# Minutes of an Extra Ordinary Axe Brue Board Meeting held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge on Thursday 31 August 2017 at 19.00 hrs. Chairman: Mr J Fear

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, explaining that the meeting was to discuss streamlining of the Board as recommended by the Task & Finish Group.

1 Attendance & Apologies for Absence: as per register appended.

Action

- 2 Declarations of interest: None
- **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board meeting:** No member of the public wished to address the meeting.
- Paper for consideration Streamlining of Board governance: N Stevens (NWS) briefed members on the appended paper (enc 1) and draft minutes of the Task & Finish Group (enc 2), stating that two recommendations had been submitted for full Board approval and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had recommended the Board adopt electoral districts as detailed in Option 1 of the Governance review.

Member discussion (this list is not exhaustive):

 Defra and DCLG consider that current Axe Brue Board membership does not allow effectiveness and good practice

19.10hrs M Watts and M Higgins joined the meeting

- Board meetings will be longer with a new Board
- At future meetings it may transpire that strategic discussion is held at meetings with operational and governance issues dealt with by area managers and officers on a daily basis
- Future sustainability of elected membership is a great concern in particular for meetings being quorate
- A new philosophy of attendance and approach is required by members of the future Board
- Concern that reduced membership will not provide adequate representation
- Elected representatives have a democratic duty to ensure landowners are represented fully
- If the Board does not proceed with reconstitution at this time, Defra (EA or District Councils) would impose a solution that may not be favourable to members, or compatible with efficient working practices of the Board
- The Board members needs to change to meet the requirements of working alongside EA, SRA and other bodies in the future
- Task & Finish Group could consider an annual catchment meeting with ratepayers and appointed members
- Mendip District Council supports all recommendations as submitted
- Sedgemoor District Council supports all recommendations as submitted
- Catchment representatives will still be necessary, however consultation and communication arrangement will be crucial for a reconstituted Board
- IDB could run with greater costs in the long term due to increased officer time dealing with issues on the ground
- · With modern communications, officers do not foresee a problem or increased costs
- Elected members give their time to Board business voluntarily

**Q:** Why was amalgamation not favoured at this time?

**A:** The Task & Finish Group (T&F) considered that although the Parrett IDB amalgamated in 2005, the Axe Brue amalgamation was 2012, further amalgamation at this time was considered too soon.

**Q:** What would happen if some members wanted to create a new Board?

A: An application would need to be submitted via the Environment Agency

RES<sub>1</sub>

Proposed CIIr Jeff Savage, Seconded CIIr Tom Killen 'that the Axe Brue IDB reconstitute to reduce the number of members and create closer working through the consortium and ensure consistent and effective governance between both organisations. Amalgamation will be considered within three years of reconstitution and that the Axe Brue IDB reconstitutes with 25 members comprising 12 elected and 13 appointed members and that the Axe Brue IDB adopts electoral districts as option 1 in the Governance Review.' Vote: For 17; Against 4; Abstain 7. Motion carried. RESOLUTION 1

## **Item 8 Further Actions:**

Members gave consideration to awarding delegated powers to the Task & Finish Group as detailed in the Streamlining paper.

Proposed Cllr Jeff Savage, Seconded Wendy Welland 'that the Axe Brue IDB award delegated authority to the Task & Finish Group to a) prepare and submit a draft scheme to the Environment Agency b) deal with any objections c) select the name of the reconstituted Board d) prepare and agree a Scheme of Delegation for the new Board; and e) prepare and agree all the policies of the new Board' Vote: For 28; Against 1; Abstain 1. Motion carried. RESOLUTION 2

#### Item 8.2

Members concurred that the Clerk should write to the current elected membership to stress the voluntary time commitment necessary and seek expressions of interest for those electoral districts that they would wish to be considered for, whilst meeting criteria of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Where more than the allocated number of members wish to stand in a district, the Board shall decide who should be put forward to the Minister.

A draft timeline of reconstitution is to be provided to all members.

Board Byelaws, Standing Orders and the Land Drainage Act 1991 need to be adhered to strictly to ensure a professional future body.

Members were advised that following the matters resolved at this meeting, it is unlikely that the Chairmen would appoint a new Chief Executive with a contrary view of the Boards.

- Procedure for approval of the minutes of the meeting: The wording of the recommendations has not been amended, therefore draft minutes shall be circulated via email; if no response is received to the contrary it will be taken that the scheme may proceed. Formal approval of the minutes will be held at the Full Board meeting to be held on 17 October 2017 all agreed.
- 6 Date of next Task & Finish Group meeting: The group will reconvene as necessary to be confirmed.

#### 7 Date of Next Board Meetings:

Brue Catchment: 05 September 2017

Policy, Finance and Governance: 03 October 2017

Coastal Catchment: 10 October 2017

• Full Board: 17 October 2017

Members were advised that the Parrett IDB voted unanimously for the three recommendations.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 19.50 hrs

CHAIRMAN	DATE

RES 2

**NWS** 

NWS

## AXE BRUE EXTRA-ORDINARY FULL BOARD MEETING

#### VENUE: BRADBURY HOUSE, MARKET STREET, HIGHBRIDGE DATE: THURSDAY 31 JUNY 2017, 19:00 HRS TANCE,

NAME	MILEAGE	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Ray Adlam		R.G. Advan	
Chartie Ainge	.50		
Edwin Badman			V
David Barwell (SDC)		muride	
Mat Boley			
Cheryl Burnett (SDC)			
Heather Case (SDC)		H. Coo	
Ed Champion			
Adrian Chidgey (SDC)		A Charles	
R (Bob) Clapp		7.40	
Loma Corke Clir (SDC)		Carlo Carlo	
Polly Costello Clir (SDC)			1
John Denbee Clir (MDC)			
Colin Durston		11 0	V
Jeff Fear		Jelly Jeci-	
Alan Franks	20	1 Af Lower	
John Frost	1500	17.00	1
Andrew Gilling Clr (SDC)	41	Halle a.	
Philip Ham Cilr (MDC)		Maw - cl	
Alison Hamlin Clir (SDC)			
Jessica Healey (SDC)		4. a. stogley	
Dawn Hill Clir (SDC)		1 339	
Phil Holms (SDC)	30	Phis & Walner	
Steve Hughes (SDC)		7 - 7211 511	
Will Human Clir (SDC)	19	0	
Phoebe Judah		Kala Do	
Roger Keen Clir (SDC)		Care IC Orace	
Tom Killen Clir (MDC)		Ale	
Jim Lukins		Gl. when	
Noel Lukins	6	N lakes	
Roy McKenzie Clir (MDC)		Macrenzce	
Alvin Neale		ALTIVORCE	
Graham Noel Clir (MDC)		0	
John Parham Clir (MDC)		000	
David Poole (NSC)		1 ()Kall	

NAME	MILEAGE	SIGNATURE	APOLOGIES
Colin Pople		a.	
Jeff Savage Clir (SDC)		Charage.	
Liz Soott Clir (SDC)		CR Soft	
Richard Shaw (SDC)	3	R.P. Shew-	
Martin Smith	38	md	
Brian Stitch		0	
Pam Thorne		Hay Thorng.	
Tom Tincknell		7. Intalle	
David Tratt			-
Maurice Wall	6.8	10	
David Watts	3	1 V Garage	
Martin Watts	30	N Weld-	
Wendy Welland	8	R. a. Willow	
Richard Willcox	9	R. A-Willow	
Ross Whitcombe			
John Woodman Citr (SDC)			
Tim Youngs (SDC)			