

**Minutes of the Engineering Committee
Of the Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board
Meeting held Wednesday 10 May 2018 at 10.30 am
At The Gables Hotel Falfield**

Present:

Mr Barnes

Chairman

Mr W J Cornock

Mr R Godwin

Mr Hyslop

Cllr J Jones

Mr G R Littleton

Mr I Ractliffe

Mr G Simms

Mr R Thatcher

Staff:

Martin Dear

James Druett

James Thomas

Sue Williams

Accounts Officer

Land Drainage Engineer

Civil Engineer

Minutes

AO

LDE

CE

2659.	Apologies Apologies were received from Mr T Cullimore, Miss R Hewlett and Mr P Goodey.	
2660.	Declarations of Interest Mr Barnes declared an interest as a landowner adjacent to the Longdon Brook and Mr Godwin declared an interest due to farming land next to the Wicksters Brook.	
2661.	Minutes of Previous Engineering Committee Meeting It was resolved that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the Engineering Committee meeting held 22nd November 2017 were approved as an accurate record of that meeting. 	
2662.	Matters arising from the Minutes <u>Minute 2596 Machinery Replacement Programme</u> The LDE updated members with progress of drafting an alternative replacement programme based on machine hours. Early indications showed very little difference compared to the fixed term replacement programme for most of the Board's plant. There was, however, a difference with regard to the Energreen machines, because they were not used all year round. He would produce a full report for the November Engineering Committee meeting.	<u>Action 1</u> LDE to circulate machinery replacement programme based on engine hours Nov 2018
2663.	De-Mainment At the last meeting, Minute 2595 recorded the Engineers were to prepare a report to grade the main rivers in the LSIDB area. The Engineers had since understood that only main rivers which were entirely within the Board's boundary could be demained without altering the Board's boundary to encompass the whole length of a river e.g. River Frome and Little Avon. The rivers that met with this criterion were the Leadon, Longdon Brook, Tirley Main Drain and Wicksters/Capehall Brook. The Engineers had prepared a table with details of length, area of benefit, number of properties that benefitted, pioneering cost and annual cost of maintenance for the Longdon Brook, Tirley Main Drain and Wicksters/Capehall Brook. The River Leadon had not been included as the Board had reviewed demainment of this river in 2015 (Minute 2266). The CE asked members if they wanted, in principle, to pursue the demainment of rivers in the LSIDB area. Mr Simms said it was important for the Board to establish a principle about	

	<p>budget and funding before deciding which rivers to demain.</p> <p>The CE explained that the costs reported could be mitigated by a rationalisation of the smaller tributaries the Board currently maintained. He thought from a drainage perspective that the main rivers were more important to maintain and benefitted a wider area and would provide better value for money to the Board's ratepayers.</p> <p>Mr Godwin considered that the decision whether or not to maintain a watercourse should be based on area and not be prejudiced because it only benefitted one landowner.</p> <p>Mr Littleton said that the EA should contribute in some way. The CE replied it was unlikely that any funding would be coming from the EA but he had pressed them to re-assess the precept paid to the EA.</p> <p>Mr Hyslop commented that he felt it was unfair that the River Leadon had been excluded from the report, as the Engineers had stated it qualified by being entirely within the Board's area.</p> <p>The CE explained that the River Leadon had been looked at in isolation when a number of complaints from ratepayers in that catchment were received in 2015. He also explained that the area of benefit in that catchment was not as great as the other three rivers included in the report.</p> <p>Mr Simms commented that members were discussing the individual merits of particular rivers, a developed strategy should be formed on how to manage it within that strategy</p> <p>It was recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee accepted the principal of demainment. • Engineers to formulate a strategy which uses a methodology to determine which rivers justified demainment. <p>There was 1 abstention.</p>	<p><u>Action 2</u> Add to June Full Board agenda.</p>
<p>2664.</p>	<p>Survey of Culvert at Oldbury Naite</p> <p>A CCTV survey, commissioned by South Gloucestershire Council, had been completed on an eight metre long concrete culvert that passed through the raised embankment into the Upland Carrier. The footage of the survey was played to members and showed the culvert was in a very poor condition. The CE said it was his opinion that it was very likely that some of the other 45 culverts, which were installed between the pumping station and the outfall at Oldbury Pill, could also be in a similar condition.</p> <p>The CE reminded the Committee that the Board's policy, Minute 2415 of the meeting held 9 November 2016:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"The Board accepts no liability for the provision or subsequent maintenance of structures on riparian owned watercourses unless expressly agreed by the Board in the absence of any statutory Award or Order.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Entirely without prejudice to the above, the Board reserves the right to exercise its discretionary powers under the Land Drainage 1991 in situations where it sees fit. However, the Board will not normally expend resources on riparian owned structures."</p> <p>Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council were seeking legal advice to challenge the Board's policy. The Parish Council took the view that structures installed by the Board for the scheme should be the ongoing responsibility of the Board and not liability of the riparian owner.</p>	

	The CE explained that if the Parish Council decided to escalate the matter the Board would seek advice from the legal team at the EA.	
2665.	Longaston Lane Slimbridge The LDE reported that works had been completed on the watercourse at Longaston Lane, Slimbridge. A contribution from Gloucestershire County Council had been received to partly fund the costs involved. It was hoped that the incidence of flooding of the highway would be greatly reduced.	
	Saul Pump Replacement Update The LDE reported that tenders had been sent out to three contractors with a closing date for quotes to be received by the 21 st May 2018; construction was due to start in July.	
	The meeting closed at 11.30 am	