

## **Strine Internal Drainage Board**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Kynnersley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

### **1. Present:**

Bruce Udale, John Belcher, Brian Crow, Isobel Mosley, Harry Gregory, Richard Hockenhull, Kate Mayne (clerk)

**Apologies** were received from Howard Phillips, Colin Webb & John Bellis

### **2. Election of Chair**

John Belcher proposed Bruce Udale as chair. There were no other nominations for the position. The nomination was seconded by Brian Crow; the board voted unanimously in favour. Bruce was duly elected as chair.

#### **Election of Vice-Chair**

Bruce Udale nominated John Belcher for the role of vice chair. There were no other nominations. The nomination was seconded by Richard Hockenhull and all voted in favour. John was duly elected as vice chair.

#### **The election of board members**

Seats on the board were not contested. John Belcher nominated Isobel Moseley to fill the vacant position on the board left by the sad death of Mike James. Richard Hockenhull seconded this and the board voted unanimously in favour. Isobel was duly elected onto the board.

### **3. Public participation**

No members of the public were present

### **4. Declarations of interest**

Richard Hockenhull, Isobel Mosley, Bruce Udale & John Belcher - invoices for maintenance work

### **5. Consideration of minutes of the previous meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Richard Hockenhull proposed that the minutes be approved as an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Isobel Moseley

### **6. Matters arising from the minutes**

Work on the trees in the River Tern was not completed due to the wet winter conditions. The contractor is waiting for dry weather and lower flow levels.

John, Bruce Colin and Kate met at the Aqueduct Syphon to consider how flooding issues could be reduced on site; development up stream of the syphon having the potential to put more pressure on the system. John Bellis attended from Telford & Wrekin Council. Bruce has since taken levels on site and found the banks to be very uneven. Reducing this unevenness will help prevent water spilling over from the Wall Brook into the Parson's Oak. There are trees which need to be removed to protect the syphon and also a tree down which is preventing the digger working the site. It was agreed that the board

should try to take measures before seeking funding from planners for syphon inspection & desilting. **ACTION:** JB will cut trees back on top of the syphon. A plan for the rest of the work will be considered later in the year.

#### **7. Accounts for payment**

JR Hockenhull & Sons: £1185.60 for maintenance work – proposed for payment by John & seconded by Harry

W H Gittins & Sons: £793.38 for clerk duties & expenses – proposed for payment by Isobel & seconded by Richard

PM & RE Belcher & Sons: £842.40 for maintenance work – proposed for payment by Harry & seconded by Isobel

Sydney Farms: £2145 for maintenance

David Udale Ltd: £900 for maintenance

AFR Benson: £450 for preparation of accounts and rats generation

All invoices proposed for payment by John & seconded by Harry

#### **8. Financial report: 2015 - 2016**

The Clerk presented draft accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

Business savers account                      £35,588.54

Business current account                    £19,832.52

Cash in hand 31/03/2016                    £55,421.06

A cash comparison with 2014-2015 was also presented for discussion.

The clerk provided the board with a list of rates still unpaid for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. 87% of rates have been collected. Reminders will be sent again and fees collected by hand where necessary.

#### **9. Maintenance report 2015 – 2016**

Sections missed this year (due to poor winter conditions) were: -

- The bottom end of the commission up to Long Lane – it was proposed that works will start here this year
- Buttery Flats – John hopes to do this section early in the maintenance season this year
- Harry pointed out a section on the Wall Brook & Parson's oak through his ground which was also not done. This will be a priority for 2016-17

#### **10. Maintenance plan: 2016 - 2017**

See above

#### **11. Correspondence & meeting reports**

An email was received from Steve Maddox resigning from the role of digger driver for the Strine IDB. The board discussed people who might be approached about the job. A number of leads were mentioned; these will be looked into and any other options

considered. It was agreed that the right driver was key to find & that the board would pay for that person to receive training, if necessary.

There was some concern that in losing Steve the board will not know who to speak to when carrying out works. **ACTION:** the clerk will contact Steve to get a list of who he spoke to when accessing sections of the drainage district.

The clerk received a briefing document from the NFU & ADA regarding the new Environmental Permitting Regulations and consents for work. The board considered the details presented but felt that more information was needed to understand the implications of the changes. **ACTION:** the clerk will find out more.

## **12. Report from John Bellis, Telford & Wrekin Council**

John was not in attendance

## **13. Any other business**

The clerk was asked to write to Steve Maddox thanking him for his efforts and hard work for the IDB.

Himalayan Balsam was discussed. It is the riparian owners' responsibility to control this weed on their land. Identifying the plant before flowering is important. **ACTION:** the clerk will send out information on identifying and controlling the weed with rates demands in May.

## **14. Date of the next meeting**

13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7.30pm, Kynnersley Village Hall

### Board members:

Mr H C Phillips – Chairman  
Mr J B Crow  
Mr R Hockenhull  
Mrs I Moseley

Mr F B Udale – Vice Chairman  
Mr C H Gregory  
Mr C J Webb

*F B Udale*  
13 June 2016