

STRINE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes for the meeting held at Kynnersley Village Hall on 16th September 2019

Present: Bruce Udale (Chair), Colin Webb, Isabel Moseley, Kate Mayne (clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Howard Phillips, John Belcher

2. **Declarations of interest:** none

3. **Consideration of minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th June 2019:**

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by Isabel Moseley and this was seconded by Colin Webb.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes:**

(The following are carry over items from the meeting on 8th April 2019):

The clerk continues to investigate land ownership and plans to speak to landowners at the top end of the Strine regarding future maintenance possibilities there. Wall Farm have confirmed they will undertake maintenance work on the Wall Brook this autumn / winter. Information on insurance has been received from NFU Mutual. The board's insurance was discussed in light of the definition of 'employee' to the board.

5. **Accounts for payment:**

W H Gittins & Sons: clerk's charges and expenses - £717.00 + VAT

James, Holyoak & Parker: accountancy services - £200.00 + VAT

Balfours: Internal Auditing x 3 years - £90 + VAT

NFU Mutual: Insurance renewal - £803.16

Isabel Moseley proposed that the accounts be paid and this was seconded by Colin Webb.

6. **Financial report:**

The clerk presented the board's financial position on 30th August 2019. Total cash in hand - £76,525.81. The Income since June 2019 included rates payments of £8302.64 and £2583.62 in VAT reclaim. £1180.16 of the VAT reclaim is from y/e 31st March 2018, which the clerk has chased up from HMRC since end of year accounts.

7. **Review of Policy statement on Water Level and Flood Risk Management:**

The clerk presented an updated version of this policy statement to the board. The Protocol was discussed and approved for adoption by the board. *ACTION:* the clerk will arrange for it to be publicly available via the website.

8. **Approval of the annual report to DEFRA:**

The clerk presented the annual report to DEFRA. Items within the report were reviewed and the board approved it as a true record.

9. Severn Trent Water – Northern Interceptor, borehole projects and water resources:

The IDB continues to have little success engaging STW on the issue of the poor state of the Northern Interceptor channel. The clerk has been working with Lou Lycett, looking at various consents for pumping trials from the replacement borehole at Honnington and the borehole at Woodfield Farm. We have expressed our concern at the rate of discharge into the Wall Brook, from the Honnington Borehole but modelled predictions supplied by STW's contractor provide evidence that the channel should be able to handle it. The board still has reservations about the pumping trial and has asked that we are informed ahead of project initiation.

The board feels the boreholes and NIC have raised important questions regarding the future of water resources in the Strine / Telford area. With this in mind the clerk has spoken to ADA and has been connected with Richard Blackwell of Water Resources West. Richard hope to attend the Severnside IDB meeting in November to introduce the group and it's objectives to look at water strategically.

10. Maintenance update 2019-2020:

The reeds have been sprayed under consent on the commission at the confluence with the Tern. Hockenhull's machine has started work. *ACTION:* the clerk will visit the driver next week to run through H & S and working next to pipelines.

11. Correspondence & meetings attended:

The chair pointed out that John Bellis has left his role at TWC. He asked the clerk to forward the board's thanks for his contribution. *ACTION:* clerk to attend to this. All other items have been covered in the above.

12. Report by Lucinda Lycett, Telford & Wrekin Council:

Lucinda was not in attendance

13. Any other business:

The clerk is looking for a new accountant to assist the board. A number of options were discussed

14. Date of next meeting:

6th January 2020 at Kynnerlsey Village Hall