

OVER AND WILLINGHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Over and Willingham Internal Drainage Board
hosted at the Middle Level Offices, March on Tuesday the 27th April 2021

PRESENT

B R Burling Esq (Chairman)	W Handley Esq
L M Cook Esq (Vice Chairman)	T Henshaw Esq
M Church Esq	R D Holland Esq
H Garner Esq	M Page Esq
J Smith Esq	

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance. Mr M Dorey (Hansons UK) attended the meeting as a member of the public.

B.256 Declarations of Interest

Miss McShane reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

Mr Church declared an interest in minute nos. B.274 and B.293.

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in B.278.

B.257 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 28th April 2020 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.258 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That B R Burling Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.259 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That L M Cook Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.260 Election of Members of the Board

Miss McShane reported that, as the number of candidates for membership of the Board did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (ten), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from the 1st November 2020, viz:-

BURLING Brian Roy	GARNER Harry
BURLING Stuart Oliver	HENSHAW Tim
CHURCH Michael	HOLLAND Richard D
COOK Leslie Maurice	PAGE Mark
	SMITH Jack

(NB) – Councillor W Handley is also a Member of the Board as the nominee of South Cambridgeshire District Council under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.261 Board Membership

Miss McShane reported that, due to other priorities and a change in job remit, Mr Mark Page had tendered his resignation as Hanson's representative on the Board and that Mr Hilton Law had been nominated as his successor.

The Chairman thanked Mr Page for his service on the Board.

RESOLVED

That Mr Law be formally co-opted to membership of the Board

B.262 Vacancy in Membership

Further to minute B.222, consideration was given to the filling of the vacancy on the Board.

RESOLVED

That no action be taken to fill the vacancy at the present time.

B.263 Willows and Saplings alongside District Watercourse

Further to minute B.223, the Chairman reported that although Mr Hayward had removed some of the willows and saplings along the Board's drain there were still some to be removed.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk send a letter to Mr Hayward for breach of byelaws requesting that the willows and saplings be removed and if this was not done a notice be sent under Section 64 of the Land Drainage Act advising that the Board would enter on his land and carry out works in default to remove the saplings.

B.264 Tree in water close to Hansons Conveyor

Further to minute B.223, the Chairman reported that this matter had now been raised with Hilton Law to ask if Hanson's contractors could remove the fallen willow from the drain.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman/District Officer monitor the presence of the fallen willow and if necessary make a further request to Hilton Law for the tree to be removed.

B.265 Dockerell Brook/Willingham Lode

Further to minute B.224, the Chairman referred to his notes emailed to the Commissioners prior to the meeting and reported that at the last meeting it had been agreed that himself and the District Officer should continue to liaise with the Environment Agency concerning the works to the watercourses. It was reported that Willingham Parish Council had discussed maintenance with Anglian Water and that the Environment Agency were to meet with Willingham Parish Council. It was generally felt that a multi-agency approach would be helpful and Councillor Handley said he would approach the new South Cambridgeshire District Council Drainage Engineer who had been recently appointed as ask him to speak to the Chairman.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Handley contact the Drainage Engineer at South Cambridgeshire District Council and ask him to contact the Chairman about the issues at Dockerell Brook/Willingham Lode

B.266 Access to Over Pumping Station

Further to minute B.225, the District Officer reported that there was still an issue with the gate and the access to the pumping station. The problem was that the gate, when opened, crossed over onto the public highway and it was felt that it was too close to the road. The solution would be to move the gate further down the track.

RESOLVED

That Mr Tim Wetherspoon, the elected Councillor, and George Hay who was Enforcement Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council be consulted about the access issues to the pumping station.

B.267 Proposed Residential development– Station Road, Over – Discharge of Surface Water

Further to minute B.226, the Chairman reported that planning permission for this development had been refused and to date no appeal had been lodged.

RESOLVED

That this matter be kept under review in the event that the Developer submits an appeal against the refusal of planning permission.

B.268 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a sixth Chair's Meeting was held virtually on the 26th November 2020.

Topics discussed included the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive giving an update on COVID-19 actions and responses, the change of MLC Chairman from Marc Heading to Jonathan Brown, updates on the Technical Services Department review (which aims to address the delays in responding to planning and consenting matters) and an update on the work of WRE. He also advised that Defra had commented positively on the Good Governance Guide published by ADA and that on the back of this feedback ADA were currently working on an Environmental Good Governance Guide. It was also noted at this meeting that Agricultural and Environmental Bills were passing through Parliament, the later including clauses benefiting IDBs, allowing them to expand their boundaries or for entirely new IDBs to be created, which was welcomed by the Chairmen as a positive step forward. Paul Burrows spoke on the work of the Environment Agency covering topics such as carbon baselining, national strategies, the tactical plans (which are securing much needed grant allocation for the area) and the need to continue to grow partnership working. He also spoke for Brian Stewart, the RFCC Chairman, who unfortunately was suffering from a poor broadband connection. On behalf of Brian, he advised that following the re-shaping of the local RFCC, there were two extra EA nominated positions available and that in this respect he wanted to propose that an Ex-officio seat be created for the incumbent Chair of the Great Ouse branch of ADA. This is likely to be Marc Heading who is expected to take over from Harry Raby in the spring. The new post will inject a direct link to farming which is of course the major business sector covered by this RFCC. The meeting finally turned to the future amalgamation of IDBs which it was generally agreed are likely to increase over time as succession planning has to be addressed.

ii) Application for byelaw consent

That the following application for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses has been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Details of Work Consented</u>	<u>Date Consented</u>
RSPB, Beds, Cambs & Herts	Construction of headwall housing outfall pipe	9 th September 2020

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consent be approved.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 83rd Annual Conference of the Association was held virtually on Wednesday the 11th November 2020.

The conference this year was held in two distinct and separate parts, with the morning session comprising of key speakers and questions and the afternoon the AGM.

Key speakers in the morning were;

David Cooper, Deputy Director for Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy (Defra) – who first thanked the IDBs for the work they do and then endorsed the efforts being made to improve governance through the publication of the ‘Good Governance Guide’ and the work in hand on ‘Good Environmental Governance’. He then went on to speak about the ambitious aims of government, the record investment agreed by treasury for the next six year funding cycle and the Agriculture Bill that if passed will facilitate the creation of new IDBs and allow existing IDBs to expand districts. He finished by stating that the key was to educate people and to work together to share good practice.

Chris Stodate, Head of Research (Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust) – who spoke about the Allerton Project which was a carefully implemented scheme to directly measure the impacts of controlling headwaters using measures such as leaky dams. This work consisted of schemes on similar upland sub-catchments where a direct comparison could be made between interventions and non-interventions. The results were very promising with downstream peak flows being reduced by around a quarter where the most effective measures were installed. Chris accepted that there were challenges surrounding maintenance and that the choice of natural materials and design was key. He also noted that in the locations chosen any failed leaky dam materials would get caught on stream bends well before any risk of being washed downstream into urban areas.

Toby Willson, Executive Director of Operations (Environment Agency) – who is soon to leave the EA reflected on the target to be carbon neutral in less than a decade and in doing this noted that the equivalent carbon release linked to pumping alone from the February event this year was equivalent to that of 1200 houses. He went on to point out that the onus is on us to act now and that if we fail to do so it will be our children and grandchildren who will face the consequences.. He acknowledged the hugely influential role of ADA’s voice in the development of national strategies and the work being done in partnership with IDBs to be more resilient. He finished by setting out three challenges.

- 1) To develop true partnerships where all organisations are working unified towards the same goals.
- 2) To achieve net zero carbon emissions, asking specifically what the IDBs were doing towards this?
- 3) To develop and implement strategies to attract young people into the industry.

Questions were taken from the floor and were wide ranging from asking why there was so little information being shared on the development of ELMs to why it was necessary in one location for the EA to undertake an environmental check before removing a dead tree from across a watercourse.

A more formal question and answer session ended the morning, the panel being made up from, Julia Beeden from Cambridgeshire County Council, Emily Clarke from Anglian Water, John Curtin from Environment Agency, David Jenkins from Wessex RFCC, Innes Thompson from ADA and David Thomas from the Middle Level Commissioners. When asked a question David Thomas, your Clerk, took the opportunity to advise of the importance and value of the work being undertaken by WRE and also to point out to Toby Wilson that he absolutely agreed with the sentiments of partnership working and also the key aims of the EA but noted that true partnership working was a two way street and that there were still areas of policy

development that ADA were not being involved with sufficiently. Toby accepted that the EA were not perfect and that more work needed to be done on this.

The AGM in the afternoon followed the usual format of recording appointments and electing office holders. It was noted that Robert Caudwell would be coming to the end of the normal Chair's term of office and that this would be reviewed next year. The formalities over a lively question and answer session followed which seemed to work very well and may influence how future conferences are arranged.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 10th November 2021.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Member who wishes to attend.

c) Meeting of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association was held virtually on Tuesday the 2nd March 2021.

Matters covered were that there was a change in Chairman with Harry Raby stepping down and Marc Heading taking his place. Councillor Doug McMurdo takes on the role of Vice Chairman. This maintains the balance of having upland and lowland members in key roles and also balances council and agricultural ratepayers' interests. John Heading was appointed for another three years on the ADA Board as branch representative. Robert Caudwell gave an update on ADA matters focusing in on progress of the agriculture bill through parliament and the lowland peat initiative which he considers must not negatively impact on livelihoods and the need to produce food for the nation. Next to speak was Brian Stewart who was seeking support for his initiative to create an Ex-Officio post on the FRCC for the sitting Chairman of the Great Ouse branch of ADA (EA nominated post). This was supported unanimously and Marc Heading will take up this new role with immediate effect.

Claire Jouvray and Paul Burrows gave updates on the revenue funding position, which was quite healthy with sources of money found to deliver what had been targeted and on the long-term strategy for the area including the tactical plans which are set to make access to grant in aid smoother than it might otherwise be. A warning was raised that funding may get squeezed as time passes and the financial impact of COVID-19 gets addressed.

Approximately 30 people attended this virtual meeting, which should return to its normal format at Prickwillow Hall next year.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 1st March 2022.

d) ADA response to publication of EFRA Flooding Inquiry Report

That ADA have responded to the Government EFRA report into the winters flooding, which has the headline conclusion that the lack of clear flood-resilience targets is leaving England at risk of 'playing catch-up' with climate change.

Encouragingly, in addition to recognising these challenges, EFRA have also clearly stated that in light of ever more frequent and severe storms, there is an urgent need to provide long-term funding for the maintenance of existing and new flood defences, to match capital commitment together with a need to examine the mental health impacts of severe flooding, calling for an action plan to address this alongside the economic and physical effects.

ADA's response and the full EFRA report can be found via the following link; <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmenvfru/170/170.pdf>

iv) Capital Funding Projects

That at the spring 2020 budget it was announced that government would provide the Environment Agency with a settlement of £5.2bn for capital funding projects over the next 6 years, from April 2021 to March 2027, to better protect 336,000 properties. This includes both homes and non-residential properties and this presents a significant increase over the current 6-year programme. It is noted that the definition of non-residential properties includes shops, businesses, industrial sites, schools, hospitals, etc. and the new arrangements also facilitate funded improvements to habitat and the environment.

In response to this the Environment Agency have issued new partnership funding rules which go alongside this increased funding programme. The new rules are considered critical to delivering the called for better protection to the target of 336,000 properties, but will also allow:

- updated payments which will now account for inflation and be based on new evidence on the overall impacts of flooding, such as mental health
- increased payments for flood protection schemes which also create a range of environmental benefits
- more funding for flood protection schemes which also protect properties that will later become at risk of flooding due to climate change
- a new risk category which will enable schemes that prevent surface water flooding to qualify for more funding

v) What is Good Governance

That Defra have provided a summary of "What is Good Governance?":-

- Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making 'correct' decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions - and therefore good governance, share several characteristics. All have a positive effect on various aspects of Boards including consultation policies and practices, meeting procedures, service quality protocols, officers' conduct, role clarification and good working relationships.
- Boards should implement decisions and follow processes that make the best use of the available people, resources and time to ensure the best possible results for their community – and try to serve the needs of the entire community while

balancing competing interests in a timely, appropriate and responsive manner. A community's wellbeing results from all of its members feeling their interests have been considered by Boards in the decision-making process. This means that all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in the process.

- People should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see how and why a decision was made – what information, advice and consultation Boards considered, and which legislative requirements (when relevant) Boards followed. This means that decisions are consistent with relevant legislation or common law and are within the powers of the Acts.
- Anyone affected by or interested in a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision. This can happen in several ways – community members may be provided with information, asked for their opinion, given the opportunity to make recommendations or, in some cases, be part of the actual decision-making process.
- Accountability is a fundamental requirement of good governance. Boards have an obligation to report, explain and be answerable for the consequences of decisions it has made on behalf of the community it represents.

vi) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

That a Local Levy Bid has been submitted that appears to have been successful and will offer a contribution of half the cost of installing telemetry at pumping station sites. This will allow early warnings of pump or weedscreen failure and remote operation. Also, as the bid covers all MLC administered IDBs there is scale which will facilitate very competitive rates.

When looking at the cost of telemetry there will be a number of factors that will impact upon cost. We have asked Xylem to put together a table that should cover the upper and lower bounds of all IDB pumping stations (see below). Prior to placing an order a site survey will be undertaken, average cost for this is expected to be in the region of £200. Xylem will then assess what if any control panel modifications will be required to allow telemetry. The other defining factor will be whether there is to be an additional requirement for remote control of the station pumps and set points. The table covers this range.

The costing bands are:

Low	£2000 - £5,000	Minor panel modifications are required, signals are present but need work to the panel to present or make these available to telemetry.
Medium	£5,001 - £24,999	Signals are not present to enable telemetry and panel modifications are quite intensive to bring the panel to a point where a telemetry unit can be installed.
High	£25,000 +	Signals are not present and the panel requires major modifications to give the required signals. Should this option be required it is anticipated that consideration first should be given to replacement of the control panel which would bring more value and longevity. Signals for telemetry could be more easily accommodated in a new panel.

Note all above figures are gross and if the Board resolves to go ahead as part of the Grant funded scheme currently on offer will be discounted 50%

Note: The telemetry access will be cloud based, increasing the flexibility in access at the appropriate level for staff and District Officers.

The Board considered the three bands of costs and felt they were too small a Board and that funding would be an issue.

RESOLVED

That the Board do not wish to be included in the arrangements for telemetry provision.

vii) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.189(vii), Miss McShane advised that although the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract had continued to be monitored it had been difficult to address some of the issues due to the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

In view of this, the Middle Level Commissioners' resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2021 and to continue to monitor the performance of Anglia Farmers over the new contract period.

Miss McShane reported that in addition it was proposed that quotes for 'green energy' be included, with a view to moving over to this form of power supply if the cost differential is marginal. Miss Ablett further reported that the need to show that IDBs carbon footprint is being actively managed over future years is expected to increase with the Environment Agency setting themselves the target of being carbon neutral by 2030.

Miss McShane reported that the Chairman had subsequently agreed for the Board to remain with Anglia Farmers.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved.

viii) Fens Biosphere

Further to minute B.229, Miss McShane referred to the leaflet from Cambridgeshire Acre.

ix) Land Registry

Whilst is a legal requirement for land occupiers to notify the Board of any change of occupation, including releasing contact details for the new occupiers, on many occasions this does not occur and time is spent trying to determine who the new occupier is. When the normal avenues fail to deliver any meaningful information we now use our Land Registry account to gain details of the current land owner. The costs of making an application via this method are small (currently £6) but obviously this will show up on the Board accounts, hence the need to draw this new way of working to the Boards attention.

x) National Drainage Show & Floodex 2021

That the National Drainage Show & Floodex 2021 will be held at ExCel, London on the 9th and 10th November 2021.

xi) Water Resources East (WRE)

Further to minute B.229(vii), Miss McShane reported that WRE have had a productive and fruitful year despite COVID and have managed to lever many millions of funding for studies and initiatives which in the long term should benefit this area by recognising the importance of agriculture to the water resource supply chain and by seeking ways to integrate water resources, flood risk management and environmental objective delivery together. For the 2020/2021 year (should the Board continue to wish to support the work of WRE and contribute accordingly) the calculated figure will be £125.00. Please note that ADA have developed a new band based charging structure, hence the change from the previous year's figure.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the requested annual contribution of £125.00.

B.269 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.230, Miss McShane referred to the most recent matters raised by the Partnership.

Miss McShane reported that Mr Graham Moore, Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer attends these meetings on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners and IDBs.

B.270 Asset Survey of the Board's Pumping Stations

Further to minute B.235, Miss McShane referred to the asset survey of the Board's pumping stations, viz:-

Over & Willingham I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report - March 2021

Pumping Station Asset Appraisal

Further to the asset appraisal carried out in 2010 for the EA the Board requested an update for 2021.

Over



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Over and Willingham
Commissioned	Late 1930's (Diesel controlled)
Refurbished	1961 electrified, 1991 and converted to water lube
Pumps	1 no. Allen Gwynnes 24" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow
Duty	Unknown
Drive Motor	Laurence Scott
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	Lawtronic Star-Delta
Automatic Level Control	Milltronic Multiranger Plus Ultrasonics
Weedscreen Cleaner	Automatic: Manufactured by Metalcraft installed 2017
Control Building	Brick with corrugated roofing
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.4 m high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Over pumping station drains an area of arable land south of Earith and north of Over and Willingham. It is the only pumping station in the Over and Willingham Internal Drainage Board catchment.

The station discharges into the River Great Ouse near the head of the Hundred Foot drain. The station dates back to the late 1930s and was originally powered by a diesel engine operating a horizontal spindle pump. The equipment is still in position but is no longer in use. The station is now electrified and the single Allen Gwynnes 24" pump discharges through an inverted siphon to the outfall which discharges into the River Great Ouse.

Weedscreen/Cleaner



A new weedscreen and cleaner were installed in 2017 and should provide at least another 10-12 years before any major works are required.

Control House



The control building is of brick construction with a corrugated roof on a steel framed trussed rafter. The roof material is likely to be asbestos and there are areas of damage which are liable to let in rain. The windows have been removed in the past and the openings have been bricked up. The building has significant frost damage and gable end ridge tiles are missing which is contributing to the problem.



The rainwater goods have been replaced in the past but are in a poor condition with the rear down pipe laying on the floor and bracketry on the front guttering broken. It is recommended that repairs are carried out as soon as possible to prevent further damage.



Control Equipment/Pumps

The control panel was replaced during the pump refurbishment in 1991 and whilst the parts are old and obsolete it is currently repairable using modern parts, however some major parts are typically on a two-week delivery. The weedscreen panel was installed in 2017.



The pumping station was originally constructed in the late 1930s and was powered by a diesel engine operating an Allen Gwynnes horizontal spindle pump. The station was electrified in 1961 when a vertical spindle axial flow pump and Laurence Scott motor were installed. The existing diesel engine and pump were kept for standby duties. The depth of the sump was lowered during the installation of the electric pump and this should ensure the sump and pump submergence should be adequate for at least the next 10 years.

The pump and motor were last overhauled around 1991 and whilst the motor shows no sign of failure the pump urgently needs its column bolts

replacing. It also runs with a higher than acceptable level of vibration and bearing in mind it has not been overhauled for 30 years it would seem prudent to remove the pump and overhaul it rather than dam off and just replace the bolts. It is understood that the diesel engine is no longer in operation and it would be beneficial for health and safety reasons for the equipment to be removed.

The electrical cabling to the pump has been subject to theft attempts and has now been covered with concrete to deter further attacks.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

Vehicular access to the station is via a stone track which is in an acceptable condition. **Note: the track is shared with others.**

The compound is surrounded by a 2.4 metre high galvanised palisade fence that has been installed recently and is in very good condition and should last a further 20 years.

The existing redundant diesel bund remains on-site. The site would benefit if the tank was removed, the compound tidied and stone/gravel laid which may deter the fly-tipping issue or at least help with the clearing operation.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles which are in a fair condition for their age but have significant amounts of corrosion, they should however last a further 15-20 years.



The inlet bay is constructed of reinforced concrete and appears to be in good condition. There is a 1.2 metre high galvanised post and rail hand rail around the inlet which is in good condition with a residual life of 30 years.

The outlet bay is of reinforced concrete, due to the high river level it could not be seen at the time of producing this report however it is believed to be in reasonable condition and should last a further 20 years.



Pumping Station Valuations - Over & Willingham I.D.B	
<i>The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.</i>	
Site Name	Over & Willingham I.D.B - Over Pumping Stn.
Site Data	
No. Pumps	1 no electric & 1 no disused diesel (not included in valuation)
Station Capacity	1020 l/s @ 4.57m TGH
Station built	Late 1930s (electrified and automated 1961) Plant overhauled 1991
Description of Station	Allen Gwynnes 24" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow, Laurence Scott SC motor 67kW@ 590 RPM Lawtronic Star-Delta auto control installed 1995. Brick pumphouse with corrugated asbestos cement roof.
Valuation	
Civils Works	£533,450.00
M&E	£237,145.00
Other	£44,760.00
Total	£815,355.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework	£397,250.00
Hard standing	£0.00
Fencing	£11,350.00
Outfall	£56,750.00
Pumphouse/Control building	£56,750.00
Other weedscreen	£11,350.00
M&E	
Pump	£77,210.00
Control Equipment/cabling	£22,060.00
Power Supply	inc in public liability
Motor/gearbox	£22,060.00
Installation	£33,090.00
Weedscreen cleaner	£82,725.00
Other	
Approvals	£11,190.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,595.00
Design	£16,785.00
Supervision	£11,190.00

Consulting Engineer

31 May 2021

It was agreed that the repairs to the rainwater goods should be carried out and that a local builder be contacted to carry out this work. The Board noted the advice of the Consulting Engineer that the pump and motor were last overhauled in 1991 and although the motor shows no sign of failure the pump urgently needs its column bolts replacing. The Board were of the opinion that whilst it was running satisfactorily they did not wish to interfere with the bolts at the current time. The District Officer agreed to obtain a second opinion on the bolts from Bedford Pumps.

B.271 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

It was noted that the £100,000 for a replacement pump had been provided for in year 6. The estimate costs of £9,000 for column bolts should not be spent in the current year.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.272 District Work Report

The District Officer reported that the normal programme of drainworks and flail mowing had been carried out. He further reported that works to widen the culvert under the bridleway were needed together with remedials to the concrete headwalls at the Ouse Fen bank and that these may need replacing. This work would need to be carried out by a contractor.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.
- ii) That the Chairman arrange a site meeting with the District Officer and obtain quotations for the work and report back at the next meeting of the Board.

B.273 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Conservation Officer's newsletter, dated December 2020, previously circulated to members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.274 District Officer's Fee

The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2021/2022.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of £1,746.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2021/2022.

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.275 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.276 Agreements between the Drainage Board, Hanson Aggregates and RSPB

Further to minute B.236, Mr Page stated that they continue to engage with the Internal Drainage Board to look at the future arrangements with the RSPB although there had been no recent contact. A meeting was to be arranged with the RSPB Land Agent Mr Geoffrey as the RSPB were keen to pursue the agreement which had been set out in the draft documentation and the representatives from Hanson Aggregates agreed to continue to work with the RSPB Land Agent on this matter.

RESOLVED

That the current arrangements between the Board and Hanson Aggregates continue for 2021/2022.

B.277 Gravel Extraction programme for 2021/2022

Further to minute B.237, Mr Dorey reported that a drawing had been submitted showing the stripping operation for the current year. He advised that the quarry had stayed open for the sales of aggregate and current sales were approximately £1 million a year from the site. Mr Dorey reported on the land which had been transferred to the RSPB. Cells 1-6, 7 and 8 had been completed and were being transferred which made a total of 500 acres worked and restored and water was being pumped from the cells. Mr Dorey advised that they were currently working on cell 10. A specialist contractor had been engaged to advise on how to deal with these works. There was at least a year's worth of work before the design can be implemented. The structure will be included within the Internal Drainage Board area and will be under the control of the Internal Drainage Board. The RSPB will have an extraction licence to control water levels.

B.278 Flail Mowing

Further to minute B.238, the District Officer reported that a tender for the works had been received from L A Burton at £34.00 per hour. This was the only tender received.

M D Contractors had advised the District Officer that they would like to quote in the future and would like to be considered for future works although they did not submit a tender for the current year.

RESOLVED

That the tender received from L A Burton in the sum of £34.00 per hour to undertake flail mowing operations for a 2 year period be accepted by the Board.

(NB) – Mr Cook declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.279 Environment Agency – Precept

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2021/2022 in the sum of £16,169 (the precept for 2020/2021 being £16,169).

B.280 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss McShane reported that the sum of £1,029.88 (£2,748.46 less £1,718.58 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2019/2020 together with the sum of £2,080.33 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2020/2021.

B.281 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss McShane reported that the Clerk had been advised that subscriptions for 2021 will remain unchanged at £565.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2021 be paid.

B.282 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes.

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

B.283 Contribution from Developer

Miss McShane reported that a contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received.

B.284 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.243(b), the District Officer referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on the 29th September 2020 and there were no outstanding health and safety matters.

B.285 Special Circumstance Policy on Tendering

Miss McShane referred to the policy that had been produced and advised Members that there had been issues for some IDBs during the COVID-19 pandemic in respect to meeting their normal policy on numbers of valid tenders or quotations. It was intended that this policy would only apply in special conditions such as these and that to invoke the policy the Chairman would need to record what the special circumstance was before it could be used.

RESOLVED

That the Board formally adopt this policy.

B.286 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board - 2019/2020

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2020.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2020.

B.287 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss McShane referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2019/2020 which the Board noted and approved.

B.288 Budgeting

Miss McShane referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.

B.289 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

Miss McShane reported that the agreement with the Commissioners' Internal Auditor ended in 2021 and that, due to restrictions caused by COVID-19 and increased workloads from the winter

rainfall events, it had not been possible to properly tender for a new agreement. Following discussions with Whiting & Partners it had therefore been agreed that the current arrangements would be extended by one year to allow sufficient time for the tender process to be carried out.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the one-year extension of the appointment of Whiting & Partners as Internal Auditor.

B.290 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Board reviewed the insured value of their buildings.

RESOLVED

That, as per the Engineer's valuation, the insured value of the Board's pumping station be increased from 1st April 2021.

B.291 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss McShane referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

B.292 Annual Governance Statement – 2020/2021

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.

B.293 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £47,562.54 which had been made during the financial year 2020/2021.

(NB) – Mr Church declared an interest in the payments made to him and to Haddenham Level DC.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman declared an interest in the payments to L A Burton.

B.294 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2020/2021

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2021 as required in the Audit Regulations.

It was noted with concern that there were arrears on the Ratepayers account of £593.28 which was due from the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.
- ii) That the Clerk advise the Board on what steps they could take and ask that he write to the Environment Agency expressing the Board's concern that these arrears had not been paid.

B.295 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2021/2022

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2021/2022 and were informed by Miss McShane that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 41.33% and 58.67%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £33,763 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £13,953 and £19,810 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 26.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £18,737 be made and issued to South Cambridgeshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.296 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.297 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 26th April 2022.