

1. Governance

1.1 Apologies

1.2 Declaration of Interest

1.3 Minutes of Meeting 15 November 2022

Present	Ray Sutherland – Chair	RS
	Len Bates	LB
	Frances Beatty	FB
	Neil Brown	NB
	Graham Bower	GB
	Ralph Cooke	RC
	Angela Loughran	AL
	Tony Parrott	TP
	Mark Winnington	MW
	Jeff Sim	JS

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

Paul Jones	Engineer
David Blake	Financial Officer

Apologies for Absence

2022.54 Apologies were received from Paul Edwards, Tim Williams and Phil Bates.

2022.55 Election of the Chairman & Vice Chairman. AL Proposed the re-election of RS as Chairman with no other nominations, seconded by RC all in favour.

RS proposed the election of MW as Vice Chairman with no other nominations, seconded by FB all in favour.

Declaration of Interest

2022.56 None.

Complaints and Freedom of Information Requests

2022.57 None.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

2022.58 Minutes of the last meeting held on 31 May 2022 were considered, proposed as a true record by FB, seconded AL and approved by the Board.

Matters Arising

2022.59 None.

CLERK'S REPORT

2022.60 Policy – ENG advised Members that the changes to the GDPR and Data Sharing Policies were only minor. Both had been produced before the law came into effect so the clause referring to this had now been updated. Approval proposed by FB, seconded AL, All Members in agreement.

2022.61 Legislation – Information noted with ENG advising that when the Statutory Instrument was approved it would allow the Board to update the land and property values within its district if it chose to do so. He confirmed that further information would be provided as it became available.

2022.62 Election Year- ENG confirmed that due to the number of nomination papers received not exceeding the number of seats on the board that all existing members were re-elected.

2022.63 Stafford County Show- MW thanked the management team on what was a successful two days at the county show. He then suggested inviting other partners such as Staffs. Wildlife Trust & Highways England to join the team at the next years event in relation to the Stafford Brooks Project which was welcomed by the ENG who confirmed previous years had been successful with the Trust and Environment Agency. ENG asked for approval to attend at the show next year on 31st May and 1st June 2023, all in agreement.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2022.64 Rating Report – FO advised that rates collected to date was at 95%. Court action had taken place, with just 2 accounts left to settle. The 2nd levy instalment was due to paid imminently.

2022.65 Schedule of Payments – **Approval proposed by RC and seconded LB.** GB asked what the FDL payment was for & how the board benefits? Eng confirmed it was a levy for works on main river, which benefits the board. He then highlighted the good work the EA had undertaken at Sanden Road.

2022.66 Internal Audit – For note.

2022.67 Budget Comparison – The FO compared the out-turn figures with the Budget and the variances were noted.

2022.68 Five Year Budget Estimate – The FO took members through the report. MW asked if inflation had been considered and if so what level? FO confirmed inflation was incorporated into the forecast and a level of 10% had been used. FB asked if the board had the power to reduce the reserve level target. FO confirmed that the board could and this was an option if the board wish to explore. RC asked if RPI or CPI was the measure in the uplift in management services. FO confirmed it was a formula based on CPI.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

2022.69 Information noted.

2022.70 Hydraulic Modelling – Eng. advised the Environment Agency expect their modelling outputs in November which already incorporate the IDB's modelling. the delay has been due to ensuring that the calibration of the river gauging stations was correct so that the outputs from the model would be reliable.

2022.71 Investigations off Newcastle Road, Slindon – as noted in the report investigation had been completed by the IDB Contractor which confirmed that the pipeline from Newcastle Road was free flowing. Downstream of the pipe the riparian watercourses had not been maintained and required re-conditioning. The Board agreed that the riparian owners should be approached in this first instance to remedy the condition of the watercourses. However, a connection into the IDB maintained watercourse was required by the IDB Contractor.

2022.72 Chatcull Brook – as reported this was investigated on site by the IDB Contractor and it was agreed that this section of ordinary watercourse would not benefit from IDB maintenance and would remain riparian.

2022.73 Silkmore Crescent – the riparian owners, Bellway Homes, have agreed to jet and trace the pipeline which appears to be causing obstruction to flow. A gate is required within the existing hedgerow to gain access to the watercourse / pipe which the IDB Contractor is to install with funding from Bellway Homes.

2022.74 Silkmore Lane – a site visit was undertaken by the IDB Contractor with FJ Tyres and identified re-conditioning maintenance being required on the main river "Rising Brook" (also referred to as "Silkmore Drain") and the riparian ordinary watercourse adjacent the highway. ENG agreed to inform the EA and County Council and offer IDB Contractor to undertake maintenance on their behalf.

2022.75 Herbert Road, Stafford – AL noted that comments had not been received by the LPA from the IDB. ENG confirmed that a meeting had taken place with developers and their consultants as per the summary within the papers. ENG confirmed that IDB comments may not yet have been posted on the LPA website and will ensure these are uploaded.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2022.76 Information noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2022.77 Biodiversity Action Plan- JS talked members through the report, highlighting that a project had been undertaken to increase the number of black poplars across the County and to let JS know if there was any wider interest to have black poplars planted on land in the area.

2022.78 Stafford Brooks Project- JS advised that the project was now in the delivery phase with the aim of flood water storage whilst also creating better environmental areas for natural wildlife. ENG asked about the Lammoscote Drain area proposals if this could be discussed at a future meeting between the Trust, EA and IDB representatives for any opportunities to reduce flood risk south of the River Sow. The Chairman thanked JS for his report and asked if a further update could be given at the next meeting. JS confirmed he would do so.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2022.79 None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2022.80 8th February 2023- Stafford Showground.

UPDATE: The meeting was subsequently rescheduled to 1 February 2023. The venue will remain the same.

30th May – Derrington Village Hall.

Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

1.4 Matters Arising Therefrom Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

1.5 Complaints and FOI