructed. Officers recommended that a warning letter be sent to the landowner for contravening byelaws but that the removal of the pipes was unnecessary as the pipes only served land belonging to Mr Sweet and any backing up caused would only be to Mr Sweet's detriment. The Board agreed to send a letter which stated that enforcement could be taken in the future if the works proved to be detrimental to neighbouring landowners
  - **Middlemoor Water Park:** The Board's maintenance contractor was required to return on two occasions, caused by a failure of the landowners to act as agreed, which will result in additional costs. The landowner has a history of failing to comply with agreements. MSW also reported that abstraction of water from watercourse to the water park pond occurs, which causes problems of low water levels. A fixed weir has been installed on the east side of the waterpark to retain water levels downstream. The landowner has been served a Notice in accordance with byelaws, requiring him to control abstraction from the rhyne

MSW

MSW

*12 noon – D Banwell left the meeting*

- 10 **Improvements and capital works programme: Dogleg Ditch** A Franks declared an interest. (IDS) advised on improvements to Dogleg Ditch inlet and outlet structures. Relocation of the proposed tilting weir has been made to provide greater benefit. Concern was expressed by members about an extensive delay to the peat excavation work impacting on the Board work. An alternative route along Lewis Drove may not be feasible, so use of the old outlet to North Drain be reinstated for Dogleg Ditch would be preferable. Members suggested the installation of a water control structure to the upstream end of the 600 mm pipe under road. AJD advised that Godwin's, the site owners, are in discussion with Natural England regarding bunding of the watercourse adjacent to Lewis Drove as peat is still to be dug out; the revised pond arrangement will need tiered levels in ponds. Godwin's have had their peat excavation licence extended. IDS advised that Favourable Conditions project funding may be used but Godwin's need to get their proposals finalised as time scale is limited

*Item 12 brought forward*

- 12 **Draft Policy on Compensation and Land Purchase:** (appended) NWS briefed members on the paper and recommendation. After discussion it was agreed that the Draft Policy on Compensation and Land Purchase would be taken to the main board meeting for adoption.  
*12.30 – A Neale left the meeting*
- 13 **SRA: Funding Review:** The Board accepted the SRA preferred option of precepting in principal, although definition to be discussed. All bodies will report to SRA meeting on 23 September 2015. The IDB is managing the Enhanced Maintenance Programme (EMP) & the SRA is preparing a 5yr plan as agreed in the Flood Action Plan. Members opined that prior to any contracts for works being awarded, a payment mechanism is to be agreed by the SRA/SCC.
- 14 **Special Correspondence and meetings:** NWS advised that a letter had been received from local MP Mr J Heapey; a visit to the office may take place in the near future.  
*12.35 SMG & NWS left the meeting*
- 11 **Development control:** (NWS & IDS)
- **Homestead Farm:** R Wilcox declared interest. Erection of agricultural livestock building; New gateway to be installed, this was approved for the previous owner but needs to be resubmitted by new landowner
  - **Middlemoor Water Park:** application for static caravans; however concern was expressed regarding foul drainage. IDB has advised environmental health that there may be a contamination issue
  - **Removal of Condition 9:** Should read C Pople not A Chidgey
- 15 **Invitations to previous Board members:** After discussion it was agreed, not voted, that invitations would no longer be sent to previous Board members.  
An induction day for new appointed members is being arranged to take place in October 2015
- 16 **Any Other Business:** A Chidgey requested members be provided with parking permits for the reserved car park spaces in Bank Street car park. Members were advised to ensure that the Admin officers were in receipt of their registration details to allow permits to be supplied.
- 17 Date of next meeting: SDBC General meeting 17 November 2015 19.00hrs, Full Board 03 November 2015 10.30hrs & Brue Catchment 03 December 2015 10.30hrs All meetings to be held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge.

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There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 12:55hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE