

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

Draft Minutes of the Full Board meeting of the

Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board

Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 10:30am

**Holiday Inn Gloucester – Cheltenham Crest Way Barnwood Gloucester, GL4 3RX
(off M5 Junction 11A)**

Board Members:

Mr. Mike Barnes (Chairman)

Cllr. Matthew Riddle (Vice Chairman)

Mr. Charles Daniell

Mr. John Cornock

Cllr. Simon Phelps

Mr. Geoff Simms

Mr. Roger Godwin

Cllr. Tony Williams

Mr. John Hore

Minutes taken by Victoria Bailey

Board Members continued:

Cllr. James Crawford

Ms. Rachael Chamberlayne

Cllr. Abi Finch

Cllr. Liz Harvey

Officers:

Glenn Taute- CEO and RFO

Victoria Bailey – Minute Taker

James Thomas-Civil Engineer

Jim Druett – Head of Operational Services

Agenda Item		Minute Reference
1.	Apologies/Welcome	3676

	MB opened the meeting by welcoming all present and listing the following apologies: Mr. Robert Hyslop Mr. Jim Nichols Mr. James North Mr. Mark Williams Ald. Nikki Barton Cllr. Sue Milestone Cllr. Terri Kinnison Mr. Tom Cullimore Cllr. Liam Harries Cllr. Christine Wild Mr. Richard Hewlett Cllr. Simon Johnson	
2.	Chairman's Announcements • Key events held, and planned • Board Member & Officer Updates(changes) MB reported that: • Nigel Gardener, Operator, will be retiring in Spring and Nigel was thanked for his long and outstanding service to the Board • Joanna Mathews and Bianca Taute have resigned • Denise Ashley and Ramsey Mokatren have joined as Ratings & Administration Manager and Programme Officer respectively. • Jim Nichols has joined the Business Services Committee • Roger Godwin has joined the Finance Committee • Staff attended the ADA Conference in November, 2025.	3677
3.	Declaration of Members Interests	3678

	RG declared an interest due to his land being used during the pumping station replacement at Lapperditch MR declared an interest as Chairman of the RFCC	
4.	Minutes/Actions of Previous Meetings a. To approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held 12/11/25 Proposed: GS Seconded: RG Two abstentions; minutes approved b. To approve the minutes for the EOB of 14/01/26 Proposed: James Crawford Seconded: RG MR would like his apology noted. Three abstentions; minutes approved c. Board meeting and Committee Meeting current actions for information and review GT listed all actions; no comments received d. Committee Minutes since the last Board meeting for info. - Operation Service 05/11/25 - Finance 03/12/25 - Executive 03/12/25 RG asked for an amendment to page 35 of the Executive Minutes 03/12/2025. GT said that as these are in draft form they are to be noted and amendments and approval will happen at the corresponding committee meeting. LH asked whether appropriate insurance is in place for Board members who visit the pumping stations; GS responded that this will be covered in his report. GT added that only authorised	3679

	people, accompanied by a chaperone, should enter the pumping station sites which are currently under refurbishment. GT said that he will check if RG's appointment to Finance Committee needs to be approved at Full Board.	
5.	Rate Setting and the Budget for 2026/27 - To approve the Budget for 2026/27 - To approve the Rates for 2026/27 - To note the Forecast for the period 2026 to 2031 GT presented the proposed Budget for 2026/27 and medium-term financial projections. GT advised that inflation is forecast at 3–4%, and to cover loan interest, depreciation from the pump station programme, and general inflation, a 4.5% increase in drainage rates is proposed, raising the rate from 13.4p to 14.0p for the year. The Board noted that the payroll allocation to the pump programme will continue to reduce toward nil by 2029, to reflect reduced staff participation as construction methods are refined and to avoid a future step increase in payroll costs once the programme concludes at the end of 2028. The Board was informed that construction of the Lapperditch and Marshfield pump station renewals is planned for completion in 2026/2027, and that Wicks Green and Oldbury renewals are scheduled to start subsequently, completing in 2028. A second PWLB loan of up to £2m may be drawn as required from September 2026. GT summarised the income and expenditure forecasts, noting that grant and fund income in the 2026/2027 period is significantly lower due to the completion of the current grant funding award. The capital programme was highlighted, including ongoing investment in pump stations and supporting plant and equipment replacements. Cash flow forecasts were confirmed sufficient to support planned expenditure.	3680

	Balance sheet projections show increased fixed assets as work in progress converts to commissioned assets, alongside increased long-term borrowing. Reserves, including pension reserves remain healthy. GT rate setting for the 2026/27 year. With regard to Section 40 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Board must set the Special Levy and Drainage Rate by 15 February. Annual values for Local Authorities and Agricultural Land were calculated as at 31st December 2025. The proposed Drainage Rate of 14.0p represents a 4.5% increase, apportioned between local authorities and agricultural land as detailed. GT invited questions. LH asked whether LSIDB are proactive and prepared for future climatic changes including increased rainfall. GT responded that a 50% increase in capacity has been built into the new pumps, and the waterways within the IDBs responsibility had capacity for this. JD added that the way systems are maintained annually means that we can cope. MR said that ditches are the responsibility of landowners, but we can issue notices to clear them, should they become obstructed. The Board is re-profiling existing rhines which will help both with flow and capacity. LH then asked whether it is challenging for LSIDB to enforce riparian owner's responsibilities. GS replied that the reputation of the Drainage Board is good, and that issues arise outside of the Boards area; hence why demanding could be beneficial. GS added that getting Local Authorities to carry out work remained challenging. LH reminded all, that the Councillors who serve on the Board can take issues straight back to their Councils should they arise. This was met with agreement. GT suggested holding a one-off event to Council's within the Boards area to build relationships and educate them in the work of LSIDB.	
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	RG asked GT if his forecast included potential de-maining. GT replied that it did because cash flow will become available after the completion of the Pumping Station Programme. LH queried whether any over collection of rates would be paid back to households but was told that in this respect LSIDB do not work the same way as Councils, however MR will look into this issue outside of the meeting. JT added that it is not a precept that LSIDB receive, it is a levy. John Cornock asked where the money from newbuild housing developments is spent and James Crawford replied that 78% of it is spent on adult social care. James Crawford asked what the cash reserves at LSIDB are, and GT answered that it is £750k at present but this fluctuates. Ideally, it'll reach around £1.5 million over the next two years. GT added that it is important for cash reserves to grow to future-proof LSIDB. GT added that the £5.5 million in grants makes the future more secure. LH asked whether cash reserves are being handled in a way that reduces any future reliance on grant funding and loans. GT replied that there is a strategy in place, and money is kept in a high interest bank account. The pumping stations currently being built are stated to last 30 – 40 years but it is much more likely they will last 50 – 60 years. LH then asked why the cash at bank shows a reduction. GT replied that it goes down due to the investments in the programme in the next years, but we are still due to receive grant money, which we are obligated to spend in accordance with the criteria of the grant. MR noted at the bottom of page 46 are details of the reserves, and he requested that the reserve line is made clearer so that ring marked reserves are designated separately going forward. LH agreed that due to inevitable machinery replacement earmarked reserves are necessary. GT agreed with the importance of earmarked reserves and will apply this from 2026.	
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	SP asked whether GT is comfortable with the amount in the reserves, GT responded that LSIDB is in a healthy financial situation. MB asked for a vote: - To approve the Budget for 2026/27 Proposed: MR Seconded: GS All in favour; budget 2026/2026 approved. - To approve the Rates for 2026/27 Proposed RG Seconded TW All in favour; rates for 2026/2027 approved.	
6.	Business Continuity Plan to Approve GT invited comments from the Board on the Business Continuity Plan. GT added previous suggestions regarding safety of staff, an action plan in a disaster and the office becomes flooded. GT said he will add RG's proposed changes which were sent via email. GT noted that all policies will be regularly reviewed in a schedule, and thanked everyone, especially MR, RG, JT and JD, for their work on the Business Continuity Plan. MB asked for the Board to vote to approve the Business Continuity Plan. Proposed: MR Seconded: RC All in favour; Business Continuity Plan approved.	3681
7.	Programme Update – Report from Geoff Simms	3682

	Photographs of work being carried out during at Lapperditch pumping station were shown on screen as GS delivered his report. GS reported that the Extraordinary Board Meeting of 14th January 2026 agreed to support the Programme Board's proposal to increase the overall programme budget to £10.5m, reflecting contractual pricing changes following the inclusion of Oldbury and Wicks Green, with all four remaining pumping stations now under contractual arrangements. Members were reminded of the governance processes in place to control scope and compensation events. These are reviewed and approved against the agreed budget through the Fastdraft system, which provides a full auditable record of programme activity, including design and construction information. GS advised that the Programme Board had managed a recent period of programme challenge, arising from over-pumping reliability issues, capacity constraints, operational incidents, and adverse weather. Discussions with contractors had been held to assess impacts on residents and the programme, resulting in organisational changes by the contractor, amendments to contractual arrangements relating to over-pumping, and the introduction of a standing Friday coordination meeting. GS noted that a 'red line' had been agreed by the Programme Board so that there were boundaries; once the pumping stations are being worked on no staff or Board member can access the site without approval. This lessens risks to them and to the Board. In relation to grant funding compliance, GS confirmed that the programme team is working to ensure the agreed spend profile is achieved by 31 March 2026. JT has advised that the programme is close to meeting this requirement, with a high level of confidence. <u>Progress by Site</u> Lapperditch Sheet piling welding has been completed following delays due to site conditions. Also, an unknown pipe was discovered which is	
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	likely to be a clean sewage outlet and it has been leaking water into the chamber. Jacksons have been asked to repair the pipe. Pumping capacity was miscalculated so Lapperditch was unable to cope with the unprecedented heavy rainfall and storms this winter; the responsibility for this is both LSIDB's and the contractors. There is likely to be a compensation event. There has been a change of personnel at the Lapperditch site; look forward to a positive working relationship. Grouting works are complete, and preparations are underway for the first concrete pour. New pumps are due to arrive on site shortly for installation. Precautionary works are being undertaken to reduce the risk of high-tide back-filling. Marshfield Works are progressing a few weeks behind Lapperditch. Initial activity will involve plate welding of the sheet piling. Wicks Green A planning requirement for a road condition survey delayed the change-of-access application; this has now been completed and submitted to Stroud District Council. An obstruction affecting an installed pump has been removed, the pump returned to service, and the site environment improved. Oldbury Site setup and surveys have begun. Discussions with landowners have taken place. The programme team is reviewing construction timing, with a preferred option to shorten the design period to enable construction ahead of winter. Discussions are ongoing with Jacksons, and the Board will be kept informed of any strategic changes. The over-pumping strategy has been reviewed to ensure it meets normal installed capacity requirements. A footpath at Oldbury has been closed; an application may need to be made for this. <u>Plant and Equipment</u>	
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	GS advised that factory testing of plant and telemetry equipment is commencing. GS and JD will attend to witness testing, with the first installation planned as a retrofit at Elmore. <u>Governance and Contractual Matters</u> GS noted that contractual protocols and agreed lines of communication were not upheld during the recent period. The contractor has since implemented organisational changes to address this. GS invited questions on his report: SP asked if Severn Trent Water would be chased over the cost incurred due to the leaking sewage pipe. GS responded that it would be more cost effective to fix it on site through our contractor as it could be a long process getting Severn Trent to repair the pipe and potentially delay the project at a great deal of time and cost. GS added, in relation to funding, he is very confident the spend profile is in line with the grant funding spending schedule. GT informed the Board that a tour of the Pumping Stations will take place during the June Board meeting. John Cornock asked where the £3.5 million has been spent. GS answered that it has been spent on equipment, design and construction. LH told GS she would have preferred a written report as this was a verbal update; GS said he will circulate a written version of his report after the meeting. LH asked how wrong the forecast for over pumping was, and JD responded between 25% and 50%. GS added that everything was done as well as possible with these calculations. LH asked what level of responsibility LSIDB have when potentially pumping/ transporting water that could contain phosphates, nitrates and other chemicals. JT replied that LSIDB has no control	
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	or power over the water quality distributed. LH said Severn Trent Water ought to be alerted to the leaking pipe at Lapperditch. <i>MR offered his apologies and left the meeting at 1.45pm</i> LH reminded all of the importance of transparency within the draft and approved minutes in relation to potential compensation claims, and that redacting information is not ideal. LH noted that the 'Pumping Station Update' report had not been updated since November on the website; GT responded that this was due to staff changes, no report sent by Jacksons and will be updated as soon as possible. LH replied that the wording should therefore be changed on the website when we are awaiting the report. LH clarified that it is offence to obstruct a public right of way and that LSIDB needs to apply to permission to do this at Oldbury. LH asked GS what exactly he meant when he said he had a 'fairly high level of confidence' in the spend. GS responded that he has good certainty. LH asked if invoices were received for completed work, and GS said they were, and designs were included in this.	
8.	Review of Actions Agreed at The Board • Review protocol regarding appointing members to vacant committee position • Councils return surplus rates collected to service entities each year if applicable. Why not the IDB? • Create a reserve in the balance sheet for future investments, to be applied from the 2026 year • Agenda items are to be supported by written reports, not just verbal. • Update the website re "Pumping Station Progress"	3683
9.	Any Other Item Which the Chair decides is Urgent AOB	3684

	VB noted that Earth Day falls on Tuesday 22nd April and Thornbury Town Council will be inviting LSIDB and MR as guest speakers for a panel event, as the theme of the evening is 'Local Water Security.' SP noted 'Liam Harries' was accidentally entered twice as attending the previous Board meeting.	
10.	Date of Next Meeting: 3rd June 2026 Venue TBC but to be close to Lapperditch and Marshfield Pumping Stations to allow for a coach tour of the progress made.	3685
11.	Close of Meeting 1.00pm	3686