

**MINUTES OF THE AXE BRUE FULL BOARD MEETING
Monday 3 November 2025 AT 10.30 IN BRADBURY HOUSE**

Attendance:			
Elected Members: Wendy Welland Anthony Dowden Trevor Whitcombe Andrew Gilling Joe Stradling Garry Puddy Alan Franks Bob Clapp David Tratt Mark Lunnon Liz Scott Harvey Smith	Appointed Members: Bob Filmer Alistair Hendry Phil Holms Donna Gowler James Grischeff Hayward Burt Bryan Knickerbocker Roger Keen Mark Healey	Officers: Iain Sturdy Margaret Hammond Katy Carleton Matthew Wall Rob King Virginie Martin Caroline Murray Phil Brewin Nick Stevens	Public: Tony Bradford Bill Smart
Approved Apologies:			
	Mike Stanton Peter Clayton Margaret Oakden		

Agenda Item:	Description:	ACTION
1 Attendance and Apologies	The meeting opened at 10.33 Iain Sturdy (IDS) opened the meeting in the absence of an elected Chair. Attendance as per register Apologies have been received from Mike Stanton. Peter Clayton sent apologies via Bob Filmer.	
2 Governance	IDS noted the passing of appointed member Nick Cottle since the last Full Board meeting. The Board held a minutes silence. Following this, Somerset Council have appointed Mike Stanton to the vacancy. IDS gave an update on the recent Board Election and welcomed new members. He confirmed that one district had received two nominations, but that one of these was ineligible. On this matter officers took advice from ADA, other boards and independent legal advice from Wilkin Chapman Rollits. <u>Election of Chair:</u> IDS asked for nominations for the Chair, for a 3-year term to 31 October 2028. Andrew Gilling was nominated by Bob Filmer and seconded by Roger Keen Anthony Dowden was nominated by Mark Lunnon and seconded by Harvey Smith IDS invited nominees to address the Board:	

Each Board is a statutory public body with responsibilities for flood protection, land drainage and the environment.
All are members of the Association of Drainage Authorities.

	<p>Andrew Gilling thanked members for his nomination. He feels he has discharged his Vice Chair duties diligently for a number of years and under 2 Chairs, one of whom resigned and the other sadly passed away. He has been involved with the Lower Axe IDB since 1974 when he assumed the Board place from his father. He is well versed in Drainage Board issues and would seek to work more collaboratively with all organisations, both statutory and special interest.</p> <p>Anthony Dowden introduced himself as a farmer at West Pennard. He has over 40 years involvement with the IDB's starting with the Upper Brue and is a previous Chair from 1990 to 2000. He then managed the Upper Brue from 2003 and subsequently the Upper Axe, going on to become Chief Executive of the 2 boards and oversaw their amalgamation before stepping down to become a consultant. He feels he could bring a practical down-to-earth approach.</p> <p>IDS then asked if members if they would like to elect via a show of hands or a secret ballot. A secret ballot was proposed by David Tratt and seconded by Alan Franks. 14 in favour, none against, 3 abstentions. Motion carried for a secret ballot. Ballot papers were circulated, collected and counted. 12 votes to Andrew Gilling 9 votes to Anthony Dowden</p> <p>IDS declared Andrew Gilling (AG) as the Chair and invited him to lead the meeting. AG thanked the Board for their support and took the Chair.</p> <p><u>Election of Vice Chair:</u> IDS asked for nominations for the Vice Chair, for a 3-year term to 31 October 2028.</p> <p>Wendy Welland was nominated by Andrew Gilling and seconded by Phil Holms</p> <p>Anthony Dowden was nominated by Mark Lunnon and seconded by Bob Clapp</p> <p>A secret ballot was proposed by Hayward Burt and seconded by James Grischeff. 15 in favour, none against, 2 abstentions. Motion carried for a secret ballot.</p> <p>Wendy Welland (WW) addressed the meeting and explained that she grew up and farmed at Bere, and now farms at Berrow (both below sea level). She was an active young farmer at club, county and national level and 6 years ago was County President of Somerset Young Farmers. She was also the local NFU Chair and South-West Area and National Chair of the Women's Farming Union. She has represented the UK to the American Agri Women Convention and attended the first International Women in Agriculture in Australia. She has been on the Lower Axe Board for over 20 years, is currently the SDBC Vice-Chair and was mentored by Peter Maltby.</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 01</p> <p>RESOLUTION 2</p> <p>RESOLUTION 3</p>
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	<p>To appoint Mike Stanton to the Committee (subject to his agreement): Proposed Jon Cousins, Seconded Bryan Knickerbocker. All in favour.</p> <p>David Tratt left the meeting at 11.39 as advised prior to meeting.</p> <p>SDBC Management Committee: Wendy Welland was appointed to the Committee as Vice Chair. To appoint Anthony Dowden to the Committee: Proposed Joe Stradling, Seconded Mark Lunnon. All in favour. To appoint James Grischeff to the Committee: Proposed Bryan Knickerbocker, Seconded Joe Stradling. All in favour.</p> <p>Salaries Committee: Wendy Welland was appointed to the Committee as Vice Chair. To appoint Joe Stradling to the Committee: Proposed Jon Cousins, Seconded Mark Lunnon. All in favour. To appoint Jon Cousins to the Committee: Proposed Bryan Knickerbocker, Seconded Bob Filmer. All in favour.</p> <p>SRA Board: Wendy Welland was appointed to the Committee as Vice Chair. Trevor Whitcombe (TW) would like to remain as a deputy. Tony Bradford spoke as a member of the public. He feels it would be useful for continuity for deputies to attend as observers if they can. The Chair acknowledged Trevor's long contribution to the SRA Board, TW and David Tratt (DT) to attend as and when required as deputies.</p> <p>Health & Safety Committee: To appoint Phil Holms to the Committee: Proposed Bryan Knickerbocker, Seconded Joe Stradling. All in favour. To appoint Harvey Smith to the Committee: Proposed Mark Lunnon, Seconded Bob Filmer. All in favour.</p> <p>Environment Committee: To appoint James Grischeff as a deputy to the Committee: Proposed Bryan Knickerbocker, Seconded Joe Stradling. All in favour. Members discussed whether Phil should issue papers for this committee to deputies. The Committee chair would like to invite/encourage as many members as possible to attend or to increase numbers. James Grischeff (JG) often attends as an interested party and would like to be more involved. Officers confirmed deputies only have voting rights if they are attending on behalf of a committee member. Members discussed issuing papers to all Board members. Nick Stevens noted that asked that SDBC management committee would need to resolve this to make consistent. WW suggested that as all Board members receive the calendar of meetings, members can request if they would like to receive papers or attend for a committee they do not sit on.</p> <p>Premises committee: To appoint Anthony Dowden to the Committee: Proposed Bob Clapp, Seconded Alan Franks. All in favour.</p> <p>Investment Committee: To appoint Bryan Knickerbocker to the Committee: Proposed Joe Stradling, Seconded James Grischeff. All in favour. The draft calendar of meetings for 2026 was circulated. Tony Bradford left the meeting 12.10</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 9</p> <p>RESOLUTION 10</p> <p>RESOLUTION 11</p> <p>RESOLUTION 12</p> <p>RESOLUTION 13</p> <p>RESOLUTION 14</p> <p>RESOLUTION 15</p> <p>RESOLUTION 16</p> <p>RESOLUTION 17</p>
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3 Items Additional to the	None	
4 Declarations of Interest	A Dowden declared an interest in planning items on taking a watercourse out of view, and planning at Butleigh.	
5 Members of the Public	<p>Opportunity for members of the public to address the Meeting (max 3 minutes)</p> <p>Bill Smart Wedmore Parish Council Resilience Committee noted he has resolved to stay in close contact and will attend when he can.</p>	
6 Minutes of the Axe Brue Full Board Meeting held 16 June 2025	<p>P7 JG raised 10.5 and asked that there be an action for officers to draft something for Developing Future Objectives for IDB Water Level Management (Vision).</p> <p>Bob Clapp raised the letter he received from the EA re riparian ownership. He has met with the EA, and he has cleaned the Millstream. Other owners upstream have not done so and nobody else contributed. He will not be able to this work do going forward.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R Keen left at 12.17</p> <p>IDS explained that this is a widespread problem. The EA letter put responsibility at the riparian owners' doors. We have responded to the EA and asked them to make the assessment of impact. TB/IDS/Matt Wall travelled to Newark to meet other IDB Chairs, and ADA met with Emma Hardy (Minister for Flooding) in Lincs. She declared sympathy and advised she will visit Somerset. Efra met last Thursday where Sarah Dyke asked Philip Duffy and Alan Lovell about the issue who said there is no money to do any more work. They have suggested raising money locally.</p> <p>Harvey Smith (HS) referred to older legislation and the reason for IDB's, as well as misspending within the EA and asked who is scrutinising.</p> <p>IDS explained the EA position, which we have challenged. We have asked them to show the legal basis for their decision. The RFCC is part of their decision making which we have challenged too as the established process has not been followed. We have visibility and have represented at the highest level.</p> <p>HS noted that is has been six months since the letters were sent and nothing has been maintained. He asked about a general drainage charge on higher not just lower land.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12.25 Hayward Burt left the meeting</p> <p>IDS explained there is general national tension around taxation. We would have to apply and be granted local taxation by Defra. This has been taken up in one part of East Anglia.</p> <p>JC reflected that not taxing leads to a bankrupt council. People need to pay for services that they expect.</p> <p>“the minutes of the Full Board meeting held on 16 June 2025 are signed as a true and correct record of the meeting held”. Proposed: Bryan Knickerbocker Seconded: Jon Cousins All in favour</p> <p>The confidential minute was circulated: “the confidential minute of the Full Board meeting held on 16 June 2025 are signed as a true and correct record of the meeting held”. Proposed: Bryan Knickerbocker Seconded: Wendy Welland 3 abstentions of those not present</p>	<p>ACTION AB/20251103 -01</p> <p>RESOLUTION 18</p> <p>RESOLUTION 19</p>

<p>7 Matters Arising</p>	<p>Review of Actions: AB/20220411 – 1 Investment group – to continue to progress. MH will reconvene the group to complete this.</p> <p>AB/20250127 – 01 Tor Rugby Club gauge board. VM has chased TRC for update. Agreed to leave them time to implement. A Dowden asked for permission to liaise with VM to find a consent. MWall would welcome input. IDS thanked AD and asked him to work with VM. VM advised we have asked them to gauge and record pumping so we can regulate if needed.</p> <p>AB/20250616-01 Post by field ditch. All resolved.</p> <p>AB/20250616-02 Landscape Recovery – as covered in Item 6.</p> <p>AB/20250616-03 Risk register will be covered in Item 9.</p> <p>AB/20250616-04 Share list of watercourses. A map was included in ratepayer letters.</p> <p>AB/20250616-05 Tealham Moor with Alan F – desilting works have taken place. MW and Rob to chase damaged culvert.</p> <p>Mark Lunnon (ML) advised the wood has been knocked on 2 culverts off Tealham Drove and at the end and could do with new posts. The location is Sand Drove to Whitehouse Drove, culverts under droves. MW/RK to resolve.</p> <p>AB/20250616-06 Sent to members under election process.</p>	<p>ACTION AB/20251103 -02</p> <p>ACTION AB/20251103 -03</p> <p>ACTION AB/20251103 -04</p>
<p>8 Clerk/CEO Update</p>	<p>IDS referred to his paper and apologised for its late circulation. H&S: needs to remain a strong priority. There have been no reportable incidents since the last meeting other than the most recent one. We continue to develop safe highways working. We need to be mindful of hazards using ERIC hierarchy, (Eliminate, Reduce, Inform, Control) We have rationalised where possible. MW and team have identified all areas to identify risk. There is still a vacancy for the H&S officer and we may need to review the offer. Premises: We continue to engage re the condition of the building with some progress made. There are still some issues with WW and smell in the building. We think the roof leak is now fixed, and the office has remained dry. The Gents toilet has also been repaired and is operational once again. Staffing: Morale is strong in the face of operational and governance challenges. A new receptionist has been recruited and we are starting to review succession planning. We still struggle with recruiting engineers, but are well covered by Calm Engineering currently. Amalgamation: The workload around elections and EA withdrawal etc has meant there has been little progression. Engineering: KSD banks have been recently completed. WID is starting soon mon the River Parrett Downstream of Dunball. North Somerset are working on a large sluice. Audit criticism: External auditors have questioned our AGAR responses and feel we should have answered no to Risk questions. They feel risk management was not recorded in minutes over the previous year. We have already responded and will show progress throughout the year.</p>	

	<p>Forward Focus: EA withdrawal, Amalgamation, H&S, Staffing, Finance Policy.</p> <p>Major Projects: Pushing at SRA for River Brue where modelling shows that raising banks will not cause issues downstream.</p> <p>JG noted how difficult the permitting process was.</p> <p>12.59 – Liz Scott left the meeting.</p> <p>IDS feels this strengthens the voice. We need to be proportionate and reasonable. Individuals are having the same issues as the IDB's.</p> <p>There is traction and acceptance that desilting and building banks will help alleviate flood risk. The difficulty will be finding a willing delivery partner. Landowners will look to the IDB however we will need to be adequately resourced.</p> <p>The Chair asked if this is a national picture.</p> <p>IDS noted that at the meeting in Newark it was a common theme of withdrawal, and we are the test case.</p> <p>HS noted that the EA have the machines, but are not carrying out these works. We can all say we don't have enough money, but shouldn't we challenge the EA.</p> <p>IDS confirmed that this is what we are saying.</p> <p>JC asked if we should conclude that the EA want land to be flooded.</p> <p>IDS explained their rationale of the impact of maintenance and prioritising. Ultimately inadequate money comes from Defra to fund the EAs work proposals. The EA say they need to look at adaptation and resilience as a consequence of this. We fight against this.</p> <p>A Dowden noted the IDB also contribute to the EA via the precept and asked who pays the Agency.</p> <p>IDS explained we have a demand each year and we ask for a breakdown. We have had it this for this year and been advised the money is used for staff, pumping, operational costs.</p> <p>JC noted the IDB's always pay this, and it has not gone down.</p> <p>Bryan Knickerbocker (BK) has attended a community meeting where the EA advised their remit is to protect homes and property. Each system is ranked as high, medium or low consequence. Somerset is mostly medium to low, however most of its farmed landscape also has a high environmental risk.</p> <p>TW also noted carbon storage which means it makes sense to flood.</p> <p>IDS confirmed it may be less expensive to operate land with higher water levels/stopping peat emissions.</p> <p>Donna Gowler (DG) asked about looking at strategic direction.</p> <p>IDS confirmed this is current and ongoing.</p>	
9 Risk Register	<p>IDS worked through the top 10 risks and provided an update.</p> <p>Alistair Hendry left at 13.17</p> <p>We are experiencing an increasing number of ratepayers not paying due to reduced EA work.</p> <p>HS suggested opening Hartlake Bridge Door which may help with getting rates paid in his area. IDS noted that now HS is the Board member for the area. If there is consensus, we can act accordingly.</p> <p>The conclusion is that EA withdrawal is greatest risk.</p> <p>ML asked that the paperwork state that in the aforementioned incident it was a member of the public not a Board member.</p> <p>IDS confirmed they were a Board member at the time of the incident and when the paper was written. We will change the Risk Register if the police report shows that they were not present.</p> <p>BK asked if Bradbury House was on list of risks. IDS confirmed there is a risk around inability to do business which covers this.</p>	

	<p>Donna Gowler (DG) agreed with climate change as a risk and an increasing risk and asked if there is more of a plan to mitigate. She feels drought should be considered as much as flood.</p> <p>IDS confirmed that Nick Stevens/Phil Brewin/IDS are working on a strategy.</p> <p>Phil Brewin noted the interdependencies of risks, very dry summer. He would emphasise this summer has highlighted the short sightedness of the EA decision to reduce maintenance which makes risks closely related and escalated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bob Clapp left at 13.25</p>	
10 Finance Report	<p>MH shared her Finance Report which has already been considered by Finance & Works Sub Committee. Her figures are forecast as a best estimate but will change as the year progresses.</p> <p>Bank Statements are reconciled up to end September. There are no issues, these are signed off by a Board member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Report Oct 2025 inc Appendices (Enclosures 2-5) <p>The budget for SDBC and Axe Brue Board was all discussed at F&W</p> <p>There are outstanding drainage rates of £38k. MH has concerns that this is more than last year. Special levy is coming in as expected.</p> <p>HS suggested holding open meetings locally to explain what we do and our similar issues with EA which have impacted the IDB reputation.</p> <p>IDS likes the idea of local connection and feels it would be helpful for local representatives to help with this.</p> <p>ML suggested working with parish councils.</p> <p>IDS confirmed officers often attend local community meetings.</p> <p>Joe Stradling (JS) feels there is merit in the idea and asked if there are any identifiable clusters in the 236 accounts with o/s balances which could help focus on certain areas.</p> <p>MH will look to see if there are any clusters.</p> <p>ML noted that where EA river is leaking into farmland would be a problem area. Landowners need to see that we are pushing the EA.</p> <p>HS feels this needs to be made clearer.</p> <p>Jon Cousins (JC) noted that other organisation might withhold the precept.</p> <p>IDS confirmed this was raised in the Newark meeting. ADA members felt it would be better to agree a programme of work to carry out using the money instead. We have not yet paid the second demand, but will. IDS noted it was also suggested that we appeal the precept at the meeting in Newark.</p> <p>Bob Filmer (BF) would be more comfortable with the appeal route as non-payment would be doing same as our non-paying ratepayers.</p> <p>BK noted that if judicial review is considered there is the Aarhus Convention which would cost cap any legal expenses in a case brought to protect the environment.</p> <p>JS felt it best to negotiate with the EA as we could make the money go a lot further than they could.</p> <p>AD felt the problem with EA is that it is more than maintenance but also pumping. Our precept money is not much in their budget and we need to be careful.</p> <p>IDS confirmed that senior EA officers say that what is currently done will not be done if precept is not demanded or paid.</p> <p>HS asked if the precept is spent in Somerset.</p> <p>IDS confirmed that it is all spent in county</p> <p>Drainage Rates Updates: 6 liability orders were issued last year, only one remains unpaid.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">ACTION AB/20251103 -05</p>

	<p>Recommendations:</p> <p>The Axe Brue IDB approves the level for taking Drainage Rate debtors to court to be £100. Proposed: Bryan Knickerbocker Second: Wendy Welland All in favour HS feels dialogue would help. MH explained that we send reminders, call and chase. P Holms left at 13.45 JC feels that reputationally we would benefit from more engagement. Bill Smart noted that in the Panborough Drain example, some are withholding rates as they can't distinguish between the IDB and EA. Mark Lunnon left 13.48 MH to clarify arrears with Anthony Dowden A Dowden left the room</p> <p>3.4 The Axe Brue IDB approves that the Governance Officer, Responsible Finance Officer and Clerk be given authority to instigate proceedings for the recovery of arrears of drainage rates and that the Chairman sign and seal a certificate to confirm this - following the Finance & Works recommendation. Proposed Bryan Knickerbocker Seconded Jon Cousins</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 20</p> <p>ACTION AB20251103 - 06</p> <p>RESOLUTION 21</p>
<p>11 Ops & Eng Reports</p>	<p>A Dowden re-entered the meeting</p> <p>OPERATIONS</p> <p>Matt Wall (MW) asked that his report be taken as read and went through works including tree work that has taken place. Works being recorded electronically on the app to be able to demonstrate if any queries. Due to changes in procurement regulations, we will need to consider how we tender in future.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>1.The existing Axe Area maintenance contracts be extended for two years. This ensures service continuity while allowing sufficient time to align policies, processes, and staff training with the new procurement regulations. Proposed: Jon Cousins Seconded: Bryan Knickerbocker All in favour</p> <p>MW updated on an ongoing issue at Heath Rhyne. We served notice and completed the maintenance works. Sleepers were moved and access taken to maintain the rhyne. Access has now been blocked again. We have dealt with this matter correctly but may have same issue again next year. AD redeclared his interest: He has requested for a rhyne to be taken out of view. HS felt that 12 Foot Rhyne work was not done well. MW to meet HS on site</p> <p>2. At the request of the Land Owner, the Board to consider that the section of Harty Moor Rhyne from the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) structure UB37 upstream to the rhyne's origin be declassified and removed from the IDB maintained network. This section will be reclassified as an ordinary watercourse, remaining under the Board's</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 22</p> <p>ACTION AB20251103 - 07</p>

jurisdiction but with maintenance responsibility resting with the riparian landowner, who must keep the channel clear and in good condition. (The lower section of the rhyne, downstream of structure UB37, will remain in view and be renamed “Harty Moor Spur.”)

Proposed: Jon Cousins

Seconded: Bob Filmer

All in favour

Donna Gowler left at 14.00

Garry Puddy (GP) asked who checks where work needs doing and showed a photo taken on 4th Sept of work still not done last week. Ben Harris looked at it last Weds morning and it was done by later that day. He also stated that 2 years ago he received a letter about desilting and building back the banks. The banks were not done and slid back in.

MW confirmed the contractor would be on an hourly rate, so would not have been paid if he had not returned to complete the work. Asked why not done previously. Area supervisors are responsible to oversee and check.

Another area in “The City” is overgrown. MW is happy to go on site with Garry to look at what needs doing.

A Dowden asked if work is signed off.

IDS/MW confirmed all work is signed off by email.

GP asked if Area Supervisors walk every rhyne.

MW confirmed they check maps to show what is done.

IDS in recent years it is easier to report where has been done and checked.

In principle we only pay for works which have been completed.

GP suggested the use of drones.

Caroline Murray advised we already use them.

Wendy Welland noted that board members should also be taking responsibility for inspecting and reporting in their areas.

IDS we need to check works fully completed, not just the easy bits. He asked Board members to advise officers of issues straight away so we can deal with them. MW will reinforce with area supervisors.

James G left the meeting at 14.14

ENGINEERING

Caroline Murray asked members to taker her Engineering report as read:

Recommendation: The Board to consider utilising remaining funding from work at Lewis Drove to support the running of a pump through the winter to protect property if/when needed.

As outcomes of investigation, some actions required. The EA have done some works on the Sheppey and North Drain. We have done some clearance and desilting on Dog Leg Ditch. We have been looking at North Drain water level and looking at pumping over the winter period. We have requested pumping estimates from Godwins and they have agreed to supply and operate pumps at £89 per day. There is money remaining in the budget to cover this.

IDS noted that this is a sensitive area and wording is for the Board to consider. There are people in the area still suffering.

Alan Franks (AF) declared an interest.

AD noted 2 main issues: the Sheppey inlet used to be the Board’s and used to stop water coming down North Drain. Also the Panborough Drain.

CM confirmed this is all part of a wider picture.

Bill Smart has noted this.

IDS explained we know these things join up and are trying to get responsible people to do their part, however none of these things will be done before this winter.

**RESOLUTION
23^[S1]**

**ACTION
AB20251103 -
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**ACTION
AB20251103 -
09**

	<p>TW asked where it would be pumping to. CM advised the North Drain channel.</p> <p>JS asked if pumping is to protect property. IDS noted in previous years space has been made for the water. Pumping could provide some relief on occasion.</p> <p>TW asked how many houses were affected. Affects the whole area. He feels we should look at the bigger picture.</p> <p>HS mentioned other rhyne which have not been desilted which if cleaned properly will take capacity at Long Drove which is in a different area.</p> <p>AF felt pumping into North Drain would help to a certain degree, but lowering the North Drain in the winter months would help more. It worked well last year.</p> <p>GP asked why all levels couldn't be dropped earlier. AF explained there are SSSI's in the area.</p> <p>JC noted that maintaining the main river is part of the solution.</p> <p>To utilise remaining funding for this year only to put pumps for temporary action to give the opportunity to pump if needed. Proposed: Jon Cousins Seconded: Wendy Welland 6 in favour 3 abstentions. Motion Passed</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT CONTROL</p> <p>Virginie Martin (VM) updated on enforcement issues: East Huntspill on Greenway Coat Rhyne. The Board agreed to the owner culverting 10 years ago, but specified nothing should be built on the rhyne without Board consensus. He has now put containers over the culvert. We asked for them to be removed which he has done however he has now put a shed on the culvert. We have contacted him and asked him to remove it. There is no consent and we may need to take it further.</p> <p>JC asked if we are likely to succeed. IDS confirmed the law is on our side. MW noted there is also an inspection chamber.</p> <p>Recommend to enforce Proposed: Anthony Dowden Seconded: Bryan Knickerbocker All in favour</p> <p>Back of Bason Gardens. The landowner is claiming lack of privacy and has built a fence in the channel to build up to their property. We have asked them to remove it as it is taking up capacity in the channel and have suggested building on top of the bank. He had previously built a shed on the rhyne which we asked him to remove which could be the reason for the erosion. He owns land to the middle of the ditch. We may need to go to a solicitor to get this removed.</p> <p>Recommend to enforce Proposed: Joe Stradling Seconded: Jon Cousins All in favour</p> <p>There is an unconsented fence on Northwick Rhyne. We will be taking access to maintain the rhyne.</p> <p>AF asked for an update on working from the highway Officers confirmed there is an update in 3.2 of the Operations Report. We have written back to contractors and will update RAMS to ensure we are compliant. MW has also reviewed all locations with Area Supervisors to</p>	<p>RESOLUTION 24</p> <p>RESOLUTION 25</p> <p>RESOLUTION 26</p>
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	<p>identify where we work from highways can be reduced and where works can be done from the field instead. AF asked about main contractor discomfort at being liable instead of the Board. He feels they may be unwilling to carry out works in the future if it will cost them more to manage traffic. IDS explained liability and cost. The liability is on the contractor not the client. If there is additional cost this will be borne by the Board. We have consulted with them.</p> <p>VM continued with an update on the Haven pond structure/dam which has now been removed. This provides huge benefits for Burnham. MW noted this was an historic issue when it was an outfall which was plated. When removed it caused issues and is now back to where it should be.</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT Phil Brewin (PB) asked the Board to take his paper as read. The Landscape Recovery Project pilot in the Brue area was not successful and is not being taken forward by Defra. What comes next is uncertain. Discussions are ongoing. The Council have prepared a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which the Environment Committee will consider. The deadline has been extended for any further comment/response. The Boards feel systems need to be working and watercourses maintained before any changes are made. It is a strategy not a delivery plan, and we may be asked to help deliver later. PB feels eels should be covered in the strategy.</p> <p>PB also updated on data from Glastonbury Lake Village where we monitor groundwater levels. This has been the driest year yet and is a reflection of evaporation. Jon Cousins and Trevor Whitcombe left the meeting at 15.01</p>	
12 AOB	<p>Any Other Business JG congratulated the Chair on his re-election JS asked that we rotate the Agenda order to avoid the Environment update always being left to the end.</p>	ACTION AB20251103 - 10
13 Date of Next Meeting	<p>Dates of Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Board Meeting Mon 26 January at 10.30 Budget Setting • Finance & Works Mon 12 January 2026 at 10.30 • Consortium Office Charity Day: Thurs 6 November 2025, in aid of The Royal British Legion. All welcome <p>The meeting closed at 15.03. The Chair thanked members for their attendance.</p>	

CHAIR.....DATE

AXE BRUE BOARD – TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Action Number:	Action:	Actionee:
AB/20251103 -01	Draft something for Developing Future Objectives for IDB Water Level Management (Vision).	IDS/NS
AB/20251103 -02	Liaise with A Dowden to find consent for Tor Rugby Club	MW/VM
AB/20251103 -03	Investigate damaged culvert on Tealham Moor as raised by Alan Franks	MW/RK
AB/20251103 -04	2 culverts off Tealham Drove need new posts (culverts under droves) as raised by M Lunnon	MW/RK
AB/20251103 -05	To identify if any clusters/area specific where drainage rates not paid	MH
AB/20251103 -06	Clarify arrears wit A Dowden	MH
AB/20251103 -07	Meet with H Smith at 12ft rhyne as felt work not done well	MW
AB/20251103 -08	Go to site with G Puddy to show where works not done/completed	MW
AB/20251103 -09	reinforce with Area Supervisors to check works completed are satisfactory	MW
AB/20251103 -10	Rotate officers slots on future agendas	KC