

Strine Internal Drainage Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2016 at Eyton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. Present

Mr B Udale (Chair), John Belcher (Vice Chair), Mr B Crow, Mr H Phillips, Mr C H Gregory, Mr C Webb, Mr R Hockenhull, Isobel Udale, John Bellis (TWC), Kate Mayne (Clerk)

Apologies

No apologies were received

2. Declarations of interest

Richard Hockenhull & Colin Webb – invoices for maintenance work

3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (28th September 2015)

Howard Phillips proposed that the minutes be approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting. This was seconded by Rick Hockenhull

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

John Belcher & the clerk met up with Neil Dobson (ND) to discuss maintenance work on ditches on the Buttery Flats. There are trees which need cutting back. John will do this when Steve Maddox is on site with the long reach machine. Neil asked for some help removing branches from another channel which has become overgrown in places. This will be done at the same time. Neil agreed that the Buttery Flats can be maintained annually, which will help drainage further up stream. Other matters arising were discussed as part of other agenda items.

5. Work on the River Tern

The board discussed the plans to clear a blockage of trees on the river Tern at Tern Farm. The site is outside the IDB however the board agreed that it could justify the work as it is creating a blockage which is backing water up into the drainage district. The chair proposed that £2000 of IDB money be spent on the works, which will be matched with £2000 from Tern Farm. Howard Phillips seconded this and the board voted unanimously with the expenditure. The wet winter weather has held up the contractor, but it is hoped a dry enough spell will allow work to take place in the next month or 2.

6. Accounts for payment

JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Oct 2015	£2922.00
ADA – subscription 2016	£643.20
W H Gittins & Sons – clerk Oct to Dec 2015	£881.81
CJ & SE Webb – maintenance 2015	£1310.40
JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Nov-Dec 2015	£1531.20

It was proposed by John Belcher that the accounts should be approved for payment. This was seconded by Howard Phillips.

7. Financial report

The clerk presented the board with up to date accounts for the current financial year from April 2015 to March 2016. Cash in hand on 24/12/2015 was £61,221.33. 71% of

rates have been paid. The board agreed that reminders could be sent out ASAP to those who have not yet paid.

8. Maintenance programme 2015– 2016: progress report

Steve Maddox is at the A442 junction working his way down the Strine to the Commission. From there he will continue on towards Bruce's ground and Long Lane. During October he completed maintenance of The Sydney, the commission from Kynnersley Road to Derbyshire Culvert & the Strine from the Derbyshire Culvert to Cherrington Moor. During November & December The Dakins, Brockton & commission from Long Mill Farm to Newport were done.

Colin Webb has completed his maintenance work on the Buttery Flats, the Wall & the Hincks. Colin suggested the Hincks would not need to be done next year. He was unable to get to about 70 yards of The Wall at Lubstree due to a fallen tree. There are also trees down at John Brown's.

Bruce has completed work on the Parsons Oak to Kynnersley & the Strine from Longwood to Kynnersley. He still has the concrete road to Longwood to do.

David Udale has worked on the Red Strine from Dukes Drive to the Derbyshire culvert, where only odd sections needed attention.

John Belcher has completed his section of the Pipe Strine & will be cutting back trees on the Buttery Flats at Dobson's when Steve Maddox gets there.

There are a number of trees down on the Newport Strine at John Brown's.

9. Set rates for 2016 – 2017

There was discussion regarding costs of maintenance and the continuing low fuel prices etc. It was proposed by Howard Phillips that rates do not need to be changed from the current level of 18 pence in £. This was seconded by Harry Gregory. Board members voted unanimously to set rates for 2016 – 2017 at their current level of 18p in £.

10. Correspondence

The chair & clerk had a meeting in October with the EA to discuss the precept & flood defence levy. The board owes around £3000 precept money which it has withheld paying until the EA could demonstrate where the money had been spent. The EA has been recalculating the precept & flood defence levy and have found that they are roughly equivalent in value therefore no future sums will be sought from the board. With regard to the money owing, the EA are happy to have this paid off through tree clearance work on the Tern. The board found this agreeable. **ACTION:** clerk to take photos before, during & after the tree clearance to demonstrate the work done to the EA. At this meeting demaining was also discussed. The board found it difficult to see any clear benefits of this at the current time.

Sevenside EA / IDB meeting – November 2015

ADA were in attendance as they are keen to set up a Severn & Wye ADA branch. The EA are happy to continue funding the venue for the meeting, so if meetings are tacked onto the end of the annual EA / IDB meeting additional cost could be kept out of its set up. The board were happy with this arrangement as long as there is no additional cost. **ACTION:** clerk to email ADA re the board's interest in the new branch.

The Clerk met up with TWC environmental Management Team to discuss the issue of Himalayan Balsam on waste ground at Ticket Lock. There has been no further correspondence regarding this. **ACTION:** John Bellis agreed to speak to them to ensure matters are progressing.

An email was received from Julie Mckinnon regarding silty flows in the Crow Brook, originating from the development sites at Hortonwood. John Bellis is aware of this and has been dealing with the developer on it. Colin Webb noted that he is seeing a lot more silt in water from Newport; presumably also from development sites.

The Clerk received an email from ADA requesting photos of poorly maintained main rivers for a meeting they are having with Liz Truss, DEFRA secretary, on Wednesday. The board was happy for the clerk to forward photos. **ACTION:** clerk to email any pictures available ASAP.

11. Report from John Bellis, Telford & Wrekin Council

John drew our attention to 3 potential developments at Muxton – 1 at Lubstree for 500 dwellings, 1 at the Humbers for 300 houses and another on land off A518 for 650 dwellings. John suggested that this might be an ideal opportunity for the board to seek funding for the maintenance of siphons and culverts that could become under pressure if SUDS scheme fail or are overwhelmed. **ACTION:** The board asked the clerk to map and photograph all structures in the area of the Wall to look at our needs long term.

12. Any other business

It was noted that the next meeting will be the AGM at which a Chair & vice chair will need to be elected. The board were asked to consider appropriate candidates for the role.

13. Date for the next meeting: 11th April 2016 at Kynnersley Village Hall.