

**Agenda for the  
Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Board Meeting  
9:45am – 1:00pm, Friday 20 March 2026  
at Somerset Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT**

**Members of SRA Board:**

**Cllr Mike Stanton** - *Chair*, Somerset Council  
**Tony Bradford** - *Vice-Chair*, Parrett Internal Drainage Board (IDB)  
**Cllr Steve Ashton**, Somerset Council  
**Anthony Betty**, Parrett IDB  
**Cllr Mike Caswell**, Somerset Council  
**Ian Collins**, Wessex Regional Flood & Coastal Committee  
**Andrew Gilling**, Axe Brue IDB  
**Claire Newill**, Natural England  
**Cllr Nick O'Donnell**, Somerset Council  
**Cllr Claire Sully**, Somerset Council  
**Ian Withers**, Environment Agency  
**Wendy Welland**, Axe Brue IDB  
**Cllr Ros Wyke**, Somerset Council

**In Attendance:**

**Bel Deering**, Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA)  
**James Divall**, Somerset Council  
**Caroline Dunn**, SRA  
**Ross Edwards**, Environment Agency  
**Paul Elliston**, SRA  
**Sam Hitchcott**, Somerset Council  
**Piers Hooper**, Environment Agency  
**Jonathan Hudston**, SRA  
**David Mitchell**, SRA  
**Iain Sturdy**, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium

**Apologies:**

**Matt Wheeldon**, Wessex Water  
**Vicky Farwig**, Wessex Water  
**Neil Ogilvie**, Somerset Council

## AGENDA

Item No	Title	Purpose	Lead
1.	Introductions and apologies for absence	To list apologies	Chair
2.	Declarations of Interest	Transparency	Chair
3.	Minutes of previous meeting on 5 December 2025	a. To agree accuracy b. Matters arising from last meeting	Chair
4.	2026-27 SRA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Constitution	To agree and sign the 2026-27 SRA Memorandum of Understanding and Constitution	Chair
5.	Chair's update	To update on any matters of relevance to the SRA Board since its last meeting	Chair
6.	January Major Flooding Incident	Update on impacts and response to Major Flood Incident from SRA Partners	All
7.	Public Question Time	To allow the public to ask questions	Chair
8.	Finance Report and Enhanced Programme Performance Monitoring	To update the Board on: a. Quarter 3 2025-26 Finance Report b. Quarter 3 2025-26 Performance Monitoring	Sam Hitchcott Caroline Dunn
9.	2026-27 Enhanced Programme and Budget	To review and approve the draft 2026-27 Proposed Enhanced Programme and Budget	David Mitchell
10.	Flood Group Networks	Presentation on work to build a supportive network of flood groups across the county.	Bel Deering
11.	River Sowy - King's Sedgemoor Drain (KSD) completion report	Completion report	David Mitchell
12.	Any other business (AOB)	Please notify the Chair of AOB in advance of the meeting	Chair
<b>Next meeting: 5 June 2026</b>			

## Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) GUIDANCE NOTES

For the SRA Board Meeting 9:45am – 1pm, Friday 20 March 2026  
at the Somerset Council offices in Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT

For further information about the meeting, please contact Somerset Rivers Authority on (01823) 355111 or email [sra@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings)



### 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](mailto:sra@somerset.gov.uk) Papers can also be accessed at [www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings](http://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 and draft minutes will be available on the SRA website seven days after the meeting has taken place:  
[www.somersetiversauthority.org.uk/meetings](http://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 16 March 2026. Email [sra@somerset.gov.uk](mailto: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 is open to the public and press but there is limited capacity for health and safety reasons.

The venue has free parking.

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.