

Minutes of the Parrett Board Meeting held at Bradbury House, 33-34 Market Street, Highbridge on Tuesday 06 February 2018 at 2.15 pm. **Chairman: Mr P Maltby**

The Chair requested a minutes silence in remembrance of Mr Len Coombes

- 1 **Attendance & Apologies for Absence:** as per register appended.
- 2 **Items Additional to the Agenda:** None
- 3 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr A Gilling for any matters concerning planning.
Members were asked to declare matters of interest as necessary as the meeting progressed.
- 4 **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board meeting:** No public present.
- 5 **Finance Budgets and Rate Setting**
- 5a/b **2018/19 Budget and 2018/19 Rate Setting:** S Gee (SMG) provided an overview of the budget and rate setting recommendation from Policy, Finance & Governance sub-committee (PFG) meeting of 23 January 2018 (draft minutes appended), advising the PFG had discussed the budget and penny rate in detail.
Comments received (this list is not exhaustive):
- Rate could remain with no increase as the works programme may not be completed
 - Concern for budget gap in future year/s if no increase this year
 - Important to continue with Parrett IDB works programme
 - SRA works within the Parrett IDB were reactive, any works proposed within the Axe Brue IDB area will have to be proactively promoted
 - Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) is having substantial cuts in its Revenue Support Grants from central government
- Proposed C Passmore, Seconded B Rowe ‘that the Parrett IDB approves the 2018/19 budget as recommended and increase the penny rate by 1% to set a rate of 6.578p in the £ for 2018/19 to raise a total Agricultural Rate of £149,685.91 and Special Levy of £759,834.61.’ Vote: 18 For, 5 Against, 1 Abstain – motion carried RESOLUTION 1**
- 6 **Engineering Report**
- 6a **Maintenance Works:** (appended) P Ham (PSH) advised that Podimore pumping station occasionally requires operating in manual mode; a local pump company is assisting Nick Lockyer to allow automatic operation.
Podimore New Garden Town - N Stevens (NWS) advised that the proposal will be considered when received by officers, seeking to minimise any impact to the Board area as much as possible. S Bunn has submitted a written report to South Somerset District Council (SSDC) with Board concerns, including concern for all watercourses that may be affected. It was agreed that routine Board channel cleaning works need to remain at a high standard.
Cllr N Weeks advised that the proposal will be included in the next SSDC local plan, however the village may not take place until 2030.
Minehead: A member reported that the railway company are currently undertaking maintenance to the track bed across Dunster Marsh; a reminder is to be sent for maintenance of the culverts under the railway line.
- 6b **Improvement Works Programme:** (appended) I Sturdy (IDS) provided an overview of the report (this list is not exhaustive):
A303 culverts: in conjunction with Highways England (HE); we have been asked to price for routine maintenance works on the three culverts under the A303 near to Ilchester meads
Proposed Projects in the Improvement Works programme: These are mainly repairs, estimated total cost of £160k.
Moorland Officers were thanked for their assistance on drainage investigations and works with local collaboration in Moorland
Nythe Road collapsed culvert: Currently SCC’s framework contractor proposes to undertake repair works in Spring 2018 (mid-March), however future ownership has not been resolved. A letter of update was requested to be sent to the landowner, Mr D Small.
M5 motorway ditches: a new Memorandum of Understanding is in place for works to be undertaken by the Axe Brue and Parrett IDB’s and reimbursed by Highways England
Desilting Burrowbridge to Oath: an experienced project manager, Mark Glennerster has been appointed by the Board for this SRA project.
Concern was expressed by members that environmental regulation for river scheme restoration work was unnecessarily challenging when all one was doing was restoring to the original design. **Sowy Scheme (SRA):** some members requested that the Parrett Board submit a tender to undertake the Sowy Scheme. NWS advised that if members want officers to consider

Action

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the works and phases of the scheme, they need to be mindful that other major works are being delivered at the same time. SRA partners would need to approve a proposal. This matter would need to be discussed informally prior to the SRA briefing meeting of 23 February 2018. IDS advised that the risks and thus costs could be reduced if completed in phases. It was agreed that any and all proactive works by the IDB would be seen favourably by younger landowners and enhance the reputation of the Boards.

6c Development Control: (appended) **Ref 822 Application 3/21/17/119** Approval of reserved matters, erection of 71 dwellings, Hopcott Rd, Minehead – members were advised that D Martin will arrange a meeting with all statutory consultees, including the IDB.

7 Reconstitution update: NWS advised that the final version of the Order sets out 12 elected members. Adverts will go to local press including the Western Daily Press, County Gazette and IDB website at the same time. This will be followed by 2 consultation periods. Arrangements could be in place by 1 November 2018.

The Task & Finish Group will continue to meet and discuss matters such as combined meetings, communication, finance and Board structure.

8 Procedure for the election of first members to the reconstituted Board: (appended) Expressions of interest were discussed at the Task & Finish Group and an attached paper sets out a methodology for selecting the 12 from 13 expressions of interest, however the meeting was informed that Mr J Lock has rescinded his expression of interest. The Clerk advised that a complex selection procedure was therefore no longer required and members were asked to approve the 12 members that remained on the list.

Proposed A Bradford, Seconded J Lang ‘that the Parrett IDB submits to the Secretary of State the twelve elected members who have expressed an interest in becoming first members of the new Parrett Internal Drainage Board being William Barnard, Roger Barrington, Philip Betty, Anthony Bradford, Barrie Bryer, Roger Coombes, Mark Heywood, Rebecca Horsington, Colin Passmore, Brian Rowe, David Vigar and James Winslade.’ Vote: Unanimous RESOLUTION 2

J Lock addressed the meeting stating that he is impressed with the SRA and IDB works in the Parrett district, however concern was expressed for local Board member representation and Expenditor salaries in view of their local knowledge.

Members concurred with this view, in particular M Winslade.

A Bradford advised that communication with resigning Board members will be paramount for retaining local knowledge.

An SDC Appointed member stated that SDC encourage all appointed, and non-council appointed member to attend all meetings.

9 Somerset Rivers Authority

9a Progress update: NWS advised that a SRA programme meeting had been held. Reports on precepting legislation was also discussed; Government appear committed however all Somerset MP’s need to actively support. J Taylor advised that the SRA Scrutiny Panel wrote to all Somerset MP’s requesting support, most of which has been received.

9b Revisions to the Parrett Board member on the SRA Board: declaration of interests at SRA meetings exclude P Maltby from speaking on many issues. The PFG committee at the meeting of 6 February 2018 recommended J Lang is appointed to the SRA Board, representing the Parrett IDB, as permanent replacement of P Maltby.

Proposed P Maltby, Seconded B Bryer ‘that John Lang is appointed Parrett IDB representative to the SRA Board as a permanent replacement to Peter Maltby.’ Vote: unanimous RESOLUTION 3

10 Special Correspondence and meetings: NWS advised that abstraction licence exemptions are due to cease, and that water transfer licences will be required. EA officers will provide assistance with identity of structures that require licences, with possibility of a group licence. Awaiting EA officer response.

11 Minutes of the ordinary Full Board Meeting held on 14 November 2017: (appended) Having been previously circulated the Chairman signed the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

12 Matters Arising: Item 10 Recruitment of new Chief Executive: a new recruitment drive is underway with a closing date of 28 February 2018.

Item 9a SRA Scrutiny Panel: J Taylor advised that better support is now being received from Somerset County Council administration department. Scrutiny Panel meetings will not be held so close to SRA Board meetings.

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13 Election of first members to the reconstituted Board: (appended) this item is no longer required – see Item 8.

14 Date of Next Board Meetings:

- Works Committee: 27 February 2018
- Policy, Finance and Governance: 19 June 2018
- Full Board: 03 July 2018
- Annual Tour: 27 July 2018 – to be confirmed

There being no other business the Chairman thanked members and officers for attending and closed the meeting at 16.08hrs

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE

PARRETT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

FULL BOARD MEETING

DATE & TIME: TUESDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2018, 14.15 HRS,

VENUE: BRADBURY HOUSE, 33-34 MARKET STREET, HIGHBRIDGE

BOARD MEMBERS	MILEAGE Please enter return mileage	PRESENT	APOLOGIES
Richard Archer RSPB			
William Barnard			
Roger Barrington	14	R.T. Barrington	
Matthew Bere			✓
Philip Betty	24	P Betty	
Ann Bown Cllr (SDC)		ASB ASB	
Tony Bradford	14	Accl Betty	
Barrie Bryer		B Bryer	
Michael Caswell Cllr (SDC)			
Roger Coombes			✓
David Durdan Cllr (TDBC)		D Durdan	
Chris Day			
Ian Dyer Cllr (SDC)			✓
Anne Fraser MBE Cllr (SDC)			✓
Andy Fewings			
Andrew Gilling Cllr (SDC)	10	A Gilling	
Jessica Healey (SDC)		J. Healey	
Mark Heywood		M Heywood	
Rebecca Horsington			
Peter House		P House	
Stuart Kingham Cllr (SDC)		S Kingham	
John Lang (SDC)	25	J Lang	
Mike Lewis Cllr (SSDC)			✓
Rachel Lilley Cllr (SDC)		R Lilley	
John Lock	52	J Lock	
Brenda Maitland-Walker Cllr (WSC)		B Maitland-Walker	
Peter Mallby		P Mallby	
Adrian Moore Cllr (SDC)			
Chris Morgan Cllr (WSC)			
Stephen Parker (NE)			
Colin Passmore	26	C Passmore	
Liz Perry Cllr (SDC)			✓
Brian Rowe	14	B Rowe	
David Spicer (SDC)			✓
Trevor Stanbury			✓
Phil Stone Cllr (TDBC)	18	Phil Stone	
John Swayne (SDC)			✓
Julian Taylor (SDC)	24	J Taylor	
Geoffrey Theed			
David Vigar	28	D Vigar	
Nick Weeks Cllr (SSDC)		N Weeks	
James Winslade	25	J Winslade	
Mervyn Winslade MBE	28	M.C. Winslade	
Malcolm Young			