

# Strine Internal Drainage Board

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Kynnersley Village Hall at 7.30pm.

## 1. Present

Bruce Udale (Chair), John Belcher (Vice Chair), Howard Phillips, Andrew Crow, Richard Hockenhull, John Bellis (TWC), Kate Mayne (Clerk). **Apologies:** Isabel Moseley

## 2. Declarations of interest

Richard Hockenhull – invoices for maintenance work

## 3. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (11<sup>th</sup> September 2017)

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

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

Trees at Andrew Crow's have now been felled. The Clerk and vice chair will look at the watercourse here to assess for work required.

## 5. Accounts for payment

JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Nov 2017	£2730.00
W H Gittins & Sons – clerk Oct to Dec 2017	£703.80
JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Dec 2017	£4116.00
JR Hockenhull & Sons – maintenance Jan 2018	£1974
Kynnersley village hall	£28.00
A F R Benson – accounts & rates generation	£475.00
Kynnersley Parish Council – notice board	£30

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

## 6. Financial report

The clerk presented the board with up to date accounts for the current financial year. Cash in hand on 30/11/2017 was £70,000.32, with the current account down £2290 on last year. A significant proportion of this is due to rates in arrears, some of which have been paid during December and therefore are not yet accounted for here. The clerk has been in touch with a number of the late payers to discuss this. Dobsons have had a land split which will change rates charges. **ACTION:** clerk & vice chair to visit to sort new areas out.

Maintenance costs so far for this year are £11340; ahead for the time of year by around £400. With invoices due in from Colin Webb, John Belcher, David Udale & Sydney farms as well as further costs from Hockenhulls we are likely to see a high cost of maintenance this year.

The insurance premium has reduced since 2016-2017. The board discussed what we are insurance against and asked the clerk to confirm this with NFU Mutual. **ACTION:** clerk to follow this up.

## 7. Maintenance programme 2017– 2018: progress report

Rick Hockenhull's machine is finishing on the Dakin & Brockton before moving back to the commission to work from the Duke's Drive towards Long Lane. Alan Smith has been unable to get Banks's out to do the Hincks section on his land this year. The board discussed the possibility of doing this section before moving. Andrew Crow will be sorting the Tern Ditch shortly. Bruce / Isabel's machine has cleared the Strine to the Kynnersley Road and the Parson's Oak from Gregory's to the Kynnersley Road.

*ACTION:* clerk & vice chair will look at slip at Colin Webb's asap.

## **8. Set rates for 2018 – 2019**

There was discussion regarding costs of maintenance and possible future capital costs to repair slips etc. A summary sheet of rates was provided. The chair proposed a 0.5p in the pound rise in rates from 18p to 18.5p, which will provide the board with around £1300 additional receipts. This was seconded by the vice chair and the board voted unanimously favour.

## **9. Northern Interceptor channel**

STW have undertaken some work on the NI at the bottom. Unfortunately they have not tackled the main site of the issue by the treatment works, where trees and rubbish are blocking the channel.

## **10. Severnside IDB / EA liaison meeting & ADA Marches Branch meeting**

ADA believes that drainage is well placed in DEFRA's interests since some significant national issues recently & their understanding of the role of IDBs has increased.

The demaining pilots included the Lugg IDB, which is a 'small' authority, but much larger than the Strine IDB. Their comment was that paperwork was the biggest challenge with the initiative. This could pose a big problem to the Strine IDB, but ADA stressed that these are pilots only and changes will be made to improve this.

There are grants available to small authorities for IT provisions and the like. The clerk suggested that mapping could be useful to keep up to date with rate payers area etc. *ACTION:* clerk to look into this with John Bellis.

Richard Bentley EA present the precept payments for the coming year. After taking off Foreign Water payments the amount due to be paid is £0. RB is happy to attend a board meeting and explain the calculation if the board wishes. The board declined at this time.

At the ADA Marches Branch meeting it was confirmed that there would be no additional cost to membership of this group onto of existing subs. There was discussion about the cost of subs for small boards & ADA confirmed that they are looking at this. A constitution for the new branch will be forwarded shortly. ADA is developing a pre-action protocol for claiming bad debts. The clerk will be looking out for this.

## **11. Correspondence**

Confirmation of VAT refund received for £712,31.

Letter dated 5/1/18 from EA regarding Water resource abstraction licences and new authorisations. It didn't look to be applicable to the Strine IDB.

An email of note received regarding Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA). There is mention here of exemptions for IDBs under £25,000 income or expenditure. *ACTION:* clerk to look into what this might mean to the board.

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

John presented information on Farm the Flood project which he is working on to alleviate flooding in Coalbrookdale. The board discussed its relevance to the Strine district and discussed possible natural flood management options relevant to the IDB area. Due to the district being in receipt of large urban flows there were limited options which could work with farm businesses in the area. Soil organic content improvements could help with water absorption, it was suggested.

## **13. Any other business**

## **14. Date for the next meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Kynnersley Village Hall.