

**Minutes of an Extra Ordinary Axe Brue Board Meeting held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge on Thursday 31 August 2017 at 19.00 hrs.** **Chairman: Mr J Fear**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, explaining that the meeting was to discuss streamlining of the Board as recommended by the Task & Finish Group.

- |  | <b>Action</b> |
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| <b>1 Attendance &amp; Apologies for Absence:</b> as per register appended.   |               |
| <b>2 Declarations of interest:</b> None  |               |
| <b>3 Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board meeting:</b> No member of the public wished to address the meeting.  |               |
| <b>4 Paper for consideration – Streamlining of Board governance:</b> N Stevens (NWS) briefed members on the appended paper (enc 1) and draft minutes of the Task & Finish Group (enc 2), stating that two recommendations had been submitted for full Board approval and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had recommended the Board adopt electoral districts as detailed in Option 1 of the Governance review. |               |

Member discussion (this list is not exhaustive):

- Defra and DCLG consider that current Axe Brue Board membership does not allow effectiveness and good practice

**19.10hrs** M Watts and M Higgins joined the meeting

- Board meetings will be longer with a new Board
- At future meetings it may transpire that strategic discussion is held at meetings with operational and governance issues dealt with by area managers and officers on a daily basis
- Future sustainability of elected membership is a great concern in particular for meetings being quorate
- A new philosophy of attendance and approach is required by members of the future Board
- Concern that reduced membership will not provide adequate representation
- Elected representatives have a democratic duty to ensure landowners are represented fully
- If the Board does not proceed with reconstitution at this time, Defra (EA or District Councils) would impose a solution that may not be favourable to members, or compatible with efficient working practices of the Board
- The Board members needs to change to meet the requirements of working alongside EA, SRA and other bodies in the future
- Task & Finish Group could consider an annual catchment meeting with ratepayers and appointed members
- Mendip District Council supports all recommendations as submitted
- Sedgemoor District Council supports all recommendations as submitted
- Catchment representatives will still be necessary, however consultation and communication arrangement will be crucial for a reconstituted Board
- IDB could run with greater costs in the long term due to increased officer time dealing with issues on the ground
- With modern communications, officers do not foresee a problem or increased costs
- Elected members give their time to Board business voluntarily

**Q:** Why was amalgamation not favoured at this time?

**A:** The Task & Finish Group (T&F) considered that although the Parrett IDB amalgamated in 2005, the Axe Brue amalgamation was 2012, further amalgamation at this time was considered too soon.

**Q:** What would happen if some members wanted to create a new Board?

**A:** An application would need to be submitted via the Environment Agency



AXE BRUE EXTRA-ORDINARY FULL BOARD MEETING

VENUE: BRADBURY HOUSE, MARKET STREET, HIGHBRIDGE

DATE: THURSDAY 31 JULY 2017, 19:00 HRS

NAME	MILEAGE	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Ray Adams		R.G. Adams	
Charlie Ainge			
Edwin Badman			✓
David Barwell (SDC)		D. Barwell	
Mat Boley			
Cheryl Burnett (SDC)			
Heather Case (SDC)		H. Case	
Ed Champion			
Adrian Chidgey (SDC)		A. Chidgey	
R (Bob) Clapp			
Lorna Corke Cllr (SDC)			
Polly Costello Cllr (SDC)			✓
John Denbee Cllr (MDC)			
Colin Durston			✓
Jeff Fear		Jeff Fear	
Alan Franks	20	A. Franks	
John Frost			✓
Andrew Gilling Cllr (SDC)	10	A. Gilling	
Philip Ham Cllr (MDC)			
Alison Hamlin Cllr (SDC)			
Jessica Healey (SDC)		J. Healey	
Dawn Hill Cllr (SDC)			
Phil Holms (SDC)	30	Phil Holms	✓
Steve Hughes (SDC)			
Will Human Cllr (SDC)			
Phoebe Judah			
Roger Keen Cllr (SDC)			✓
Tom Killen Cllr (MDC)			
Jim Lukins			
Noel Lukins	6	N. Lukins	
Roy McKenzie Cllr (MDC)		Roy McKenzie	
Alvin Neale			
Graham Noel Cllr (MDC)			
John Parham Cllr (MDC)			
David Poole (NSC)		D. Poole	

NAME	MILEAGE	SIGNATURE	APOLOGIES
Colin Pople			
Jeff Savage Cllr (SDC)		J. Savage	
Liz Scott Cllr (SDC)		L. Scott	
Richard Shaw (SDC)	3	R.P. Shaw	
Martin Smith	28	M. Smith	
Brian Stinch			
Pam Thorne		Pam Thorne	
Tom Tinknell		T. Tinknell	
David Tratt			✓
Maurice Wall	1.5		
David Watts	3	D. Watts	
Martin Watts	30	M. Watts	
Wendy Welland	8	W.C. Welland	
Richard Wilcox	9	R.A. Wilcox	
Ross Whitcombe			
John Woodman Cllr (SDC)			
Tim Youngs (SDC)			