

Minutes of the Axe Brue Full Board Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge
Tuesday 09 February 2016 at 10:30hrs **Chairman: Mr Jeff Fear**

- 1 **Attendance and Apologies:** as per register appended. Apologies were also received from Chris of Action
SWAP and Cllr John Woodman
- 2 **Items additional to the agenda:** Wendy Welland (WW) had received notification of a Coastal
Footpath Consultation. Nick Stevens (NS) advised that the Board only comment on items that are
relevant to the Board.
- 3 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr A Gilling (AG) – all matters relating to planning.
- 4 **Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:** No members of the public present.
- 5 **Budgets and Rate Setting:** - appended. Stephen Gee (SG) reported that the 2 budgets he had
prepared were discussed at the latest Finance & Governance meeting. He explained that as a
result of Dairy Quota being removed in April 2015 there was some confusion whether or not this
had been included in the upper boards' land values. A detailed investigation was carried out to
determine how this was to be dealt with. In 1992 £5 per acre was added to the rateable value of
land holding dairy quota. Landowners were written to and asked to inform the Board if they do NOT
have dairy quota. Those that did not write had £5 per acre added to their rateable value. New
cards were created but there was no indication to show dairy quota. This information has since
been loaded on to the new drainage rate system (DRS). All the assessments of the upper boards
have been checked by Anthony Dowden (AJD) who identified (to the best of his knowledge)
whether dairy quota had been included. Based on this information the total dairy quota to be
removed was calculated to be £69091. SG had consulted the auditor who accepted the solution.
Jeff Fear (JF) felt that the matter had been treated with due diligence. **Proposed: Andrew Gilling,**
Seconded: Wendy Welland "that the methodology to calculate the dairy quota in the Upper
Axe and Upper Brue areas was approved and the total dairy quota of £69091 was agreed". RES 1
ALL IN FAVOUR
SG continued to explain the budgets and highlighted the fact that Favourable Conditions and SRA
figures were not included as these will be 100% funded. SG circulated a revised budget showing
the amendments regarding the removal of dairy quota and asked for approval for the new penny
rate. **Proposed: David Tratt (DT), seconded: Noel Lukins (NL) "that the Axe Brue Internal**
Drainage Board set a rate of 6.740p in the £ for 2016/17 to raise a total Agricultural Rate of
£172,578.08 and Special Levy of £757,145.54". 25 for, 0 against 1 abstention. Motion carried RES 2
AG asked that in future the reports show numbered lines to make them easier to read. SMG
- 6 **Engineering Report:** JF read the item headings and asked members and officers for their
comments and updates.
Routine Maintenance - AJD reported that there were still issues with the Massey Ferguson tractor,
Mastenbroek are to investigate.
Coastal Axe and Brue – Matthew Wall (MW) showed slides of the following schemes –
Brent Broad & Applewthy Rhynes, East Brent Drainage Improvements, Reeds and Chilpitts Rhyne-
the works have been completed satisfactorily and can now be taken into view. **Proposed: Noel**
Lukins, Seconded Pam Thorne "that the additional length (266 metres) of rhyne is taken into
view". ALL IN FAVOUR RES 3
Stoning Pound Rhyne – slides were shown of the work that had been carried out to retain water
levels which is not acceptable. A Land Drainage Consent application has since been received.
Members agreed that conditions would need to be applied to the consent and asked that a site
meeting is arranged as soon as possible as more investigation is required.
Nidon Extension – Colin Pople asked when the work would be undertaken. Members were
reminded this had been discussed at the previous meeting and the rhyne was formally taken into
view. NS clarified the outcome of the meeting by reading the notes that had been produced from
the recording which states the rhyne would be brought into view but because of the maize issue we
were going to try and resolve the whole situation, if this could not be resolved it would be brought
back to the full board. It was accepted that the section would be brought into view.
Discussion followed regarding when the maintenance should be carried out. JF suggested the
rhyne is taken into view and cleaned this year, MW to negotiate with Spratts to set up an
arrangement for future years and he would visit Mr Cox if required.
Burtle Wall Rhyne – slides shown, work to be carried out subject to ground conditions. Black Ditch
and Landshire Rhynes to be added to next year's programme for de-silting work.
Westhay Moor – work delayed by weather conditions.

Labourham Rhyne – slides shown. AJD confirmed letter had been drafted to new chairman of football club giving options for this section of the watercourse. Previously the material was placed under the hedge but this has been stopped by the new chairman, the option will be for the club to maintain it or pay extra if they want the material taken away, it is still in view at present but not maintained.

Cheddar Yeo Siphon – ongoing

Holimarine/Bourne Leisure – in discussion with the EA.

IDS added his comments to the report as follows:

Brent Street culvert – slides shown. The contract is going well and should be finished in approximately 2 weeks. The installation of a spillway could be delayed until ground conditions are right. A local contractor could be used to carry out the work in the spring.

Church Road, East Brent – Radar and CAT scans have been carried out with more investigation to take place. AG mentioned the property was on the market so there could be legal aspects.

Favourable Conditions – North Drain – now in the final phase of the Dog Leg Ditch Project.

Works programme – IS explained the table of works programmed for the year which does not include any schemes that occur in year.

Development control – Hinckley Point Connection Project DCO approved. Final draft of legal agreement with National Grid in place for dealing with a number of issues such as access haulage roads, culverts, compounds, depots, surface water runoff, positioning of pylons and tower bases.

Officers time will be recorded which is then recharged. Previously the Chairman and Vice Chairman were empowered to sign the agreement and IS asked that this continues. Members happy for Chairman to sign the agreement.

Brue Farm Development – IS had received renewed contact from the developer. A meeting is to take place this week.

Alstone Lane – Board are still maintaining an objection.

Martin Watts commented on the issues with planning at Mendip District Council. IS advised they do involve the Board but the Board is not a statutory consultee.

- 7 **Proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference for the F&G Committee:** The F&G Committee had discussed the amendments and recommended the amendments be brought to the full board for approval. The amendments will bring the Axe Brue in line with the Parrett Board. JF suggested that in the proposed new section 6.1 that the approval of the chairman and vice chairman be altered to read the chairman OR vice chairman. **Proposed: Jessica Healey, Seconded: Andrew Gilling “that the Proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference and the Scheme of Delegation for the F&G Committee are approved”. ALL IN FAVOUR**

- 8 **Proposed revisions to the Scheme of Delegation:** included in 7 above.

- 9 **20 year flood action plan and the Somerset Rivers Authority:** NS reported that after a telephone discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair of the SRA, the Secretaries of State wrote to the SRA and councils to say that £2.7m funding for 16/17 can be met by district and county councils raising council tax by 1¼%. This will go to council meetings for discussion. AG advised that SDC over the last 12/18 months had put money aside for contingencies to cover the 1¼ % increase for Sedgemoor residents.

Board and officers are undertaking works on ground on behalf of the SRA this year and assisting with works programmes. Costs relating to staff and contracts are up to date. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be available by the end of march. Discussions are taking place regarding how the new forms will look. There will be no government funding for the next financial year. A meeting will be held after this meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to go through the MOU as there is a meeting of the SRA at Shepton Mallet the following day. The MOU will be considered but not finalized, it will be included in the next SRA board meeting in March.

Dredging strategy - at the SRA meeting last year approval was given to dredging works on the Parrett to start in March. The SRA board wants more thought to be given to the area of dredging and the practices by which we dredge to ensure the most effective strategy – a group led by NS and IS has been set up for this purpose but extra help is needed. External engineers familiar with dredging work will be used to assist in the preparation of the report. Trials will hopefully be held later in the year.

- 10 **Minutes of the Full Board meeting held on 3 November 2015:** (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

- 11 **Matters arising:** none

Special Correspondence:

1) 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.

2) Water abstraction licensing charges – legislation for EA to charge for transfer of water. The IDB would have to apply for exemption.

3) EA changing LDC – bringing into line with the Environmental Permitting Regime.

Any Other Business: JF thanked Kendra Kingston for her assistance whilst Carrie-Anne Porter was on sick leave.

Date and venue for next meeting:	Tenders Meeting	15 March 2016
	Axe Catchment	08 April 2016
	Brue Catchment	03 May 2016
	Coastal Catchment	10 May 2016
	Finance & Governance	31 May 2016
	Full Board	14 June 2016

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.
The meeting was closed at 12.45 hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE