

STRINE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes for the meeting held on 26th September 2016 at Kynnersley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: - Bruce Udale (Chair), Howard Phillips, Brian Crow, Isabel Moseley, Colin Webb, Kate Mayne (clerk), John Bellis (TWC)

1. **Apologies** – John Belcher, Harry Gregory, Rick Hockenull

2. **Declarations of interest** – none

3. **Consideration of minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th June 2016**

The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and Brian Crow proposed that they be accepted as a true and correct. This was seconded by Isabel Moseley

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Evidence of tree work on the Tern has been sent to the EA, who will now accept this as work against precept monies owing by the board. Tern Farm have not yet paid their portion of the bill.

ACTION: clerk to chase this up after potato harvest.

John Belcher has not yet managed to chop the tree down which is growing over the aqueduct syphon. He hopes to get to it this winter.

5. **Accounts for payment**

The following invoices were presented to the board to authorise payment: -

- NFU Mutual - £730.40 annual insurance
- Grant Thornton - £120 audit of annual return
- Kynnersley Parish Council - £30 use of notice board
- Kynnersley Village Hall - £28 village hall hire
- W H Gittins & Sons - £845.84 clerk duties and expenses

Colin Webb Proposed that the invoices be accepted for payment and this was seconded by Isabel Moseley.

6. **Financial report**

The Clerk presented the accounts to the board.

Current cash in hand = £68,191.76. Income to date is similar to the same period last year; expenditure differences are due to the cost of tree work on the Tern. Half of this sum will be recovered from Tern Farm. The other major difference was in VAT recovered. **ACTION:** Clerk will try to make VAT claims as the same time each year so there is less variation in the accounts.

65% of rates have been received so far. A number of rate payers have become hard to track down as they have moved. TWC have sold their land. The purchaser has been contacted by the clerk recently.

7. **Maintenance programme 2016 - 2017**

Hockenull's machine has done a section of the Commission through Rick's, the Sydney and a section of the Wall on Harry Gregory's ground, to enable drainage works to go ahead there. It was

agreed that Dave would need several days in a row to work the Commission through from Longdon on Tern, as the machine is not safe to leave unattended for long. Colin asked whether a stretch through the Buttery Flats could be done as soon as possible. It was not reached last year and is choked with reed growth. The Red Strine through Kevin O'Neill's ground is also very much in need of work this year. Colin has worked The Strine through to Jolly's and also three quarters of the Buttery Flats. The Hinks won't need any work this year as it is clear. Parts of the Red Strine can also be left.

Bruce & Isabel's machine will work the Parson's Oak to the Kynnersley Road and also the usual section at Rodway. Bruce offered to continue through to Cherrington Moor on the commission, if Hockenhull's machine gets behind.

Himalayan Balsam is becoming more prevalent in the drainage district, with reports of it appearing where it has not previously been seen. Bruce is hoping to pop and check the situation with it up at Ticket Lock.

Isabel is booking a training course for her digger driver and was wondering if it was something needed by Dave / anyone else. **ACTION:** clerk will check with Dave if he needs this.

8. Correspondence & meetings attended

The chair and clerk met Telford & Wrekin Council planners with John Bellis, to discuss the impacts of potential planning applications in the Muxton area on the Wall Brook & the drainage district. A section 106 agreement was discussed, through which we could ask for money from the developers to undertake work on the Wall to ensure urban water doesn't over flow into the rural drainage system. Since the meeting Bruce & Kate have been looking into the work required around the Aqueduct syphon. A report is being produced for the developers at present. **ACTION:** Clerk to complete the Wall report and forward it to John Bellis for dispersal to the planners. What we don't know yet is how money would be received and whether it would be claimed from one or all of the developers etc. John Bellis agreed to look into this for us.

The Clerk had a brief meeting with James Turner & Richard Bentley from the EA. Public Sector Cooperation Agreements were discussed. We will most likely be asked to set one of these up with EA in the coming months. This year's Severnside IDB meeting (and joint ADA Severn Branch) will be held on 24th November in Telford.

The Water Transfer licencing reforms were mentioned, but this does not appear to be relevant to the Strine IDB.

The 'Governance & Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England' document was received in late June. The clerk has been through the document and noted the following items: -

- Authorities should have a budget – the board discussed this and it was felt that with comparison to the previous year's accounts and knowledge of the total rates claimed (and received) we do not need any more budgeting.
- Assets register – we have an assets register but up-dating asset condition has not been formally recorded in recent years. **ACTION:** Clerk will make a proper record of asset condition this year

9. Report from John Bellis, Telford & Wrekin Council

A planning application has been received by the council proposing the use of the Hortonwood channel as attenuation for the site. The concept is being modelled for Severn Trent at present, but

it appears to have additional benefits to the Strine IDB in going beyond the developer's attenuation requirement. The IDB is keen to maintain this additional benefit and not to see other developments using it to meet their own SUDS commitments. Clerk will stay in touch with John Bellis regarding this and comment to planners as and when required.

10. **Any other business**

More pressure needs to be put on Severn Trent Water regarding the Northern Interceptor channel.

ACTION: clerk to send photo / map pdfs to John Bellis who will help us reach the right people within STW to get a conversation started with them.

11. **Date of the next meeting**

9th January 2016

Board members:

Mr J Belcher – vice chair
Mr J B Crow
Mr R Hockenhull
Mr H C Phillip

Mr F B Udale – chair
Mr C H Gregory
Mrs I Mosley
Mr C J Webb