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Ray Sutcliffe
27/11/21



1. Governance

1.1 Apologies

1.2 Declaration of Interest

1.3 Complaints and FOI

1.4 Minutes of Meeting 2 June 2021

Present	Ray Sutherland	RS
	Len Bates	LB
	Andrew Harp	AH
	Angela Loughran	AL
	Mark Winnington	ML
	Ryan Taylor	RT
	Phil Bates	PB

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

Craig Benson	Clerk
Paul Jones	Engineer
David Blake	Finance Officer
Janette Parker	Rating Officer

In attendance on behalf of Environment Agency:

Ian Cook	IC
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RS opened the meeting and brief introductions took place to welcome members and guests to the Board.

Environment Agency

2021.23 IC gave a presentation to members with an update on the Sow & Penk Model. He confirmed that all data had now been collected and incorporated and that the IDB model had also been included. He advised that the release of the model was slightly behind schedule due to the sheer size of the undertaking but that it was currently going through calibration and resolution of stability issues and hopefully they would be in a position to provide some outputs for the meeting with the Board's Engineer planned for the following week. He concluded that the model should be complete by the end of June ready to be shared with partners during July. LB thanked him for the update and queried how far down the Penk the model extended. IC confirmed that surveying was completed to Mount Brook, just south of the M54. RS thanked IC for the presentation and he then left the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

2021.24 Apologies received from J. Sim.

Declaration of Interest

2021.25 None.

Complaints and Freedom of Information Requests

2021.26 None.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

- 2021.27 Minutes of the last meeting held were considered, **proposed as a true record by AH, and seconded LB.**

Matters Arising

- 2021.28 Clerk advised that further to the request at the last meeting from AP and LB regarding the Acton Trussell area he had contacted David Williams at South Staffordshire County Council. He advised that after the meeting he would forward members a link to the Council's reporting website where any issues noted could be reported immediately. LB added that it was not just about the reporting of issues but the action taken and that he would be appreciative of any pressure that could be put on the Council to achieve this. MW confirmed that, as David Williams was the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport he was the best person to contact with regard this.

CLERK'S REPORT

- 2021.29 Policy – Clerk advised that DEFRA had issued amended Standing Orders which now allowed IDB's to hold virtual meetings at any time. However, DEFRA had noted an error relating to the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair which had now been rectified and the Clerk advised he had just received this revised version which he shared with members on screen. He confirmed that this would be sent to all members following the meeting. **Approval of revised version proposed by AH, seconded by LB, All in favour.**

- 2021.30 Legislation – Clerk advised members of the issue surrounding the use of red diesel and the Governments requirement for this to cease on 1st April 2022 to reduce the Country's carbon footprint. He added that IDBs would not have an exemption unlike the agricultural sector and that letters had been sent on behalf of the Board to ADA and Ministers to reconsider as this would have implications on the Board's contractor as he might require separate machinery to undertake IDB work which would result in increased maintenance costs to the Board. RS queried the time limit on the exemption. Clerk would confirm and added that part of the Board's activities related to what was classed as the agricultural sector hence the reason for the further lobbying.

- 2021.31 Co-Opting of Board Member – Members discussed the co-opting of elected Board members until Elections in October 2022. Mr T. Williams was proposed by LB and seconded by AH with all Members agreement. Further co-opted elected members would be considered at the November board meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 2021.32 Rating Report – FO advised current balance of £801.13 made up of 15 accounts of which three were large debtors at £644. He confirmed drainage rates had been issued for 2021/2022 and that 57% of agricultural rates had been collected with the Special Levy paid by South Staffordshire Council and the first instalment due from Stafford Borough Council next week.
- 2021.33 Schedule of Payments – **Approval proposed by AH, seconded AL.**
- 2021.34 Audit – Information noted.
- 2021.35 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 1 – FO took members through the report. **Approval proposed by AH and seconded by LB.**
- 2021.36 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 – FO took members through the report. RS queried the increase to insurance costs. FO advised this was happening across the industry and related to inflation. **Approval proposed by AH, seconded MW, All in favour.**
- 2021.37 AL queried in relation to the houses being built in Penkridge if that would have an increase on the Council payments. Clerk confirmed it would if the development was within the Board's district. AL then queried whose responsibility it was to check this. Clerk advised this was noted



from planning applications which the Engineer assessed and that landowners often advised if their land was sold for development. LB added that South Staffordshire Council were currently developing their local plan and there was the possibility of some houses near the Penk and that the developer was looking to provide a country park on land to help with flooding issues but that the properties being built at the moment had no effect on the Penk.

2021.38 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 2 – FO took members through the report. **Approval proposed by MW, seconded by AH.**

LB and MW left the meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

2021.39 Engineer advised information in papers was for information but hoped it demonstrated how the Board were working with other RMA's and Community Groups.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2021.40 Information noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2021.41 Information noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2021.42 Clerk asked members if they would prefer an actual meeting in November or continue with virtual meetings. RS stated that virtual meetings worked well and reduced costs dramatically although believed that an actual meeting once a year would be a good idea suggesting this could take place at the same time as the Stafford County Show in May. AH concurred with his comments. AL added that virtual meetings were convenient but that an actual meeting should take place but not in November. All members agreed to virtual meetings in November and February with an actual meeting to take place in May.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2021.43 17th November 2021. RS thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

1.5 Matters arising there from not elsewhere on the Agenda

2021.28 Please see below the response that was received from David Williams (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Dear Mr Benson

Thank you for your correspondence dated 02 June 2021 concerning potholes and flooding issues.

All roads in Staffordshire receive routine highway safety inspections and these are completed monthly, quarterly or annually depending on the road classification. We also receive thousands of reports from the public each month regarding highway matters.

Highway defects are risk assessed based on the severity of the problem, volume of traffic using the route and position of the defect for example. The inspection considers these factors to determine the safety risk the problem presents. Any raised remedial works following the inspection are given an appropriate category of priority which dictates the timescale for repair.

Staffordshire County Council routinely cleanses over 180,000 highway gullies and the majority are cleansed every three years but major roads and areas that flood are cleansed more often. Thank you for using our reporting system to report instances of flooding and/or blocked gullies. We ask that you provide an email address when raising an online report so that automated email updates can be sent to you regarding the progress of your enquiry.

The caveat with any works raised is that our resources are very limited, we have around 180,000 gullies to maintain and six gully machines, with the majority of these having to work to a strict


21/11/21