

Meeting of the Strine Internal Drainage Board

8th September 2025 at 7.30pm Kynnersley Village Hall

Attending

John Belcher (Vice Chairman), Andrew Crow, Neil Phillips, Chris Holman, Bruce Udale, Isabel Moseley, Harvey Moseley, Lucinda Lycett (TWC), Kate Mayne (Clerk)

1. *Apologies* – Harry Gregory.

In the absence of Harry, John Belcher took the chair.

2. *Declarations of interest* – none

3. *Consideration of the minutes from the previous meeting on 2nd June 2025* – the board considered the minutes and Chris Holman proposed that they were an accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Isabel Moseley.

4. *Matters arising from the minutes* – The clerk handed out updated maintenance files to board members operating machines. The files include risk assessments, contact details and maps identifying locations of pipelines, overhead cables etc. The clerk also reported that she had spoken to the Jacksons of Longswood Farm regarding work on trees blocking the commission. They are happy to work with the board on this.

Sydney Farm have bought tree shears to enable more tree work to be done this year.

5. *Accounts for payment* – F M Agri: clerk duties - £1020.80. Isabel Moseley proposed this account be settled and this was seconded by Bruce Udale.

6. *Financial report* – the clerk presented accounts to the end of August 2025. The clerk plans to move more funds across to the business savings account, however noted that Barclay's have recently dropped the interest rate on the account.

To date £2,000 more rates have been collected than to the same date last year. The clerk has acquired an address for one of our bad debtors we have been struggling to contact. A final reminder will be sent to them ASAP.

7. *Maintenance plans / update for 2025-26* – Colin has started work on his section. It was noted that he isn't going to do the section of the Hincks through the wood. **ACTION:** Clerk will look at this to see if work is needed this year.

Sydney will start on the Spraying programme next week. The wall Brook was discussed and the need to understand where the blockages are on the channel that have been causing issues over the last couple of winters. Neil Phillips has identified an issue with a culvert pipe near the syphon at Aqueduct Plantation. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact Neil to come up with a plan for repair.

8. *Northern Interceptor & planning: update from Bruce Udale* – Bruce discussed the meeting with developers from June and the importance for the whole drainage district that development on the edge of Telford could have. Bruce wanted to be sure that all board members understand the challenges and so presented a report with photographs. He is particularly concerned that with a government drive to maximise house building in this term, there is a greater risk poor plans could be pushed through which do not consider drainage infrastructure needs sufficiently. This could leave the board area with serious problems, in light of changing weather patterns.

A return to management for the Northern Interceptor is a vital part of the solution however it was agreed that further measures were likely to be also needed. Bruce noted that the only section of the NI which has been managed in recent years was from A442 to Mantles Cover, and was being maintained by the landowner adjacent.

Andrew Crow agreed that we need to be on the front foot with the issue and wondered if funding through BNG or water markets might be something to consider for landowners in a position to store water to alleviate flooding.

Bruce raised the proposal of a large balancing reservoir which could take water from the Crow Brook and otherwise destined for the Northern Interceptor. His concern is that the size of the project might prevent a structure like this being built. Andrew Crow suggested that multiple smaller storage areas might be an easier option to promote, however without calculations for the amount of water storage needed we will not have a convincing argument. *ACTION*: Clerk will speak to Cranfield Uni about meeting up to discuss getting calculations from the Strine project to help our understanding of the water storage requirements to reduce flooding.

9. *Report from Lucinda Lycett, Telford & Wrekin Council* – Lou said that the council continue to argue with Severn Trent Lawyers over ownership of the NI. The issue is a lack of evidence from when the National Rivers Authority was split between the EA and Water Companies. Andrew Crow suggested Neil Wagstaff may have some documentation on this. *ACTION*: Clerk to follow up. Modelling of the NI for planning hasn't progressed recently. Lou is following this up.
 10. *Correspondence & meetings* – update from STW re pumping trials from new boreholes.
 11. *AOB* – The clerk presented information on a planning application at Jardwood, the Hincks for a barn conversion alongside the Dakins Brook. The location is a known flooding area and the plans do not appear to provide access for channel maintenance. *ACTION*: Clerk to respond to planning providing information on the byelaws within the Strine IDB.
- Andrew Crow reported on the borehole work at Rodway. Severn Trent have installed 2 new boreholes and are currently building a new filtration system on site. He has been told that it will be the same amount of water abstracted as previously.
- David Sankey has been in touch with Bruce regarding trees which need work on the Eyton Brook.
12. *Date for the next meeting* – 12th January 2025 at the Old Cart Shed, Sydney House Farm.