

Strine Internal Drainage Board

Combined Annual General Meeting & Ordinary meeting

31st March 2025 at Kynnersley Village Hall 7.30pm

In attendance: Bruce Udale, John Belcher, Neil Phillips, Chris Holman, Isabel Moseley, Harry Gregory, Lucinda Lycett (TWC)

1. **Apologies** – no apologies were received
2. **Public participation** – none
3. **Election of chairman, vice chairman & board members** – Bruce informed the board that he does not wish to stand again as chairman. Bruce proposed Harry Gregory for the role & this was seconded by John Belcher. The board was unanimously in favour. Harry Gregory was duly elected as chairman of the board. Bruce proposed that John Belcher remain in post as vice chairman. There were no further nominations for the role. The proposal was seconded by Isabel Moseley and all were in agreement. John Belcher was duly elected as returning vice chairman.
There were no new nominations for seats on the board and all current members were happy to stay in post. It was noted that Harvey Moseley will be taking responsibility for much of the maintenance work from autumn 2025 onwards and as such it would be helpful to coopt Harvey onto the board. This was seconded by Neil Phillips and all were in favour. Harvey Moseley was duly coopted onto the board.
Much of the work carried out by Bruce when chairman was dealing with matters around future development and the Northern Interceptor channel. As Harry is more time limited, Bruce offered to continue being the main point of contact for this work. The board agreed that this would be a useful way to spread workload. Bruce will report back to the board at all future meetings.
4. **Declarations of interest** – John Belcher, Isabel Moseley & Bruce Udale.
5. **Consideration of minutes from the previous meeting** – The board considered minutes from the last meeting on 6th January 2025. Chris Holman proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by Harry Gregory.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes** – there were no matters arising from the minutes which were not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
7. **Accounts for payment** –
 - PM & RE Belcher: maintenance work £1,435.00 + vat
 - Sydney Farms Ltd: maintenance work £5336.50 + vat
 - PM & RE Belcher: maintenance work £1,400 + vat
 - David Udale Ltd: maintenance work £1500.00 + vat
 - Faulkner & Mayne sustainable Ag Ltd: clerk duties £819.30Harry proposed that the accounts be settled and this was seconded by Neil Phillips.
8. **Financial statement** – The clerk presented the cash accounts for the end of the financial year 2024 – 2025. The clerk also provided a comparison of maintenance costs for the last 5 years.
9. **Maintenance report on 2024 – 25 season:** All work planned for last autumn/ winter was completed. Despite some very challenging conditions and heavy rainfall events, Lou Lycett reported that rainfall was actually considered lower than average during this period. Board members reported that the Strine is running extremely low at the moment, whilst at the Butter the water table in peat is still very high.

10. **Maintenance plans 2025-26:** Chris reported that they are having difficulty maintaining flow in the channel through the Hincks wood due to trees in the way. The board discussed the need for a shear grab which could be available when needed for use by everyone. Hiring one could be expensive so it was suggested that the board look to buy one. *ACTION* – John & Isabel will look into how much a shear grab would cost and where they might source one from. All maintenance contractors were happy to continue doing the same work for the board as last year.

11. **Health & Safety report:** There were no accidents or near misses to report. The board asked the clerk to review and check all contractors have an up to date file of maps with location. *ACTION* – Clerk to follow up.

12. **Biodiversity Action Plan:** The board reviewed the BAP. There were activity no changes since the last update. *ACTION* – the clerk will update the chairman's details on the document.

13. **Meetings & correspondence:**

- TWC meeting with developers – Bruce & the clerk met with developers and TWC at the council offices. Existing flooding and issues with the Northern Interceptor were discussed. Bruce offered to show the developers around the area.
- Tim Smith, STW – Following the developer meeting at TWC Tim Smith from Severn Trent got in contact to arrange a meeting with the chairman and clerk. He also alerted us to surveys underway on the NI.
- Telemetry project – Bruce & Kate had an online meeting with Cranfield to get an update. The clerk presented the board with some of the information the project has collated so far. Cranfield are starting to map flooding using satellite imagery and asked if we could provide some ground intel on where flooding happens.
- Smart Water Butts – working with the River Severn Partnership the Strine IDB has been awarded a £300,000 grant from the EA Storm recovery fund. The clerk is looking at ways to de-risk the project and handling these sums as it is a lot for a small board to deal with. Clerk will report back before any decision is taken as to whether the board accepts the funds.
- Rate payer contact – one of our rate payers has been in contact with the clerk following reminders and final warning. The issue was discussed and the board asked the clerk to explain that the legal position behind the rates levied.

14. **Report from Lucinda Lycett, Telford & Wrekin council:** Lou mentioned the meeting attended by Bruce and Kate. There is no progress to report since this meeting.

Northern Interceptor – Severn Trent have progressed their model and are currently ground truthing aspects through site surveying. They will be installing flow gauges soon. With regard to NI ownership TWC are packaging information for legal council.

15. **Any other business:** Clerk asked to take on booking the village hall.

16. **Date for the next meeting:** 2nd June 2025