

# Strine Internal Drainage Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Kynnersley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

## 1. Present

Bruce Udale (Chair), John Belcher (Vice Chair), Howard Phillips, Harry Gregory, Colin Webb, Richard Hockenhull, Isobel Udale, John Bellis (TWC), Kate Mayne (Clerk), Dave

## Apologies

Brian Crow

## 2. Declarations of interest

Richard Hockenhull & Colin Webb – invoices for maintenance work

## 3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (26<sup>th</sup> September 2016)

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

## 4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

No matter arising

## 5. Accounts for payment

JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Oct 2016	£1558.00
David Udale Ltd – maintenance work	£800.00
ADA – subscription 2017	£536.00
W H Gittins & Sons – clerk Oct to Dec 2016	£6.80.10
CJ & SE Webb – maintenance 2016	£2121.60
JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Nov 2016	£1990.00
Kynnersley village hall	£28.00
A F R Benson – accounts & rates generation	£475.00

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

## 6. Financial report

The clerk presented the board with up to date accounts for the current financial year from April 2016 to March 2017. Cash in hand on 30/11/2016 was £70,543.96. Expenditure included 3 year of external auditor cost from Balfours and additional contract work for tree clearance from the Tern. Half of this £5100 cost was recovered from Tern farm. 77% of rates have been paid. The board agreed that reminders should be sent out ASAP to those who have not yet paid. The option to apply for recovery through the small claims court was discussed, but will not be progressed yet.

## 7. Maintenance programme 2016– 2017: progress report

Colin has completed work on sections he manages. David Udale has also complete work on the Eyton Brook and the bottom end of the Parsons Oak.

Hockenhull's machine is at Jolley's at the moment and will be heading up towards Newport on the Newport Strine. There is some concern that Dave may be getting behind, as he is yet to go back to the Dakins and Brockton, and there may be work to do at the Hincks on Harper Adams land. It was decided that we will discuss where we are at the end of January and reconsider

what may need to be done then. Bruce's machine is working on the commission to help out. It will keep going through to Brian Crow's from Sydney.

Banks's have completed work at Alan Smith's & also on 2 sections at the Wall Farm. These bills have not yet been received.

## **8. Set rates for 2017 – 2018**

There was discussion regarding costs of maintenance. The clerk pointed out that maintenance unit charges have not changes; neither have ADA subs, audit or accounting costs. It was proposed by John Belcher that rates should remain unchanged from the current level of 18 pence in £. This was seconded by Isabel Moseley. Board members voted unanimously to set rates for 2016 – 2017 at their current level of 18p in £.

## **9. Strine Investigation – Severn Trent Water**

The clerk, chair and John Bellis attended a meeting earlier in the afternoon with Severn Trent Water and the NFU regarding the low flows study of the Strine. Concern was expressed from the IDB regarding the unconstrained list of remedial action options presented by STW, which had been put together with the EA. Many of the options did not deal with the key issue of peak and low flow water volumes from Telford & Newport. Instead there were proposals to renaturalise channels or reduce maintenance activities. The IDB explained that our activities are as a result of the rapid flows entering our system from urban runoff and that without significant attenuation of these flows we are unable to change practices due to the risk of flooding. More information from gauges in the drainage district would be very helpful to the IDB and STW. This is particularly important as STW add compensation flows into the system, but at present the only gauge is on the Tern at Wilcott. It was agreed that the IDB, NFU and TWC would write a joint letter to the EA requesting a better gauging and response system for the compensation flows at Newport Bridge. **ACTION:** clerk will draft a letter and circulate for comment before sending it on.

## **10. Glyphosate Spraying**

The clerk is progressing a trial to use Glyphosate on a stretch of the Commission at Longdon on Tern. We have discussed the idea with the EA and we have the necessary forms and guidance documents. **ACTION:** clerk will set up a meeting with Steve Rawlings to progress this and contact other land owners in this area.

## **11. Northern Interceptor channel**

The clerk has spoken to Tim Smith of STW regarding the interceptor. STW seem to know little about this asset, but Tim Smith was keen to meet up to discuss the problems we have identified to him. A partnership arrangement, where the IDB facilitates the works required, might be the best option here. **ACTION:** clerk will fix up a meeting with him ASAP.

The clerk has also been asked to attend a public enquiry for the Telford Local Plan regarding the inclusion in it of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canal restoration Project. The canal's restoration would require part of the Northern Interceptor channel to be turned back into canal. The clerk read to the board part of a response to TWC regarding this. The response explains that the IDB must see evidence of a plan and finance for this to replace the channel's drainage function if the project is to be included in the local plan.

## **12. Correspondence & meetings**

At the Severnside IDB / EA liaison meeting in November the following points were raised: -

- ADA are looking into the way annual rates calculations are made and looking at options to simplify this.
- Public Sector Co-operation Agreements were mentioned again – this could be what we need to work with STW on the Northern interceptor channel
- The IDBs met after the main meeting to discuss the development of the Severn & Wye ADA branch. A possible constitution has been since sent out. If meetings are tacked onto the end of our annual Severnside meetings there will be no additional cost to setting it up. James Hereford from the Lugg IDB has offered to take the director's role initially; attending national ADA meetings on our behalf. The Strine IDB were supportive of this, as the Lugg are a similar sized IDB to ourselves.

The clerk also attended the Shropshire middle Severn CABA meeting in November. Items discussed included the Strine Low Flows study and 'Love your River Telford' project, which continues to work on water quality improvement and attenuation.

## **13. Report from John Bellis, Telford & Wrekin Council**

No specific report provided – items covered under previous points

## **14. Any other business**

Dave asked if we could get hold of shooting schedules before next year's maintenance works are planned. He was held up on a number of occasions due to shoots. **ACTION:** John Belcher will speak to Paul Heath & other shoots will be contacted nearer the time

A willow on the Commission edge on Crudgington Moor Lane is growing very close to the bridge and could become an issue if not dealt with soon. **ACTION:** clerk will email John Bellis with details to see if it is a Highways issue to sort.

## **15. Date for the next meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Kynnersley Village Hall.