

STRINE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

COMBINED ORDINARY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 11th April 2022 - 7.30pm at Kynnersley Village Hall

Meeting agenda

1. **Apologies** – none received.

Present: - Lou Lycett, Isabel Moseley, Chris Holman, John Belcher, Bruce Udale

2. **Public participation** - None

3. **Election of board members** – There were no seats contested and all sitting members of the board were happy to remain in post. Neil Phillips proposed that Bruce remained chair of the board & this was seconded by John Belcher. The board agreed unanimously in Bruce Udale's reelection as chair of the Strine IDB.

4. **Declarations of interest** – none

5. **Consideration of minutes of the previous meeting 10th January 2022** – The board considered the minutes from the previous meeting and John Belcher proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded Isabel Moseley.

6. **Matters arising from the minutes** – The clerk hasn't yet looked into gabion baskets for the slip at the Buttery. *ACTION:* Clerk will visit Chris Holman to discuss a plan.

7. **Accounts for payment:**

David Udale Ltd – maintenance work carried out on Eyton Brook & Parson's Oak - £1500 plus vat.

W H Gittins & Sons – clerk services £707.82

John Belcher proposed that the accounts be settled and this was seconded by Isabel Moseley.

8. **Financial report** – cash flow accounts 2021-2022 – financial report presented to the board. The rates recovery for 2021-22 was also discussed.

9. **Maintenance report 2021-2022 & management of slips** – A lot of work was completed in 21-22, including on the Birchmoor, which hasn't been cleared for a number of years.

10. **Maintenance plan: 2022 – 2023 including review of maintenance charges**

The slip at the Buttery needs attention this year. The board discussed the significant increases in cost of fuel recently and the impact this is having on maintenance costs.

The clerk presented a spreadsheet with the costs per hour associated with annual maintenance work in the IDB. Currently there is a wide range of hourly rates being applied to similar work done. The board felt it was desirable to ensure value for money by setting a standard hourly rate for all landowners contracting to the board. It was also proposed that a £5 / hour fuel surcharge be applied this year to get contractors through these exceptional times. Isabel Moseley proposed that the standard rate be set at £35 / hour, including a £5 / hour fuel surcharge. This was seconded by Chris Holman and all members were in agreement.

The board then discussed costs associated with third party contractors working in the drainage district. Typically their rates are higher than local landowners undertaking work. The board felt it was important that to ensure costs were controlled, authority from the board should be sought before landowners employ other contractors to undertake work.

11. **Severn Trent – Strine Low Flows & Northern Interceptor** – The clerk is due another meeting with Gail Pickles from STW to discuss progress / activity with regard to low flows mitigation within the Strine. Lou Lycett confirmed that there is still no communication back from STW regarding the Northern Interceptor Channel. We understand from board members that some significant structures on the channel have been reported to STW as failing or under threat. This is a major concern to the board.
12. **Health & safety – report on any incidents, near misses or matters for attention** – no reports regarding incidents or near misses have been made to the board. There was some discussion regarding gas lines and safe working up to pipework. Member undertaking work often cannot get any response from the phone lines we are required to call when working near pipes. *ACTION:* Clerk will speak to the company managing the gas lines re answering phone and timeliness.
13. **Correspondence & meetings** – The chair and clerk met SWT to discuss challenges of flood water and water resources in the drainage authority area.
14. **Report from Lucinda Lycett** – No major developments coming forward beyond what is known already. New local plan coming soon but delayed by changes in government allocations.
15. **Any other business** – The clerk left the room whilst clerk payment rates were discussed.
16. **Date of the next meeting** – 13th June 2022

Board members:

Mr B Udale - chair
Mr N Phillips
Mr R Hockenhull
Mr C Holman

Mr J Belcher – vice chair
Mr C H Gregory
Mr A Crow
Mrs I Moseley