

## *Strine Internal Drainage Board*

### *AGM & ordinary meeting – 13th April 2026 at Kynnersley Village Hall, 7.30pm*

*Attending* – Harry Gregory (chair), Bruce Udale, Isabel Moseley, Harvey Moseley, Neil Phillips, Andrew Crow, Kate Mayne (clerk)

1. *Apologies* – none received
2. *AGM Matters & public participation* – there were no elections this year. No members of public were present. The meeting therefore moved onto ordinary meeting matters.
3. *Declarations of interest* – Bruce Udale, Isabel Moseley & Harvey Moseley for Sydney Farms invoices.
4. *Consideration of minutes from the meeting held on 12th January 2026* – the board considered the minutes and Isabel Moseley proposed that they be accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Neil Phillips.
5. *Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting* – The clerk has contacted Telford & Wrekin Council regarding S106 monies for the syphon. ACTION -clerk to follow up since the last communication for confirmation of detail.
6. *Accounts for payment* –
  - ADA member renewal for 2026 - £712.00 + VAT
  - PM & RE Belcher & Sons, maintenance work - £1,400 & £147.00 + VAT
  - Sydney Farms Ltd, maintenance work & spraying - £6646 & £787.50 + VAT
  - Faulkner & Mayne sustainable Agriculture Ltd, clerk duties - £858.90 + VAT

Neil Philips proposed that the accounts are settled. This was seconded by Andrew Crow.

7. *Financial report* – the clerk presented cash flow accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Notable differences compared to the previous year were additional costs due to external audit requirements, slight increase in clerk costs and movement of funds from business current account to the board's savings account. With over £23,000 in the current account it was thought appropriate to move more funds into the savings account, to make best use of interest available.  
The clerk reported 90% recovery of rates.
8. *Maintenance report for 2025-26* – Work was completed in most locations as planned. Tree work on the commission has removed some significant blockages and improved access so the channel can be maintained from both sides. Invoice for this work will follow.  
Bruce Udale was unsure whether work on the Commission at Crudginton has been completed this year. ACTION – clerk to speak to Richard Hockenull.
9. *Plans for next season* – Andrew Crow noted a ditch through his wood which is under managed and carries water from the Cherrington Moors & the Tibberton area into the Commission. The ditch is not the responsibility of the board. The board also discussed continued issues with the Strine over-topping into the Commission which then floods large areas of Cherrington Moor, Dayhouse Moor & Crudginton Moor. Land which used to flood possibly 1 in 4 years now floods 4 times in 1 year. Only spring cropping is now possible on this land.  
There are big trees down on the Commission at Crudginton which need removing. Harvey Moseley is considering ways of extracting the trees which are very large and likely to be causing local conveyance issues.
10. *Health & Safety* – there were no incidents or near misses recorded. H & S packs for contractor machines were checked & updated in the last 6 months.

11. *Policy review: Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)* – The board discussed the BAP. No updates were identified as necessary. There was discussion about various environmental projects in the catchment.
12. *Planning & the Northern Interceptor Channel (NIC)* – Bruce Udale updated the board on discussions with the EA, Severn Trent Water and Telford & Wrekin Council’s planners. The clerk attended the TWC Local Plan hearing and presented on behalf of the board. In the last month the board has been provided with some information on drainage plans for the Whappenshall sector. Bruce has concerns that the catchment area for the Eyton Brook will be altered to avoid using the NIC, which is in a serious state of disrepair. To handle flows from the site he is concerned that developers will want to install larger pipes under the NIC. This will undoubtedly increase flooding downstream as the current pipes are controlling flow. He has similar concerns for the Crow Brook where enlarging the pipe under the Whappenshall / Preston Road would also increase flow rate and therefore increase flood risk.
- The Board agreed to writing to TWC flooding department and planners to ask:
- 1) If TWC will allow additional areas of the development site to be added into the Eyton Brook catchment.
  - 2) If TWC will allow the twin pipes carrying the Eyton Brook under the NIC to be enlarged to enable development
  - 3) If TWC will allow the pipe carrying the Crow Brook under the Whappenshall to Preston Road to be enlarged to enable development.
  - 4) If TWC will give planning permission to developers before the NIC is brought back into a functioning state.
- ACTION: clerk to draft an email. At the hearing the drainage consultant for Brookbanks said that flooding issues will be improved by the plans which they have modelled for water management on the Whappenshall site. ACTION: Clerk will also request more details from Brookbanks on their drainage plans. The board discussed similar concerns about drainage on the Muxton site.
13. *Report from Telford & Wrekin Council* – Noone from TWC was in attendance at the meeting.
14. *Correspondence & meetings attended* – the meetings attended by the clerk were discussed by Bruce Udale under point 12 – planning & NIC. The board received an email from Luke Neal of Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) regarding board activity and water voles. SWT visited a rate payer’s farm by invitation and are using evidence collected as part of a Harper Adams University research study to challenge IDB work. The board considered the correspondence and asked the clerk to reply to Mr Neal with details of our activity in this area.
15. *Any other business* – The chair discussed a request from the clerk to consider moving to an hourly rate for paying for clerking duties. This would allow the clerk to undertake extra work as required on matters such as planning & the NIC. The board agreed to moving to this payment approach. The clerk will keep the board updated on hours worked.
- The ADA Marches Branch have requested that the Strine Board hosts the summer visit this year. The clerk suggested an update from Cranfield Uni, possibly hosted at Harper Adams University. ACTION: clerk will discuss dates with the chair and put proposal forward to the board.
16. *Date of the next meeting* – It was proposed that the next meeting be preceded by site visits to various locations of interest in the board area. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and be followed by a buffet tea and board meeting at the Old Cart Shed, Sydney House Farm. ACTION: Clerk to form a plan for the meeting. Date – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026