

**Minutes of the Parrett Works Committee held on Tuesday 20 September 2016 , at 14.15hrs  
at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge, Somerset TA9 3BW Chairman: Brian Rowe**

<p>1. <b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as register appended – T Bradford, J Winslade and C Passmore</p> <p>2. <b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> none</p> <p>3. <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None at this time</p> <p>4. <b>Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:</b> (appended) Stephen Gee (SMG) asked members to contact him in the office if there were any questions.</p> <p>5. <b>Engineering Report:</b> (appended)</p>	Action
<p><b>a) Maintenance Report</b> (inc Expenditor’s programme of works): P Ham (PSH) provided an overview of the report for members with the following points to note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chine Horn Rhyne</b> and drove possible damage from haulage vehicles – an inspection has been carried out with a further joint inspection with the Agency when works are completed.</li> <li>• <b>Podimore Pumping Station</b> – following a break-in and damage caused to security light, a new padlock has been attached to the gate following consultation with the landowner.</li> <li>• <b>Isle Brewers Feed Problem</b> – temporary repair has been undertaken but the pipe is badly corroded and needs to be replaced</li> <li>• <b>Bower Lane Drainage</b> – major concerns in the area regarding ditch cleaning and infilling. Slides were shown of the area. A one off clean needs to be undertaken with Notices served if necessary. Malcolm Young (MY) confirmed the name of the lane in question as Jack Hardings Lane.</li> <li>• <b>3 year Maintenance Contracts</b> start summer 2017. Documents need to be prepared. Schedules will be given to catchment reps for their approval.</li> <li>• <b>Nythe Road culvert</b> – damage and blockage had been caused to the culvert and headwall by excavation for services and excessive HGV traffic. A local landowner has unblocked the pipe. Peter Maltby (PCM) commented on Nythe Road that clarification is still needed from the County Council – dealt with in a later item.</li> </ul>	PSH
<p><b>b) Improvement Works Programme:</b> I Sturdy (IDS) explained the figures on the finance report provided by SMG regarding the engineering schemes. Some of the figures have been carried forward from previous years particularly the Sedgemoor Drove culverts. The Board needs to prioritise schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>B&amp;T canal connection at Fordgate</b> – the Canal Trust has concerns regarding the water being added to the canal. This scheme has now been put on hold, action is required to close the scheme down properly, all in agreement. The budget for this work will be recycled.</li> <li>• <b>Knapp Bridge Drove</b> – Westmoor Drove Rhyne (viewed rhyne) passes under Knapp Bridge Drove through a culvert and nearby small arch bridge. The arch bridge is damaged however the Board has no record or ownership or liability. The adjacent culvert has sufficient capacity. Members declined to provide funds for arch bridge repairs and advised that ownership should be established and warned of its condition.</li> <li>• <b>Pawlett Hams Supply</b> – the temporary repair to the pipe was not entirely successful as the pipe is more damaged than previously thought. Graphs were shown of the water levels and tides over the summer which highlighted a variable response to the pumping although levels had increased. A thorough search for leakage from the Hams was carried out - no leaks discovered. If the Board wishes to supply water to the Hams and the Meads a permanent solution is required. Discussions have taken place with a possible contractor but Officers advise a full procurement exercise should be followed and tenders will be prepared for letting a contract to undertake directional drilling. Members agreed that this scheme is very important and funding bodies and organisations should be approached with a view to securing contributions to the cost of the works.</li> <li>• <b>Health &amp; Safety</b> – will continue with grant contributions, now in the final year.</li> <li>• <b>Minehead</b> – the maintenance issues are being dealt with as per the report. The income from the area is small so partnerships are required for more funds to be available.</li> </ul>	IDS/ PBS  NWS  IDS/ PBS
<p><b>c) Asset Management:</b> Nick Stevens (NWS) – About 5 years ago a database was set up by ADA as requested by Defra to facilitate the bulk uploading of IDB flood risk assets into the Agency’s asset system, NFCDD. The Boards provided their data following a data gathering exercise, as this is now 5 years old the Boards are advised to revisit their asset database and update. It is believed the SDBC Boards have around 840 assets or structures. In addition the Expenditors are currently</p>	

carrying out a survey of highway culverts carrying Viewed Rhynes and at present GIS has identified there are approximately 700 culverts under highways across both boards.

**6. Culverts under highways:** covered in c) above. PCM asked for the issue with Somerset County Council regarding responsibility of culverts under the highway to be resolved. **Proposed: Mervyn Winslade, Seconded: Roger Coombes “that the Chairman and Vice Chairman report to the SRA that the Board is not happy with the approach that the County Council is taking with regard to culverts under Highways and would request changes to that policy” – all in favour**

RES 1

**7. Flood Banks – designation of features** – NWS had record of only 1 flood bank, e.g. Perry Moor. There are no other records of existing flood banks. The Expenditors are being asked to report on this. Spoil banks currently exist but the Clerk proposed that the Board will need to consider a programme of spoil levelling over a period. At this time a total of 27 kilometres of spoil bank have been identified which will need cutting back.

**8. Development Control:** appended.

a) Policy – infilling of urban watercourse: NWS explained the paper showing slides where ditches had been infilled without consent. Members agreed to accept the recommendation. **Proposed: John Lang, Seconded: Malcolm Young that the Committee recommends to adopt option 4.5 - when controlling works proposed on historic ordinary watercourses in urban areas – all in favour**

RES 2  
Full  
Board

b) Significant applications and sites: IDS gave an update on Hinckley Point. Increased activity at off site areas particularly junction 23. A meeting is scheduled with EDF who are now supplying further information. All sites are becoming more active. The National Grid agreement is close to completion to secure retention of the Boards Byelaws, relevant requirements regarding crossings of ditches and rhynes, the maintenance access tracks and the siting of towers.

**9. Health & Safety Monitoring Report:** NWS advised that no accidents or near misses have been reported.

**10. Parrett staffing including Terms and Conditions:** Expenditor operators have moved onto a seasonal flexible working time pattern and are currently working a 44 hour week. Extra hours are worked in summer with shorter hours in the winter. PCM requested a briefing for staff members regarding the terms of the County Council pension scheme. SMG will arrange this.

SMG

**11. Machinery and vehicles:** (appended).

a) **Usage** – mileage and hours as per enclosed report.

b) **Asset replacement** – nothing further to report and no asset renewals currently proposed.

**12. Somerset Rivers Authority Programme:**

a) **Strategies:** NWS reported that legislation and precept are yet to be brought to the Minister's (Dr Coffey) attention.

**(Cllr M Caswell left the meeting 4.15pm)**

Alternative dredging locations and techniques have been considered with HR Wallingford and have reported to the Dredging Strategy Board. Further work will be undertaken to develop this work into a Strategy for adoption.

John Lang expressed concern regarding the system of works on dredging currently being carried out. He opined that the dredging has helped but it needs to be carried out more effectively. The dredging of the 8km has had an enormous impact on the flood risk to the area.

The Clerk responded that we are now looking for better ways of maintaining that system. Dredging trials are due to take place in the autumn with other areas identified for pioneer works in the future. Modelling was the tool that gave the scientific evidence to show that the work is necessary. Funds have been secured for the work to be carried out.

The planned Barrage for the River Parrett is under discussion and a public consultation took place last week. Two sites are now being considered upstream of Dunball and will be a surge barrier which the Board has formally supported.

**(Cllr Nick Weeks left the meeting at 4.40pm)**

b) **Works and activities:** NWS – a spreadsheet showing the Common Works Programme and enhanced maintenance programme is available for members to inspect.

**13. Minutes of the last Works Committee meeting 23 February 2016:** having previously been circulated were signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**14. Matters Arising:** Item 7 Morrisons – M Winslade asked for an update regarding the track adjacent to Morrisons. The Clerk responded that an alternative may now exist as the Board had received an enquiry from Highways England regarding proposed work to the off slip ramps at Junction 23 which may require access to the KSD bridge through the NEB site. NWS has written advising that if the Board needs to carry out any works or resources then reimbursement would be

requested.

**15. Special Correspondence:** NWS had received correspondence from ADA regarding water transfer licences. This is an on-going consultation and discussion with Defra/EA but it seems that it will eventually be brought in.

NWS had received a copy of the Cabinet Office and Defra report regarding the National Flood Resilience Review. It is available to members to browse if requested.

**16. Any Other Business:** none

**17. Date of next Board meetings:** SDBC Annual 18 October 2016 7pm

Full Board Tuesday 01 November 2016 2.15pm

Works Committee Tuesday 28 February 2017 2.15pm

**NICK – WRITE TO NICK WEEKS AS BRIAN ROWE MAY BE AWAY FOR FEB MEETING**

NWS

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 16.50hrs

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE