

STRINE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

AGM & ORDINARY MEETING – 8th April 2024

In Attendance: Bruce Udale (Chairman), John Belcher (Vice Chairman), Harry Gregory, Andrew Crow, Isabel Moseley, Chris Holman, Kate Mayne (clerk)

Election of board members: - Election is due in 2025. Both the Chairman and vice chairman agreed to remain in position for current year and this was unanimously supported by the board.

1. **Apologies:** - Neil Phillips
2. **Public Participation:** - none
3. **Declarations of interest:** - Isabel Moseley & Bruce Udale for Sydney Farms
4. **Consideration of minutes from the previous meeting 8th January 2024:** - The board considered the minutes and Isabel Moseley proposed that they be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting. This was seconded by John Belcher.
5. **Matters arising:** - The clerk has sent correspondence to local parish councils, TWC and the planning consortium involved in the ‘Sustainable Urban Extension’ to request a full strategic review of drainage infrastructure in the area.
6. **Accounts for payment:** -
 - Sydney Farms – Channel maintenance: £4662.60
 - David Udale - Channel Maintenance: £1200.00
 - Integrity – Preparation of accounts: £667.92
 - Kate Mayne – Clerk duties: £825.60

Andrew Crow proposed that the accounts be settled and this was seconded by Harry Gregory.

7. **Financial report:** - The clerk presented cash flow accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024. Maintenance costs did not fully include all work completed during the season, however the board still expected costs to be behind typical due to the adverse weather conditions limiting access.
Rates recovery was below what the board would expect, and the clerk attributed this to several bad debtors and a number of occasions where landowners are proving difficult to track down. *ACTION – clerk will follow a few leads for addressing this issue.*
8. **Maintenance report 2023-24 & management of slips:** - Bruce Udale reported that work had been completed on most channels, except for on the Hincks & the Dakins. The Buttery completed their usual maintenance work early in the season, avoiding the worst of the

Board members: -

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Mr H Gregory

Mr C Holman

Clerk: Kate Mayne- katyjmayne@gmail.com

Mr J Belcher (vice chairman)

Mr R Hockenhull

Mr A Crow

Mr N Phillips

Mrs I Moseley

Ms L Lycett

weather. Richard Hockenhull has struggled to get much done at the western end of the board area.

All board members reported a significant increase in the number of slips on channels, which appear to have been exasperated by the fluctuating water levels for the last 6 months. The clerk is mapping the slips and the board will discuss managing these issues further at the next meeting.

Continued flooding has been experienced around Rodway over the winter and into the spring. It was pointed out that much of the problem was as a result of the River Strine breaching its banks and spilling into the Commission drain. Bruce was concerned there may be blockages on the Commission which are adding to the issue. *ACTION – the clerk & chairman are walking the commission to identify any issues.*

The Clerk was contacted by a rate payer regarding flooding from the Dakins and the Hincks. The board agreed to look at what work will need prioritising next winter.

- 9. Maintenance plan 2024 – 2025:** - Priority areas for work next season will be identified and reported on for the next meeting. The list will include Dakins, Brockton and the Commission. The board discussed the potential need for further contractor support next autumn / winter to get on top of the work load.
- 10. Health & Safety:** - No incidents or near misses were reported on.
- 11. Policy review – Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP):** - The board reviewed the BAP and the clerk identified amendments required for contact details. The clerk also included information on biodiversity projects being delivered in the drainage district, including the STW low flows mitigation work. The board agreed to amendments to the BAP. *ACTION – Clerk to update the BAP on the IDB web pages.*
- 12. Correspondence and meetings:** -

The clerk reported that we have received numerous requests for information for peatland projects over the last few months. Information requested with regard to reports on low flows, assets, pumps and structures within the IDB which control water levels. The clerk has reported on the existence of the low flows study by STW and requested access to a copy if this is obtained by the organisations undertaking the studies.

The clerk reported on the Advanced wireless monitoring project which is being set up in the catchment area. The project will use water levels data to understand how water resources could be used more efficiently in the area. Levels monitoring equipment will be installed in 8 locations across the drainage district and will be collecting data for the next 3 years.

The clerk also reported on the ‘patchy peat solutions project’ with Harper Adams Uni, which 3 rate payers are involved in. This is looking at natural capital assessment and valuing the outputs from carbon, biodiversity and water storage from peat soils.

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The clerk received an email from a rate payer concerned about a track used by a machine undertaking work for the IDB. The Chairman has been out to meet the rate payer and resolved the issue.

- 13. Report from Telford & Wrekin Council:** – Lucinda Lycett was not able to attend. *ACTION - The clerk will follow up with TWC for a report on the Northern interceptor & development issues.*
- 14. Any other business:** - The chairman suggested that we ask a member of the Harper Adams team to join the committee as an appointed member. It was felt that they would have a useful input from the perspective of research in drainage and peatland management into the future. They are also significant landowners within the board area. *ACTION- the clerk will speak to HAU.*

The clerk has been seeking a better way to keep maps up to date for the IDB and has been using the Landapp to update records. The clerk asked if the board would be willing to pay for an upgrade to a paid prescription for the mapping service, which will allow easier access to maps, data sharing with the board etc. The chairman proposed that the IDB pay £100 towards the cost of a prescription. This was seconded by John Belcher and agreed by the board.

- 15. Date of next meeting:** - 10th June 2024

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