1. Governance

1.1 Election of Chair

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

1.3 Declaration of Interest

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

1.4 Apologies for Absence

1.5 Chair's Announcements

1.6 Public Forum

1.7 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2026

Members Present	27.11.2024	15.01.2025	25.06.2025	26.11.2025	14.1.2026	24.6.2026
Elissa Swinglehurst **Chair**	√	√	√	√	√	√
Charles Pudge **Vice Chair**	√	√	A	√	√	A
Zita Chilman ZC	√	√	√	√	√	√
Richard Corbett RC	A	A	A	A	√	A
Malcolm Davies MD	√	A	√	A	√	A
Noorissa Davies ND	A	A	A	√	A	A
Nic Eynon NE	-	-	-	-	-	-
James Makin DM	√	√	√	A	√	√
Thomas Cawley TC	A	A	√	√	√	√
Andrew Owens AO	√	A	√	√	A	√
Yvonne Thomas YT	√	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Nic Mason NM			√	√	√	√
Cllr Dan Hurcomb DH	√	A	√	A	√	√
Cllr Robert Highfield RH	-	-	A	A	A	A
Cllr Roger Phillips RP	A	A	A	√	√	√
Cllr John Stone JS	-	A	-	√	A	A
Cllr Mark Woodall MW	√	√	√	√	A	A
Mr Saul Herbert SH						-
Tom Jolley TJ Wye & Usk Foundation	A	A	A	A	√	A
Cllr Rebecca Tully RT		√	√	√	A	√
Jamie Audsley JA	-	-	Resigned			
Vacancy 2 nominated						
*Jenny Bashford JB Wye & Usk Foundation	A	A	A	√	-	-

*Attends if TJ cannot

In attendance on behalf of JBA Consulting

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

Also in Attendance:

Will Watson	Environmental Adviser
Henry Snell	Hereford County Council
Alex Attwood	Edenvale Young

GOVERNANCE

Declaration of Interest

2026.33 None.

Apologies for Absence

2026.34 Apologies were received from Charles Pudge, Richard Corbett, Malcolm Davies, Noorissa Davies, Robert Highfield, Tom Jolley, John Stone and Hermes Carlyon from the EA.

Chair's Announcements

2026.35 Chair advised that, as recently seen in the media, the Declaration of the Charter of the Rights of the Wye was basically an alignment of Local Authorities supporting in principal that the river had intrinsic rights. They would likely align through policies for such things as the river has the right to be free from pollution, right to biodiversity, right to flow, perform natural functions etc. Discussions took place.

Minutes of the Meeting held 14 January 2026

2026.36 Minutes were considered and All Members approved as true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

2026.37 Chair raised the works undertaken at Wharton Court stating it was important to encapsulate what was accomplished, how it was done and what the outcome was. ACL advised that information had been sent with the drainage rates and that she had recently spoken to Nick Helme who stated he was quite pleased with what had been issued. Chair added that needed to keep on pushing the message across.

2026.38 DH asked for the attendance record to be corrected for himself as he did attend the last meeting. Clerk advised he had not signed the attendance register but confirmed it would be updated.

Complaints / FOI Requests

2026.39 None received.

CLERKS REPORT

Information noted with the following added.

2026.40 Election Year – The Clerk advised the process in the papers with approval proposed by the Chair and seconded by RP.

2026.41 District Opportunities – The Clerk gave an overview of the report in the papers relating to revaluation of the existing district, which was dependent upon legislation passing through Government, and the consideration to extend to catchment. **Discussions took place with the Chair proposing the recommendation to proceed only as a staged feasibility exercise (hydraulic evidence, financial and government implications and stakeholder appetite) before any formal scheme/order process is pursued believing that there was a lot to know about and understanding how it would work and the benefits. RP stated that was happy with that in principal and after further discussion the Clerk suggested Members consider the pinch points of the district and raise at the next meeting for further investigation. All Members in Favour.**

NM referred to the catchment map which was hard to read and asked if a larger version could be provided with the Clerk confirming he would arrange. DH asked if the map on the website had been updated, the FO confirmed it had been.

2026.42 Landowner Guide for Working in Main Rivers and Ordinary Watercourses – Clerk referred to the information provided in the papers. Eng advised she had been approached by two landowners for help in undertaking works and wanted to know how far the Board wanted involvement. Discussions took place with conclusion that advice should only be given within the Board's remit and they should be directed to the appropriate authority for other matters as necessary. **DH proposed that the information be produced in collaboration with the Council so that all working together with the same guidelines. All in agreement.**

2026.43 Board Meeting Frequency – Clerk suggested the November meeting be moved to October when there was no election. ZC asked if further notice could be given of the meeting dates. **It was agreed to add all the meeting dates to the papers moving forwards**.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2026.44 Rate Report – FO advised the balance outstanding at 31st March 2026 as £3,482 with £1,500 related to the issue previously raised with the Board when the Bailiff was threatened with firearms stating that Land Registry registration was still awaited. He added that £812 had been rolled over as not cost effective to pursue. **Discussions took place surrounding what action could be taken regarding the larger debt with the conclusion that all avenues will be pursued to collect the monies.**

2026.45 Internal Audit – FO advised came back with clean bill of health, with the auditor again touching on membership regarding decision making, the reserve level and the banking measures in place which he states are more than adequate and that the controls in place are adequate.

2026.46 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 1 – FO took Members through with approval proposed by the Chair and seconded by DH.

2026.47 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – FO took Members through advising a deficit of £24,884 had been made, mainly due to additional maintenance, resulting in a carry forward balance of £264,683. **Approval proposed by the Chair and seconded by NM.**

2026.48 Budget Comparison for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 – Information noted following discussions above.

2026.49 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – Section 2 – FO took Members through with approval proposed by DM and seconded by DH.

2026.50 Five-Year Budget Forecast – Information noted.

2026.51 Schedule of Payments – DM queried the Storm Recovery refunds. FO advised it had not been possible to complete some of the projects due to weather and time constraints, so any grant not utilised had to be returned. The Chair asked if the drone was being used as the insurance was high. Eng admitted not due to the process required for permission. **Discussions took place with the suggestion that the Board write to landowners advising they would be using a drone, the reasons for the use and that if have any objection to contact the Board. Approval of the schedule was proposed by the Chair and seconded by YT.**

ENGINEERS REPORT

Information noted with the following added.

2026.52 IDB Fund Storm Recovery and Asset Improvement – Eng advised that had projects on the River Lugg at Sutton St Nicholas as well as smaller projects on the Arrow, Froome and at Pinsley Brook. She explained the issues that had hampered projects being finished.

2026.53 Asset Management System – Eng advised of the report provided regarding the proposals for the new system. The Clerk added that the preferred contractor AMX was also utilised by the EA and that this would make any future proposals for transfer of assets much easier. He then advised of the costs quoted and gave a brief overview of the benefits. Discussions took place. **Approval proposed by YT and seconded by DM.**

2026.54 Maintenance Services Contract – Eng advised the Contract had now reached its term with the option to either extend or go out to tender. **Discussions took place with the proposal to go out to**

tender and split the contract based on the works required. It was noted that the Board would require a Procurement specialist to run the tender process, this was undertaken by North Lincolnshire Council last time. **The Chair and DH would ask Herefordshire Council procurement team to see if they could support the tendering process.** Discussions then took place about additional support for the Engineer following RT question if it was mainly the time element as to why tasks had not been completed. Clerk confirmed that the Board had agreed to pay for additional Engineering support from JBA at the last meeting and then added that Thomas Cawley had agreed to assist with the maintenance contract inspections.

2026.55 Farming on the Wye Booklet – Eng advised that some of the works undertaken by the Board contradict the information provided in the booklet. The Chair stated that needed to understand whether it was considered best practice or regulatory requirement, believing they were best practice and that it was for the Board to do the best they can in all circumstances to undertake works with a certain amount of discretion to the Eng and Environment Officer as to what desirable versus essential. The Clerk added that currently worked to the ADA and Natural England Biodiversity Channel Maintenance book which was produced to aid IDBs in managing their channels with guidance as best practice stating that should continue to follow that guidance. **Discussions took place with the Chair stating that in the information the Board proposed to issue that it needed to be clear as to what was regulation and what was best practice and then requested that a letter be sent to ADA/DEFRA asking them to reconsider the information given stating it needed to be clearer. Clerk confirmed a letter would be sent.**

2026.56 Consenting – Eng raised the issue with being a competent authority and the fact that a lot of consent applications now relate to SACs and is concerned over the implications to the Board if anything goes wrong. **The Chair stated that a screening out process needed to be undertaken. Discussions took place with the agreement to put a policy /checklist in place to assist with screening applications.**

HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Information noted with the following added.

2026.57 Health & Safety Advisor – The Clerk advised that Phil Chandler had now retired and confirmed he had thanked him on behalf of the Board. He added that Phil had recommended Sean Taylor as a suitable replacement having worked with him previously. The Clerk confirmed he had now spoken with Sean and a list of his fees was provided in the papers. **Discussions took place with approval to accept him as the Health & Safety representative proposed by the Chair and seconded by AO with All in favour.** The Clerk also advised members that there was still a vacancy for the Board's Health and Safety Representative who would attend the H&S review meetings throughout the year. **RT proposed to fill the role and this was approved by members.**

2026.58 Rainfall - NM pointed out an error in the figures within the report in the Appendix stating that the information was incorrect in relation to the comparison to the 20-year average. **Eng confirmed she would look into this.**

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISER'S REPORT

2026.59 Legislation – Information noted.

2026.60 ADA Environment Day – Information noted.

2026.61 Maintenance Programme – WW advised have works lined up for later in the year and mentioned the Lugg Rhea where they would be undertaking pre-inspections and Clerk of works.

2026.62 BAP – WW confirmed a plan was in place and that something to consider was building up artificial Otter holts using fallen trees that could be broken up to build a holt. He added that this was something that could be achievable and that riparian landowners may be interested in. He added that Bat boxes had also been considered but it was felt that trees should remain as were most suitable due to less maintenance required.

2026.63 Wharton Court – WW advised that Mr Helme had offered to pay for a further monitoring inspection of the river. Discussions took place on promoting this more widely to others.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2026.64 Hydraulic Model – A presentation on the current status of the model was given to Members by Alex Attwood from Edenvale Young. He confirmed that surveying should be completed in the autumn and also gave indications as to what the outputs could show. Discussions took place and he was thanked for the presentation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

2026.65 25th November 2026, 13 January 2027 and 23 June 2027.

1.8 Matters Arising Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

1.9 Complaints/FOI Requests

There have been no formal complaints or requests since the last meeting.