

Minutes of the Parrett Board Meeting held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at 2.15 pm. Chairman: Mr P Maltby

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| 1 | <p>Attendance & Apologies for Absence: as per register appended. Peter Maltby (PM) thanked Kendra Kingston for standing in to take the minutes whilst Carrie-Anne is unwell.</p> | Action |
| 2 | <p>Items Additional to the Agenda: Nick Stevens (NS) – Bourne Leisure under Development Control</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Declarations of interest: none</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board meeting: none</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Consider Budget and Rate Setting: (appended) Stephen Gee (SG) explained the proposed budget which had been discussed at the Finance and Governance meeting where the committee agreed to bring the budget to the full meeting for approval. A query raised regarding the increase in special levy was explained as being the consequence of the increase in the value of the non-agricultural land in the Board's area as a result of new solar farms and land development. Barrie Bryer (BB) asked for the total figures to be highlighted in future to make reading the report easier. Colin Passmore (CP) voiced his concerns regarding the cost of the water supply into the Parrett and the Minehead scheme which needs to be pushed forward. Iain Sturdy (IS) explained the situation regarding Minehead – the Board had decided 12 months ago to work on the project in smaller phases. He also updated members regarding Pawlett Hams. The latest failure was as a result of a bank slip. The focus on this is to understand why it failed and to determine the extent of the damage and how to repair it. A contractor has assessed the damage and will issue a final report shortly. Further work will be carried out in conjunction with the Environment Agency (EA). John Lang (JL) asked if Butlins had been contacted regarding funding for the Minehead works. NS advised that no contact had been made with Butlins apart from receiving a planning application for new chalets. NS is concerned that the Moat has no maintenance and planting of trees would not allow the necessary maintenance to be carried out. Notice was served 2 weeks ago on Bourne Leisure (the parent company) to undertake maintenance on the moat to remove vegetation and overhanging trees. He had received a call yesterday from the building operations manager who acknowledged receipt of the notice and said they fully intend to comply. There has been no mention of funding. If the notice is not complied with the Board would carry out the work and charge Bourne Leisure. Proposed: Brian Rowe (BR), Seconded: Tony Bradford (TB) "that if Bourne Leisure do not comply with the notice served, the Board will undertake the necessary work and charge Bourne Leisure". 25 for 0 against, 1 abstention. RESOLVED</p> <p>Malcolm Young (MY) Suggested that Viridor is approached with regard to funding for the Pawlett Hams as ¾ of the area belongs to them. Will Barnard (WB) reported that Viridor would welcome involvement.</p> <p>Members agreed to the increased budget as recommended by the F&G Committee. Proposed: Colin Passmore, Seconded: David Spicer (DS) 'that the Parrett Internal Drainage Board set a rate of 6.449p in the £ for 2016/17 to raise a total Agricultural Rate of £146,916.01 and Special Levy of £725,391.27.' Vote: 25 for, 0 against, 1 abstention. RESOLVED</p> <p>Tony Bradford expressed his thanks for the sterling work carried out by David Spicer over the last few years as Finance and Governance Chairman.</p> <p>John Lang apologised for his late arrival and expressed an interest in the item on Parrett Dredging.</p> | RES 1 |
| 6 | <p>Engineering Report: appended. Phil Ham (PH) read through his report. TB reported that maintenance work on 3 sections of the Cary Valley had not been carried out as the contractor had been refused entry. JL advised that the work carried out on Northmoor had been completed to a very high standard and was a credit to the Drainage Board.</p> <p>IS updated members as follows;</p> <p>The Parrett dredging is going according to plan and the floating plant should be going in this week. A deployment licence has now been received.</p> <p>TB has concerns regarding the sediment monitoring, IS said as much data as possible is required to gain information. Cllr Durden (DD) asked whether all funding being used appropriately by the SRA and said that close control is needed over the work being carried out by consultants. Members felt that more knowledge could be gained from local people rather than bringing in outside consultants. PM said the strategy is to look at the best way to carry out the necessary work, but members did not agree that it was necessary to bring in experts. TB said that Somerset County Council imposed it but NS felt the Strategy had been requested by the SRA Board. In addition NWS informed members that the SRA had no FRM powers or authority on the River Parrett, it is under the jurisdiction of the EA. The Clerk believe that to prepare an authoritative report professional help was required albeit it under the control of the commissioning body, the</p> | RES 2 |

IDB. This work will be started shortly.

IS continued with his report explaining that it did not include items which occur in year. Nothing had been allowed if the EA reduced the maintenance on low risk systems, these may be handed to others but with no funding.

The A303 highways proposal from Highways England is to put in additional culverts, Land Drainage Consent will need to be sought from the Parrett IDB. Cllr Mike Lewis (ML) asked if any consultation had been received from Highways England, IS had not received anything formal as yet.

Hinckley Point – renewed activity such as pre applications coming through.

Sowy/KSD Scheme – BB expressed his concerns. CP felt the IDB should be involved in the Sowy System alongside the EA. NS reported that the IDB had been consulted. PM reminded members that there would be a meeting in Othery on 3 February from 2.30pm to 7.30pm to discuss this issue. Members continued to express their dissatisfaction with the SRA. NS informed members that the IDB is not a direct partner in the Sowy Scheme and the Agency has been appointed by the SRA to carry out the work and they in turn had consulted the IDB. More discussion followed concerning the SRA and the timing of works to be undertaken. An SRA Board meeting is to be held in Shepton Mallet on Wednesday 10 February 2016 which is also open to the public.

The chairman asked members to return to the items on the agenda.

- 7 **Sub committees for the period 2015 to 2018:** – appended. NS circulated a list of Board members and the sub committees they sit on. It was suggested and agreed that any vacancies not filled by council appointed members could be taken up by current elected members.
- 8 **Proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference for the Works and P, F&G Committees:** - appended. NS highlighted the amendments he had made to the document which had been accepted by the F&G committee meeting. **Proposed: John Lang, Seconded: Malcolm Young: that the amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Works and P, F&G committees are approved”. RESOLVED**
- 9 **Proposed revisions to the Scheme of delegation:** NS highlighted the amendments he had made to the document which had been accepted by the F&G committee meeting. **Proposed: Colin Passmore, Seconded: Mervin Winslade “that the amendments to the Scheme of delegation are approved.” RESOLVED**
- 10 **Proposed changes to the Financial Regulations:** NS highlighted the amendments he had made to the document which are now in line with the Axe Brue board and had been accepted by the F&G committee meeting. Members happy with the changes.
- 11 **20 year Flood Action Plan and Somerset Rivers Authority: Report by NS.** Currently waiting for 16/17 SRA funding. The Chairman of the SRA and Tony Bradford had discussions with the Secretary of State and subsequently received a letter stating the government would allow a 1.25% increase in the level of council spending without the need to call a referendum. The government needs to be convinced to put legislation into place. The precept funding that has been achieved does not include anything for the Sowy scheme. This will be funded out of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal which is an approximate £13 million pound fund for not only Sowy, but for works also being undertaken in the KSD (eg under the A38 at Dunball.) The Chedzoy outfall and flap work will be starting in the spring (as part of the Sowy scheme). Also funding the installation of water control gear at Beer Wall and the connection of those structures to the main channel.
- 12 **Special correspondence and meetings:** Letter from the Minister through ADA regarding an invitation to write to the EFRA committee to provide evidence on flooding for funding and attending sessions for discussion, contributions must be received by 7 March 2016.
- 13 **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015:** The Chairman signed the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting held.
- 14 **Matters Arising:** TB expressed concerns regarding the Memorandum of Understanding. NS to discuss with TB after the meeting
- 15 **Any Other Business:** Meeting to be held at the Mendip District Council offices Wednesday 10 Feb 2016 in Shepton Mallet
- 16 **Date of next Board Meeting:** Tuesday 16 February 2016 Consortium Management Committee
 Tuesday 23 February 2016 Works Committee
 Tuesday 17 May 2016 Policy, Finance & Governance
 Tuesday 21 June 2016 Full Board – approve accounts

RES 3

RES 4

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.

The meeting closed at 16.25 hrs

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CHAIRMAN

DATE