

**Minutes of a Brue Catchment Meeting Held at Bradbury House, Highbridge on
Tuesday 05 December 2017 at 10.30 am** **Chairman: Mr M Watts**

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| 1 Attendance and Apologies: as per registers appended. | |
| 2 Items additional to the agenda: none | |
| 3 Declarations of interest: Mr M Watts (MW) – Long Drove, Common Moor and development in Glastonbury | |
| 4 Opportunity for the public to address the meeting: None | |
| 5 Finance – overview of expenditure and budget: (appended) members were provided with an overview of the report with the following points of note:
The North Drain and South Drain Favourable Conditions funding is money drawn down but not yet spent.
Members queried whether £2000 was adequate to deal with the problem of invasive weed control. Matthew Wall (MSW) advised that the problem is being controlled and monitored.
The report was accepted by members. | |
| 6 Brue Catchment Tenders Meeting 13 March 2018 – MSW had invited 16 contractors to express their interest in tendering for the next 3 years maintenance contract. 10 have responded to date.
Committee Membership and Award of delegated powers –
Proposed: Alan Franks, Seconded: Pamela Thorne “that the Brue Catchment Tenders sub-committee will consist of Martin Smith, Pamela Thorne, Martin Watts, Jeff Fear and David Banwell. (Ray Adlam will be available if required) and is awarded delegated powers to approve the tenders for the Brue Catchment Maintenance Contracts for the next 3 years 2018-2021”.
All in favour | RES 1 |
| 7 Maintenance Programme: Anthony Dowden (AJD) reported that the maintenance in the Brue Valley upper area is mostly complete – Mr Wilkins is working on Heath Rhyne, John Tucker & Son Ltd are working on Shapwick Moor (normal procedure for Nov/Dec). Most levels are at winter pen. MSW reported that the Brue Valley lower maintenance is complete and is now at winter pen. | |
| 8 Improvements and capital works programme: I Sturdy (IDS) provided an update of the works programme with the following points of note (this list is not exhaustive):
Most of the work currently being carried out is taking place in the Upper areas. 11 structures in total at various stages – 1 complete, 1 underway, 3 with H&S awards, 3 out to tender, 2 in preparation and 1 in the design stage. | IDS |
| Course Ditch - Alan Franks (AF) queried the estimated cost of approximately £10,000. AJD confirmed that the solution is not as expensive as at first thought. AF stressed that railings are needed. IDS confirmed that the design will be reviewed. | |
| Tootle Bridge – IDS provided an overview, advising that an operators platform has been installed and blockages removed. The SRA is being approached for funds to carry out a feasibility study. Flights Hole area will be investigated and more hydrology studies are required.
Ray Adlam (RA) declared an interest.
The area is statutory main river and the Environment Agency (EA) has the powers to decide on the works, however all options will be considered. | IDS |
| Meareway – Local MP James Heapey had written to the Board regarding a letter he had received from Mr Mosely. IDS presented slides of the area and gave a brief history. IDS would like to have a meeting with residents in the area.
RA declared an interest and stated that he believes cleaning of the Brue is the only way to make a difference. | |
| 9 Development Control: (appended) – IDS reported that an agreement with National Grid is with solicitors. Once the agreement is confirmed the Board will be in a better position to regulate the project.
MW asked if the Bartlett letter had been written. The situation is being monitored.
The report was accepted by members. | |
| 10 Minutes of the Brue Catchment meeting held on 05 September 2017: Having previously been circulated the minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting held. All in favour
Item 2 – Mr P Willis – members were advised that there have not been any further claims as a result of hemlock. An information sheet has been added to the Drainage Board website and an information leaflet has been issued for riparian owners/ratepayers.
Mr & Mrs Stott – NWS had received notification that the loss adjusters are not meeting the claim. The contractor will need to indemnify the board. The situation is ongoing.
MSW – the existing conditions of contract for rhyne maintenance may need to be adjusted to make | |

allowance for the policy on the issue of poisonous plants. Members agreed that the information leaflet prepared for riparian owners/ratepayers should also be sent out to all contractors. MSW advised that they had all been advised. C Ainge recommended that spraying should be carried out earlier in the year before the plant has seeded and the root is established.

Item 5 d – Crown Inn, East Huntspill – NWS updated members that the large open sided container is still on site. Costs are being sought for the removal of the container which will be recharged. NWS confirmed that under the byelaws, land drainage consent should have been applied for.

Mrs Cook had reported a neighbor for erection of cattery units. A planning application was in place however the board was not consulted. Officers carried out an inspection; It would have been unreasonable to refuse, however access to the watercourse is prevented by a concrete block wall put in place 20+ years ago and is within an existing curtilage. NWS wrote to the landowners advising they are guilty of an offence and if it happens again they are liable for prosecution. The bank is their riparian responsibility to maintain and would expect to see some maintenance this year. There are no works in the channel itself.

MSW added that the consent was granted for car park use only and if it was used for any other purpose they would need a further consent.

11 **Matters Arising:** - none

12 **Special Correspondence and meetings:** NWS had received correspondence from ADA regarding Water Transfer and Abstraction Licence regime. There will be fees attached to the process. Some members had visited Lincolnshire where they were shown the rates that were charged, in one particular area where there was pumping for the benefit of irrigation the rate was set at 26p.

ADA have provided correspondence regarding updating IDB byelaws. The Boards' current byelaws are up to date although an additional byelaw may be included after discussion with EA requiring the maintenance of Suds, ponds etc in the future where the liability would lie with the landowner.

Reconstitution of the Board: details are being considered by the Task and Finish Group; the next scheduled meeting is 25 January. Elected members will be confirmed by decision of the Full Board.

Brue works and tree cutting. IDS advised that the Board sought funds via the SRA to demonstrate there a flood risk impact and compliance with regulations. The scheme is to promote a comprehensive review of the Brue system to show the areas that flood, the risks, the opportunities to reduce flooding and the constraints. The funds for de-silting are in LEP which is available until 2022.

P Judah left the meeting (12.20)

Pam Thorne thanked officers for the very interesting SWADA meeting.

David Banwell highlighted that there were no council members present at the meeting. NWS advised that they did not usually have an interest in the more technical discussions, they are more likely to attend meetings for policies etc.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending, wished everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous new year and closed the meeting at 12.35hrs.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

BRUE CATCHMENT MEETING

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2017 Venue: Bradbury House, Highbridge

BOARD MEMBER	RETURN MILEAGE	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
ELECTED			
Ray Adlam	20	R.G. Adlam	
Charlie Ainge	14	CPH	
David Banwell	14	David Banwell	
Adrian Chidgey			
Bob Clapp			✓
Alan Franks	20	Alan Franks	
Jeff Fear		Jeff Fear	
John Frost	30	John Frost	
Phil Holms			✓
Steve Hughes			
Phoebe Judah		Phoebe Judah	
Noel Lukins			
Roy McKenzie Cllr			✓
Steve Mewes			
Alvin Neale			✓
Graham Noel Cllr			
John Parham Cllr			
Colin Pople			
Richard Shaw			
Martin Smith			✓
Pam Thorne		Pam Thorne	
Martin Watts	30	Martin Watts	
Ross Whitcombe			
Richard Willcox			✓
Tim Youngs		Steve Mewes	