

1. Governance

1.1 Declaration of Interest

Board Members are advised to declare a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest on any item in the Agenda.

1.2 Apologies for Absence

1.3 Chair's Announcements

1.4 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022

Members Present	12.5.2021	24.11.2021	26.01.2022	15.06.2022		
Paul Andrews PA	-	A	√	√		
Christy Bolderson CB	√	-	√	√		
Sebastian Bowen SB	√	A	√	A		
John Cawley JC	√	A	√	√		
Zita Chilman ZC	√	A	√	√		
Richard Corbett RC	A	A	√	A		
Malcolm Davies MD	√	√	√	√		
Noorissa Davies ND	√	√	A	√		
Nic Eynon NE	A	-	-	√		
John Hardwick JH	√	√	√	√		
John Harrington JHa	A	-	√	√		
James Hereford JHe	√	A	√	√		
Peter Jinman PJ	√	-	√	A		
James Makin JM	A	A	√	√		
Tony Mitcheson TM	√	√	√	√		
Roger Phillips RP	A	√	A	A		
Charles Pudge Vice Chair	√	√	√	√		
John Stone JS	A	A	√	√		
David Summers DS	√	√	√	√		
Elissa Swinglehurst Chair	√	√	√	√		

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting

Officer:	Craig Benson	Clerk
	Anne-Clare Landolt	Engineer
	David Blake	Finance Officer

Guest Present:	Mike Corran	Ground Control LTD
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Members of the Public in Attendance

None

Declaration of Interest

2022.30 None.

Apologies for Absence

2022.31 Apologies were received from Richard Corbett, Sebastian Bowen, Peter Jinman and Roger Phillips and Noorissa Davies.

Chair's Announcements

2022.32 Chair would like to record her formal vote of thanks to the Board's out-going maintenance contractors who had served the board for over 20 years. This was echoed by Members and it was agreed to invite a representative from the company to the next Board meeting in November. **Action: Clerk to send out invitation.**

2022.33 The Chair also announced that Tony Mitcheson was stepping down as a Board member and that this would be his last meeting. She thanked him on behalf of the Board. Tony expressed his thanks to the members and for the alleviation scheme the Board undertook at Bodenham.

2022.34 Chair also informed members that she had attended a recent Water Resource West Workshop, which was very interesting and covered the very significant water needs arising from multiple pressures such as Climate Change, Population Growth, Environmental improvement and new resilience expectations.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2022

2022.35 Minutes of the meeting were considered. DS proposed, JHe seconded and members approved as a true and correct record.

Matters arising not discussed elsewhere on Agenda

2022.36 2022.11 - The Chair would like Officers to discuss with the EA what works landowners can do on stretches of main river and more specifically Pinsley Brook, where a ratepayer had received conflicting information.

2022.37 2022.17 - Chair would also like the issues with regard to access over land and clearing blockages raised with the RPA where land had been placed in High Level Stewardship schemes.

Complaints/FOI/EIR requests

2022.38 None received.

CLERK REPORT

2022.39 Policy – The Clerk informed members that the Treasury were planning to launch a review of the government's arms-length bodies, that included IDBs, with a view to save at least £800m from their budgets.

2022.40 There was also going to be a consultation on the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, which outlines a step change in how water companies tackle the number of discharges of untreated sewage, which the Government and general public have made clear are completely unacceptable. The Engineer would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Board when released.

2022.41 Legislation – Red Diesel – Members noted that the Excise Notice 75 had been updated.

2022.42 Pesticides User – Clerk advised members that there was now a requirement for all businesses, organisations and sole traders who use any herbicides that they are required to register as such with DEFRA.

2022.43 ADA – Clerk advised that ADA had recently reviewed the Environmental Good Governance Guide and had passed it back to DEFRA for final approval. ADA had also issued an IDB specific Carbon Calculator. The Clerk would download and review.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2022.44 Rating Report – RO advised the balance outstanding had now been reduced to £9,487.20 at the year end. Of which, £6,869.79 related to 3 accounts and the remaining £2,617.41 was spread over 44 accounts. Investigations were ongoing to clear all the debts.

2022.45 The rate demands for the current year have been issued and 50% of which has been collected so far.

2022.46 Internal Audit – FO advised that the Internal Audit had been completed and that there was one issue raised by the Auditor. This related to the Bank Account that the Board held with Nat West and the specific payment process. Currently the FO was the only person who could authorise payments online and this was not in keeping with the Bank Mandate. JHe asked how many times has there been any malpractice? The FO confirmed there were none. CB mentioned that there were dual systems available at no cost. The FO would discuss with the Banking providers to see which account is best for the Board.

2022.47 The FO also informed members that whilst the audit was complete, he had not yet received the Internal Audit Report. He would forward this on to members as soon as possible. DS stated that it was not ideal that it was late and the FO confirmed that there were some mitigating circumstances why the Auditor had missed his deadline.

2022.48 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – Section 1 – Members were asked to review and approve Section 1 of the AGAR. The Chair proposed, CP seconded and members approved the section.

2022.49 Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 – The FO reviewed the accounts and that the Board's financial position was very healthy and in excess of the Board's Reserve Policy. However, it was noted that the balances were set to reduce over the next five years. DS asked if it was possible for the Board to ring fence monies to cover the impacts of climate change and the increase in material costs. FO confirmed that this was available to the Board. JHe added that the Board have the powers to borrow money from the Public Works Loan Board. The Chair proposed that the Board approve the accounts, this was seconded by PA and approved unanimously.

2022.50 Budget Comparison – The FO informed members that the income of the Board was at 100% of the budget forecast and the expenditure levels were at 81%. This had led to a surplus of £48,439 and a balance to carry forward of £190,309. The underspend was across three areas, Maintenance, Administration and Environment.

2022.51 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – Section 2 – The FO took members through the Financial Statement and asked members to approve this section. The Chair proposed, ZC seconded and members approved the AGAR.

2022.52 Five Year Budget Forecast – The FO reviewed the forecast and informed members that by year five the Board were on track to meet their Reserve Policy target of 50%. DS asked if it was possible to reduce the drainage rate to hit the target sooner. FO confirmed that this was an option available to the Board.

2022.53 Schedule of Payments - Approval proposed by JM, seconded by CP and approved by members.

2022.54 Risk Register – FO explained the document had been updated in accordance with the comments made at the last meeting. Both the FO and Clerk would be reviewing the Board's objectives to make sure that aligned with the Risk Register. The Clerk indicated that the current Board policy objectives were items that the Board had little control over and was not part of the duties under the Land Drainage Act. CB thanked the FO for the updated Register and offered assistance with reviewing the final document before it was presented to the Board for approval.

ENGINEERS REPORT

2022.55 Eng. advised the report was for information with the following updates:

2022.56 Watercourse Maintenance – Eng confirmed that there was a late start to the spraying programme. To date, 3 of the 12 catchments have been sprayed and the Eng confirmed that it was unlikely that the spraying would be completed this year. (JH arrived) The works had been hampered by numerous access issues. The Contractor had found it nigh on impossible to spray some watercourses using a quad bike, this being the method used in the past, due to fencing that had been erected on the banks of the watercourses. This had led to the operatives having to spray by hand and thus increasing the length of time taken to undertake this spraying element. It was therefore agreed between the Eng and Contractor that a priority list would be drawn up of those watercourses that would be sprayed. This has been shared with the Contractor and they would be looking to complete this activity as soon as possible. Overgrown hedges were also raised as an ongoing problem and it was discussed the possibility of the Board carrying out some clearance work to allow access to the watercourse.

2022.57 Lugg Rhea – The Eng was thanked for her involvement with the meetings and works that have been and will be undertaken on this section. It was very much appreciated by those landowners and HWT.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

2022.58 Information noted. Clerk advised that the Health & Safety quarterly briefing would take place in July.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISER'S REPORT

2022.59 Clerk would send out the nitrate and phosphate testing kits as soon as they arrive.

Any Other Business

2022.60 It was raised that there was a planned scheme upstream of Wellington Village to create storage areas to help reduce the impact of flooding in the village. JM would update the Clerk, Eng and Chair of the details.

Date of Next Meeting

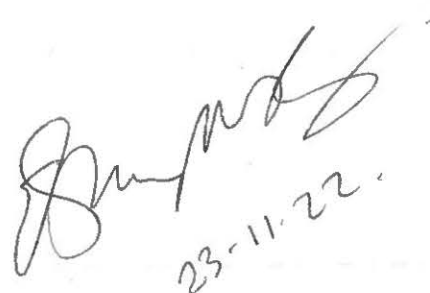
2022.61 23 November 2022. This meeting would be held in person at a venue to be confirmed.

2022.62 Chair thanked all for attending and hoped everyone would enjoy the inspections that were planned to take place after the meeting.

1.5 Matters arising there from not elsewhere on Agenda

1.6 Complaints/FOI/EIR requests

None received.


23-11-22.