

**MINUTES OF THE SDBC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD VIA ZOOM ON 24 JAN 2022**

<b>Attendance:</b>			
<b>Elected Members:</b> Mr P Betty Mr T Bradford (Chair) Mr B Bryer Mr T Bush Mr J Fear Mrs P Thorne Mrs W Welland	<b>Appointed Members</b> Cllr P Clayton Cllr D Durdan Cllr I Dyer Cllr A Gilling Mr P Burden Mr R Keen	<b>Officers:</b> Mrs M Hammond Mr I Sturdy	<b>Public:</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>			
Mr R Coombes Mr B Gray	Cllr A Hendry		
<b>Non-Attendance:</b>			

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Detail:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
1. Attendance and Apologies	1.1. Attendance & Apologies as per the above.	
2. Declarations of Interest	2.1. Cllr A Gilling declared a specific interest in any and all matters relating to Ashford Solicitors.	
3. Approval of Minutes	3.1. The Minutes of the SDBC Management Committee held on 09 Jul 21 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the Meeting.	
4. Matters Arising	4.1. Matters Arising Para 4.1: Tony Bradford confirmed that the Lowland Peat Taskforce had been cancelled and would be held sometime in March 22.  4.2. Para 7.3 Red Diesel. Tony Bradford asked for any update on this issue. Iain Sturdy advised that further clarifications had been received but there is still some uncertainty. As a result in our budget setting we have budgeted for the use of white diesel and in new contracts we have asked contractors to provide 2 prices, one for white diesel and one for red diesel. If we have to use white diesel then we will have to negotiate changes in the current contracts.	

*Feb 29-9-22*

	<p>4.3 Para 7.3 Letter to all MP's. Tony Bradford asked if this had been actioned. Iain Sturdy has not actioned it and believes that it is still outstanding. It was felt that it is now too late to complete this action but Tony would re-enforce the message at the next ADA meeting to be held next week.</p> <p>4.4. Review of Actions:</p> <p><b>Action SDBC/20190729-02 on the Clerk to invite NSLIDB Contractors to complete Pre-Qualification Questionnaires for admittance to the Board's Approved Supplier List:</b> The Clerk reported that this Action remained ongoing, with the main issue being around professional indemnity insurance. It is hoped that the review of the review will be able to complete this action. This action relates to "staff contractors" not maintenance contractors.</p> <p><b>Action SDBC/20210629-03 on the Clerk/SDBC Chair to instruct NSLIDB Contractors who have not completed their Approved Supplier questionnaire to attend Bradbury House for assistance with completing the questionnaire to enable new contracts to be awarded in accordance with implementation of the Strategic Review:</b> See above action</p> <p><b>Action SDBC/20210709-01 on the Clerk to prepare a letter to all MP's, ADA, Defra and the appropriate minister to highlight the issues facing the Somerset Drainage Boards if Boards were not able to continue the use of red diesel for annual maintenance purposes:</b> The Chairman felt we had missed the boat on this action.</p>	<p><b>Action SDBC/20190729-02: On-going</b></p> <p><b>Action: SDBC/20210629-03: On-going</b></p> <p><b>Action: SDBC/202107190-01: Closed.</b></p>
<p>5. Confidential Item</p>	<p>5.1 The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Management Committee held on 01 Sept 21 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the Meeting</p> <p>5.2. Matters arising Para 2.4 Roger Keen asked for an update on the salary review and the current position re the Deputy Clerk. It was confirmed that the review had taken place and both parties were being paid an enhanced salary for the proportion of the Clerk/CEO role they were undertaking</p>	

*ACB*  
29-9-22

<p>6. SDBC Finance Report</p>	<p><u>SDBC Budget 2022/23:</u></p> <p>6.1. The Director of Finance of took the Committee line-by-line through the draft SDBC Budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Costs - increasing mainly due to salary increases and their associated costs that had been agreed at the Salaries Committee.</li> <li>• Vehicle costs – fuel has been increased due to the current (political) climate, vehicle repairs have increased due to the age of the the fleet and 1 extra vehicle has been allowed for within these budgets.</li> <li>• Premises costs – these have increased due to market forces</li> <li>• Office Admin – just a few increases mainly due to inflation</li> <li>• Professional Fees – allowing for a 5% increase on some of the contracts, however the insurance budget is going down because the assumption for 2021/22 was too high.</li> <li>• Equipment Maintenance – just a few small increases</li> <li>• Board costs - the Chairmans allowance has been added in for 22/23</li> <li>• Finance costs – just one small increase in the lease costs</li> <li>• Depreciation – vehicle depreciation has increased due to the assumption of purchasing a new vehicle.</li> <li>• Staff costs recharge – this budget has been reduced significantly upon a review of what staff time we believe will be recharged during 22/23</li> <li>• The balancing figure of recharges to the boards has increased by 11.5% due to increased expenditure and reducing income.</li> </ul> <p>6.2. The change in the staff recharge budget for the current year was questioned. The Director of Finance clarified that this budget was set assuming a full compliment of staff and assumptions on what work would be done for other bodies. With the loss of staff this figure will not be realised for 2021/2022.</p>	
-------------------------------	--	--

*Acres*

29-9-22

	<p>Proposed by Cllr Andrew Gilling and seconded by Tim Bush that <b>the SDBC Budget for FY2022/2023 as presented be accepted.</b></p> <p>All in Favour – None Against</p>	<b>RESOLUTION 1</b>
7. Staff Update	<p>7.1. The Acting CEO, Mr Iain Sturdy, confirmed that staff losses is the Consortium's biggest risk. We have lost many posts this financial year and as a result from a staffing point we are struggling to carry on with normal business.</p> <p>7.2. Looking forward, the review that we need to undertake should go beyond what we looked at before. We must look at what we have done, what has gone well and what we need to improve on as well as look at what has happened in the interim period as well.</p> <p>7.3. Recruitment is a hugh issue for us going forward in both senior and junior roles. We would like to do a trawl and see what candidates we find. If we find some "oval pegs" we may be able to ease them in and develop them rather than wait for the perfect specimen. We are finding links to local authority recruitment websites such as the Dillington site where we will advertise all of our team vacancies.</p> <p>7.4. The review of the Workforce Review (REVIEW2) is now urgent and will inform what posts we need to fill.</p>	
8. Review of Workforce Review	8.1. See above discussion	
9. AOB	9.1. Jeff Fear asked about the future recruitment at the top as the Axe Brue Finance & Works Committee was informed this would be discussed at this meeting of the SDBC Management Committee. Iain Study confirmed that advice so far is that we should not move into recruiting senior roles until we have sorted the issues that we are currently dealing with. As soon as we are clear of all the other issues you will then have discussion about what happens.	

29-9-22

ACRB

10. Date Of Next Meeting	10.1. The Chair thanked all for their attendance .	
--------------------------	--	--

Annex:

A. SDBC – Table of Outstanding Actions

CHAIRMAN..... *MR Bellad* ..... DATE *29-9-22* .....

**ANNEX A TO  
SDBC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DATED 24 JAN 22**

**SDBC – TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Action Number:	Action:	Actionee:
SDBC/20190729-02	To invite NSLIDB Contractors to complete Pre-Qualification Questionnaires for admittance to the Boards Approved Supplier List.	Clerk