

Minutes of the Axe Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge
Friday 26 August 2016 at 10:30hrs **Chairman: Mr Jim Lukins**

The Chairman requested a minutes silence in respect of Mr Neville Jones OBE, who passed away recently.

- 1 **Attendance and Apologies:** as per register appended.
- 2 **Items additional to the agenda:** None
- 3 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr A Gilling: planning and any issues relating to Ashford Solicitors.
Mr B Stitch: Item 6 b) Health & Safety update - Lanham Rhyne Sluice, Brinscombe
Mr J Lukins: Item 6b) Health & Safety update - Culvert Rhyne Sluice
Mr T Tincknell: Item 6 b) Health & Safety update – Wedmore Moor Rhyne
- 4 **Opportunity for the public to address the meeting:** None
- 5 **Finance – overview of expenditure and budget:** (appended) S Gee (SMG) briefed members on the report with the following points of note:
 - Currently in second year of 2 year channel cleaning contracts
 - Channel cleaning contracts will go to tender Spring 2017
 - Budget is as would be expected for this time of yearMembers noted the report as submitted.
- 6 **Engineering Report: a) Maintenance and Improvements:** A Dowden (AJD) and M S Wall (MSW) advised that routine annual channel cleaning is underway in most areas.
Landcourse Rhyne, Cocklake: AJD advised that the landowner has agreed to re-site the electric box for the gate.
Members expressed concern for the instability of the bank upstream of the road bridge and concurred that handwork should be undertaken by the Board along this stretch of watercourse to prevent greater instability to the bank.
The reason for this bank instability is not confirmed, however causes of instability at this location might include
 - Soil properties
 - Weight and type of machinery maintenance
 - Rainwater ingress into the slope soil from rutting
 - Steep gradient of bank
 - Over deepening of the bed**Proposed J Healey, Seconded Cllr L Corke ‘that the Axe Brue Board continues to undertake maintenance on the Landcourse Rhyne with in-house hand work to prevent greater instability of the bank.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 1**
Pint Pot Cottage: Notice of entry has been served on the landowner to allow channel cleaning operations 2016/17, however no response has been received to the Boards offer of tree planting for bank stabilisation.
UA21 & UA22 Health & Safety Update: B Stitch declared an interest in this item; the Chairman permitted Mr Stitch to participate in the discussion but not vote.
MSW reported that investigation into low water levels within the Lanham & Broadmoor Rhyne (Lot 165) was caused through leaks at both structures. To help retain water levels the landowner had independently approached the Agency to supply a mobile pump to enable the rhyne system to be topped up from the River Axe and pumping was currently being undertaken by the landowner, however, water levels are not held for any length of time.
In addition, a public and operator H&S risk assessment for the above structures was also undertaken and highlighted the need to undertake works to reduce risk to both the public and operators.
Lanham Rhyne Sluice (UA21), Brinscombe: It was found that the undershot door was leaking and this was temporarily stopped with sandbags. The existing penstock is old and requires upgrading with a new structure and safety railings.
Broadmoor Rhyne (UA22) Brinscombe: The structure was found to have a substantial leaks around the side of the headwall structure into the section of channel immediately downstream of the access culvert. To overcome the leaks within the locality it was proposed to construct a new structure immediately downstream of the existing site and replace the existing undersized 450mm diameter access culvert with a 900mm/1050mm diameter culvert.
The Board Members where made aware that a tilting weir structure at Westhay Moor Drove installed under Favourable Conditions projects was no longer required and could be suitable to relocate to this site, subject to agreement from the Agency.

Action

RES 1

	MSW recommended the above works are tendered as one project at an approx. cost of £20k; H&S funding has previously been secured for this work as the projects have been identified as requiring upgrades.	RES 2
	Proposed E Badman, Seconded Cllr A Gilling ‘approves the use of a surplus tilting weir from Westhay Moor Drove and relocate at Broadmoor Rhyne whilst replacing the culvert and headwall at Lanham Rhyne Sluice. The projects are to be undertaken as one Health & Safety project with funds previously secured.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 2	
	Culvert Rhyne Sluice – high priority site: upon investigation the existing door has been identified as requiring upgrading to either a twin leaf penstock or tilting weir. Funding for this project has previously been raised, approx. £10k.	RES 3
	Proposed J Fear, Seconded T Tincknell ‘that the Axe Catchment approves the installation of a twin leaf penstock at Culvert Rhyne Sluice to allow great water control in the area at an approximate cost of £10,000. The project is to be undertaken as a Health & Safety project with funds previously secured.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3	
	Wedmore Moor Rhyne: T Tincknell declared an interest in this item; the Chairman permitted Mr Tincknell to participate in the discussion but not vote.	
	Following investigation, a recommendation was made to replace the existing stop log structure with a new titling weir approx. 2m upstream and decommission the old structure. Members were given a photo presentation of the current area.	RES 4
	Proposed J Healey, Seconded E Badman ‘that the Axe Catchment approves the installation of a new titling weir 2m upstream of the existing stop log structure and that the stop log structure is decommissioned. The projects are to be undertaken as one Health & Safety project with funds previously secured.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 4	
	Landcourse Rhyne tilting weir: members were advised that this is an EA structure operated by an IDB representative. The structure has been identified as requiring additional safety railings to provide safe operation. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed with the EA.	RES 5
	Proposed T Tincknell, Seconded Cllr A Gilling ‘that the Axe Catchment consults the Environment Agency regarding the current Health & Safety status of the Landcourse Rhyne tilting weir and that additional safety railings are required for safe operation of this structure by an IDB representative.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 5	MSW
	AX03: members were advised that following a gearbox fault a new gearbox has been installed and is working satisfactorily. The contractor has been paid by the IDB, with costs to be negotiated with HCW.	AJD
	Panborough Sluice: this watercourse has been cleaned twice however there is a large build-up of algae present. It was agreed that AJD would investigate and discuss with the local landowner, Mr Badman.	AJD
	Ham Rhyne, Stoke Moor: AJD advised that Highways are to replace a culvert with an invert level 300mm above an IDB pipe (Upper Axe installed). AJD recommended installation of a box section as replacement of the existing structure, at a lower level to align with the IDB pipe. This was approved by members although not voted upon.	
7	Minutes of the Axe Catchment meeting held on 08 April 2016: (appended) Item 6 AX03 should read AX04 Cross: remedial repair to resolve leak has been completed, however the culvert is in poor condition and will be monitored.	
	Having been previously circulated, with one amendment, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held, Proposed J Fear, Seconded T Tincknell, vote: unanimous. RESOLUTION 6	RES 6
8	Matters Arising: Item 6 Cheddar FC: the ditch between the football club and the cottage is very overgrown. AJD advised that the Highways are responsible for this section of watercourse. It was agreed that AJD would investigate and discuss the matter with J Healey.	AJD
	Item 8 Caravan Site, impeded access: AJD advised that the gas tank has been re-sited and the fence has been removed, however the stakes and gateway remain in place. AJD to monitor.	AJD
	Item 8 Cheddar Canal: a meeting has not yet taken place with the EA to discuss a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement for the IDB to undertake daily operation of the structure with maintenance and overall responsibility to remain with the EA.	
9	Any Other Business:	
	1. Outstanding Drainage Rates: members were advised that £9k remains outstanding and summonses have been issued for £4k. Liability Orders will be sought at Taunton Magistrates Court on 12 September 2016.	
	2. SRA Practice Day: members were encouraged to attend a free bus tour organised by the SRA of the Sedgemoor area to take place on Friday 23 September and West Somerset on Friday 21	

October.

3. Dairy Show: The IDB will be taking a stand at the Dairy Show on 05 October 2016 to be held at the Royal Bath & West Showground. Members were encouraged to visit the stand and highlight the Boards' attendance.

4. Election update: C-A Porter advised that nomination forms had been disseminated to elected members and were available to download from the Boards' website. An explanation of how to complete the form was provided. Completed nomination forms are to be returned no later than noon on Friday 07 October 2016.

5. Water levels: water levels were questioned; it was agreed that MSW would discuss this matter with Cllr Gilling out of the meeting.

10 **Date and venue for next meeting:** unless stated all meetings will be held at Bradbury House, Highbridge commencing at 10:30hrs.

- Full Board Tuesday 08 November 2016
- Axe Catchment Friday 18 November 2016

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending.
The meeting was closed at 11.50hrs.

NWS/
CAP

MSW

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE