

Minutes of the Brue Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Highbridge
on Tuesday 03 December 2015 at 10.30 am **Chairman: Mr R Adlam**

1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register appended	Action
2	Items additional to the agenda: A Dowden (AJD) – Development at Dye House Lane, Glastonbury	
3	Declarations of interest: None at this time	
4	Opportunity for the public to address the meeting: None	
5	Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 22 September 2015 – Item 9 should read “South Drain level: dropped to 1.50 AOD to 1 October 2015”. With this one amendment the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.	
6	Matters Arising – Item 6: Nick Stevens (NWS) reported that there was no current evidence of Japanese Knotweed at Nut Tree Farm. Himalayan Balsam, River Brue and Tealham Moor: members were advised that this is probably now dormant as it is late in the season. Item 9 : South Drain: levels should be at winter pen – Peter Struck (PBS) to check North Drain: 1.75 AOD – C Ainge (CA) reported it was rarely at this level and believes it to now be at winter pen. PBS advised it had been held at half pen for a short period but now should be at winter levels. Flail Trial: Anthony Dowden (AJD) requested confirmation following discussion at a previous meeting that funding would be available to undertake an experimental flail in the upper catchment. Members approved a trial to be undertaken with an experimental flail for one season, possibly to take place in late May. Members were advised that a quarter dose of glysohate following flailing will affect the root of plant and subsequent growth – to be reviewed by PBS and AJD J Tucker & Son have completed works at Northwick Rhyne and removed arisings at Kingsway. Queensway is now complete. Littlemoor Rhyne – a new penstock fitted.	PBS AJD
7	Finance: Overview of expenditure and budget – report appended. Driver costs: £3,329 invoiced to Parrett Board for works at Cannington and Wembdon. Rates: C-A Porter (C-AP) advised that Mr P Cullen, Axe Brue rate payer had absconded, leaving an outstanding arrears balance of £103.19. The land has subsequently been sold, and current rates have been received from the new landowner. Proposed: Phoebe Judah, Seconded Noel Lukins “that the outstanding rate arrears of £103.19 for Mr P Cullen will be written off due to the ratepayer having absconded”. All in favour RESOLUTION 1 C-AP further advised that there are outstanding rates of £8,300. Summonses have been issued for rates over £24, unless there have been current enquiries or land movements. A court hearing has been arranged for 7 December 2015 sitting at Taunton Magistrate’s Court. The Finance report was accepted as submitted.	RES 1
8	Maintenance Programme Kennard Moor has received a second weed clean due to excessive re-growth. The tractor service is due shortly as the machine has completed 4,000 hours. East and West Waste – Half pen to be monitored and discussed with landowners for suitable water level management and regulation/control. Members were advised that conflict remains as some landowners prefer higher level for stewardship schemes, however grazers prefer a lower level. P Brewin (PAB) advised that it is important to garner consensus of all landowners/grazers, therefore meeting all concerned in a formalized way. Following the works undertaken in the East and West Waste area there is a better infrastructure in place to help maintain water levels; once levels are agreed locks will be placed on structures to make them secure. Catherine Mowat (CM) advised that the Defra website has a link to raised water schemes, however there is no raised water level scheme in place. She concurred that an operating regime with landowner consent/agreement will reduce tampering with structures. Glastonbury: AJD advised that Mr C White has withdrawn a planning application recently submitted to Mendip District Council, however it has been noted that spoil from a watercourse has been used to create a flood bank along viewed rhyne. The site had been discussed at a recent Glastonbury Town Council Meeting; Environment Agency (EA) to be asked if they are aware of infilling with demolition waste. NWS advised that this is a critical site on a viewed rhyne and that access is required to maintain the channel. It was agreed to write to Mr White regarding breach of Board Byelaws as no consent has been sought for works undertaken. It was also agreed to contact the EA to advise of the activity, expressing concern for displacement of flood plain and causing detriment to neighbouring land.	

After further discussion it was agreed that AJD would continue monitoring the site, with costs to be recharged to Mr White.

A) Shapwick Moor control structure: Declaration of interest : P Holms and R Whitcombe
Phil Brewin (PAB) advised that a site visit had recently taken place at Shapwick Moor, on land owned by the Hawk and Owl Trust, specifically to view Shapwick Moor Rhyne and Black Ditch, Burtle:

- A derelict water control structure has been identified on Shapwick Moor Rhyne
- The Hawk and Owl Trust would like to replace this historic structure for water level management of the site
- Approximate cost of installing a new structure (tilting weir) £2k
- Discussions would need to be held with landowners and Natural England
- Consideration to be given to all land along the length of watercourse
- Concern was expressed for farms on the east side of the road
- Water level to be monitored; rhyne is due to receive routine maintenance in the near future

It was agreed, but not voted upon, that a site visit would be required with the intention for works, or contribution to works to be included in 2016/17 budget.

Members agreed that a gauge board should be fitted.

B) Nidon Brook, Catcott, proposed rhyne extension – map appended. NWS expressed concern that a landowner has prevented board maintenance due to maize crops, adjacent an in-view watercourse. Negotiation will be needed with Mr Cox regarding routine maintenance schedules and maize.

Members concurred that joining Nidon Brook and Nidon Rhyne will make this an active watercourse.

Proposed Pam Thorne, Seconded Catherine Mowat “that the Axe Brue Board undertakes further enquiries to extend Nidon Brook and Nidon Rhyne and make the extension an in-view watercourse if a satisfactory resolution is agreed with Mr Cox.” All in favour RESOLUTION 2

9 **Improvements and capital works programme:**

Dog Leg Ditch: NWS advised that design and contract documents are to be tendered early 2016 for outlets and inlets.

Back Ditch control structures: Members were advised that the Contractor employed to install flap valves etc. at Gold Corner for a Favourable Conditions Project (FCP) has been unsatisfactory, however in a position to continue. Members were reminded that this particular FCP was to provide greater flexibility on structures, at an approximate cost of £2.5k per structure (4 required).

Proposed Colin Pople, Seconded Charlie Ainge “that due to an un-satisfactory contract the contract for a Favourable Conditions Project to upgrade Gold Corner is re-tendered if possible following legal review”. All in favour RESOLUTION 3

It was further agreed that the Terms of Contract are to be reviewed, to ensure legality of re-tendering. If necessary John Porter is to be on site 04 January 2016 to continue.

Decoy Rhyne: PJ requested information on the maintenance of Decoy Rhyne, however this watercourse is classified as a main river and therefore the IDB has no work instructions.

10 **Development control: App AB/MK/2015/67** Gateways and Culverts: J Fear declared an interest in the application from Mark C of E School.

App 2015/0873/FUL Erection of commercial buildings, Bartlett Industrial Estate, Godney Road, Glastonbury: Members were advised that information regarding storage of storm water submitted by the applicant was satisfactory to the Board.

App 2015/1437/FUL Erection of proposed office building. Land at Sunnyside Fishing Pond, Wilderness Lane, Sharpham: Members were advised that the Board is satisfied with the application as submitted.

The report was accepted by members.

11 **Somerset Rivers Authority update:** NWS reported that the Chairman and Vice Chairman are due to visit the Secretary of State – awaiting invitation to discuss interim funding until legislation is awarded. Local contribution may be requested.

Long term plan: 5 year plan – being discussed with all partners. This will require further discussion dependent on funding. Proposals are to be robust and demonstrate benefit to business and property. Legislation: essential to ensure government is aware, and will be conditional on IDBs retaining funding.

12 **Special correspondence and meetings** - none

13 **Invitations to previous Board Members:** members agreed that due to lack of attendance, it was no longer a requirement to invite retired members of the amalgamated Boards to Board meetings: Lower Axe, Lower Brue, Upper Axe and Upper Brue. Members were reminded that the meetings schedule is posted on the Board website, and that all meetings are open to the public.

MSW/
AJD

RES 2

RES 3

14 **Any Other Business:**

1) C Ainge opined that Somerset Wildlife Trust and Natural England are active on Tealham, and he felt that they had more notice and input to water levels than other landowners. SWT is not a statutory body and therefore unfair to be consulted as a statutory body; they should not be afforded greater consideration or consultation.

PAB advised that the EA shares information with groups and bodies, beyond the control of the IDB. i.e. NE, IDB SWT etc. It was agreed that PAB would contact the EA to request the IDB becomes responsible for disseminating emails, or that email dissemination is not conducted unfairly.

2) Councillor R Mackenzie, MDC, asked as a new appointed member what he could take back to MDC. The Chairman advised the importance of the Boards close working relationship with planning and enforcement officers during the application process rather than after.

3) C Pople enquired about funding for desilting. He requested that consideration be given to the Black Ditch from the South Drain (north side to River Brue), Heath Rhyne and Godney Road Ditch. He advised that the silt pump may be sufficient for this work.

The Chairman advised that this is within the work programme subject to available funds.

4) C Mowat advised that she had resigned her position with SWT and would therefore be leaving the Board. The Chairman on behalf of the board, thanked Mrs Mowat for her service, attendance and input during her time on the Board, and wished her well for her future endeavours.

15 **Dates of next meetings**

- Full Board 09 February 2016, 10.30hrs
- Brue Catchment 03 May 2016, 10.30hrs

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 12.40pm

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE