

**Minutes of the Axe Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge**  
**Friday 08 April 2016 at 10:30hrs**      **Chairman: Mr Jim Lukins**

The Chairman requested a minutes silence in respect of Mr Richard Cook, who passed away recently following a short illness.

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| 1 | <b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as per register appended. The Chairman advised that Mr C Dennis had recently resigned his seat on the Board, however it was agreed that the seat will remain vacant as the triennial election will take place in October 2016.  | Action  |
| 2 | <b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> None  |   |
| 3 | <b>Declarations of interest:</b> None at this time   |   |
| 4 | <b>Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:</b> None   |   |
| 5 | <b>Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:</b> (appended) S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the report with the following points of note:<br>Old River Axe Outfall is now complete is within the overall budget.<br>Wedmore Moor Rhyne and Brook Bank are over budget due to second cut being undertaken on both watercourses.<br>Invasive weed control, £175 is a standard budget inclusion as a contingency.<br>Members noted the report as submitted.  |   |
| 6 | <b>Engineering Report: a) Maintenance and Improvements:</b> A Dowden (AJD) advised that summer penn had been delayed for one week due to high rainfall in some areas.<br><b>Hixham Rhyne:</b> a damaged pipe at the Westbury Straight Rhyne has been identified and will be investigated.<br><b>Landcourse Rhyne, Cocklake:</b> unconsented works to erect an electric gate and fence panels has been identified. The landowner has requested permission to maintain the channel bank 3m either side of the gateway. Members expressed concern for the instability of the bank and standard of works that may be undertaken and that this watercourse is an important channel for the district. The Board has the right to enter property for annual channel cleaning works, therefore it may be necessary to request the landowner re-sites the electric box for the gate, and/or provide a hinged fence panel for access.<br><b>Proposed J Healey, Seconded T Tincknell ‘that the Axe Brue Board continues to undertake maintenance on the Landcourse Rhyne with hand work on the watercourse within the property until such time that a Board revetment scheme has been undertaken to repair the stability of the bank to allow machine operations to re-commence. Notice to be served on Mr Underhill, if necessary, for access to clean the channel.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 1</b><br><b>Bank Slippage:</b> It was agreed that there is noticeably more slippage on watercourses, particularly May Ditch and surrounding areas. It was agreed that AJD would investigate and report at a future meeting.<br><b>Knowle Moor:</b> members expressed concern that a lot of water is running through a small pipe on a daily basis at Ham Rhyne. AJD is investigating whether there is a leak, however it is understood that Mr Gibbs may have an agreement with the Environment Agency to draw water from the river for cattle drinking.<br>N Stevens (NWS) advised that the Boards’ byelaw 3 states that no person shall introduce water as a result of development without consent of the Board, however if this is an historic agreement it may prove difficult to enforce or control. If the agreement is with the Agency, it may be their responsibility to enforce control. It was agreed that AJD shall investigate.<br><b>Cheddar Football Club:</b> the requirement of a channel adjacent the football club was discussed as it may no longer be necessary. NWS advised that a consultation would be required prior to actions to stop maintaining and/or fill the channel. It was agreed to monitor the watercourse.<br>MSW provided a photo presentation of works:<br><b>Ivydown Ditch:</b> works completed<br><b>AX04 Cross:</b> remedial repair to resolve leak has been completed, however the culvert is in poor condition and will be monitored<br><b>Badgworth:</b> access culvert: unconsented works to install twin gateways were not to an acceptable standard as they were holding water back. The riparian landowners have been contacted, and removal of a culvert with replacement agreed by the Board; works will be undertaken by Spratt’s.<br><b>Portmead Ditch/Stubbingham Rhyne:</b> changes to channel cleaning contract will be made for ease of use for the new contractor. Members concurred with the recommendation.<br><b>Pint Pot Cottage:</b> Notice of entry to be served on the landowner for channel cleaning operations as he has resisted entry in previous years, claiming the operations had caused bank instability. A site | AJD<br><br>RES 1<br><br>AJD<br><br>AJD<br><br>MSW |

visit has been undertaken at which it was agreed tree planting would be the preferred method of bank stabilizing rather than mechanical repair works.

It was recommended that if the landowner resists entry in future years, consideration be given to installing an access culvert from the A38, or compulsory purchase an access strip.

**Proposed D Banwell, Seconded J Fear 'that Notice of Entry be served on the landowner at Pint Pot Cottage to allow channel cleaning operations 2016/17 and that minor tree planting is undertaken for bank stability with access for cleaning operations.'** **Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2**

RES 2  
NWS

**West Street View, Axbridge:** J Lukins declared an interest. This stretch of watercourse has not been cleaned for approx. 3 years due to Bristol Water works. MSW advised that this can be taken back into view and will be included in future maintenance maps for channel cleaning schedules.

MSW  
MLH

7 **Minutes of the Axe Catchment meeting held on 27 November 2015:** (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held, **Proposed J Healey, Seconded T Tincknell, vote: unanimous. RESOLUTION 3**

RES 3

8 **Matters Arising: Item 6 Bleadon Sluice** NWS advised that design work is to be undertaken in May 2016 with works due to commence in the autumn. Bristol Water Works have an identified Project Manager.

**Cheddar Canal:** NWS advised that a meeting is due to be held with the Agency early in May, at which discussion of associated matters will include PSCAs and the use of precept funding.

**Petruth Caravan Site, Impeded Access:** AJD advised that correspondence has been received from the landowner stating that he will re-site the gas tank in June.

9 **Any Other Business:**

1. **Development Control Sheet** (appended) accepted by members.

2. **SRA:** members were advised that works for the Drainage Board area, both Axe Brue and Parrett are entered into a 5 year programme of works, to which the IDB is involved with the prioritising process, to consider benefits of works with regard to flooding. The programme is constantly being reviewed.

3. **SDC:** SDC appointed members expressed concern for SRA funding and special levy payments. NWS advised that a meeting has been scheduled to discuss SDC funding concerns.

4. **Funding:** NWS advised that £40m has been provided from Central Government to which ADA has requested IDB's to identify if additional works could be undertaken by IDBs locally to support the Agency. At this time the IDB considered that no additional works could be undertaken.

5. **SRA Information:** NWS advised that the SRA has published an information pamphlet, which will be disseminated upon request. Members agreed that the pamphlet could be published on our website.

NWS/  
CAP

6. **EFRA Committee:** NWS advised that the EFRA Select Committee who are reviewing future flood prevention will be holding a meeting with the SRA Board in Taunton during May 2016.

7. **Axe Catchment vacancies:** members were advised that there are now two vacancies within the Axe Catchment sub-committee, and were asked to consider landowners/occupiers that may wish to stand. Members were reminded that the Axe Brue triennial election will be held in October, to which nomination forms will be available to download from the Board website during the autumn.

10 **Date and venue for next meeting:** unless stated all meetings will be held at Bradbury House, Highbridge commencing at 10:30hrs.

- Full Board Tuesday 14 June 2016, 10.30am
- Axe Catchment Friday 26 August 2016, 10.30am

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.  
The meeting was closed at 12.10hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE