**ADEPT Bridges Group meeting 17 October 2018**

The closure of the line between Reading and Paddington caused the chairman and Secretary to arrive 90 minutes late but it appeared they weren’t missed!

* **Professor Matthew Gilbert** of Sheffield University provided a presentation on Masonry Arch Bridge Assessments.
* **Steve Berry of DfT** attended to hear the Group’s views on the appraisal process for the Challenge Fund, which this year is focusing on bridges and structures.
* **Graham Cole** is retiring from the Group – the group thanked him for all he has done over the past 25 years, and such has been Graham’s involvement across the bridges area that at least four people will be required to replace him! **Stuart Molyneux** was recommended to be his successor.
* **Liz Kirkham** is standing down as chairman to take on the Secretary role of the Engineering Board. **Kevin Dentith** is proposed to succeed her.
* **Alistair Dore** will take over the role of Secretary and **Keith Harwood** has been seconded to the UK Bridges Board to represent ADEPT/BOF.
* Areas covered at the meeting included liaison with Network Rail and the Canal & Rivers Trust.
* There are now 31 certificated Bridge Inspectors under LANTRA’s  Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme (BICS).
* The **Highways England / ADEPT  Boundary** liability Code of Practice was accepted as the best offer we are likely to achieve, but there is concern it may impact adversely on our highways colleagues and they will be made aware through the Engineering Board.

**Kevin Dentith**

**Secretary**