

1. Governance

1.1 Apologies

1.2 Declaration of Interest

1.3 Minutes of Meeting 1 February 2023

Present	Ray Sutherland – Chair	RS
	Len Bates	LB
	Frances Beatty	FB
	Graham Bower	GB
	Ralph Cooke	RC
	Paul Edwards	PE
	Angela Loughran	AL
	Mark Winnington	MW

Also in attendance on behalf of Stafford Borough Council

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

Craig Benson	Clerk
Paul Jones	Engineer
David Blake	Financial Officer

Apologies for Absence

2023.1 Apologies were received from Neil Brown, A Parrott and Jeff Sim.

Declaration of Interest

2023.2 None.

Complaints and Freedom of Information Requests

2023.3 None.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

2023.4 Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 November 2022 were considered, proposed as a true record by MW, seconded FB and approved by the Board.

Matters Arising

2023.5 2022.78 – Stafford Brooks Project. MW confirmed that the Borough Council had received an update on the project and that it was acknowledged that the Sow & Penk IDB was involved. The Engineer confirmed that he had been in contact with regard to the use of the hydraulic model and had requested details of the proposed timeline of the project.

2023.6 2022.70 – Hydraulic Modelling – LB enquired whether the Engineer had received details of the Environment Agency's survey at Penkrige. The Engineer confirmed that he had not but added that the EA had been invited to the Council meeting where the IDB model will be presented. LB requested that the Engineer should pursue this matter on behalf of the Board.

CLERK'S REPORT

- 2023.7** Policy – Clerk advised Members that the changes to the Policy Statement had been aligned with the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. Approval proposed by FB, seconded AL, All Members in agreement.
- 2023.8** Environment Agency – Information noted with Clerk encouraging members to review the national Flood Risk Management Plans using the link in the meeting papers.
- 2023.9** ADA- It was noted that ADA would be holding a working demonstration event on the 5-6 July 2023. Further details would be sent out to members when received.
- 2023.10** Stafford County Show – The dates of the show were 31 May and 1 June. It was hoped that the Board's partners, EA and SWT, would be able to attend the event.
- 2023.11** Key Performance Indicators were noted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- 2023.12** Rating Report – FO advised that rates collected to date was at 97%. MW requested details of one of the outstanding debtors who has moved premises without leaving a forwarding address. Clerk confirmed that he would arrange.
- 2023.13** Schedule of Payments – **Approval proposed by RC, seconded FB and approved by members.**
- 2023.14** Internal Audit – For note.
- 2023.15** Risk Register – FO advised members of the changes made to the register as a result of the present economic climate. **Approval proposed by RC, seconded AL and approved by members.**
- 2023.16** Banking Arrangements – It was agreed that MW was added to the Bank Mandate and that AH will be removed. **Approval proposed by AL, seconded LB and approved by members.**
- 2023.17** Estimates, Rates and Special Levies for the Year Ending 31 March 2024 – The FO compared the estimated out-turn figures with the Budget and the variances were noted. FO reviewed the options available to the Board with regard to the rate setting for the forth coming year. Current and future inflation rates were discussed along with the Board's reserve policy and reserve levels. **MW proposed that the Board look to increase the rate in line with the Councils, namely 4.5%. the penny rate would be 6.95p. This was seconded by PE and approved by all members.**

In accordance with Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act, the Board determined that aggregate annual value of chargeable properties in the district and the aggregate value of all other land in the district as at 31st December 2022 for the financial year beginning 1st April 2023 as follows: -

a) Aggregate annual value of chargeable properties	£ 1,697,025
b) Aggregate value of all other land	£ 171,300

It was agreed that for the purpose of defraying costs, charges and expenses etc. incurred by the Board under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, and in pursuance of the Internal Drainage Board (Finance) Regulations 1992, that the Board make a drainage rate for their district in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings and a Special Levy as follows:-

The amount of the Board's expenses to be met by drainage rates was £11,905 by way of an Occupier's rate of 6.95p in the £ on the basis of the annual value of agricultural land and agricultural buildings in the district.

The amount of the Board's expenses to be met by Special Levies was: -

Stafford Borough Council	£ 113,896
South Staffordshire District Council	£ 4,048

The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to seal the rate and the Special Levy on the Local Authority in accordance with the Act and the Finance Regulations.

The Clerk, or their representatives, were authorised to negotiate and carry out proceedings for the recovery of any rates unpaid.

Members agreed that if additional expenditure is required above the agreed budget, it is taken from balances.

2023.18 Five Year Budget Estimate – The FO took members through the report and this was noted. MW thanked the FO for his comprehensive report and this was echoed by members.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

2023.19 Hydraulic Modelling – Eng. advised a meeting was being arranged with the County, Borough Council, and South Staffordshire to discuss and review the Board's hydraulic model. RS would advise the Eng of the LLFA contact who to contact with regard to invitees.

2023.20 Silkmore Crescent – the riparian owners, Bellway Homes, have agreed to undertake the works pending Bellway Homes sign-off to fund a gated access to the watercourse which would be undertaken by the IDB Contractor on their behalf. Cllr Edgeller has also been updated.

2023.21 Silkmore Drain (Main River) – Further to reports of watercourse condition causing obstruction to flow the Environment Agency have requested a quotation from the IDB maintenance contractor to undertake works to the watercourse. The Eng also advised that he was still awaiting a response from Highways with regard to the watercourses around FJ Tyres.

2023.22 Planning - Herbert Road, Stafford – Eng updated members on this planning application, namely the Board's consent had been put on hold until further modelling work by the developer had been completed in relation to the wider site flood risk and planning permission.

AL thanked the Eng for his assistance dealing with the other issues in this area and liaising with the EA and LLFA to facilitate works to the watercourses.

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

2023.23 Information noted.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

2023.24 Information with regard to ADA Environmental Day was noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2023.25 None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2023.26 Tuesday 30 May – Derrington Village Hall

Wednesday 15 November 2023 – Tonge Suite, Stafford County Showground.

Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

1.4 Matters Arising Therefrom Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

1.5 Complaints and FOI