

**Minutes of the  
Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board  
Meeting held Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 2.00 pm  
At the Gables Hotel Falfield**

Present:

Mr G Littleton  
Cllr M Riddle  
Cllr Abraham  
Cllr P Awford  
Mr M Barnes  
Cllr B Behan  
Mrs F Collins  
Mr W J Cornock  
Cllr P Burford  
Mr R Godwin  
Miss R Hewlett

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman

Mr J Hore  
Mr R Hyslop  
Cllr S Morgan  
Mr J Nichols  
Mr I Ractliffe  
Ald B Richards  
Mr G Simms  
Mr R Thatcher  
Cllr S Walker  
Ald C Williams  
Mr K Withers

Martin Dear           Accounts Officer  
James Thomas       Civil Engineer  
Kieran Warren       Principal Officer  
Sue Williams         Minutes

AO  
CE  
PO

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| <b>2734.</b> | <p><b>Apologies:</b><br/>Apologies were received from:<br/>Mr T Cullimore, Mr J Druett (Land Drainage Engineer), Mr P Goodey,<br/>Mr J Hore, Cllr J Jones, Cllr E Orpen and Mr R Thatcher</p>   |  |
| <b>2735.</b> | <p><b>Chairman's Announcement</b><br/><u>Election 2018</u><br/>The Chairman announced that a 'Notice of Election' had been published on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018.</p> <p><u>ADA Conference 2018</u><br/>Members were invited to attend the annual Association of Drainage Authorities Conference on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Any one wishing to attend to notify the PO as soon as possible.</p>  |  |
| <b>2736.</b> | <p><b>Declarations of Interest</b><br/>There were no declarations of interest.</p>  |  |
| <b>2737.</b> | <p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p><b>It was resolved that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 be approved as a correct record.</b></li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>2738.</b> | <p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes</b><br/>The PO had not received the outcome from Bristol County Court regarding the default works costs recovery appeal (Minute 2690 refers).</p>  |  |
| <b>2739.</b> | <p><b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee Report</b><br/>Ald Williams reported on the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018.</p> <p><u>Capital Financing and Reserves Policy</u><br/>The Committee had considered and recommended for Board approval the document circulated with the minutes of the F&amp;GP Committee meeting.</p> <p><b>It was resolved that</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Capital Financing and Reserves Policy be approved</b></li> </ul> |  |

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|       | <p><u>Risk Management Strategy &amp; Policy</u><br/>The F&amp;GP Committee had considered and recommended this policy for Board approval.</p> <p><b>It was resolved that</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Risk Management Strategy and Policy be approved</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Risk Register</u><br/>The F&amp;GP Committee had approved the Risk Register. The Committee would review the Risk Register again in December following the addition of items the Committee suggested for inclusion.</p> <p><u>Internal Audit</u><br/>The F&amp;GP Committee had re-appointed Bishop Fleming to carry out the 2018/19 internal audit.</p>  |   |
| 2740. | <p><b>Saul Pumping Station</b><br/>The CE reported that an issue had been encountered with the 'as built' drawings of the pump station installed 20 years previously. These drawings did not correspond with the station built at Saul in several points of detail. The CE did not anticipate that this would cause a major setback or have a cost implication.</p>  |   |
| 2741. | <p><b>WLMP Slimbridge</b><br/>Members had received a copy of the updated plan and the CE welcomed comments from members prior to the adoption of the plan. Miss Hewlett asked for a meeting be arranged to understand more fully the implications for the area prior to the Board approving the plan. The CE would arrange this meeting, which Mr Barnes agreed to chair.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman considered the plan to be a thorough and detailed document. He thought a summary would be helpful at the front of the document.</p>   | <p><u>Action 1</u><br/>CE to arrange meeting before November.</p> <p><u>Action 2</u><br/>CE to include an executive summary to the WLMP</p> |
| 2742. | <p><b>Collapsed Culvert at Oldbury-on-Severn</b><br/>The CE reported that work to replace a section of collapsed culvert that ran through the flood embankment was due to begin. This work would be paid for by South Gloucestershire Council.</p>   |   |
| 2743. | <p><b>Hill Pill</b><br/>The Engineers had costed a modelling exercise to help provide a sustainable solution to the perennial problem of silt build up in Hill Pill. The CE explained that the model could be used in future to assess the impact of a potential new power station and the re-build of the Oldbury Pumping Station. The study was costed at £25,000.</p> <p>Mr Simms asked if the developer of a power station would bear these costs as part of the application to build. The CE explained that a functioning drainage model would contribute to assessing the impact of the power station build when the time came. The costs would be recovered from the developer for modelling the flood risk impact of the new power station.</p> <p>Cllr Burford asked how was the Pill currently managed. The CE explained that the Environment Agency had paid for a long reach excavator to clear the silt away from the outfall flap; this had proved to be a short term and expensive solution. The CE was concerned that owing to the low number of properties protected by the outfall the EA, who exercised their permissive powers, could withdraw from the maintenance, despite the flap protecting approximately 2,000 acres of agricultural land. The CE had contacted the EA for a contribution to the</p> |   |

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|                     | <p>study and they had responded that there could be a reduction to the Precept but he anticipated this would not be a significant amount.</p> <p>Cllr Burford expressed his concern that the Board currently did not incur any cost to maintain the Pill but it was proposed was to spend £25k on a study plus the expenditure involved with implementing the solution.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle proposed that the study be commissioned in the sum of £25k.</p> <p>Mr Simms said that there seemed to be a lack of clarity about the benefits arising from this study and subsequent works. He asked if there was time to compile a definitive list of benefits so that members could make a better judgement about the value of that investment.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle was happy to withdraw his proposal to allow for this report.</p> <p>Ald Williams commented that whilst, in the context of the Board finances £25k was relatively immaterial, members had far more fundamental issues and a full cost benefit analysis he felt was required.</p> <p>Cllr Burford asked for the Engineers to report a range of potential solutions that were costed. He agreed that £25k for a study was relatively small but if the study recommended works in excess of £500k for example they would not be carried out and the £25k thus wasted.</p> <p>Cllr Walker requested, that for members not familiar with the area, a power point presentation would be helpful to understand the role of the Environment Agency. Miss Hewlett agreed that some maps would help Members understand the issues.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) the commissioning of a modelling exercise be deferred; and</b></li> <li><b>2) the CE be requested to report back upon the drainage issues arising from Hill Pill in its present condition, the nature of the maintenance works currently undertaken by the EA, the long term benefits arising from improvements to the Pill (including a map showing the full extent of the property likely to benefit from the improvements) and ‘ball park’ costings for drainage solutions which might be applied, together with an indication of the source of possible financial contributions from other organisations.</b></li> </ol> |  |
| <p><b>2744.</b></p> | <p><b>Pond Maintenance – Severnside</b></p> <p>Mr Barnes was concerned to note, that a pond, which the developer had opted to not pay a commuted sum for maintenance by the LSIDB, had not carried out maintenance to an acceptable standard. The CE replied that the Board had the option to serve notice on them and undertook to report back on the way in which such ponds are managed.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>2745.</b></p> | <p><b>Grievance Hearing Procedure</b></p> <p>Martin Dear, James Thomas and Sue Williams left the meeting.</p> <p>Referring to Minute 2627, the Employee Handbook and advice he had sought and received from Citation Ltd, the PO recommended the adoption of a formal procedure to deal with a current and all future grievance cases. His proposal was generally supported, although Cllr Burford expressed concern that this approach could overturn a previous Board decision. Whilst Members were satisfied that authority to determine the case should be delegated to the PO, they felt that it</p>  |  |

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|       | <p>would be appropriate to appoint two Members to assist him at each stage of the process. The meeting noted the PO's comment that the hearing would be adjourned at either stage should the Panel feel it necessary to seek further advice.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the proposals for hearing the grievance case be approved;</li> <li>2) Cllr Abraham and Mr Simms be nominated to hear the case in liaison with the PO;</li> <li>3) Cllr Behan and Mr Withers be nominated to hear the appeal (if any) in liaison with the PO;</li> <li>4) the PO, in consultation with the Members nominated by the Board, be authorised to determine the case;</li> <li>5) the outcome of the case be reported for information to the Staff and Pensions Committee in due course; and</li> <li>6) all arrangements for the hearing and reporting of future grievance cases be delegated to the PO in consultation with the Chairman.</li> </ol> |  |
| 2746. | <p><b>Annual Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b><br/>Members noted the date of the above meeting.</p>  |  |
|       | <p>The meeting closed at 4.00 pm</p>  |  |