

**Minutes of the Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium Annual Meeting, held at Bradbury House, Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 21 November 2017 at 19.00hrs Chairman: Mr Tony Bradford**

1	<b>Attendance and Apologies:</b> as per register appended.	<b>Action</b>
2	<b>Items additional to the agenda:</b> Cllr R McKenzie – SRA and SRA Scrutiny Committee communication. M Watts –Election of Chairman	
3	<b>Opportunity for any member of the public to address the meeting:</b> T Munt – Bleadon Sluice progress. T Bradford advised that this matter was discussed at Wessex RFCC with the EA advising that the matter was in hand. N Stevens (NWS) advised that there is a lack of communication between Bristol Water and the Environment Agency. T Bradford advised that he will continue to pursue this matter at future RFCC meetings.	
4	<b>Chairman’s Report:</b> Mr Bradford addressed the meeting (this list is not exhaustive): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstitution: disappointed that Councillors/appointed members are not it regular attendance</li> <li>• The Boards owe a debt of gratitude to members, past and present for their dedication and commitment past and present, in particular those that will not continue to the new Board</li> <li>• Officers should be given the delegated powers, budget and trust to undertake their workload</li> <li>• Boards to be open and transparent, members to feel welcome and involved with the decision making process</li> <li>• Staffing: NWS would like to retire at the end of March 2018; recruitment process to be discussed at a SDBC Management meeting on 19 December</li> <li>• SRA: we are 5 years into the 20 year Flood Action Plan, with only one years’ funding to enable works to proceed. Precepting legislation would be preferable.</li> </ul>	<b>TB</b>
5	<b>Guest Speaker:</b> Captain Keith Badsey, Harbour Master. Unfortunately Cpt Badsey was not in attendance.	
6	<b>Chief Engineer’s Report:</b> IDS addressed the meeting with a presentation of slides (this list is not exhaustive): A staff pyramid was produced highlighting Board funded, recharged, full time and part time staff as well as vacancies. Members found this slide very informative. <b>Achievement and Challenges:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board improvements programmes total 2017/18 budget £575K</li> <li>• Axe Brue £211k, Parrett £364k</li> <li>• Key elements include Pawlett Hams pipeline replacement, Biddisham flood risk and drainage improvements, desilting programme for urban and rural areas, new and replacement culverts for maintenance access, reduced flood risk and improved water level management, Health &amp; Safety improvements to structures, additional telemetry installations and repairs to damaged and failing structures</li> <li>• Development Control: Land Drainage Consents 216, Planning consultations 313</li> <li>• Annual maintenance of 1172km of viewed rhyne</li> <li>• Operation of 546 structures</li> <li>• EA PSCA: use of IDB precept, negotiation of agreed outcomes for EA/SRA projects</li> </ul> <b>Somerset Rivers Authority and Working with Others:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with others through Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCAs)</li> <li>• Brue Trees Project: the project may be scaled down while being meaningful to flood risk and managing conservation concerns</li> <li>• Concern expressed for constriction of River Yeo with regard to future development and flooding up stream – to be discussed with EA</li> <li>• EA consultations and advice</li> <li>• Highways England</li> <li>• Provide technical services to North Somerset Levels IDB</li> </ul>	
7	<b>Question and Answer Session:</b>	
Q1	<b>M E Wall</b> - How are the Board going to cope with major development in the area?	
A	Officers are working with developers for an understanding of what and how the Boards operate. Board have produced standing advice for developers and local authorities; pre-application advice is available via charging policy. Officers are seeking to promote better SUDS within developments and have commented on areas of special drainage need. Sustainable advice is included in the standing advice.	

- Q2 T Munt** - Can the Boards work with Shared Work with the EA to provide advice for EA development application responses?  
**A** The Boards pre-application advice and standing advice is currently available to EA and Somerset County Council (SCC), Lead Local Flood Authority.
- Q3 Cllr L Scott** - If a developer does not uphold the agreement how does the IDB manage the risk?  
**A** The Flood and Water Act 2010 has provided powers for IDB to maintain and recover costs. Defra are currently permitting Boards to review Byelaws.  
 Good record keeping is key for future commitments as developers may not be available.
- Q4 T Bradford** - The Farmers Weekly has reported a case of deliberate pumping of flood water; would this have implications across the country?  
**A** This may prove difficult for public authorities in the future regarding compensation claims.
- Q5 Cllr R McKenzie** - There is limited administration support from the SRA/SCC to the SRA Scrutiny Committee; can administration be improved? Also, the SRA Scrutiny Committee asked for flash flooding to be added to a future SRA agenda, however this has not occurred.  
**A** The Board cannot speak on SRA matters and the concerns expressed should be addressed to the SRA committee. T Bradford advised that flash flooding will be on the next SRA committee meeting agenda. However, it is understood the panel is supported by SCC Democratic Services. S Diacono, SRA Project Manager is seeking better resource support and will meet with SCC officers to discuss this matter in the near future.
- Q6 M Watts** – When will be the next election of Chairman for the Parrett and Axe Brue Boards?  
**A** The next elections will take place when the Boards reconstitute, perhaps 6 months. The Clerk will write a paper for members to understand the procedure which, after legal approval, will be submitted at a future meeting.  
 At previous Parrett and Axe Brue meetings it had been agreed that future elections for Chairman will be by show of hands of members in the room.
- 8 Minutes of the meeting 17 November 2015: (appended) Item 7** Q4 "...advised that embers..." should read "...advised that members...". Having been previously circulated and with this one amendment, the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held.
- 9 Matters arising:** None
- 10 Date of next meeting:** SWADA Wednesday 29 November 2017, 10.30am, Oaktree Arena, Highbridge.  
 SDBC Management Committee Tuesday 19 December 2017, 10.30am, Bradbury House, Highbridge.

SRA

NWS

There being no other business, the Chairman expressed his disappointment at there only being three Parrett Board members present and thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.55hrs.

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 Chairman

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 Date

Phil	Holms (SDC)	30.	Phil Holms	
Rebecca	Horsington	24/24	Rebecca	
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)	22	John Lang	
Mike	Lewis Ctr (SSDC)			
John	Lock			
Jim	Lukins			
Noel	Lukins			
Brenda	Maitland-Walker Ctr (WSC)			
Peter	Maltby		P. Maltby	
Reg	Marchent			
Roy	McKenzie Ctr MDC		mackenzie	
Adrian	Moore Ctr (SDC)			✓
Chris	Morgan Ctr (WSC)			
Alvin	Neale	20	Alvin Neale	
Graham	Noel Ctr			
John	Parham Ctr (MDC)			
Stephen	Parker (NE)			
Colin	Passmore	26	Colin 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.S. Scott	
Richard	Shaw (SDC)			✓
Martin	Smith			✓
David	Spicer (SDC)	24	David Spicer	
Trevor	Stanbury			
Brian	Stitch			
Phil	Stone Ctr (TDBC)			
John	Swayne (SDC)		John Swayne	
Julien	Taylor (SDC)		Julien Taylor	
Geoff	Theed			✓
Pam	Thorne		Pam Thorne	
Tom	Tincknell		Apologies	
David	Tratt			
David	Vigar	28	David Vigar	
Maurice	Wall	3	Maurice Wall	
David	Watts	3	David Watts	
Martin	Watts	30	M. Watts	
Nick	Weeks Ctr (SSDC)		Nick Weeks	
Wendy	Weland	30	W.C. Weland	
Richard	Willcox			
James	Winslade		Apologies	
Mervyn	Winslade MBE			✓
Ross	Whitcombe			
John	Woodman Ctr (SDC)	1	John Woodman	
Malcolm	Young			
Tim	Youngs SWT (SDC)			✓

Rachel Borden Environment Agency R. Borden  
 Tessa Munt Tessa Munt