

Agenda for the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Meeting

9:45am – 1:00pm, Friday 12 September 2025

at Taunton Town Council Offices, The Tone Room, Deane House,
Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE

Members of SRA Board:

Cllr Mike Stanton - *Chair*, Somerset Council

Tony Bradford - *Vice-Chair*, Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB)

Cllr Steve Ashton, Somerset Council

Cllr Mike Caswell, Somerset Council

Vicky Farwig, Wessex Water (*substitute*)

Andrew Gilling, Axe Brue IDB

Rebecca Horsington, Parrett IDB

Claire Newill, Natural England

Cllr Nick O'Donnell, Somerset Council

Cllr Claire Sully, Somerset Council

Trevor Whitcombe, Axe Brue IDB

Ian Withers, Environment Agency

Cllr Ros Wyke, Somerset Council

TBC, Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee

In Attendance:

Bel Deering, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)

James Divall, Somerset Council

Ross Edwards, Environment Agency

Paul Elliston, SRA

Adrian Govier, Environment Agency

Sam Hitchcott, Somerset Council

Piers Hooper, Environment Agency

David Mitchell, SRA

Iain Sturdy, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium

Andy Wallis, AW Water Engineering

Apologies:

Caroline Dunn, SRA

Jonathan Hudston, SRA

Matt Wheeldon, Wessex Water

AGENDA

Item	Title	Purpose	Lead
1.	Introductions and apologies for absence	Clarification	Chair
2.	Declarations of interest	Transparency	Chair
3.	Minutes of previous meeting on 6 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree accuracy Matters arising from the minutes 	Chair, David Mitchell
4.	Chair's update	To update on any matters of relevance to the SRA Board since its last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consider a resolution requesting a pause of planned changes to maintenance on Somerset rivers 	Chair
5.	Public question time	To allow the public to ask questions	Chair
6.	Finance report and Enhanced Programme performance monitoring	To update the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quarter 1 2025-26 Finance Report b. Quarter 1 2025-26 Enhanced Programme performance monitoring 	Sam Hitchcott, David Mitchell
7.	Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF) update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outcome of second round of CFAF applications b. CFAF top-up funding request 	David Mitchell
8.	River Brue modelling	Report and presentation on modelling outputs and next steps.	Andy Wallis, David Mitchell
9.	River Sowey-King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) Enhancements Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KSD bank raising progress update Presentation: improvements in the River Sowey-KSD system since 2014 	Iain Sturdy David Mitchell, Adrian Govier
10.	SRA partnership team	Request to convert SRA Community Engagement roles from fixed term to permanent contracts	David Mitchell
11.	Top Up Funding Request	2025-26 Water Injection Dredging Top-Up Funding Request	Iain Sturdy
12.	Any other business (AOB)	Please notify the Chair of AOB in advance of the meeting	Chair
Next meeting: 5 December 2025			

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) GUIDANCE NOTES

For the SRA Board Meeting 9:45am – 1:00pm, Friday 12 September 2025
at Taunton Town Council Offices, The Tone Room, Deane House,
Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE

For further information about the meeting, please contact Somerset Rivers Authority on (01823) 355111 or email sra@somerset.gov.uk

This meeting will be open to the public and press.

The agenda, reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via Somerset Rivers Authority's website on www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings



RNID typetalk

1 Inspection of Papers

Any person wishing to inspect reports or the background papers for any item on the agenda should contact Somerset Rivers Authority on 01823-355111 or email sra@somerset.gov.uk
Papers can also be accessed at www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings

2 Notes of the Meeting

Details of issues discussed, and decisions taken at the meeting, will be set out in the Minutes, which the Board will be asked to approve as a correct record at its next meeting. In the meantime, details of decisions will be available on the SRA website seven days after the meeting has taken place:
www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings

3 Public Question Time

At the Chair's invitation, you may ask questions and/or make statements or comments about any matter on the Board's agenda. You may also present a petition on any matter within the Board's remit. The length of public question time will be no more than 30 minutes in total.

A slot for Public Question Time is set aside near the beginning of the meeting, after the minutes of the previous meeting have been signed. However, questions or statements about any matter on the agenda for this meeting may be taken at the time when each matter is considered at the Chair's discretion.

If you wish to speak at the meeting, or submit a petition, then you will need to submit your statement or question in writing to Somerset Rivers Authority by 12 noon on Monday 8 September 2025. Email sra@somerset.gov.uk

You must direct your questions and comments through the Chair. You may not take direct part in the debate. The Chair will decide when public participation is to finish. If there are many people present at the meeting for one particular item, the Chair may adjourn the meeting to allow views to be expressed more freely.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

An issue will not be deferred because you cannot be present at the meeting.

Remember that the amount of time you speak will be restricted normally to three minutes only.

4 Access and Attendance

The Board meeting at Deane House is open to the public and press but there is limited capacity for health and safety reasons.

There is a public pay and display car park outside the venue.

The venue has a maximum capacity which cannot be exceeded. If numbers attending exceed capacity, then priority will be given to those who have registered to speak at Public Question Time and thereafter admittance will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

5 Hearing Aid Loop System

To assist hearing aid users, the venue is fitted with a hard of hearing loop system. This works in conjunction with a hearing aid in the T position. If you require assistance on the day, then officers will be happy to assist.

6 Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The emergency evacuation procedures are displayed on notices throughout the venue.

7 Recording of meeting

Somerset Rivers Authority supports the principles of openness and transparency, it allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public providing it is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone who is wishing to film part of or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording will take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to Somerset Rivers Authority so that the Chair can inform those present at the start of the meeting.

We ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

Somerset Rivers Authority makes audio recordings of Board meetings in order to have verbatim records of what was discussed. A copy of the Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact Somerset Rivers Authority in advance.