

Strine Internal Drainage Board

Minutes for the meeting held on 13th July 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

In attendance: Bruce Udale (chair), John Belcher (vice chair), Howard Phillips, Kate Mayne (clerk)

1 **Apologies:** Isabel Moseley, Harry Gregory

2 **Declarations of interest:** None

3 **Consideration of minutes from the meeting held on 18th May 2020:** The board inspected the minutes and John Belcher proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Howard Phillips.

4 **Matters arising from the minutes:** all matters arising will be dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

5 **Approval of the annual return to the auditors: *Item 5#1*** - The clerk presented the annual return to the board for consideration. It was proposed that the board certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under section 5 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. This is because income and expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000. Howard Phillips proposed that the exemption be approved by the board. This was seconded by John Belcher.

Item 5#2 - As part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/2020 the clerk also presented the board with the Annual Internal Audit report, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting statement for this period. The clerk pointed out that in the Annual Internal Audit Report item K (the exemption status of the board) is recorded as 'not covered'. This matter was attended to in *Item 5#1* above.

6 **Approval of the annual report:** The annual report was provided to the board for inspection prior to the meeting. The board ran through the various aspects of the report and it was proposed by John Belcher that the report be approved. This was seconded by Howard Phillips.

7 **Accounts for payment:**

NFU Mutual: insurance - £813.78

W H Gittins & Sons: clerk and expenses - £753.55 + VAT

John proposed that the accounts be settled and Howard Phillips seconded this.

8 **Financial report:** The clerk presented cash flow accounts up to 30th June 2020. The board has cash in hand of £71,775.96. To date we have received £16,446.66 in rates payments (57%). The clerk is pursuing seeking details for a number of non-payers through the land registry. The board agreed to the use the small claims court for recovery of debts owing from one debtor.

9 **Maintenance programme 2020 – 2021:** The clerk has prepared a works schedule for the forthcoming season with the reallocation of work previously done by Richard Hockenhull. There are certain land parcels the clerk sought confirmation of ownership for. These were discussed. **ACTION:** the clerk will send out a letter to landowners prior to start of works asking them to clearly mark the locations of drains. Machine drivers will be asked to ring ahead to make landowners aware when work will start on their lengths of channel.

Howard and the clerk looked at a number of trees which need cutting back on Lubstree Park.

ACTION: Bruce will send his digger driver to attend to this when working in the area.

Howard also pointed out a length of the Red Strine, which needs clearing between the Syphon and the Preston/ Kynnersley Road. The Sydney machine will attend to this.

- 10 Correspondence & meetings:** Email from Water Resources West regarding engaging on regional water related issues. Due to time constraints the clerk has asked Sarah Faulkner (NFU) to keep us informed if / when relevant issues arise or there is an opportunity for the IDB to engage.
- 11 Any other business:** The clerk was asked by the board how the review of the Biodiversity Action Plan was progressing. The clerk reported that it is nearly complete and should be available for inspection shortly. The up to date version will be available for inspection on the website once signed off by the board. *ACTION:* clerk to present the BAP to the board for consideration as soon as possible.
- 12 Date of next meeting:** 14th September 2020.
(Meeting format will be confirmed closer to the time).