

Minutes of the Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium Annual Meeting, held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 19.00hrs
Chairman: Mr Peter Maltby

1	Attendance and Apologies: as per register appended. The Chairman welcomed G Quarrier and R Burden from the Environment Agency (EA) in place of A Hohl, Project Manager of the Bridgwater Barrier.	Action
2	Items additional to the agenda: None	
3	Opportunity for any member of the public to address the meeting: None at this time.	
4	Chairman's Report: Mr Maltby addressed the meeting (this list is not exhaustive): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apprentices have not yet been secured, however recruitment continues• Development Control Officer, S Bunn will commence with the Boards on 01 November 2016• Engineering vacancies are being advertised to secure suitable candidates• Hinkley Point and National Grid will require a large amount of supervision; National Grid to be re-charged for this service• Many meetings attended including Dredging Strategy with the EA, Tidal Barrier, EFRA committee, SRA and meetings with MP's• SRA principle works continue to be main river systems, enhanced Sowby/KSD scheme, further de-silting of the Rivers Parrett and Brue, and the Bridgwater tidal barrier• SDBC took a stand at The Dairy Show and received a constant stream of visitors, all of whom felt it was a worthwhile venture. In future years a more prominent position should be considered. <p>The Chairman expressed his thanks to all staff for their hard work and courtesy at all times, sometimes under difficult conditions.</p>	
5	Guest Speaker: Amendment to the agenda from A Hohl to G Quarrier and R Burden. A Bridgwater Barrier update presentation was provided by representatives from the EA, followed by a question and answer session (this list is not exhaustive): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding received from Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) from new development/growth, EA for protecting existing properties in Bridgwater and Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) and local enterprise partnership funding for growth to keep Somerset 'open for business'• A Tidal Barrier can be delivered quicker and cheaper than an exclusion sluice• Project team are mindful of the views of the Parrett IDB regarding fluvial flooding• Type of barriers being considered are a vertical lift gate or a rising sector gate• Expect the barrier to close approx. 30 times per year for reasons including tide, fluvial and maintenance. This could increase as sea level rises• Design a barrier to meet current constraints with built in flexibility if constraints should change• Barrier site shortlisting gave consideration to impacts on the town and population, natural environment, capacity for fluvial flood storage, navigation at Dunball Wharf, new development in north Bridgwater and cost• Barrier will raise peak levels downstream, therefore the project must include works to downstream banks• Consultations are underway with project conclusion proposed 2022 to 2024• Transport Works Act Order will take approx. 18 months to prepare with a further 18 months for Secretary of State approval. <p>Members posed questions to Mr Quarrier and Dr Burden which were answered via the presentation.</p> <p>Members were assured that concerns expressed by the Boards have been taken into consideration, and that the IDB representatives on the SRA Board convey the views of the IDB members at all meetings.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr Quarrier and Dr Burden for attending and providing a very informative presentation.</p>	
19.50	G Quarrier, R Burden and Cllr L Scott left the meeting	
6	Chief Engineer's Report: IDS addressed the meeting with the use of a presentation of slides (this list is not exhaustive): <p>The work of the Board, the complexity of work and engagement with other organisations has become more important and necessary than historically, with greater influence with projects and work being carried forward.</p>	

Achievement and Challenges:

- **Pawlett water supply** – temporary measure installed for summer feed, a more permanent solution is being considered with EA negotiations for bank stabilisation
- **Minehead** – ordinary watercourse maintenance is being undertaken in partnership with West Somerset Council
- **Brent Street Flood Relief Culvert** – this successful project was completed earlier this year
- **Axe Brue Health & Safety project** – an appraisal has been undertaken, design works and funding streams are being investigated
- **Replacement and Improvement** – 40 Axe Brue and 4 Parrett structures have been identified for future projects, with 11 structures in each area being upgraded this year

Somerset Rivers Authority and Working with Others:

- Working with others through Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCAs)
- Advising SRA on the construction of ring banks and working with local communities
- EA consultations and advice
- Highways England – A303 flood risk proposals
- Provide technical services to North Somerset Levels IDB – 2 engineering staff

Planning Authorities and Development:

- The IDB remains a non-statutory consultee
- Land Drainage Consent and Planning applications considered (since 2010/11):
Axe Brue LDC: 340, Planning applications: 650
Parrett LDC: 130, Planning applications: 340

Dredging – Next Steps:

- 2015/16 Maintenance dredge on behalf of the SRA – 2.2km
- Maintenance dredging silt monitoring following pioneer dredge
- Parrett, Tone and Brue dredging strategy is being developed
- Innovation for more information on the river bed to enable better planning on intervention for maintenance dredging
- Computer hydraulic modelling to predict the outcome of various interventions
- Maintenance dredge and trials – review of sustainable works to consider dredging in respect of ecological, financial and social aspects
- Hydraulic water dynamic injection dredging is being considered for future use

7 Question and Answer Session:

- Q 1** T Munt: clarification of funding for works in West Somerset.
A IDS: WSC 50% IDB 50%. WSC requested assistance from the IDB towards improvement works. Board has permissive powers to work in the WSC area.
- Q 2** T Munt: Brue Farm development: what is this?
A IDS: Planning authorities and developers – Brue Farm is a large development in Highbridge, the planning authority granted outline permission in 2015. Surface water discharge is being negotiated via reserved matters applications.
- Q 3** C Passmore: Minehead – Bourne Leisure moat and other improvement works; funding be sourced from external bodies.
A IDS: matters are being discussed regarding improvement works and funding.
- Q 4** T Bradford: Opined that the IDB does not want to be associated with the Beer Wall works and EA dredge, as he feels that these projects have unreasonable costs. He advised that members of the public stated the IDB dredge was well organised and undertaken.
When are PSCAs to be signed?
A PCM: advised that PSCAs have been signed and are active.
A NWS: A meeting has been requested with the EA to discuss de-maining and asset transfer, however at this time no meeting has been arranged. The local EA office have advised that they are particularly busy at this time.
- Q 5** J Irish: Do the IDBs have any involvement with the Cannington flood relief ditch?
A NWS: a recent SRA tour provided a visit to the site. This particular watercourse is a flood bypass channel, designed for a certain capacity and purpose.
- Q 6** Cllr Gilling: Constantly advocating
for the IDB's to be considered as statutory consultee's.
J Lang: feels that the EA are a waste of time and money.
Members and officers did not concur with Mr Lang.

8 Minutes of the meeting 17 November 2015: (appended) having been previously circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

9 Matters arising: Item 6 (5) Bleadon Sluice: the refurbishment scheme was due to commence in 2016, however there is no update available at this time.

- 10 **Date of next meeting:** SWADA Wednesday 23 November 2016, 10.30am, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge.
 SDBC Management Committee Tuesday 13 December 2016, 10.30am, Bradbury House, Highbridge.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.15hrs.

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 Chairman

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 Date

BOARD MEMBER	MILEAGE	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Ray Adlam	20	R.A. Adlam	
Charlie Ainge			
Richard Archer RSPB			
Edwin Badman			
David Barwell (SDC)		D. Barwell	
William Bamard	5		
Roger Barrington			✓
Mathew Bere			✓
Philp Betty	28	P. Betty	
Mathew Boley			
Ann Bown Ctr (SDC)		Ann Bown	
Tony Bradford	14	T. Bradford	
Barnie Bryer			✓
Heather Case (SDC)			
Michael Caswell Ctr (SDC)			
Rachel Caswell (SDC)			
Ed Champion			
Adrian Chidgey (SDC)		A.S. Chidgey	✓
Bob Clapp			
Roger Coombes			
Lorna Corke Ctr (SDC)			
Poly Costello Ctr (SDC)			
Christopher Day			
John Denbee Ctr (SDC)			
David Durdan Ctr (TD&C)		D. Durdan	
Colin Durston			
Ian Dyer Ctr (SDC)			
Richard England			
Jeff Fear		J. Fear	
Andy Fewings			
Alan Franks	20	A. Franks	
Anne Fraser MBE Ctr (SDC)		A. Fraser	
Richard Frost			
Andrew Gilling Ctr (SDC)	10	A. Gilling	
Philp Ham Ctr (MDC)			
Alison Hamlin Ctr (SDC)		A. Hamlin	✓
Jessica Healey (SDC)			✓
Mark Heywood			
Dawn Hill Ctr (SDC)			

Phil	Holms (SDC)	30.	Phil Holms	
Rebecca	Horsington	24/24	R.H.	
Peter	House			
Steve	Hughes (SDC)			
Will	Human Ctr (SDC)			
John	Irish		R. J. Irish	
Phoebe	Judah			
Roger	Keen Ctr (SDC)		R. Keen	
Tom	Killen Ctr (MDC)			
Stuart	Kingham Ctr (SDC)			
John	Lang (SDC)	20	J. Lang	
Mike	Lewis Ctr (SSDC)			
John	Lock			
Jim	Lukins			
Noel	Lukins			
Brenda	Maitland-Walker Ctr (WSC)			
Peter	Maltby		P. Maltby	
Reg	Marchant			
Roy	McKenzie Ctr MDC		mackenzie	
Adrian	Moore Ctr (SDC)			✓
Chris	Morgan Ctr (WSC)			
Alvin	Neale	20	A. Neale	
Graham	Niel Ctr			
John	Parham Ctr (MDC)			
Stephen	Parker (NE)			
Colin	Passmore	26	C. Passmore	
Liz	Perry Ctr (SDC)			
David	Poole (NSC)			✓
Colin	Pople			
Richard	Roberts			
Jo	Roundell Greene Ctr (SSDC)			✓
Brian	Rowe			✓
Jeff	Savage Ctr (SDC)			✓
Liz	Scott Ctr (SDC)		L. Scott	
Richard	Shaw (SDC)			✓
Martin	Smith			✓
David	Spicer (SDC)	24	D. Spicer	
Trevor	Stanbury			
Brian	Stitch			
Phil	Stone Ctr (TDBC)			
John	Swayne (SDC)		J. Swayne	
Julian	Taylor (SDC)		J. Taylor	
Geoff	Theed			✓
Pam	Thorne		Pam Thorne	
Tom	Tincknell		Apologies	
David	Trait			
David	Vigar	28	D. Vigar	
Maurice	Wall	3	M. Wall	
David	Watts	3	D. Watts	
Martin	Watts	30	M. Watts	
Nick	Weeks Ctr (SSDC)		N. Weeks	
Wendy	Welland	26	W.C. Welland	
Richard	Willcox			
James	Winslade		Apologies	
Mervyn	Winslade MBE			✓
Ross	Whitcombe			
John	Woodman Ctr (SDC)	1	J. Woodman	
Malcolm	Young			
Tim	Youngs SWT (SDC)			✓

Rachel Burden Environment Agency R. Burden
 Tessa Hunt Agency T. Hunt