

uncompleted

- Projects and schemes uncompleted due to unavailability of resources i.e. staffing
- Strategy required to move forward to ensure work does not backlog
- M Wall, A Dowden and L Durston undertaking works to prevent backup of projects
- Grant in Aid submission has been made for Health & Safety work in the upper catchment
- West Huntspill project does not attain a sufficient partnership score for GIA funding, therefore the project will be undertaken on a phased basis using Board funds only.
- Plant & machinery is noted as 25% per annum reducing balance; this is the formula utilised by the Parrett IDB
- Extra work increase is due to the significant increase of workload at North Somerset
- The Board's share of the Consortium income increase is due to re-charging works and staff costs

RES 2

Proposed R Adlam, Seconded Cllr Gilling 'that the Axe Brue IDB adopts the year end 2014/15 accounts as recommended by the Finance and Governance sub-committee.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2

RES 3

(2) Section 1 Annual Return: SMG advised that the Finance & Governance sub-committee had scrutinized the reports provided for Section 1 Accounting statements.

(3) Section 2 Annual Governance Statement: SMG advised that following scrutiny of the Governance statements the F&G meeting recommended approval of all eight statements and extends the appointment of internal auditors, South West Audit Partnership for one year.

Proposed R Adlam seconded Cllr Gilling 'that the Axe Brue IDB approves Section 1 Accounting Statements and approves the eight Governance statements on Section 2 of the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 and extends the contract with South West Audit Partnership as internal auditors for one year.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3

(4) Somerset Drainage Board Consortium accounts for year end 2014/15: A full discussion was held on the SDBC accounts, this list is not exhaustive:

- Salaries and fees indicate £90k over budget due to increase in staff salaries, temporary staff contracts extended, increases to staff costs and pension contributions, the majority of which is recoverable
- General expenses: majority of the Chairman's expenses on SRA activities are recoverable from the SRA
- Office expenses: includes new telephone system, extended rent of 1 Church Street due to delayed relocation to Bradbury House and necessary updated/replaced computers.

RES 4

Proposed J Lukins seconded R Adlam 'that the Axe Brue IDB approves the Somerset Drainage Board Consortium 2014/15 accounts as recommended by the Finance and Governance sub-committee.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 4

Additional Item (1): Rates & Special Levy: M Watts (MRW) questioned the formula for setting rates and special levies; the rate setting papers at the January F&G meeting recommended a 2% increase to the penny rate however at the Full Board meeting the rate was set with no increase. MRW also questioned if the Board had previously charged special levy fraudulently due to incorrect land areas/values.

SMG advised that no special levies had been sought fraudulently, and that although he, as Finance Officer had recommended a 2% increase following a 2% precept increase, the Board after a full discussion set Resolution 1 to not increase the Special Levy, therefore the penny rate cannot increase. Furthermore, The Full Board was provided more accurate information following installation of a new rating system, which highlighted some discrepancies with land records which had been formulated and agreed at an F&G meeting. Adjustments were also made for planning applications change of use from agriculture to non-agriculture, as well as amended calculations for a penny rate with no increase to comply with the F&G recommendation.

For information members were advised that approved applications for solar farms cannot transition to non-agriculture (Special levy) until 1st April following operation of the solar farm; rate setting is calculated as at 31st December, therefore these areas may not be included with special levies until the following year.

Proposed R Adlam, Seconded M Watts 'that South West Audit Partnership be invited to investigate the rate setting process of the Axe Brue IDB for 2015/16.' Vote: 11 for, 0 against, 3 abstain Motion Carried. RESOLUTION 5

RES 5

Members were advised that there is no duty on Local Authorities to advise the Board of changes in development land; the IDB changes land ownership on notice of the land owner/occupier. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to all local authorities to request notification of land changes to enable accurate records to be held.

NWS

<p>Members questioned the disparity of land between IAX and OS land parcel numbering systems; IAX numbers, used for Rural Payment Agency farm payments calculate the farmable area of land, whereas OS numbers, used for drainage rate land parcels include areas such as hedgerows, ponds, copses, buildings, etc. It was agreed this matter should be considered at the forthcoming Clerks meeting in Peterborough.</p>	C-AP
<p>Additional Item (2): Staff Audit: C Gunn advised that he has completed a comparison report as instructed by members. The report findings compare SDBC against other IDB's nationally with data available on websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of staff within IDBs differs greatly • SDBC is ahead in its practice of transparency • SDBC, Axe Brue and Parrett Boards hold many more meetings • Defra Review recommendation is that larger IDBs should have memberships not exceeding 21 • Reduced number of meetings tend to result in better attendance <p>The report will be disseminated to members prior the SDBC Management meeting 25 August 2015.</p>	
<p>11 Engineering Report: (appended) Maintenance Reports: M Wall (MSW) and I Sturdy (IDS) provided an overview of the report, which was duly noted by members: South Drain: structure to be modified with a pipe and non-return valve. The works due to commence in July 2015 are to be undertaken by John Porter.</p>	MSW
<p>Enforcement, unconsented works, 24 Shelley Drove (map ref M7): members were advised that the property owner has agreed to remove decking from the watercourse on the southern boundary of the property to the top of the bank. MSW will monitor progress.</p> <p>Long Drove: Gratitude was expressed by Mr Franks for work to cut trees along Long Drove. Concern was expressed by some members that from 27 areas of work within the Engineering report only 9 include the need for engineer drawings and designs.</p> <p>Northwick Road, Mark: members were advised that riparian works have been undertaken to a satisfactory standard. The Board will now look to undertake necessary maintenance works to reinstate the drainage system and recover full costs.</p>	
<p>Old River Axe Outfall (BA02): members were advised that works took 11 weeks to complete, which may result in a compensation claim for loss of land as the area was used as a site during the project.</p> <p>Proposed A Franks, seconded R Adlam 'that the Axe Bure awards delegated authority to officers to negotiate appropriate settlement in the region of £50 per week.' Vote: unanimous</p> <p>RESOLUTION 6</p>	RES 6
<p>Brent Knoll telemetry: MSW advised that the telemetry licence expired at 01 June 2015, therefore for no telemetry information is available at this time. Telemetry licences are being reviewed.</p> <p>Dulhorn Rhyne: NWS advised that a complaint had been submitted by Mr Hopkins following refusal of Land Drainage Consent to erect permanent fencing adjacent to the watercourse; Resolution 9 Axe Brue Full Board minutes November 2014. NWS will advise Mr Hopkins that full consideration would be awarded, should an application be submitted for a temporary fence. Mr Hopkins has stated that an agreement was set in 2003 for all (maintenance) work to be undertaken from the opposite bank, however there is no evidence to substantiate this claim.</p>	
<p>Church Corner, Lympsham: Residents have expressed concern for an old surface water pumping station that is no longer operational. IDS advised that meetings have been held to discuss this structure and surrounding area; investigation has identified that the pumping station was installed to facilitate development in the area and maintain drainage levels for Lympsham Manor; it did not provide protection for the new development. It is believed that the pumping station remains in the ownership of Lympsham Manor Estate. Investigations are to be undertaken for a gravity system in place of the pumping station. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted to Lympsham Manor Estate, with an assessment/investigation to be undertaken and reported at a future Board meeting. Cllr Gilling requested a copy of the draft letter.</p>	IDS
<p>River Brue, EA: members were advised that the Agency has notified their intention to undertake improvement works on the River Brue; the Parrett IDB has agreed to use its precept contribution to undertake works.</p> <p>Members concurred that necessary works on the River Brue would need to include pulling banks and re-profile where necessary from Cold Harbour Bridge.</p>	
<p>Proposed R Adlam Seconded D Banwell 'that the Axe Brue IDB agrees in principal to the use of precept contribution for necessary works on the River Brue with design and build to be undertaken from Environment Agency resources.' Vote: unanimous</p> <p>RESOLUTION 7</p>	RES 7

Improvement Works:

IDS advised that the current budget for works programme is £187k, whereas schemes identified total £300k; IDS and MSW will prioritise works into a five year programme.

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) works programme: the IDB is managing the Enhanced Works Programme, as identified within the Flood Action Plan. All projects are deliverable within the current financial year.

N Collins (NJC), Project Engineer delivering SRA and Favourable Conditions projects has resigned, giving a 12 week notice period. As assistant SRA Engineer has been appointed to commence 01 July 2015. Staffing resources will be reviewed in due course.

Flood banks: NWS advised that a new maintenance process of the Agency is being discussed within the Parrett IDB area; grass on banks is being cut from the front to the toe of the bank which is a cause of great concern to landowners who were unaware of the change in procedure; this change may cause the banks to become unstable.

Development Control: IDS advised that the dead-line for the National Grid development consent order is due shortly. The Boards have signed the Statement of Common Ground, which identified works required; however legal advice is to be sought regarding the draft agreement.

- 12 **Somerset Rivers Authority:** NWS updated members on meetings attended and actions undertaken (this list is not exhaustive):

- The Flood Action Plan actions can be made available to members, however the SRA Working Group review the documents
- Funding Review: the review is due 15 June for SRA Board workshop 22 June; the meeting schedule previously provided by NWS will be reviewed accordingly
- Maintenance Dredge: visual inspections and topographic survey have been undertaken by the IDB, with reports to the SRA
- Beer Wall road closure remains in place and culverts are currently being installed
- SCC and consultants are seeking to remove a large amount of concrete from under the A38 old bridge; this is not an IDB scheme
- Deputies: Members discussed the need to appoint Deputies to attend SRA meetings in the absence of either J Fear or R Adlam

Proposed J Lukins Seconded W Welland 'that Cllr A Gilling and Mr A Franks be appointed Deputies in place of Mr J Fear and Mr R Adlam respectively on the Somerset Rivers Authority Committee.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 8

- 13 **Board Membership:** Following resignations of Mr M Churches and Cllr C Williams members discussed land owner/occupiers that may be interested in becoming Board members. It was agreed that informal discussions would be held with Ross Whitcombe and John Sutton.

- 14 **Register of Members' Interests form:** C-A Porter (C-AP) reminded members that it is their responsibility to ensure that a completed form is available for public scrutiny. C-AP further advised that the website will be updated to include reference to Register of Members' Interests forms for transparency purposes.

- 15 **Environment Agency Notices of Entry:** NWS advised that following dissemination of the Boards' newsletter, the Agency have requested permission to include a Notice of Entry and information letter with the annual rate demands; the Parrett IDB has approved this request.

Proposed R Adlam Seconded W Welland 'that the Environment Agency be permitted to include a Notice of Entry and information letter with the Axe Brue IDB annual rate demands.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 9

- 16 **Special Correspondence and meetings:** NWS advised that a letter from Dan Rogerson MP refers to an annual statutory IDB1 form which confirms whether the Board has adopted a members' code of conduct, financial regulation and register of members' interest, therefore reminding Board members of their responsibilities. The letter also highlights flood risk policy and is available for members' scrutiny.

PSCA: NWS advised that following clarification on insurance indemnity and liability, a revised PSCA has been received from the Agency which has been forwarded to Towergate for review.

- 17 **Any Other Business: (1) South Drain water levels:** Mrs P Thorne requested consideration of raising the water level in the South Drain; once a satisfactory level had been engaged this could be held within her holding. MSW was instructed to discuss water levels with the Agency, giving consideration to forthcoming weather forecasts. MSW also advised that works to install a non-return valve will be undertaken within the next six weeks to neighbouring structures.

RES 8

C-AP

RES 9

MSW

18 Date of next meeting: SRA Working Group 25 June, Somerset Rivers Authority 22 July, SDBC Management 25 August, Axe Catchment 28 August, Brue Catchment 22 September, Coastal Catchment 29 September, Finance & Governance 06 October and Full Board 03 November.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.
The meeting was closed at 13.55pm

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE