

Minutes of the Brue Catchment Meeting held at Bradbury House, Highbridge
on Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 10.30 am **Chairman: Mr M Watts**

1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register appended. Mr R Adlam and S Gee.	Action
2	Items additional to the agenda: 1. North Wootton Rhyne. 2. Fencing at Edgarley, near Glastonbury.	
3	3 Development Control – Poplar Lane and Tootle Bridge Barton st David. 4 Mendip District Council – representatives on outside bodies.	
3	Declarations of interest: R Whitcombe – Fencing at Edgarley. M Watts and M Smith – North Wootton Rhyne.	
4	Opportunity for the public to address the meeting: None	
5	Finance - Overview of expenditure and budget: In the absence of S Gee the report was duly noted by members.	
6	Maintenance Programme: A Dowden (AJD) advised that the upper area annual channel cleaning programme is underway, with some areas completed. Massey Fergusson routine tractor service will be undertaken in the near future.	
	Butleigh Old Rhyne: A Dowden (AJD) advised that following negotiation the gas board has advised that they will not provide markers for the two gas mains crossing the drove. Members agreed that the gas mains could pose a risk to the Board for channel cleaning purposes. Concern was expressed for the weight limit of machinery crossing the drove. The Clerk had also inspected the site and advised that a safe method of working would need to be put in place. After much discussion it was agreed that markers would be installed, to enable a safe system of work for Board activities, at the Boards' expense.	AJD
	Edgarley Rhyne, Glastonbury: AJD advised that Edgarley Rhyne, a Viewed Rhyne, is a storm water ditch has been fenced with posts and two strands of barbed wire and are in close proximity to the watercourse, which hinder the channel cleaning operations. The fencing is in breach of Board Byelaws. The landowner has proposed to take over the channel cleaning operations however this stormwater ditch benefits a wider area. The land is adjacent recreation fields at Edgarley School, Glastonbury (Millfield Preparatory School). Members were advised that two strands of wire had been used to prevent cattle entering school grounds. Members proposed that the Board's requirements for temporary fences would be posts 750mm from the watercourse with one strand of barbed wire with a condition that the temporary fencing is removed upon request, if necessary, for channel cleaning operations.	
	Proposed P Thorne, Seconded P Holms 'that a site visit is held at Edgarley Rhyne, Glastonbury to view the fencing in-situ and discuss satisfactory outcomes for the landowner, tenant and Board.' Vote: 6 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstain – motion carried. RESOLUTION 1	RES 1
	Sub-Committee: J Fear, M Watts, A Franks, P Thorne, C Ainge, A Dowden and N Stevens.	
	North Wootton Rhyne: M Watts declared an interest therefore J Fear took the Chair for this item. AJD advised that within Queen Sedgemoor area the water level appears to fluctuate. Landowners request differing water levels through the summer. The local Board Member, Mr Smith, has requested an alternative summer penn level, as his land has is subject to high water levels that affect his operations. Officers suggested that monitoring of water levels should be carried out both from gauge boards and telemetry/data loggers. AJD recommended that water levels within the area are monitored.	RES 2
	Proposed A Franks, Seconded D Banwell 'that water levels in Queen Sedgemoor are investigated using the telemetry monitoring system and reported at a future Brue Catchment meeting.' Vote: unanimous – Mr Watts and Mr Smith did not vote. RESOLUTION 2	
	M Wall (MSW) advised that the lower area channel cleaning programme is underway with some areas complete.	
	De-silting works: MSW requested consideration for works to be undertaken on the following watercourses, advising that previous de-silting works have shown immediate benefits: Back Lane Rhyne, Bawdens Rhyne, Cripps Rhyne, Northwick and Pitmoor Lane Rhyne. Old Southwick Rhyne – de-silting and bank repair. Agreements with landowners are to be sought for silt depositing.	RES 3
	Proposed P Thorne, Seconded M Smith 'that the Axe Brue Board programmes de-silting works with budgeted funds within the winter season 2016/17 on Back Lane, Bawdens, Cripps, Northwick and Pitmoor Lane Rhyes and undertakes de-silting and bank repairs at Southwick Rhyne.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3	
6a)	Stoning Pound Rhyne – ROF fishing club, proposed structure: MSW advised that Stoning Pound Rhyne was discussed at the Full Board meeting in June where delegated powers were given to this	

	<p>sub-committee to design, supply and install a new tilting weir. An application for Land Drainage Consent from the Fishing Club was not acceptable.</p> <p>Proposed A Franks, Seconded P Thorne ‘that the Axe Brue installs a new 1m low level tilting weir to control the water level up stream, with walkway over at an approx. of £12,000.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 4</p>	RES 4
7	<p>Improvements and capital works programme: I Sturdy (IDS) advised that the last phase of Favourable Conditions works are almost complete: a redundant structure at Westhay may be redeployed to the North Drain area.</p> <p>Course Ditch, Godney: investigations are on-going; consideration to install an alternative structure upstream.</p> <p>Bason Bridge: Deltagen site and drainage improvements works. On-going issues with drainage pipe under the existing factory site into the River Brue being unreliable. Consideration to future diversion through Hackmead outlet culvert.</p> <p>Members expressed the view that future development in the area needs to be considered in the design of the revised pipework across the site. I Sturdy (IDS) advised that a 600mm pipe and trash screen are to be installed by the developer. The Board would need to work with the developer to achieve the desired outcome for the area.</p> <p>Meareway Investigation: IDS advised that Mr Moseley, a property owner on Meareway has expressed concern to both the Board and the SRA regarding flooding risk to his property when the River Brue is high and there is surface run off from Meare. The watercourse is an open channel with a culverted section at the downstream end near to the River Brue.</p> <p>An initial investigation has identified obstructions within the culvert.</p> <p>After a full discussion it was agreed that an options appraisal would be defined and reported at a future Brue Catchment meeting.</p> <p>West Waste Footpath Crossing: A redundant structure with a footpath over is unsafe and requires de-commissioning. A footpath diversion could be undertaken with the inclusion of a new upstream structure. In partnership with Somerset County Council, the IDB could submit a footpath diversion application, for works to be undertaken with cost and future liability incurred by SCC.</p>	PBS
8	<p>Proposed C Ainge, Seconded A Franks ‘that subject to agreement of the landowner, the Axe Brue IDB submits a footpath diversion application for footpath upstream of a redundant structure at West Waste with an application fee up to £1,200 with cost of the new structure and future liability to be incurred by Somerset County Council. The Board will, following consultation, then remove the redundant structure ’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 5</p> <p>Development control: (appended) Application AB/GL/2016/34 Allan Flinton for Taylor Wimpey – members were advised that the proposal for erection of a building within 9m of the watercourse has located the building at 7.5m which still permits access as required, therefore application was consented.</p> <p>Application AB/MA/2016/50 Mr & Mrs D Kaye – Appeal - proposal to culvert part of watercourse. Board policy, where possible, is to not culvert watercourses. This watercourse is a non-viewed watercourse adjacent to the property which provides local surface water drainage and water storage. It would appear to be a blind riparian ditch.</p> <p>Members expressed concern of setting precedent; each application is considered on individual merits with Board Policy and Byelaws as guidance.</p>	RES 5
	<p>Proposed P Thorne, Seconded C Ainge ‘that Mr & Mrs D Kaye be given approval to culvert an ordinary watercourse at Poplar Lane in accordance with application AB/MA/2016/50’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 6</p> <p>Tootle Bridge, Barton St David: members were advised that this problematic area is within a flood plain, and when in an extreme event the area floods.</p> <p>A sluice on the Mill Stream is the responsibility of Mill House; a site meeting is to be held with IDB representatives and officers with the house owner to discuss options for removal of a fallen tree that is causing a blockage and maintenance of the structure on the Barton St David and Lydford Millstream.</p> <p>The report was accepted by members.</p>	RES 6
9	<p>Somerset Rivers Authority update: NWS advised that the SRA intention to become a precepting body, which requires legislation. This is being carried forward by civil servants, however the current Government feeling is unknown. The matter has yet to be fully considered by Ministers.</p>	AJD
10	<p>Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 03 May 2016: Having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.</p>	
11	<p>Matters Arising: Item 6 Machinery: AJD advised that the cost of a uprated pump to improve output is rather excessive, therefore investigations are being carried out into the cost of new machines.</p>	

12 **Special correspondence and meetings:** NWS advised that Mr R Frost has written to advise that he will not stand for re-election in October 2016. Members expressed their gratitude to Mr Frost and his tireless work for the Upper Brue and Axe Brue Boards over his many years as a Board member. The Clerk will write to Mr Frost formally.

14 **Any Other Business: 1) Mendip District Council:** Cllr McKenzie advised that Mendip District council are undertaking a re-appraisal of outside bodies, to include attendance, costs, voting rights, etc.
Members were advised that the Land Drainage Act 1991 includes a formula for determining the number of seats for each special levy paying authority.
2) Outstanding Rates: C-A Porter advised that 7 Liability Order warrants for outstanding drainage rate demands were issued at Taunton Magistrates Court.
3) Dairy Show: members were reminded that the Dairy Show will be held at the Royal Bath and West Showground on Wednesday 05 October 2016, at which the Boards will be represented at stand 210 on the Showering's Pavilion Balcony.

- 15 **Dates of next meetings**
- SDBC annual meeting 18 October 2016, 19.00hrs
 - Full Board 08 November 2016, 10.30hrs
 - Brue Catchment 22 November 2016, 10.30hrs

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 13.15hrs.

.....
CHAIRMAN

.....
DATE