

# 1. Governance

## 1.1 Apologies

## 1.2 Declaration of Interest

## 1.3 Public Forum

## 1.4 Minutes of Meeting 19 November 2024

### Present

MEMBER	15.11.22	1.2.23	30.5.23	15.11.23	31.1.24	28.5.24	19.11.24
Frances Beatty FB	√	√	A	A	√	A	A
Graham Bower GB	√	√	x	x	√	√	A
Neil Brown NB	√	A	√	√	A	√	√
Paul Edwards PE	A	√	√	A	√	A	√
Victor Kelly VK				A	√	√	√
Angela Loughran AL	√	√	A	√	√	√	A
Brendon McKeown BMK				√	√	√	A
Anthony Parrott AP	√	A	A	A	√	A	√
Jeff Sim JS	√	A	√	A	√	A	√
Scott Spencer SS				A	-	A	-
Ray Sutherland - Chair	√	√	A	√	√	√	√
Tim Williams TW	A	x	x	x	√	x	A
Mark Winnington MW – Vice Chair	√	√	√	A	√	√	A
Ralph Cooke RC	√	√	√	Replaced			
Len Bates LB	√	√	A	Replaced			
<b>Other Attendees</b>							
Phil Bates (Stafford BC Officer) PB	A	√	A	A	√	√	√
Member of the Public							
<b>Attended</b> √	<b>Apologies</b> A		<b>No Apologies</b> x				

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting, Clerk, Engineer and Environmental Adviser:

Craig Benson  
Paul Jones  
David Blake

Clerk  
Engineer  
Senior Finance Officer

### Chairman's Announcement

**2024.58** The Chairman informed members of the sad news that Andrew Harp, former vice-chairman on the Board, had died recently. Members and Officers expressed their condolences to his family and gave a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

### Apologies for Absence

**2024.59** Apologies were received from Brendon McKeown, Angela Loughran, Graham Bower, Tim Williams. Frances Beatty and Mark Winnington sent in their apologies after the meeting had commenced.

### Declaration of Interest

**2024.60** There were no specific declarations.

### Public Forum

**2024.61** No members of the public were present.

### Minutes of the Last Meeting

**2024.62** Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 May 2024 were considered, proposed as a true record by VMK, seconded NB and approved by the Board.

### Matters Arising

**2024.63** There were none.

### Complaints and Freedom of Information Requests

**2024.64** There were none.

### CLERK'S REPORT

**2024.65** Association of Drainage Authorities – the conference took place last week and the main headline was the announcement by the Minister that the IDB Storm Recovery & Asset Improvement Fund was to be extended to March 2026. The Board's expression of interest that was submitted as part of the Tranche 2 submissions was unfortunately not successful. However, there will be an opportunity to resubmit the application in the near year to try and obtain funding for the financial year ending 31 March 2026.

**2024.66** Drainage Rate System – the Clerk advised members that the current rating system in its current format would be no longer available from April 2025. A new system was available, but the Board's data required updating to allow it to be transferred to this version. The cost to update was £730 for the Board's data. VK proposed that this be accepted, it was seconded by AP and approved by the Board.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

**2024.67** Rating Report – FO informed members that the second special payments had been received and that the current outstanding balance was £1,349.97.

**2024.68** Schedule of Payments – Members reviewed the schedule of payments made since the last meeting that totalled £80,624.53 of which £1,697.61 were approved by the Clerk and FO. **Approval proposed by PE, seconded VK and approved by all Members.**

**2024.69** Internal Audit – The internal audit review meeting will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The Chairman confirmed he will be attending on behalf of the Board.

**2024.70** External Audit – The external audit has been completed. The completed AGAR can be viewed on the Board's website.

**2024.71** Budget Comparison – the FO provided an overview of the Budget Comparison and noted the positive variances. The Board were in a good financial position which was approved by Members.

**2024.72** Five Year Budget Estimate – The FO reviewed the document confirmed that the forecast was in line with the Board's reserve policy target.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- 2024.73** Hydraulic Modelling – The Board's Engineer has been asked to attend the Trent RFCC meeting in January to support the EA, who will be providing an initial presentation of their modelling outputs, which includes the IDB's model outputs. The MSc student has completed their research using sections of the IDB model to test the impacts of culverts across the nation with a focus on climate change. The research indicated that due to low flows in the summer months that culverts will be impassable to fish. It will become more critical to manage and potentially store water in future in terms of species but also in relation to irrigation and drainage.
- 2024.74** IDB Fund – Asset Improvement – members noted the areas that were put forward for the bid and it was hoped the Board would be successful in the reapplication next year. The Board were asked to consider carry out some of the works now, specifically on the Slindon Area riparian watercourses. The cost of the bid was £26k and the total required to complete the works to alleviate the issues was circa £50-£80k. Following discussion, VK proposed that the Board wait until a decision is made as to the success or otherwise of the funding bid. This was seconded by JS and approved by Members. Clerk informed Members that there was also a possibility of submitting new bids to the fund. The Board may wish to consider the installation of telemetry monitoring stations across the district to enable the Board/Engineer/Contractor to monitor and ultimately manage the water levels across the district. Members could perceive the benefits to the whole catchment and welcomed this direction of travel.
- 2024.75** District Tour – The Engineer suggested that the Tour would take place on Wednesday 19 March 2025. It would start from Derrington Village Hall and return there for a buffet lunch.
- 2024.76** Ordinary Watercourse Maintenance – Engineer updated members with the progress to date of 90% complete. He added that there would be some works undertaken on the Tillington Marsh watercourses in winter 2025 and that the funding would come from the Doxey & Tillington Marshes Account.
- 2024.77** Planning Applications – 6 applications received comment between June and October 2024.
- 2024.78** Land Drainage Act 1991 Section 23 and 66 (Byelaw) Consents – 1 consent had been issued between June and October 2024.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT**

- 2024.79** There had been no incidents, accidents or near misses reported since the last meeting.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

- 2024.80** Environmental Advisor – Members were informed that Rebekah Beaumont had replaced Alison Briggs as the Board's Environmental Officer.
- 2024.81** Biodiversity Action Plan – JS updated on the progress to date and asked to spend this year's BAP budget (£3k) on existing watercourses habitat where Flowering Rush once flourished. This was a fauna that required protecting. The budget will be spent on clearing bullrushes from smaller watercourses to encourage the growth of the Flowering Rush. Members agreed to the request.
- 2024.82** Stafford Brooks Project – The 15-year Project was in its first of year of funding. It is looking at creating water storage areas such as scrapes and small ponds. Also creating wildflower areas across the district to encourage insects and other pollinators. They are planting 850 deciduous native trees on Rising Brook. The focus next year will be on Doxey Marshes to allow water to get on to the land from the river earlier and to hold it on the Marshes for longer periods.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 2024.83** VK asked the Board if the EA/IDB had looked at accessing 106 money for some of the projects mentioned in the meeting. It was suggested that the County Council are approached to see if the Board could tap into this funding to help support its future aspirations.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- 2024.84** 29 January 2025, Derrington Village Hall  
19 March 2025, Derrington Village Hall - District Tour

Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.