

**Minutes of a Brue Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Highbridge on Tuesday 05 September 2017 at 10.30 am**  
**Chairman: Mr M Watts**

		Action
1	<b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as per registers appended.	
2	<b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> M S Wall (MSW) – Mr P Willis suspected Hemlock poisoning	
3	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> Mr M Watts and Mr M Smith – Item 6 and 7 re: Long Drove Mr J Fear – Item 8 re: 976 Mark Cricket Club	
4	<b>Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:</b> None	
5	<b>Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:</b> members were provided an overview of the report appended with the following points of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H&amp;S Schemes includes repair or replacement of existing structures</li><li>• Grant for H&amp;S schemes is no longer available via EA/Defra, however the Board has agreed that H&amp;S works should continue funded by the Board</li><li>• The EA has confirmed that it is acceptable to use the balance of Favourable Conditions (FC) funds on any FC projects</li><li>• Invasive weed control: costs include treatment of pennywort at Bleadon and will include treatment of other invasive weeds as necessary</li><li>• Bargeman's Cabbage treatment in the upper catchment has proven successful; monitoring will continue with a policy to be drawn up in the future.</li></ul> The report was accepted by members.	
6	<b>Maintenance programme:</b> A Dowden (AJD) advised that most of the contractor channel cleaning works in the upper catchment have been completed. M Andrews, in-house operator, is currently assisting the Expenditors in the Parrett IDB area. MSW advised that most contractors have commenced their channel cleaning works.	
a	<b>Desilting Complaint:</b> AJD advised that following discussions with S Stamp, Pope & Sons will attend to remedial works in the near future; the spoil will be utilised to fill cattle watering. The initial desilting contracts for the two projects included reinstatement, of which power harrowing and re-seeding is underway.	
b	<b>Brue Maintenance Contracts:</b> 2017/18 is the final year of the 3-year contract. Contractors will be invited to express an interest in tendering for 2018/19-2020/21 contracts.	MSW
c	<b>Wainbridge &amp; Tilehouse Rhyne:</b> MSW advised the Committee that Mr C Pople had requested an investigation of water leakage along 180m of watercourse of Mark Moor. MSW advised that reinforcement works could be undertaken to install trench sheets to cut off leakage that is occurring through the embankment of the public highway costs are estimated at £50k and were considered excessive for the problem involved and that less expensive alternative should be explored. This year an early weed clean was undertaken which helped to maintain water levels. The Chairman invited members to a site meeting to ascertain the level of leak/repair. The situation will be monitored and reported back at the next meeting.	M Watts MSW
d	<b>Crown Inn, East Huntspill:</b> Notice has formally been served, to remove storage containers from within the byelaw zone, which expires 15 September 2017. A site inspection will be held week commencing 18 September; if the containers have not been removed, the Board can move the containers, prosecute or undertake both actions. Legal advice and estimated costs of prosecution are to be sought prior to any legal action. No Land Drainage Consent application has been received for retention of containers. Members were advised that the neighbouring owners had previously consented to Mr & Mrs Cooke culverting the watercourse, however their consent have have been rescinded the containers were installed.	
e	<b>Proposed winter 2017/18 desilting/dredging works: Heath Rhyne.</b> R Adlam, A Neale and R Whitcombe declared an interest. AJD advised that there is little gradient through the peat moor, historically this area was drained by pumps. He is intending to deploy the silt pump to remove accumulated channel organic silt. Previous use of the silt pump cost approx. £1 per metre on an hourly rate. <b>Proposed M Smith, Seconded R Clapp 'that the Brue Catchment desilts approx. 5,410 metres in the region of Heath Rhyne during the winter 2017/18.' Vote: For 10; Against 0; Abstain 1.</b> <b>RESOLUTION 1</b> R Adlam, A Neale and R Whitcombe did not partake in the vote.	RES 1
7	<b>Improvements and capital works programme:</b> I Sturdy (IDS) provided an update of the works programme with the following points of note (this list is not exhaustive):	
a	<b>Westhay Moor Drove:</b> P Holms and R Whitcombe declared an interest. Due to necessary alterations to fit the previously installed weir structure into Shapwick Moor Rhyne,	

the final project cost is now estimated as £7k (original estimate £5k).

The Hawk and Owl Trust previously offered a contribution of 50% of the original estimated £5k cost.

**Proposed R Adlam, Seconded P Thorne ‘that the Brue Catchment approves the estimated project cost increase to £7,000 maximum of which a £2,500 contribution will be received from the Hawk & Owl Trust.’ Vote: For 11; Against 0; Abstain 2 RESOLUTION 2**

RES 2

**Meareway Investigation:** investigations have been completed that identify the system operates effectively. A letter is to be sent to the householder to advise that remedial works have been undertaken to improve the system and a spillway from the road into the adjacent field is the most appropriate improvement to the system at this time. Any further works could be undertaken as an individual property protection project by the householder.

NWS

b

**Course Ditch:** approved originally included with annual budgets with an estimated cost of £30k. Outline design proposes to install piles at the outfall into Decoy Rhyne, and will include improvements to the operating structure with new platform; A further update will be provide at a future meeting.

Future meeting

c

**Hills to Levels Funding:** This funding stream is provided by ‘Players of the People’s Postcode Lottery’ the SRA, led by the Royal Bath and West Society. This funding stream ended in May 2017. The project is continuing with FWAGSW, RSPB, SWT and SRA as partners with funding from Interreg/Triple C plus some funding from the SRA and other smaller pots. For projects including public rights of way, bridleways and gateway improvements. IDB’s and SRA do not contribute to Hills to Levels funding.

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**Mill House, Barton St David:** Health & Safety works have been put out to tender. The owner of Mill House has agreed to contribute 1/3 costs. The Environment Agency will be asked to provide a joint project with the IDB and highway authority.

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The EA have previously produced a feasibility report which includes local impacts, this will be discussed at the next available meeting with the EA.

R Adlam feels it would be better to undertake bridge works to enable a better conveyance of water.

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**Development Control: (appended) ID 947** change of use from agri to residential; proposal to infill a dry ditch has been approved as Land Drainage Consent.

The report was accepted by members.

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**Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 10 April 2017:** Having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

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**Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 25 April 2017:** Having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

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**Matters Arising:** To the minutes – None.

**Members Tour:** P Thorne thanked all officers for arranging and conducting the tour and lunch, held on 03 August 2017. The day was enjoyable and informative.

**Hemlock Water Dropwort:** A complaint has been received following contractor channel cleaning operations undertaken in the vicinity, regarding cattle ingestion of Hemlock roots, which are toxic. All vet and supplementary reports have been requested.

Contractors have expressed concern regarding the effects of this native plant; an information sheet will be compiled for publication.

It was agreed that a report will be produced for the next full Board meeting and complaints will be dealt with in accordance of the complaint procedure but this may be influenced by our insurers requirements.

MSW

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**Special Correspondence and meetings:** Cllr R McKenzie advised that he was not able to attend the last scheduled meeting of the SRA scrutiny panel and has not received any report or minutes. Cllr Mc Kenzie advised that the Wells Journal will publish an article he has written regarding the works of the Drainage Board from his perspective.

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**Dates of next meetings:**

- Full Board 17 October 2017, 10.30hrs
- Brue Catchment 05 December 2017, 10.30hrs

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

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE