

**MINUTES OF THE AXE BRUE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD AT BRADBURY HOUSE ON
MONDAY 09 OCTOBER 2023 AT 10.30**

Attendance:			
Elected Members: Mr J Fear (C) Mr A Gilling (VC) Mr M Lunnon Mr J Stradling Mr D Tratt Mr M Watts Mr T Whitcombe	Appointed Members: Mr D Bridge Cllr P Clayton Cllr N Cottle Cllr J Cousins Cllr R Filmer Cllr S Hart Cllr A Hendry Mr P Holms Cllr R Keen Mr C Riches	Officers: Mr I Sturdy Mrs M Hammond Mr P Brewin Mrs K Kingston Mr R King Mr M Wall Mrs N Johnson	Public: Mr A Dowden
Approved Apologies:			
Mr B Clapp Mr A Franks Mrs W Welland	Cllr M Healey Cllr B Knickerbocker		
Non-Approved Apologies:			
Mr N Lukins Ms L Scott	Cllr M Murphy		

Agenda Item:	Detail:	Action:
1. Attendance & Apologies	1.1 Apologies as per the above Attendance List.	
2. Items additional to the Agenda	<p>2.1 Naomi Johnson reported that the H&S Committee had made a recommendation to bring the Accident and Near Miss report to the beginning of the full board meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: Charlie Riches, seconded: Roger Keen “that the Accident and Incidents Report is brought to the beginning of each full board meeting” All in favour</p> <p>2.2 Iain Sturdy advised that scaffolding has been erected to the rear and front of Bradbury House to enable roof repairs to the property following a major leak. As a result of this Iain asked members to reform the Property Sub Committee. Roger Keen, Nick Cottle, Alistair Hendry and Joe Stradling volunteered.</p>	RESOLUTION 1

- 2.3 Iain Sturdy reminded members that their Register of Members Interest should have been submitted. There are a couple of elected members still to comply plus most of the appointed members. Martin Watts thought this should be done annually, Andrew Gilling replied that this had been discussed at a previous meeting and it is not a legal requirement.
- 2.4 Legal advice – Staff Criminal Records Check – Iain Sturdy had taken advice from Avensure who are the legal team that assists the board and they state that it is unlawful to treat someone less favourable because of an expired conviction. There is no requirement for a DBS check and no requirement to ask about or act on someone’s conviction, this could be seen as hounding about a minor conviction from several years ago and could lead to a risk of a tribunal against the board. This is not a consideration for the board, this is almost bullying and could be very serious, this needs to stop. No further checks are necessary.
- 2.5 Maggie Hammond informed members that a charity coffee morning will be held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 in Bradbury House at 11.00am. The charity is in aid of Childrens Liver Disease and Ronald McDonald House, as a member of staff has a grandson aged 18 months who is on the waiting list for a liver transplant.
- 2.6 Naomi Johnson went on to list the latest near misses and accidents as noted in the report.
- a) Pipe struck – repaired.
 - b) BT cable struck – unconsented works – corrected.
 - c) Area supervisor disturbed a wasp’s nest resulting in a few stings.
 - d) Access gates had not been left open resulting in contractor having to wait on a busy road with little room for passing traffic. As a result, contractors will now pull over somewhere safe and make arrangements with the area supervisor for the gates to be opened.
- 2.7 Mark Lunnon said this is not a board problem. Matthew Wall pointed out that the aim is to reduce incidents by using area supervisors to check access for contractors on busy roads. He confirmed that the area supervisors are there to assist the contractors getting round the area and onto the site to do the work. Mark Lunnon did not agree and felt that there should be compensation from the contractors for the fact that the area supervisors are having to do this. Iain Sturdy strongly disagreed and advised that as the employer the responsibility is that contracts are set up in a way so that risks are managed effectively. If there are known risks in a particular location, we will add to the work load of the supervisor to ensure the gate is open in advance as we know from our own observations that there is a hazard created when the contractor has to wait on the highway. We have duty of care if nothing else. Matthew Wall confirmed that area supervisors go around checking access gates before the contractors arrive so there are no delays, this is part of their role.
- Martin Watts declared an interest regarding the damaged water pipe. Naomi would check the details.

3. Declarations of Interest	3.1. Martin Watts declared an interest in any discussion relating to Mr Attwell and the supply of materials to contractors working for the board.	
4. Members of the public to address the Meeting	4.1. Mr Dowden was the only member of the public but did not wish to address the Board.	
5. Minutes of Axe Brue Full Board June 2023	<p>5.1 Iain Sturdy mentioned that there are public minutes which are a record of the meeting until members of the public were asked to leave the meeting. There are also a verbatim set of minutes for the later session of the meeting.</p> <p>5.2 Andrew Gilling queried the unconsented works in Tarnock. Rob King had attended a meeting on Friday – everything was in order</p> <p>5.3 David Tratt queried the unconsented works in the Brocks Pill Rhyne – Matthew Wall advised the applicant had resubmitted his application and the work is consented</p> <p>5.4 Martin Watts said that at the previous meeting he had said a member had been allowed a discount on his drainage rates but his comment did not show in minutes. Jeff Fear was not aware of any discount allowed on drainage rates.</p> <p>5.5 Roger Keen thanked the IDB for providing a hearing loop and reported that it was working well</p> <p>5.6 Martin Watts asked for progress re the Board's investments. Maggie Hammond advised that the investment group has met and she has completed a review of the policy which has been shared with Iain Sturdy and is preparing for a further meeting.</p> <p>5.7 Mark Lunnon referred to item 14.2 of the minutes and said that he thought Iain Sturdy had stated that some staff would resign if Anthony Dowden was elected to the Board. Iain Sturdy denied he had said this. Mark Lunnon and Martin Watts both argued that this had been stated by Iain Sturdy. Iain had listened to the recording 2 or 3 times and the wording in the minutes is correct. Martin Watts asked what would happen if Mr Dowden was elected at the next election. He added that what was said was holding a gun to the board members heads. Officers are making the decisions of who is employed. Jeff Fear stated that to a degree they do. Iain Sturdy had employed a new member of staff just recently. Martin Watts said that Iain does not employ anybody. Jeff Fear said that on behalf of the board employment of staff is within his remit as Chief Executive. Iain Sturdy added that he has delegated authority to employ staff apart from the most senior staff. Martin Watts asked again what would happen if Mr Dowden was elected to the board. Iain Sturdy said this is a different matter. As discussed at the previous meeting Mr Dowden was no longer operating as a contractor as he had submitted his resignation. This is a different matter to elections and whether or not the board would choose to elect Mr Dowden as a member of the board. His influence over these things are different. He does not interview and appoint members but he often does interview and select staff into posts in the office structure.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">RESOLUTION 2</p>

	<p>Proposed: Andrew Gilling, seconded: Roger Keen “that the minutes are signed as a true and correct record” All in favour</p>	
<p>6. Matters Arising</p>	<p>6.1 ACTIONS</p> <p>AB/20220411-1 – Clerk and RFO – ongoing</p> <p>AB/20221109-02 – Stoke Moor Pumping Station. A sub committee meeting was held last Friday. Trevor Whitcombe declared an interest. Advice had been taken from Ashfords Solicitors who advised that this could be a very expensive issue to enforce and would recommend to consider removal of the covenant whilst making suitable arrangements with the owners ensuring costs are recovered and benefits in regard to changed land use. Martin Watts declared an interest but then asked what the cost was so far. Iain Sturdy advised that it had amounted to approximately £500 so far on external costs. Roger Keen felt that enough time had elapsed and there is no reason to keep the covenant. Iain Sturdy suggested the sub committee remain to keep members updated. Joe Stradling suggested costs so far should be charged to the client including staff time.</p> <p>Proposed: Roger Keen, seconded: Charlie Riches “that the covenant is removed from the Stoke Moor Pumping Station agreement” 11 in favour, 0 against, 4 abstentions – motion carried</p> <p>AB/20230417-02 – Still ongoing as no meeting has taken place yet with Andrew Rowlands and Ben Malins. Members still need to keep an eye on the area.</p> <p>B/20230417-04 – Roger Keen said thank you for the installation of the hearing loop, it is working well</p> <p>AB/20230619-01 – meeting has not yet taken place. Joe Stradling outlined the position. FWAG wish to carry out peat tests and trials for SFI payments as follows: The water level in winter is raised higher than surrounding areas (2.1 not 1.4) this was all approved by the IDB. A third of the weirs were put to summer pen, FWAG would like summer penn to be 1.10 for 1 year only. If it causes a problem, weirs can be opened. It would be a 10cm increase for 8 months. This would not take place until March 2024. It would not be on any other landowner’s property. A document with the proposals has been drafted to continue working with FWAG to reach an agreement. Site visit to be held later in the year.</p> <p>6.2 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION</p> <p><i>Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting.</i></p>	<p>RESOLUTION 3</p>

<p>7. Governance & Staff Update</p>	<p>Members of the public were asked to rejoin the meeting.</p> <p>7.1 There are 2 vacancies for appointed members on the Finance & Works sub committee, current members are Mike Murphy, Charlie Riches, Roger Keen. Nick Cottle and John Cousins volunteered. Mark Lunnon asked what the committee was for. Iain Sturdy showed a slide of the structure stating there are 2 or 3 meetings per year. The F&W committees reports directly to the board.</p> <p>7.2 A meetings calendar paper had been circulated for consultation and was summarised by Iain. Currently there are 4 full board meetings per year. Option 1 would be to reduce this to 3 meetings with surgeries held for members to attend with any local issues. Jeff Fear agreed this would be the way forward. David Tratt pointed out that for this meeting the pack consisted of 102 pages and if there were less meetings there would be more paper. Jeff Fear said that this particular pack was quite large as it contained the Health & Safety Policy.</p>	

	<p>Martin Watts asked when the surgeries would be held, the dates would be set. If anyone wants to call in they can make arrangements. Nick Cottle asked for possible dates to be emailed. Iain Sturdy agreed this would be a possibility. Bob Filmer proposed that option 7c is trialled.</p> <p>7.3 Charlie Riches commented on the F&W becoming the Finance and Governance and asked how it would work. Iain said the Governance may get overlooked as currently there is no committee, it would be an improvement if it was added to the F&W Committee. Staff would carry out the work and report to the meeting. Charlie Riches seconded. Roger Keen was concerned about the statement in the paper that said meetings could be called if and when required. He added that it is difficult to attend meetings last minute. Martin Watts asked how many staff meetings were held every month. Iain advised he was available most days but the last full staff meeting was approximately 6 months ago. Iain has weekly slots for Development Control, H&S, Ops team and management. Martin Watts suggested cutting down on meetings which would give more time to do work. Martin Watts said that we have no influence on planning issues. Iain did not agree. Jeff Fear said the board is not a statutory consultee on planning matters. The IDB makes a huge difference to a lot of planning in the area. Martin Watts said a lot of officers time is spent which Iain said was time well spent. Bob Filmer would be very worried if there were no comments from the IDB. He reiterated that he would propose option 7c from the paper. Alistair Hendry queried Moorland which is in the Parrett area, he wanted to mention a brand new house proposal has been accepted, the house was built 6 or 7 metres from the rhyme. Iain said the board would comment on the ability of the watercourses to function and the ability for it to be maintained. A run off flood risk assessment would be carried out by the developer and checked by the planning authority. Nick Cottle agreed the IDB input is very important and would not like to see it cut back. Martin Watts said the council does not listen to the board as 90 houses had been approved in the Glastonbury area. Nick Cottle said that the approval had not been granted by the local council, it was approved by a government inspector. Jeff Fear brought the meeting back on track. Andrew Gilling stated that he had spent many years on the Sedgemoor planning committee and had encouraged the committee to take notice of the drainage board comments as they are a vital part of the process.</p> <p>Proposed: Bob Filmer, seconded: Peter Clayton “that the meeting programme is trialled for 1 year” 10 for, 2 against 3 abstentions, motion carried</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 5</p>
<p>8. Finance Report</p>	<p>8.1. Maggie Hammond asked that the report be taken as read. The bank account has been reconciled up to the end of August. Martin Watts asked what the £14000 on professional fees is for in the Consortium? Maggie Hammond will check and let him know. He also queried the engineering costs – Maggie confirmed this is the cost for CALM Engineering.</p> <p>8.2 Maggie Hammond showed a table of the unpaid drainage rates £12,896.18 outstanding. The demand, a 1st reminder and a 2nd reminder have all been sent out. The next step is to</p>	

issue a court letter. Martin Watts stated that he had only paid half his rate bill and had not paid £600 as half his water was not able to drain away, and would the Chairman like him to leave the meeting. Maggie Hammond said there is a proposal about the level of debt to take people to court coming up and Mr Watts will fall into that category. Mr Watts was asked to leave the meeting. He asked where is the legal agreement between himself and the board is. Andrew Gilling said that he would have made that commitment when he became a board member. Martin Watts replied that he had not signed any agreement. He added that he expected the byelaws to be upheld. He left the meeting by request whilst the item was discussed. Maggie Hammond recommended that anyone owing over £50 is taken to court. Nick Cottle asked if it was worth it when there are court costs to add. She advised that costs of £101.75 are added to the outstanding amount to cover the administration and the court fees. Suzannah Hart commented that if Martin Watts was able to he would go to court and he would win. She stated that he believes he is not being given the services that he pays his rates for. Iain Sturdy confirmed that there are no guaranteed services under a drainage rate. The Board's powers are permissive. Suzannah Hart asked if this was a good thing. Iain Sturdy added that if the board provided the standards of drainage and flood risk and environmental services that everyone would want the rate would be 100 times or more what it currently is. John Cousins said that there is merit in issuing the claims and should be considered. He asked that if a member of the board is withholding payment of his rates are they not in breach of the code of conduct? "Duty to uphold the law springs to mind" Iain Sturdy is hopeful that this will not have to be acted on but might have to be considered. David Tratt asked if the figures are cumulative. Maggie Hammond said yes that is correct. Suzannah Hart asked if there is more than one method of sending out reminders, for instance telephone call or email. Maggie Hammond said that yes we do use other methods of contact and will use these if there is the time and ability to do so. Jeff Fear asked if a discussion was needed regarding Martin Watts' outstanding amount. Maggie Hammond said she would not like to take anyone to court with an outstanding query.

- 8.3 Iain Sturdy said it is a serious matter if we are not able to collect the rate, it is a breach of the Land Drainage Act and a breach of the members code of conduct and Mr Watts would have to be sanctioned in some way if this could not be resolved. John Cousins said that his experience on another public body is that the position of that person on the board as an elected member becomes questionable. Iain Sturdy confirmed that Mr Watts has not met his drainage rate demand, the only action that he believes the board can take is to censure that member. Training would have to be undertaken and until that time the member would not be able to participate in any board business. The Chairman asked if there was likely to be a resolution to the matter. Iain Sturdy said he is minded to try his hardest to try and resolve the situation as quickly as possible and with as little disruption to Board business as possible. Roger Keen commented that the outstanding debts should be pursued. Joe Stradling felt that

	<p>the £50 limit should be applied and if Martin Watts issue has not been resolved by the time the court is in place he would fall into that bracket. David Tratt asked if this was a repeat action, Maggie Hammond confirmed that it is only this year. Mark Lunnon asked if any others that were in debt had disputes. Iain Sturdy said that he was in correspondence with somebody called “Steve”, who wants to charge the Board £30 per hour for reading the correspondence sent to him. Jeff Fear said he was not aware of any other land owners with a dispute. Roger Keen said a board member should not be treated any differently from members of the public. If they owe money, they owe money and any other issues will be dealt with accordingly.</p> <p>Proposed: Roger Keen, seconded: Peter Clayton “to accept the proposal to take any ratepayer who owes £50 of more to court”</p> <p>8.4 Before a vote was taken Jeff Fear suggested that he is hopeful that a resolution will be found to the issue in Long Drove and a period of time is allowed possibly 2 months to see if the Martin Watts matter can be agreed to be resolved. Nick Cottle declared an interest in the issue regarding Martin Watts. Bob Filmer said there is a danger that the board is making special rules for board members which is not correct. John Cousins asked if there was procedure for formal complaints “so you don’t have to break the law to make a complaint”. Iain Sturdy confirmed there is a formal process with an appeal process. Bob Filmer went on to say that a precedent should not be set here that says to every other person with land in this area, if you don’t like something that is going on it is alright to withhold your drainage rates. Jeff Fear reiterated the proposal to follow the proposal for every outstanding rate. Alistair Hendry asked for the timescale for collecting rates. Maggie Hammond said the demand is sent out, 6 weeks later a first reminder is sent, after another 4 weeks a second reminder is sent. Now waiting for the board to decide on the level for the court proceedings. Iain Sturdy summarised the debate i.e the Board should proceed with recovering the debts from everyone owing over £50, including Martin Watts. Operationally the drainage issue should be separated but which may be resolved.</p> <p>Proposed: Peter Clayton, Seconded: Alistair Hendry “that anyone owing £50 or more will be taken to court” 13 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions motion carried</p> <p>Mr Watts was invited to return to the meeting</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 6</p> <p>RESOLUTION 7</p>
<p>9. Operations, Engineering & Environment Report</p>	<p>9.1 Matthew Wall asked for the report to be taken as read. Slides were shown of the maintenance work being carried out. 61% of the work is complete, 36% not started. The work is slightly behind, one of our contractors had a number of issues with staff and illness problems. The CPI allowances are working well currently on 18.44% on year 3 of the contract. The feedback from the contractors is good. In the Brue area there is a lot of interest for the next contracts which will be awarded by the end of January 2024.</p>	

- 9.1 A slide was shown of a section of rhyme that had been taken into view. 15m of rhyme has been added onto the Cripps Back Ditch to connect the system properly. This had been agreed with the Chairman.
- 9.3 Iain Sturdy referred to item 6.5 on the Engineers report regarding a complaint from Mr Fox concerning the board officers and contractors. Foul language which is unrepeatable in a public meeting was used to Mrs Fox and a staff name was given by the tractor driver. Iain Sturdy advised the meeting that board vehicles were not being used and it is very difficult to establish who was on site at that time and who spoke to Mrs Fox. Mr Fox was invited to the meeting to identify the member of staff but he declined. Iain Sturdy has apologised for any misbehaviour by any contractor employed by the IDB.
- 9.4 The complaint is that the bank in their area has been undermined. The work previously carried out by the Upper Brue to neighbouring properties where they have accepted they have had some impact on bank stability. In the past the board has refused to assist. Mr Fox has approached the board with the two issues. Iain Sturdy confirmed that the Drainage Act allows the board to undertake maintenance works, the board has powers and can service notices. It also says that where damage has been caused the board is duty bound to put it right. Mr Fox has been informed that the matter will be discussed by the board. Peter Clayton asked if it was the board works that had caused the problem. Matthew Wall clarified that part of the complaint was regarding a buddleia bush which had been cut back. Martin Watts declared an interest and said that 4 or 5 sections of bank had been reinforced with stakes. He advised that when the housing development was being carried out., was agreed with developer that the IDB would dig out about one foot of the bottom of the ditch and smooth the bank back another metre at the top. This has undermined the banks and caused the slip. He would suggest putting in piles. Matthew Wall added that revetment work has previously been put in place with tinning which could be a H&S issue with flailing.

Proposed: Charlie Riches, Seconded: Roger Keen “that the proposal by Iain Sturdy to investigate further and talk to Mr Fox to come to an agreement is accepted”

Mark Lunnon said that Mr Fox should have some responsibility for the bank and should maintain his own boundary. Matthew Wall said that the board widened/deepened the ditch and may have contributed to the failing of the bank. Another property upstream from Mr Fox has had work carried out by the board so he may feel a bit aggrieved that he is not being treated fairly. Martin Watts stated that also in the same area the contractor had hit out the wall and broken the pipe, who did the repair? Matthew Wall will look into it. The structure was not visible to the contractor as the area was very overgrown. The structure has been added to the maintenance plan, tinning has also been identified as a hazard. Martin Watts also said a bollard and a gatepost had been hit by the contractor. Matthew Wall said the bollard could not be removed and had caused damage to

	<p>the contractors machine. The Chairman asked to return to the proposal,</p> <p>16 for 0 against 1 abstention</p> <p>9.6 A slide of Mr Attwell's gateway on Long Drove was shown. This is one of the problems Martin Watts has complained about. Matthew Wall suggested a survey of all the culverts on the north side. Matthew has asked Greenslade Taylor Hunt to ask the tenant to do the work on the culvert. Many of the culverts are in a poor condition and we should treat all people involved equally. Martin Watts declared an interest and asked why repair it, just take it out of view. Nick Cottle also declared an interest. Iain Sturdy thought it would not be possible to take it out of view as it is a viewed rhyne serving more than 1 person and would agree with Matthew Wall to have a look at all the culverts along the rhyne and work with all the land owners rather than taking action against one.</p> <p>9.8 Rob King reported that item 7.4 Tootle Bridge is complete. The Deputy Area Supervisors have received a tool box talk on using angle grinders and undertaking pole saw training.</p> <p>9.9 Trevor Whitcombe reported that the water is too high this year and asked who is responsible. Rob King advised that the South Drain and North Drain are controlled by the Environment Agency and changes were made on request of the IDB. Matthew Wall clarified the target levels. Trevor Whitcombe said the level had dropped by 10 cm after complaints to the EA. Matthew confirmed that the instruction had come from the IDB office to lower the levels. Rob King asked members to call him if there are any further issues.</p> <p>9.10 Joe Stradling asked if there is desilting in rotation. Matthew Wall replied that it is carried out where it is required.</p> <p>9.11 Trevor Whitcombe asked if there is a rhyne with a tilting weir that is holding water and weed back and the water is too high and fish are dying, who is responsible for the fish. Phil Brewin advised that fish mortality is usually a consequence of low flow and low water level during hot summer weather, or as a consequence of pollution, all of which can lower dissolved oxygen levels in the rhyne. Where oxygen levels are very low, it is often better not to lower water levels as the increased water velocity will erode silt and cause further oxygen depletion. Iain Sturdy said the maintenance is carried out carefully to ensure there is no environmental problem.</p> <p>9.12 Matthew Wall showed a slide of a culvert belonging to Mr Appleby. A site meeting was held with Mr Appleby and his daughter who have cleared the culvert which is now running. His land agent is contacting Bristol Water to look at improving the access.</p> <p>9.13 Iain Sturdy referred to the first report by CALM Engineering. They are working well helping with the land drainage consents and planning issues,</p> <p>9.14 New House Farm Haybridge – New House Farm new development. Mark Lunnon asked where the developer proposed to join drainage to the watercourse. Iain Sturdy will have to get more information.</p> <p>9.15 John Cousins pointed out that the report shows Mendip and Sedgemoor district councils as the LPA but no longer exist. Iain Sturdy advised that they are still planning districts.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 8</p>
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<p>10. Environmental Report</p>	<p>10.1 Phil Brewin included his report in the papers. He referred to the recommendation from the Environment Committee to prepare a Best Practice Operations Manual for IDB activities.</p> <p>Proposed: Joe Stradling, Seconded: Peter Clayton “that the Environment Committee support the creation of a Best Practice Operation Manual and recommends to all Consortium Boards the preparation of a Best Practice Manual” All in favour</p> <p>10.2 Floating Pennywort – slides were shown highlighting the progress made this year in the controlling floating pennywort, a highly problematic invasive non-native water plant. Progress was largely due to a more consistent effort in control activities, led by Richard Vaux an SDBC Area Supervisor, and building on learning from previous years. The aim is to control the spread and reduce the impacts of pennywort on drainage and the environment and to work towards eradication at some sites. However, eradication will not be easy to achieve and may not be possible at all, which is why using all available tools is important, especially adherence to the IDB biosecurity policy when undertaking channel maintenance in areas with pennywort.</p> <p>10.3 Defra Peat Projects – Defra published the long-awaited report from the Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force in June 2023. A link is available in the paper for members to refer to the report. Lowland peat is currently net emitters of carbon to the atmosphere and Defra’s policy objectives are to reduce these emissions by keeping peat soils wetter in summer. The report also recognises the importance of lowland peat for agriculture. Defra has accepted the recommendation of the report and has announced 3 funding streams for short-term pilot projects that aim to assist in achieving the government’s ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net-zero. One of the grant schemes is available to IDBs for infrastructure improvements in peat areas to improve water management and increase the resilience of peat areas to summer droughts. However, given the short-time scale for completion of the pilot projects, a high degree of confidence that the project can be within the time allowed was required. Trevor Whitcombe asked if this has anything to do with the new agri-environment scheme. Phil said not the IDB infrastructure projects, but other work was focused on this. John Cousins asked if any other organisation in the area would be putting in a bid. Phil mentioned that FWAG are likely to submit a project that would work directly with farmer and landowners on land management relating to peat conservation.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 9</p>
<p>11. Health & Safety Report</p>	<p>11.1 Naomi Johnson had previously circulated her report and asked it to be taken as read. There are 2 recommendations to be considered. Naomi shared an updated version of the Health & Safety Organisational Flow Chart that is contained in the Health & Safety Policy.</p>	

	<p>Proposed: John Cousins, seconded : Peter Clayton “ To approve the first recommendation which is to approve and sign the amended Health & Safety Policy Version 3.1” All in favour</p> <p>11.2 Naomi asked members to consider the second recommendation.</p> <p>Proposed: Peter Clayton, seconded: Charlie Riches “to approve the second recommendation which is to approve and sign the Amended Joint Health & Safety Committee Terms of Reference”. All in favour</p> <p>11.3 Naomi confirmed that the H&S Committee is made up of three representatives from each board, for a meeting to be quorate one member from each board must be present and there must be a minimum of four. Philip Holms volunteered to be in attendance.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 10</p> <p>RESOLUTION 11</p>
12. SRA Update	12.1 Next meeting takes place in December. A meeting took place to review the flood action plan recently. The Chairman reported that he was disappointed with the meeting. Iain Sturdy had been in discussion with the chairman and said the IDB members view is that the actions that the SRA undertake should focus on conveyance, storage of flood water and timely evacuation of flood water. Those things that make the greatest impact on flood risk. There are many ways to address flood risk and current priorities seem to be focussing more on upper reaches, slow the flow and natural flood management. Iain Sturdy said that he will be attending future meetings to determine the future Flood Action Plan. And the Enhanced Work Programme. They are hoping to finalise the enhanced work programme today. He is hoping to attend later today.	
13. Correspondence & Engagement with other authorities	13.1 A meeting is set on 11 October 2023 with EA and Bristol Water regarding Bleadon sluice.	
14. Any Other Business	14.1 Martin Watts, Queried Noel Lukins attendance as he didn't appear to have attended for a long time. Iain Sturdy will checking regulations and will remind members to attend whenever possible.	
15. Date of Next Meeting	15.1 This item was not discussed	

CHAIR.....  DATE 11.01.2024