

**Minutes of the Brue Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Highbridge**  
**on Tuesday 03 May 2016 at 10.30 am** **Chairman: Mr R Adlam**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tim Youngs from Somerset Wildlife Trust to the meeting. Mr Youngs has replaced Mrs C Mowat as a SDC appointed member, representing SWT.

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| 1 | <b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as per register appended   | Action   |
| 2 | <b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> None   |  |
| 3 | <b>Declarations of interest:</b> None at this time  |  |
| 4 | <b>Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:</b> None  |  |
| 5 | <p><b>Finance - Overview of expenditure and budget:</b> S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwick Road Culvert had been completed under budget</li> <li>• H&amp;S – residual funds are being utilised for monitoring and updating works where necessary</li> <li>• Favourable Conditions – residual funding, approx. £200k across the Axe Brue and Parrett Boards will be utilised for additional works as required to fine tune existing environmental schemes and undertake further works where schemes are not meeting favourable conditions targets following initial completion eg. East and West Waste water control structures. This approach was adopted following consultation with the Environment Agency FRM Finance Officer.</li> </ul> <p>The report was noted by members.</p>   |  |
| 6 | <p><b>Maintenance Programme:</b> M Wall (MSW) advised that water levels are at summer penn. Members opined that levels at various points around the district appear lower or higher than in previous years. It was agreed that MSW would check telemetry readings, where possible, to assess the water levels and report to Board members in their catchments.</p> <p>Channel cleaning works are in the second of a three year contract cycle.</p> <p><b>Stoning Pound Rhyne – ROF fishing club, proposed structure:</b> (appended) MSW provided an overview of the paper, advising that the ROF Club will provide assistance by way of construction plant and fabrication works.</p> <p><b>Proposed P Thorne, Seconded N Lukins</b> ‘that the Axe Brue IDB adopts the recommendation in the appended paper and designs the structure for the Fishing Club to undertake fabrication and installation at the expense of the Club whilst the Board supplies the tilting weir. The Club should agree operational matters via a Land Drainage Consent Agreement with the structure retained under the Club’s ownership with the Board being responsible for routine maintenance and repairs.’</p> <p><b>An amendment to the proposal was put forward by Mr J Fear. Proposed J Fear</b> ‘That the Axe Brue IDB undertakes all works to design, supply and install a suitable structure.’ There was no seconder. This was not voted upon.</p> <p>During further discussion members were advised that the matter of Northwater Outfall will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) Asset Managers.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Stoning Pound Rhyne matter would be taken to the Full Board meeting in June to allow time for further investigation of alternative schemes to be undertaken.</p> <p>It was also agreed that landowners would be requested to clean gutters/ditches to enable the conveyance of water around the pond site as these would appear to be in poor condition.</p> <p><b>Butleigh Old Rhyne:</b> A Dowden (AJD) advised that investigation has identified necessary bank grading and tree cutting work from Clapp’s Corner to Blagrove Farm, approx. cost £800. This work is classified as H&amp;S due to two gas mains crossing the drove and the restricted access for maintenance plant. It was agreed that the work should proceed and that AJD would investigate further to ascertain what the standard of cover required would be over the gas mains and whether the Parish Council would contribute to the cost.</p> <p><b>Machinery:</b> AJD advised that a recent survey of the Massey Ferguson tractor has identified that it is not working to full generic capacity; it is estimated that it is working at approx. 75% of expected speed for a machine of this type. It was agreed that this would be reviewed at a future meeting with no commitment.</p> <p><b>Yepps Drove, Godney:</b> AJD advised that damage has been caused to a headwall by an Eddie Stobart lorry following a collection from a peat factory. Investigations for repairs to the headwall are currently being undertaken.</p> <p><b>Lake Village, Glastonbury:</b> AJD advised that contractors will return to a structure that is not working correctly. The structure is intended to maintain ground water levels for archaeology within the site. The project was externally funded with no cost to the Board.</p> <p><b>Meareway, Westhay:</b> R Adlam declared a personal interest in this item. AJD updated members on the flooding and flood risks at Meareway, Meare and in particular proposals being put forward by a local resident, Mr Moseley, who had contacted the SRA. The Board has been asked to make comment to the SRA on Mr Moseley’s proposals. Problems in the area exist from river locking of the</p> | <p>Full Board<br/>MSW</p> <p>Full Board<br/>AJD</p> <p>AJD/<br/>SMG</p> <p>IDS/NWS</p> |

outfall by the River Brue, a poor outfall structure and unconsented works to a culvert system near the inlet. An investigation is to be undertaken to identify the critical water levels, River Brue bank levels, the outfall and household floor levels. Members were also reminded that the SRA is to fund a Brue dredging scheme during 2016.

MSW

**Silt Pumps:** MSW provided video presentations of two contractors using silt pumps, advising that the costs are comparable although one machine is tracked the other is a wheeled vehicle. Members concurred that the tracked machine seemed preferable due to the tracking and directional spray. Areas throughout the district were identified for further investigation.

7 **Improvements and capital works programme:** I Sturdy (IDS) advised that works funded by the SRA for this year will include the Brue dredge and dredging strategy:

- Westhay Bridge to North Drain Pumping Station included within Dredging Strategy
- Hydraulics Research Wallingford undertaking an investigation and producing Dredging Strategy
- Modelling works associated with the dredging to be completed will be undertaken for the R Brue
- Tree works identified downstream of the North Drain PS on the R Brue
- Flood defence works on main river to be undertaken by way of PSCA with the EA

**East & West Waste project:** IDS advised that a new structure had been installed within the FC works, however SCC Rights of Way Department have advised that a footpath runs over the old structure and have requested the Board give consideration to contributing to an application to divert the footpath with a new bridge, which will become an SCC responsibility.

This highlights an issue with redundant structures and the duty of care that the Board has for ensuring that redundant IDB structures present no danger to members of the public. It was agreed that a recommendation of best practice for redundant structures be submitted to a Full Board meeting.

NWS/  
Full Board

8 **Development control:** (appended) the report was accepted by members.

9 **Somerset Rivers Authority update:** NWS briefed members on current activity:

- the new Memorandum of Understanding has not yet been signed; it may be signed at the SRA July Board meeting
- Funding: for the current financial year £2.8m is being raised by local funding between SCC, the district authorities and the Drainage Boards
- £1.3m carry over from the last financial year will help to fund the 2016 dredging projects
- £8m LEP funding for work including the Sowy upgrade scheme,
- Other works and projects being funded by the SRA precept are Cannington Flood Alleviation Scheme, tree work, dredging and minor schemes eg preventing highway surface flooding.

**EFRA Committee:** evidence has been provided to EFRA by the SDBC and SWADA

10 **Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 03 December 2015:** Item 10 Development Control Application 2015/0873/FUL "...was satisfactory to the Board." Should read "...was not satisfactory to the Board." With this one amendment the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

11 **Matters Arising: Item 8A Shapwick Moor:** AJD advised that the Hawk & Owl Trust has yet to submit an application, therefore no site meeting has taken place.

12 **Special correspondence and meetings** - none

13 **Invitations to previous Board Members:** members agreed that due to lack of attendance, it was no longer a requirement to invite retired members of the amalgamated Boards to Board meetings: Lower Axe, Lower Brue, Upper Axe and Upper Brue. Members were reminded that the meetings schedule is posted on the Board website, and that all meetings are open to the public.

14 **Any Other Business:** C-A Porter advised that the Axe Brue election will take place in October 2016, and that the Electoral Register has been advertised as per regulations. To date no objections have been received, therefore the Electoral Register will be submitted to the Full Board at the June meeting for approval. Nomination papers will be available on the Boards' website for public download and members will receive nomination forms during August for submission no later than Mid-day on Friday 07 October 2016.

C-AP/  
Full Board

15 **Dates of next meetings**

- Full Board 14 June 2016, 10.30hrs
- Brue Catchment 13 September 2016, 10.30hrs

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 12.58pm.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE