

STRINE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes from the meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 7.30pm at Kynnersley Village Hall

In attendance: John Belcher (vice Chair), Harry Gregory, Isabel Moseley, Andrew Crow, Chris Holman, Lucinda Lycett (TWC), Kate Mayne (clerk)

1. **Apologies:** Bruce Udale & Neil Phillips
2. **Declarations of interest:** John Belcher
3. **Consideration of minutes from the previous meeting held on 13th September 2021:** The board considered the minute and Chris Holman proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Isabel Moseley.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.

5. **Accounts for payment:**

J R Hockenhull & Son – maintenance work £4896.00
Sydney Farms Ltd – maintenance work £4106.40
PM & RE Belcher – maintenance work £1670.40
W H Gittins & Sons – clerk £810.54
Kynnersley Village Hall – hall hire £28.00

The board agreed to the payment of the accounts presented, however questioned charges made By J R Hockenhull & Son with regard to hourly rate. ACTION: the clerk will discuss this matter with the chair.

6. **Financial report:** The clerk presented accounts for the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021. The report showed cash in hand of £77,142.16. Rates recovery was behind target levels with 2 larger rates invoices remaining unpaid. ACTION: the clerk will follow up on reminders sent out recently.
7. **Maintenance update 2021 -2022:** Sydney Farms has 2 – 3 weeks of work remaining including a section through the Buttery flats. Andrew Crow will clean out the Tern Ditch as soon as conditions allow. We are also waiting for Harper Adams to cut banksides on the Birchmoors so that John Belcher can assess the need for channel clearance.
Chris Holman reported that the slip on the Strine near the Buttery is getting worse and will need attention ASAP. The board discussed options to shore up a short section. ACTION: Clerk will research the cost and installation of wire baskets.
Isabel Moseley pointed out that their digger driver will not be available to drive for the board next season, however the machine will be. ACTION: board members to look out for a suitably qualified alternative driver.

8. **Set rates for 2022 – 2023:** The board discussed the current rates levied and costs associated with undertaking maintenance work. Contractors are experiencing increased costs for fuel and staffing machines plus our watercourses remain under increasing pressure from foreign, urban generated water. It was therefore proposed by Isabel Moseley that the rates levied be increased to 19 pence in the £ for 2022. This was seconded by Harry Gregory and the board were in agreement.
9. **EA Precept & Foreign Water Contribution (FWC):** The EA have proposed a 2% increase to the precept and FWC taking both sums to £1126 and therefore a net sum to the Strine IDB of £0. Chris Holman proposed that we formally accept the increase and this was seconded by Isabel Moseley. As in previous years the board was concerned about how the FWC is calculated, with questions over whether the impact of housing development above the drainage district is being properly accounted for.
10. **Correspondence and meetings:** The clerk reported on the Severnside IDB / Marches ADA branch meeting and also on a meeting with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
11. **Report from Lucinda Lycett, Telford & Wrekin Council:** Lucinda reported on an application made by TWC with other councils to the Innovation and Flood resilience Fund, which was unfortunately unsuccessful. The scheme had planned to investigate green finance for flood resilience schemes, the idea of which was welcomed by the board. The Clerk is looking at other opportunities to develop models for funding water quality and flood management on farmland in the drainage district.
Lucinda reported that there have been no new sites entering planning since she last attended a board meeting. The Local Plan is still being produced but will identify strategic sites for future development. At this point feedback from the Strine IDB will be sought.
12. **Any other business:** Regarding red diesel the clerk reported on clarification received from HM Treasury via ADA. The letter states... *“this means that both IDBs using their direct workforce and contractors will be able to use red diesel in their vehicles/machinery to complete water level and flood risk management work on land used for agriculture (working under the expectation that such activity on this land will at least in part be for the benefit of agricultural activity”*. We are taking this as confirmation that red diesel can continue to be used by our contractors when undertaking maintenance in the Strine drainage district.
13. **Date of next meeting:** 11th April 2022.