

**Minutes of the Coastal Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 27 September 2016 at 10.30hrs**  
**Chairman: Mr Jeff Fear**

- 1 **Attendance and Apologies:** as per register appended. S Gee and N Stevens.
- 2 **Items additional to the agenda:** Oak Tree Farm, Edithmead – Planning.
- 3 **Declarations of interest:** None
- 4 **Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:** No members of the public present.
- 5 **Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:** (appended - Enc 1). In the absence of S Gee, I Sturdy provided an overview of the Coastal Catchment finance report. The report was duly noted by members, however members expressed concern that in Mr Gee’s absence, notes to the accounts were not available, also for the absence of the Finance Officer at meetings.
- 6 **Maintenance Programme:** Matthew Wall (MSW) advised that channel cleaning operations are underway, with some areas completed; Huntspill is to be commenced shortly. MSW advised that he is not aware of any problems or issues and that the programme is on schedule to be completed by mid-November.  
**De-silting A370:** approx. length of 5.3km from the A370, Dulhorn Farm to Wick Lane (east of railway line) is recommended to be undertaken during the winter season, to include sections at Lower Wick Rhyne and Burton Row Rhyne.  
**Proposed W Welland, Seconded D Tratt ‘that de-silting is carried out at the A370 to Wick Lane for approx. length of 5.3km during the winter 2016/17.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 1**
- 7 **Improvements and capital works programme:** members were advised:
- 7a **Crooked Lane & Brent Broad Track, Access Improvement Works:** W Welland declared an interest in Berrow Wall Hills to Levels project application.  
MSW advised that three (private) grant applications had been submitted for Hills to Levels funding across the Board’s area, Brent Broad & Crooked Lane Tracks, Berrow Wall and Butleigh Wotton. A scheme to improve access for both rhyne maintenance and agricultural access has been proposed by Brent Knoll Parish Council, to which 80% grant (£15,550) of the required £19,437.50p total cost of the works has been approved by way of a Hills to Levels grant. Additional contributions: Brent Knoll PC £972, 2x landowners £500 (each) with a request to the Axe Brue for a one-off contribution of £972 with no further commitment, following which the shortfall will be made up by the parish council.  
A full discussion was held during which MSW confirmed that the Board would not be undertaking the works nor would the Board be liable for any future liability.  
**Proposed Cllr J Woodman, Seconded D Watts ‘that the Axe Brue IDB contributes £972 to Crooked Lane and Brent Broad Track access improvement works with no future liability.’ Vote: 8 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstain – motion carried RESOLUTION 2**  
**Lympsham Pumping Station Update:** I Sturdy (IDS) advised that this is an un-maintained, non-operational surface water pumping station with no electricity supply. The pumping station was included within development planning permission circa 1970.  
Improvements made to a rhyne system have proven sufficient for the area.  
Investigation has shown that the pumping station discharges via a 150mm diameter culvert into Comple Rhyne. The culvert is approximately 180m in length and considered insufficiently sized to provide a viable gravity outfall.  
From the date of installation, there has been no further development and no reports of properties that have flooded.  
Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) has agreed a 50:50 split for the cost of the initial CCTV survey and will consider contributing to a long term solution with no future liability but have requested the IDB take the lead with further investigations and proposed scheme. Members agreed that there is an on-going low level risk surrounding the culvert and pumping station, however the installation was agreed at SDC planning, therefore the structure and future liability should remain with SDC. This matter, although agreed, was not voted on.
- 7b **Brean Leisure Update:** LPA planning approval has been granted for additional holiday accommodation. A bund/raised bank that had been erected adjacent a watercourse approx. 1.5m high, has been moved approx. 9m from the watercourse. Site meetings and discussions had been held with the landowner and his agent but no Land Drainage Consent (LDC) application has been received to date for raising ground levels, planting or other permissions along the 9 meter access strip of the West Rhyne.  
Enforcement action to remove the bund, as previously agreed is no longer required.  
Members were supportive of retaining access strips on both sides of the watercourse in-line with the Board Policies.

Action

RES 1

RES 2

7c **Rose Tree Paddock, Berrow – unconsented structure:** MSW advised that an artificial badger sett has been erected by Notaro Ltd, the developer of Rose Tree Paddock, however following negotiation, an alternative sett is being erected 9m (minimum) from the watercourse. The developer is responsible for ensuring all necessary licenses are in-hand for decommissioning the original sett and moving the badgers to the new sett.

Members agreed that as badgers have shown an interest in the original sett, re-siting may need to take place during the summer 2017.

7d **Oak Tree Farm, Edithmead:** MSW advised that a Land Drainage Consent application has been received to erect an agricultural building 5.75m from the adjacent watercourse. The proposed building is to be erected alongside an existing building. The watercourse is not in-view, and the position of the building would create a localised pinch-point which a machine would be able to access past.

Members expressed concern for setting a precedent, however it was acknowledged that each application is considered on its individual merits, being mindful of the Board Byelaws Policy, legislation and other regulations.

**Proposed Cllr Woodman, Seconded D Poole ‘that the Coastal Catchment sub-committee approves to accept an application to erect an agricultural building 5.75m from the adjacent watercourse at Oak Tree Farm, Edithmead subject to clear access for channel cleaning operations.’ Vote: 9 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstain – motion carried RESOLUTION 3**

8 **Development Control:**

**Policy – Infilling of Historic Watercourses:** (appended - Enc 2a) IDS provided an example of a housing development in Burnham on Sea, which highlighted many issues regarding historic watercourses. Ownership is not understood in many locations which results in watercourses being unmaintained or in-filled with or without consent.

Land Drainage Consents are approved hydraulically; all other permissions i.e. neighbouring householders/landowners, are required to be sought by the applicant.

Members concurred that it is important to understand the function of individual lengths of watercourse for each LDC application received.

It was agreed to discuss the joint policy paper at the Full Board meeting of 08 November 2016.

11.55hrs Cllr J Woodman left the meeting

**Consultation for planning and consents:** (appended - Enc 2)

**Alstone Lane, West Huntspill 52/16/00008 (9 dwellings and creation of access):** discussions have been held with the Developer’s agents, who have confirmed that design exceedance flows will be attenuated in a pond adjacent the road and that run off up to the 100 year +30% will be dealt with by on site permeable paving and soakaways . Access issues also remain with the site, which the Developers considers will not prove detrimental to the area. IDB officers are not satisfied with this response, and are working towards an acceptable outcome, however it was agreed that the objection should stand. A site meeting will be held to review the application and development within the area: J Fear, R Shaw and D Watts to attend.

**Stoddens Road, Edithmead 12/16/00006 (erection of dwelling and formation of access):**

M E Wall advised that although listed as the Board member consulted, he has not received the relevant consultation documents. D Tratt also noted that he has not received applications. It was agreed that member contact details would be confirmed with the Planning & Admin Support Officer.

**Rossholme, East Brent:** members were advised that several applications have been received for this site and further information and additional details have been requested to assess impacts of the surface water drainage.

**Brue Farm, Highbridge:** IDS advised that there is increasing pressure to approve the full planning application, however the outline surface water drainage proposals are not satisfactory i.e. distance of houses from the watercourse. Officers are not satisfied to leave this issue to reserved matters. A new principle watercourse will receive run-off from the site, however there is concern for peripheral drainage system with regard to the future operation and management.

Although not voted on, members were satisfied with Mr Sturdy’s approach.

The report was accepted by members.

9 **Minutes of the Coastal Catchment meeting held on 09 May 2016:** (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

10 **Matters Arising: Item 6:2 Holimarine (Bourne Leisure):** M Wall advised that confirmation has been received from the Environment Agency that they will install a new door and fencing to the recently discovered tidal outfall structure but have confirmed they will not accept responsibility or future liability for maintenance or operation of the structure.

**Item 7 Pawlett Hams – summer supply:** temporary summer supply has been provided by the Board, however this was not successful to all landowners. Investigations are being undertaken into

RES 3

Full Board

MSW

C-AP

a directional drill under the river to provide a new supply to the area. Negotiations are also being held with the Environment Agency to identify matters surrounding the bank slip.

**Item 7 Mill Green Close:** MSW advised that monitoring continues in the area, with gauge boards indicating the system is level. Re-seeding did not take, therefore this will be reinstated within the next couple of weeks.

**Item 8 National Grid:** members were advised that new applications have been received for road diversions.

**Bleadon Sluice:** No update at this time.

11 **Special Correspondence and meetings:** None

12 **Any Other Business: Outstanding Rates:** C-A Porter (C-AP) advised that approx. £6,600 remains outstanding; £15,900 at this time last year. Seven Liability Order warrants were awarded at Taunton Magistrate's court to be executed by Enforcement Agents.

**Election 2016:** C-AP reminded members that the deadline for receipt of nomination forms is Friday 7 October 2016 at noon.

**The Dairy Show:** members were reminded that the Board will be attending The Dairy Show, on Wednesday 05 October at the Royal Bath & West Showground, on stand 210 at the Showering's Pavilion Balcony.

**SRA Tour:** a tour of the Sedgemoor area was undertaken on Friday 23 September which was very informative and enjoyable. Gratitude was expressed to all involved.

13 **Date of next meeting:** SDBC Annual meeting 18 October 2016 at 7pm, Full Board 08 November 2016 and Coastal Catchment 06 December 2016.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.  
The meeting was closed at 12:35hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE