Lower Severn IDB

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide land drainage, flood risk management and surface water management to achieve safe, prosperous communities that enjoy the amenity and biodiversity benefits of the water environment.

Full Board Meeting

Minutes of the Full Board meeting of the

Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board

Meeting held at The Gables Hotel, Bristol Road, Falfield, South Gloucestershire, GL12 8DL

Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 10.30am

Board Members:

Mr. Mike Barnes (Chairman)

Cllr. Matthew Riddle (Vice Chairman)

Mr. Charles Daniell

Mr. Robert Hyslop

Mr. John Cornock

Mr. Tom Cullimore

Cllr. Liam Harries

Cllr. Simon Phelps

Mr. Geoff Simms

Mr. Jim Nichols

Mr. Roger Godwin

Cllr. Christine Wild

Mr. Richard Hewlett

Mr. John Hore

Board Members continued:

Cllr. James Crawford

Ms. Rachael Chamberlayne

Mr. John Cornock

Cllr. Liam Harries

Cllr. Abi Finch

Officers:

Glenn Taute- CEO and RFO

Victoria Bailey – Communications Officer

James Thomas- Business Development Manager

Civil Engineer

Jim Druett – Head of Operational Services

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Minutes taken by Victoria Bailey

Agenda Item		Minute Reference
1.	**Election of Chairman for 2025/2026** MR asked for nominations for Chairman RG proposed MB J. Cornock seconded Vote was requested by MR All in favour of MB as chairman Decision: MB is Chairman for 2025/2026	3651
2.	**Election of Vice Chairman 2025/ 2026** MB asked for nominations for Vice Chairman 2025/2026 RG proposed MR Seconded J. Cornock MB asked for a vote from the floor All in favour of MR as Vice Chairman Decision Mr as Vice Chairman for 2025/2026	3652
3.	**Apologies/ Welcome/ Introduction** MB welcomed all to the meeting. **Apologies:** Cllr Nikki Barton Mr. James North Ald. Mary Skyes Cllr. Liz Harvey Mr. John Hore	3653

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	Cllr. Simon Johnson Cllr. Tony Williams Cllr. Sue Milestone Cllr. Terri Kennsion Cllr. Mark Williams	
4.	**Chairman's Announcements** • Longney and Epney Partish Council were given a presentation in September by GS and JT regarding Lapperditch and Marshfield Pumping Stations • JT and GS will soon be presenting an overview of LSIDB's work and plans for Oldbury Pump Station to Oldbury on Severn Parish Council • The annual ADA conference will be attended by several officers and Board Members • Officer update: Operator vacancy has been filled • VB has resigned from her role as Communications and PR Officer however she will continue to take minutes and help the Board when needed	3654
5.	**Declaration of Member's Interest** None received	3655
6.	**Minutes of Previous Meetings and Actions last Board & Committee Meetings – for Review and Approval** **6a. To approve the minutes of the board meetings held on 04/06/25** JN asked for all committee minutes to go in the Full Board Pack. GT agreed to this MB asked for a show of hands; all voted in favour of the minutes being accepted	3656

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	6b. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Board meeting held on 16/07/2025 MB asked for a show of hands; all voted in favour of the minutes being accepted **6c. Board meeting actions from the 04/06 and 16/07 meetings** MB asked for a show of hands; all voted in favour of the actions recorded as correct.	
7.	**Calendar of Meetings and Committee Membership for Review and Approval** GT asked for approval for the Calendar of Meetings and Committee Membership. GT reported that he has received feedback on committee membership and noted that there is one vacancy on the Finance Committee. CW said she is much happier with 10:30am start for Full Board meetings. MR said that it is very useful to have the whole years meeting dates up to February 2027 available. JN asked which committee dealt with staff and pensions; GT replied that the Business Services Committee now deals with staff and pensions. JN said he would like to join BSC. MB asked for a vote for JN join Business Services Committee All voted in favour; JN to join BSC. MB asked for vote on the proposed calendar of meeting dates: All voted in favour; calendar of meetings accepted GT said the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman will happen at the first meeting of each individual committee.	3657
8.	**Risk Register Review and Approval** GT reported that there was a Risk Register Review and asked for its approval. The Risk Register has been through all the committees.	3658

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	GT reported that since the last board meeting two new columns have been added. Liam Harries queried a missing target column; GT said there is a target column which he will send to everyone (it was cut off during printing.) GS commented that LSIDB need to take ownership of the Risk Register, and he is glad that sub committees have risk considered too. He noted that it was good to have a comprehensive register. MR asked whether it was worth sending out the Risk Register with each meeting pack; GT agreed and reminded all that it is a live document. GT will complete a wider risk assessment on all aspects of the boards area as part of the Strategic Plan.	
9.	**Strategic Plan Objectives for review and approval** GT has reviewed the Strategic Plan with all committees and staff. GT said once the Strategic Plan has been reviewed and approved then priority will be assigned to each objective, considering the future and flooding issues; the new LSIDB mobile pump was purchased to close some the potential risks. J. Crawford asked whether climate change as an issue could be more explicit within the Strategic Plan as it is probably the biggest threat that IDB is facing. RG agreed, saying the original reason he suggested adding climate change was because the EA have said they will maintain river defences to their *current* level, which is a concern with increased flooding forecast. RG repeated the importance of future-proofing the IDB and environmental impacts. MB asked for the approval of the Strategic Plan All in favour; Strategic Plan unanimously approved.	3659
10.	**Pump Programme Report** GS will take the report as read as it is now two weeks old. JT showed photos on screen of the office facility and demolition hub at Lapperditch which has been set up for the Lapperditch, Marshfield and Wicks Green pumping stations.	3660

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	GS reported that the last weeks were very busy; many hours were spent in meetings both with external parties and internally. Programme Board had the Jacksons handover meeting; all designs are finished and approved; impressed with process as it covered all issues. Jacksons will be starting by shot blasting the sheet piling to ensure 30 plus years of use. Marshfield is currently about two weeks behind Lapperditch then they will be on the same timeframe, and both in an operational state by March 2026. GS discussed 3D representation of Lapperditch and the culvert having an extension to allow grade down from road. The electrical kiosk has been moved to improve clearance between high voltage supply and site, leading to better operational access for weed clearing. JT and JD meet on Tuesdays with Jason (LSIDB's contract manager) to go through the sign-off on documents using Fast Draft software to record every activity (design scope etc) and every transaction. Wicks Green and Oldbury Pump Stations will continue with this system. GS showed a PowerPoint slide of the interfaces involved with running the programme, demonstrating the complexity of the process. The order of pumping station replacement changed as Wick Green will become the most difficult as there is no over pumping facility, unlike the other three stations. Discussed the culvert at Wicks Green; Jackson's reviewing this and are hoping the road won't be closed for more than a couple of days and are looking at how to mitigate problems. Regarding financial variances, this could be seen on page 30 of the papers; variances shown were mostly due to bad weather, and the Elmore upgrade due to issues with telemetry and simply an increase in costs on the budget, therefore a financial variance. GS used the sheet piling at Lapperditch is an example of a compensation event, as when the scope was compiled it was removed from the contract so it is not a financial variation. JD, JT and Jason look at this every Tuesday so reports are up to date. On budget at present for the Board's budget for the four pumping stations; most confident in Lapperditch and Marshfield as there is a contracted price but there is no scope/ presentation of cost for	

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	Oldbury and Wicks Green, so it is done at the best estimate. So, £9.91m is not a precise figure. Provisional cost of Oldbury's scheme of work has changed and has been brought forward by a year and will be completed a year earlier (2027.) GS and JT will keep visiting communities affected by the Pumping Station work, keeping them involved and updated. GS asked for questions JN: Have you got a contingency plan for bad weather? GS: I don't believe in contingency; it is based on price and scope CD asked for dates next to the variances: JT said he's tracking dates and will update reports to include dates unless commercially sensitive J. Cornock: Lapperditch design services cost is £228,720; can you break this down? GS: It is broken down. The construction industry has gone crazy; bringing construction forward is a good idea as things are high risk at present; lead times and getting longer and prices are going up. JN: Who are doing the construction work? JT: Jacksons are managing the civils and are doing the construction work. MR: Are there speed issues with the Environment Agency in relation to getting permits? GS: Our experience is the same as before; slow with the Environment Agency so we are trying to get information to the Environment Agency as soon as possible. Liam Harries: On the variant spreadsheet could you also add the percentage next to the financial figure of the variance? JT: Yes that's fine we can add that to the variance sheet going forward MB: Thank you to Geoff; and acknowledged that Geoff and his team have put in a lot of work.	

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11.	**De-maining Project Proposal for Review** JT asked for his report to be taken as read. Executive summary was added to report as de-maining is a legal process. Two water courses initially suggested, one 'main' and one 'ordinary.' These are Longdon Brook and Tirley Main Drain. De-maining means main river status would be removed and LSIDB would take over management/ maintenance of the watercourse. The process would be that the Environment Agency are required to do four - six-month consultation process to judge whether de-maining is seen as worthwhile. If it is, then the EA recommend de-maining to the Secretary of State. LSIDB would then have to engage in its own consultation process with different organisations with different priorities. J. Crawford: Do you think the Environment Agency is not maintaining these rivers? JT: Yes. Longdon Brook was previously maintained by an IDB but then it was taken over by the EA, and nothing has been done for over 20 years. CD: Could the Environment Agency not want Longdon Brook maintained because by Longdon marsh being flooded it potentially reduces flooding in Tewkesbury? JT: This is a consideration. The conversation is yet to be undertaken with the EA about de-maining, which may bring up an answer to this question. CD: Should we be considering de-maining low risk water courses? Should we be spending money on low risk? JT: It means low risk specifically to property; I will change this on the paperwork as it is not clear. GT: JT, GT and JD will go through an evaluation phase, so there will be a few steps to consider with the board; this is linked to an objective in the Strategic Plan. MB: The Longdon Brook history is that 45/50 years ago there was the Longdon Drainage Board, National Rivers and then the EA. The	3661

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	EA wanted to turn Longdon Brook into a main river but now they have no ability to maintain it themselves. The EA have not honoured their agreement. James Crawford: So, this won't result in more ratepayers? JT: No, the people affected already pay rates. Stakeholder engagement is very important. If/ when we go down this route, we'd need the support of the EA. JN: Are there sluice gates at Longdon Brook? CD: No GS: Where considerable investment is needed, we need to make sure we're investing wisely. CW: The Councillor for Longdon Brook received a lot of complaints about it flooding. I think residents of Eldersfield and Longdon will appreciate maintenance. AF: What are the cost implications if there is more responsibility placed on LSIDB but no extra income? JT: There is potential income but I'll detail this more in the future. GT: In February I'll present the budget for the new year then it will show the potential cost, and JD and JT will explore this further. J. Crawford: Would this be a pilot project and enhance the IDB's area? JT: Yes, I have done a GIS we could try do these two rivers at the moment but it would potentially involve boundary review adjustments. MR asked for a vote on whether to pursue de-maining One against Remaining all in favour Decision to investigate de-maining further.	
12.	**Financial Report** GT ran through the Finance Report as follows.	3662

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	Regarding the income statement and balance sheet for the year-to-date September 2025. In the income section, rates and levies are in line with the budget, the large variance in grant income is £1.28m better than the budget due to grant income which was approved by the EA and received after the budget was set. interest received on grant funding received at £90,000 positive. All in all, income is £1.4 million better than budget. Reviewing the expenditure lines, these are mostly in line with the budget, it's noted that under the administration line that IT licences and insurance (including new cyber insurance addition) cost was higher than expected. Professional fees include cost of sales re Avonmouth recharges in income which was higher than anticipated. Depreciation has become adverse due to timing of fixed assets being capitalised. Overall expenditure being £12k better than the budget. RG: I would like to ask about the fees we charge. On page 64 it says 'consents have been issued' but are our fees high enough/ in line with what we have been doing and what we are being charged? JT: IDB's are only permitted to charge £50 per consent as it is written with the Land Drainage Act although it can take a whole day to complete**.** ADA have been challenging this for some time so it may change in the future. CW: Our greatest asset are our staff – are they getting a fair amount? GT: We have reviewed the staff remuneration the last years and some adjustments have been made to bring parity, and to be in line with the IDB industry and the market/inflation. GT reviewed the remaining financial statements.	
13.	**Board Member Training Proposal for approval** GT: Defra's annual return enquires about Board member training, so this training suggestion will help us show our efforts in this regard. We have a training company with a training platform to	3663

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	facilitate this; Board member who wishes to undertake training will be provided with a login upon request. GT will offer one to one finance training. Councillors who have undertaken courses will be taken into consideration – supported by copies of certificates GS has completed some courses and recommends them. **MB asked for approval unanimous voted in favour**	
14.	**Policies for Approval** **14a Data Retention Policy** **14b Mobile Pump Use** MB asked for votes on both policies; all in favour of acceptance. Policies adopted.	3664
15.	**SLT Reports – to be noted** Noted	3665
16.	**Review of Actions Agreed at the Board** • Add committee meeting minutes to the board packs going forward • Include J Nichols in the Business Services Committee • Recirculate the full Risk Register with the missing columns • Add reference to Climate Change, EA reduced maintenance impacts and the future of IDBs to the long-term objective narrative • Expand the programme variance and cost monthly report with enhanced detail and include percentages • Set up the training platform and process for member and staff training.	3666
17.	**Any other Items which the Chairman decides is urgent** None	3667
	Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 4th February 2026	3668

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	Location TBC	
	Meeting closed: 1.10pm	3669

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