

Strine Internal Drainage Board

Meeting on 6th January 2025 held at the Old Cart Shed, Sydney House Farm, Kynnersley

Attendees: Bruce Udale (chair), Chris Holman, Neil Phillips, John Belcher (vice-chair), Andrew Crow, Harry Gregory, Lucinda Lycett (TWC), Harvey Moseley, Tom Stocking, James Heath

1. **Apologies** – Isabel Moseley
2. **Declarations of interest** – Chris Holman for Webb maintenance invoice
3. **Consideration of minutes from the previous meeting held on 9th September 2024** – Harry Gregory proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the previous meeting. This was seconded by Lou Lycett.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes** – rates reminders were sent out before Christmas. The clerk presented a summary of sums in both the current and savings account for the last 2 and a half years to date. Current account balance reached its lowest point by March each year after annual maintenance work is completed. The chairman proposed that the clerk is instructed to manage sums in the current account and savings account to make best use of interest. The board agreed with this approach.
5. **Accounts for payment** –
 - ADA: annual subscription - £678.00 +vat
 - Alan Smith: Bank's invoice reimbursement for work on the Hincks - £1202.50 + vat
 - CJ & SE Webb: maintenance work on the Wall & the Hincks through the wood - £1925.00 +vat
 - Faulkner & Mayne Sustainable Ag: clerk duties - £876.50

Andrew Crow proposed that the accounts are settled. This was seconded by John Belcher.

6. **Financial Report** – the clerk presented cash flow accounts for the year to 3rd January 2025. There has been an increase in insurance cost but other costs remain in line with previous years. 85% of rates have been recovered so far. The Board discussed a number of bad debtors. *ACTION* – the clerk will send a final reminders as appropriate and caution that small claims court costs will be recovered from the debtor too, if accounts are not settled.
7. **Maintenance up-date 2024 – 2025** – Colin has completed work on the Wall around the Buttery and the Hincks. The big slip is more stabilised but still needs work to protect the track and bank. The Sydney machine has been working at Williams's and Jolley's and is now back at Sydney on the Parsons Oak. The Strine has a lot of reeds blocking it through Winnal's. Neil has stabilised the slip on the Strine.

Bruce will contact Richard Hockenhull about work he will get done this year.

Issues on the Commission were discussed, as this seems to react very quickly to rainfall at the moment.

John has made a start on his areas of responsibility.

Neil pointed out that the Wall beyond the Syphon is in a poor state, through Lubstree. Ward's usually clear this section but haven't done for several years.

8. **Set rates for 2025 – 2026** – The board were presented with a summary of rates levied over the last 12 years. Last year a charge of 19p in £ was levied against our rate payers. The board felt that the need for work was only increasing and that more landowners were getting in touch asking for additional work to our usual maintenance. John Belcher proposed that the rate levied be raised by 1p to 20p in £. This was seconded by Andrew Crow and the board unanimously supported it.
9. **Consideration of EA Precept & Foreign Water Contribution rises** – The board discussed the charges proposed by the EA and whilst the precept tracked the Foreign Water Contribution it was felt that it was acceptable. Chris Holman proposed that the rises be accepted and this was seconded by Neil Phillips.
10. **Correspondence and meetings attended** – The clerk and chairman met Lou Lycett & Gavin Ashford from TWC to discuss the board's input re the proposed urban extensions on the north side of Telford.

Members of the board attended a meeting at Harper Adams re the Advanced Wireless Telemetry project running on the Strine. The project is collecting some useful data on flows through the catchment which will help steer understanding of the capacity of our assets, solutions for flashy urban flows and future development & opportunities to remove peak flows for irrigation etc.

The clerk was interviewed by a researcher on behalf of DEFRA about the role of IDBs in peatland management in the future. The researchers would be interested in speaking to other board members too.

11. **Report from Lou Lycett, Telford & Wrekin Council** – There have been various rural flooding issues in TWC area including in Ellerdine.
TWC are keen for our feedback on future development and the board's input on downstream drainage impacts. **ACTION** – Clerk will pull together a letter outlining current drainage challenges and potential issues which will arise as a result of further development.
Initial modelling on the Northern Interceptor has been done but as yet TWC have not had sight of the results. The next round of modelling will refine it and finally interventions will be included to see what is needed for this asset to cope with climate change scenarios on top of new development pressures. Interventions could include upstream storage structures, options to the slow the flow in the channel and other upstream measures to reduce peak flow.
TWC is currently taking legal advice on the NIC and Severn Trent's responsibility to maintain / restore the asset to its design function.
Neil Phillips expressed concern about an attenuation pool at Hortonwood East which over flows onto the road by Hadley Park.

12. **Any other business** – Bruce Udale asked that Harry & Andrew keep an eye on the Commission by the Wall. The Commission is struggling with flooding too often now and to work out why the channels needs to be seen when it's in flood. Bruce also asked if Chris and Harry to monitor the syphon at Aquaduct plantation as this may be another source of the issue.
13. **Date for the next meeting** – 7th April 2025 7.30pm at Kynnersley Village Hall.