

**Minutes of the Axe Brue Policy, Finance and Governance Sub Committee held on Tuesday 16 January 2018 10:30hrs at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge.**  
**Chairman: Cllr A Gilling**

Action

- 1 **Attendance & Apologies for Absence:** as per register appended.
- 2 **Items Additional to the Agenda:** None
- 3 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr A Gilling – all matters relating to planning
- 4 **Policy & Strategy**  
**Ref 5:** Business Risk Management  
**Ref 27:** Risk management (appended Enc 1) The live document was duly noted with the following points of note:  
**No. 36:** National Audit Office review; member training will be formulated during the year and current Code of Conduct and Register of Members' Interests will be reviewed  
**No. 38:** Recruitment of new CEO; updated proposal has been shared with Chairs with a view to advertising in the near future  
**No. 37:** Reconstitution; a draft Order has been prepared. Clerk has questioned Defra lawyers and is awaiting response  
**No. 31:** Somerset Rivers Authority; additional resource should not impact on the budget due to 100% recharge. Resource are project specific with fixed term contracts. Rechargeable works are recovered on 30 day terms. LEP funding payments is evidence based, submitted to SRA for the SRA to claim directly from LEP on a 3 monthly cycle for reimbursement.

In response to a comment regarding possible extension of Board area, members were advised that this would affect Special Levy significantly which would appear to be contrary to Sedgemoor District Councils concerns over the funding for Special Levy. There is no current arrangement, with primary legislation, to relieve local authorities of the special levy, which is approx. 80% of the Board's income.

When working on projects included in the SRA Enhanced maintenance programme external contractors are paid via IDB with grant application submitted to cover these costs on an annual basis.

The report was accepted as submitted.

- 5 **Budgets**  
**Ref 7, 9 & 10: Consider proposed 2018/19 budget and financial position against budget:** (appended Enc 2) SMG provided an overview of the explanatory notes, advising that the budget reflects, as yet, unknown CEO costs and projection of new schemes.  
 There is no current proposal for EA to de-main locally.  
 The EA precept has increased by 2% for the forthcoming year.  
 Majority of SRA projects are within the Parrett area, however this budget proposal reflects project specific rechargeable work; the Board has an aspiration to deliver the SRA work programme as indicated within the budget.  
**Ref 8: Consider draft annual drainage rate and special levy 2018/19:** (appended Enc 3)  
 Members noted that, as previously stated, the EA precept will increase by 2%, thereby the recommended calculation of drainage rate and special levy is to increase from 6.740p in the pound to 6.875p in the pound.  
**Ref 12: To consider the financial viability of the IDB in the short and long term:** Board reserves will be available for Full Board consideration; currently approximately £1.2m including post marked funds for schemes and projects.  
**Proposed D Tratt, Seconded Cllr R Keen 'that the Axe Brue Policy, Finance & Governance Committee recommends the Axe Brue Full Board approves the 2018/19 budget as submitted and approves to increase the agricultural drainage rate and special levy by 2.003% from 6.740 to 6.875 pence in the pound at the meeting of 30 January 2018.'**

RES 1

Amended proposal: Proposed M Watts 'that the Axe Brue Policy, Finance & Governance Committee recommends to not increase the agricultural drainage rate and special levy from 6.740 pence in the pound at the meeting of 30 January 2018.' This motion was not seconded.

**Substantive vote (Proposal D Tratt Seconded Cllr R Keen): 8 For; Chair declared the motion carried by majority. RESOLUTION 1**

- 6 **Governance**  
**Ref 17:** To monitor compliance with legal requirements of the IDB. No comments  
**Ref 18:** To monitor and confirm o the Board that funds are used economically, efficiently and

effectively.

Members concurred that the Board principal to not award more than 50% award of contract to any one contractor should be considered for all contracts not just routine channel cleaning operations. Year by year (up to 3 years) breakdown to be provided to P, F&G committee members as evidence of contractors utilised by the Board.

**7 Minutes of the P, F&G meeting held on 23 May 2017:** (appended) having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

**8 Matters arising:** None

**19 Date of next meeting:** Full Board 30 January 2018 and P, F&G 12 June 2018, 10.30hrs.

J Healey advised that she was very impressed with the SRA work undertaken in the Parrett district over 2017, however by comparison the Brue district is in a detrimental state.

I Sturdy (IDS) advised that the IDB recognised the disparity between the districts, and have been working to promote works i.e. River Brue de-silting and tree works, however due to the lack of consensus to environmental impacts and flood risk benefit achievable. The IDB has written a paper for consideration of the SRA Board to explain the difficulties experienced, promote necessary works as a partnership and identify the need, actions and opportunities to achieve great conveyance in the rivers, improvements in the flood plain and good environmental outcomes. The paper was well supported at SRA Works sub-committee and Management Group meetings.

R Adlam suggested that an alternative winter/summer penn should be considered until such time that the River Brue is dredged and water levels are improved.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for their time and contributions. The meeting was closed at 11.30hrs

..... CHAIRMAN DATE .....

AXE BRUE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD  
POLICY, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE SUB COMMITTEE

DATE : 16 January 2018, 10.30am

VENUE: Bradbury House, Market St, Highbridge

BOARD MEMBER	MILEAGE	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Ray Adlam	20	R. Adlam	
Heather Case (SDC)			✓
Jeff Fear		Jeff Fear	
Alan Franks			✓
Andrew Gilling Cllr (SDC)	10	A. Gilling	
Philip Ham Cllr (MDC)			
Jessica Healey (SDC)		J. Healey	
Roger Keen (Cllr)		R. Keen	
Tom Killen Cllr (MDC)			
Jim Lukins			✓
Liz Scott (Cllr)	14	L. B. Scott	
Pamela Thorne		Pam Thorne	
David Tratt	14	D. Tratt	
Martin Watts	30	M. Watts	
Wendy Welland			✓