

Minutes of the Axe Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge
Friday 27 November 2015 at 10:30hrs Chairman: Mr Jim Lukins

1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register appended	Action
2	Items additional to the agenda: Item 8: WLMP and Item 8a: Hixham Rhyne update	
3	Declarations of interest: None at this time	
4	Opportunity for the public to address the meeting: None present	
5	Minutes of the Axe Catchment meeting held on 28 August 2015: (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held, Proposed J Fear, Seconded D Banwell, vote: unanimous.	RES 1
6	Matters Arising: Item 6 Bleadon Sluice: members requested that a letter be sent to Bristol Water to request proposed timescale of works, with the letter to be copied to the Environment Agency (the Agency). Proposed D Banwell, Seconded J Healey ‘that the Clerk on behalf of the Axe Brue Board writes to Bristol Water requesting a proposed timescale of works at Bleadon Sluice and that a copy of the letter is forwarded to the Environment Agency.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2	NWS RES 2
	Item 6 8:7 Castle Mill MOT Centre: M Wall (MSW) advised that works to remove an obstruction at the bridge will be completed by the end of 2015.	
	Item 8 Cheddar Canal: Negotiations are being held with the Agency to amend water levels to satisfy landowners. A gauge board is now installed at a structure in the canal. The Clerk (NWS) advised that he will discuss the risks with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to meeting with the Agency. It was agreed that Mr M Parsons would be kept apprised of the progress.	NWS
7	Finance – overview of expenditure and budget: (appended) S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the report. Members noted the report as submitted.	
8	Engineering Report: a) Maintenance and Improvements: NWS advised that the Water Level Management Plan (WLMP) details watercourses and recommended levels, particularly in SSSI's. Mark Yeo has no SSSI's however it was deemed necessary to include this area Consideration is to be given to adding the Axe Catchment to the WLMP for future reference: Panborough Gap Nyland Moor Rhyne, Hixham Pumping Station and other areas to be considered C Dennis advised that the Hixham Rhyne has been de-silted by the Agency and that Westbury Moor has been completed with a wheeled machine, however no bank work has been undertaken. Mr Dennis is not satisfied with the work completed NWS advised that bank pulling is not required if the channel is at the desired size. Members concurred that the channel should be reinstated to the original profile. WLMP for the area will be discussed by the Clerk with P Brewin the Boards' Ecologist. It was agreed to consider cross sections of the Hixham Rhyne to be undertaken with research of up-stream telemetry and pumping station, to allow consideration and style for future investigation. Cheddar Football Club: The Chairman of the football club has requested that no arising be left in the football ground. Options for removal were discussed: removal by trailer, return to riparian owner, take out of view or leave unmaintained, however the Board is entitled to deposit on land. Proposed J Healey, Seconded R Cook ‘that the Axe Brue Board invite Cheddar Football Club Chairman to meet Mr Jim Lukins Chairman of the Axe Catchment and Mr Anthony Dowden Area Manager (Consultant) to discuss options available to the Board and to advise the powers awarded to the Board via the Land Drainage Act 1991.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3	
	Impeded Access adjacent Caravan Site: NWS and AJD met with the Park owner, however a gas tank and posts have been installed without Land Drainage Consent, resulting in fences either side of the watercourse causing an obstruction to channel cleaning operations. A recommended comprise with the landowner is to move the tanks and fence, however the landowner has attempted to improve access on the left by removing the fence to 4.5m, at his own expense, to comply with a previous byelaw infringement. NWS advised that a warning letter has been sent to the landowner.	RES 3 NWS
	Proposed R Cook, Seconded J Fear ‘that an Enforcement Notice be served seeking more fencing being moved to a distance of 4.5m from the watercourse to enable channel cleaning operations to proceed unhindered.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 4	RES 4 NWS
	Landcourse Rhyne: a request has been received from a property owner to culvert or maintain approx. 50m of the rhyne in Wedmore. As it is believed that this land is common land, it was agreed that a Land Registry search should be undertaken in the first instance. It was agreed that the Board	

will continue to maintain this watercourse.

Members were advised that culvert invert and bed levels differ due to over excavation of de-silting and weed cutting operations, which may have contributed to bank instability. It was agreed that not further mechanical works would be undertaken for the foreseeable future, until such time that an agreement is made on alternative revetment works; investigation to be undertaken.

Hillier's Stream, Cheddar: the Yacht Club has requested water abstraction permission for the summer to maintain ponds and water levels.

Proposed C Dennis, Seconded J Healey 'that the Axe Catchment has no objection to abstraction of water via 150mm pipe with sump and that overspill is returned to the watercourse known as Hillier's Stream.' Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 5

Middle Rhyne: remedial works to be undertaken by Tucker & Son Ltd.

Axbridge Moor: J Lukins advised that the syphon under Axbridge Moor is leaking; it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Agency to confirm ownership.

9 **Any Other Business:** None

10 **Date and venue for next meeting:** unless stated all meetings will be held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge TA9 3BW commencing at 10:30hrs.

- Axe Catchment Friday 8 April 2016

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending, with Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year; the meeting was closed at 12.25hrs.

AJD

RES 5

NWS

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE