

HUNDRED OF WISBECH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board
held at The Crown Lodge, Outwell on Thursday 18th November 2021

PRESENT

M G Day Esq (Chairman)	G L Lake Esq
N Buttress Esq (Vice Chairman)	J Leach Esq
F D Leach (Deputy Vice Chairman)	Cllr B Rackley
Cllr G Booth Esq	C Smart Esq
N J Harrison Esq	

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Bunning Esq, C F Hartley Esq, Cllr Miss S Hoy, Cllr N Meekins Esq, Cllr W Sutton Esq, P Tegerdine Esq, Cllr D Topgood Esq, Cllr Mrs S Wallwork and C Ward Esq.

B.2002 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hill 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.

The Chairman and Mr Lake declared interests in the planning application (MLC ref no's 1445 and 1471) received from The Thomas Squire Charity.

Mr Harrison declared an interest in any item in relation to the maintenance work of the Board.

Cllr Booth declared an interest in all planning matters as a substitute member of Fenland District Council's Planning Committee.

Mr Harrison and Cllr Rackley (as members of Waldersey IDB) declared interests in any matters concerning Waldersey IDB.

Mr Buttress and Mr F Leach as District Officers of the Board declared interests in Agenda Item 19 (District Officers' Fee)

The Chairman also declared an interest in Agenda Item 19 (District Officers' Fee)

B.2003 Confirmation of Minutes

Further to minute B.1974, Mr Lake reported that Mr Clarke was not his tenant, having purchased the farm.

Further to minute B.1992, it was reported that the ADA subscription for 2021 should be £866.00.

RESOLVED

That subject to the above-mentioned amendments, that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 11th May 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.2004 Matters Arising

None

B.2005 Standing Orders

Mr Hill reported that there had been 2 further minor changes to the Standing Orders approved at the meeting of the Board on 11th May 2021.

RESOLVED

That the Board adopt the further revised Standing Orders.

B.2006 Filling of vacancies

Mr Hill reported that the office had been informed that C F Hartley Esq had resigned from all Boards he sits on due to personal reasons.

Members considered the now four vacancies on the Board.

In response to Mr F Leach, Mr Hill informed members of the criteria for becoming a member of the Board. Members considered whether Mr Hartley could nominate a family member to take his place on the Board.

RESOLVED

a) That no action be taken to fill the vacancies at the present time and for the matter to be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

b) That Mr Hartley's resignation was received with regret and that the Board's appreciation of his service to the Board, and District, be recorded.

B.2007 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.1975, the Board considered the report of the Health and Safety Officer.

Mr Buttress referred to his intention to take some formal courses to help develop his role further and his proposal to carry out a further review of the District System with the NFU Health and Safety representative early in 2023 to ensure that the Board continued to keep pace with the continued development within the District.

He referred to the current flail mowing policies and the ever-increasing works required within the urban areas and the increased traffic on all roads. He informed members that even with a banksman operating with the flail mower there had been instances when individual drivers totally ignored signage and directions given by the banksman. In response to the Chairman, Mr Harrison gave details of various types of operating that could be more effective with the urban areas.

RESOLVED

- i) That Mr Buttress be authorised to book and attend such Health and Safety courses as he considered relevant
- ii) That Mr Buttress be authorised to arrange a further District Inspection by an independent Health and Safety advisor
- iii) That the District Officers be authorised to discuss alternative maintenance operations for the urban areas and for the Chairman to be authorised to approve any recommendations.

B.2008 Depot/Yard

Further to minute B.1976, Mr Hill reported that the Board had been informed that it would not be able to gain planning permission for a residential property on the site and it had therefore been approved to sell the site for industrial use by auction.

Mr Hill reported that the auction would be held online on 22nd November 2021 and that 22 people had registered to take part in said auction. Offers over £45,000 had been received but, on the advice of the agents, it had been agreed to continue with the auction.

RESOLVED

That the actions taken by the Chairman in dealing with this matter be approved and that he be authorised to continue to progress the matter.

B.2009 Main Outfall – Crooked Bank

Mr Buttress reported that he would be arranging for additional signage to be put up and Mr Hill reported that claims for compensation remained outstanding despite the efforts made by the engineer to finalise this matter.

The District Officers referred to their recent inspection of the old outfall system, and, in response to Mr Lake, the Chairman confirmed that the pipe had been re-instated in case this route for evacuation of water might be needed in the future. He confirmed that it could easily be “re-commissioned” with works to the open channel if needed.

Mr Buttress referred to the old outfall running into the section of Waldersey system running to the site of the old pumping station and, due to its size and capacity, this channel could possibly be utilised for water storage when plans are being considered further for the storage and attenuation within the Board’s system.

B.2010 Church Road Development, Friday Bridge

Mr Harrison reported that these works had now been completed and it just required the ends of the pipes to be trimmed back further.

B.2011 Access Problems

Mr Harrison reported that access to and working within the Porters site was now a lot better. He informed members that Mr Downey had been assisting with access to the SB Components and Dawbarns sites and that notices had been issued for works to commence from 17th January 2022.

Currently, Dawbarns had confirmed access would be available, but that there had not currently been any confirmation received from SB Components.

He informed members that with access to the Thomas Clarkson site he was trying to go in more often and looking to time these works with school breaks.

Members discussed the ongoing issues with the Highways Agency’s culverts under the A47 trunk road and G Lake referred to the recent thrust bore of a culvert under the A141 at March.

Mr F Leach considered that it was easier to thrust a new pipe under a road than replace an existing one. Mr Hill referred to the works at March being carried out and funded by the developer. Mr Buttress referred to recent meetings where it was suggested that the Board engage a qualified structural engineer to inspect and report on their condition, which would help push the Highways Agency towards taking action. The Chairman reported that Mr Downey was working with the Board concerning these culverts but was currently waiting for a plan and supporting information from the Board’s Consulting Engineer to demonstrate that the Board’s concerns are based on quantifiable risk.

Mr Harrison reported that he now has contact information concerning the paddocks at Barr Drove and that he had carried out some works - although there were some obstructions within the channel and there would be a slip to attend to.

Mr Buttress considered there could be further slips within the District and reported that as there was a current dry spell he had held back with the slubbing programme as there were concerns that with the onset of winter rainfall further slips and problems could arise within the District and the budget could then be directed at addressing these.

B.2012 Hundred of Wisbech IDB and Waldersey IDB Review of Joint Pumping Arrangements/Amalgamation

Mr Hill reported that both Boards had held meetings and both had rejected progressing an amalgamation at this point, favouring developing plans to better manage water flows and storage within both Districts. He informed members that a proposed formula had been agreed by the sub-committee which was discussed and approved at the previous meeting, plus the inclusion of an additional £2,000 per annum as a contribution towards the use of the Rings End catchment for storage.

In response to Cllr Booth, Mr Hill gave details of the make-up of the formula and explained that it could be reviewed on a regular basis to take account of changes of land use and also, when further measures are taken concerning attenuation and storage, the calculations included for the use of the Waldersey systems for water storage could be adjusted/removed.

Mr Hill informed members that the MLC Solicitor was currently working on a Heads of Terms for a formal agreement between the two Boards for the joint pumping arrangements, and, in response to Cllr Booth, agreed that there should be a dispute resolution clause to give a clear path should there be future concerns raised by either party.

The Chairman referred to the current water levels within the District systems, with some areas being quite low. Mr F Leach referred to the need for further water control structures as it was quite difficult to maintain a uniform level across the whole District. He considered levels in different parts of the District could be adjusted further and agreed to look at this further with Mr Harrison.

B.2013 Clerk's Report

Mr Hill advised;

i) Covid-19 Actions

That due to the risk of Covid-19 mutations, appropriate measures are being put in place, revised and reviewed as per Government guidance and using activity-based risk assessments

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Board Chairs Meeting

That a seventh Chairs meeting was held on the 2nd November 2021.

The meeting covered a wide variety of matters likely to affect IDBs. A summary of the key points and resolutions follows;

- a) The MLC Chair introduced the meeting and took the opportunity to warn those present that government were pushing for land in this area to be set aside to mitigate the impacts of climate change. In this respect there was concern that the data underpinning this move was out-of-date and inadequate and that there was a risk that no proper account would be taken of the storage effects of the land as it is currently managed compared to how it might react if managed as wetland.
- b) To better fit in with the farming calendar the annual safety audits carried out by Cope are to be moved to January and February. In response to a question from the floor, Chairs were advised that it is ultimately the Board and not the MLC's responsibility to manage safety at Board owned assets, although the MLC will assist where they can.
- c) Chairs considered that it was considered important that IDBs and the MLC have a policy on climate change. It was felt likely that this will become increasingly important as pressure mounts for action to be taken. In this respect the Clerk advised that the MLC intended to carry out a baseline assessment of its carbon footprint which would then be used to underpin plans for reductions in CO₂ release and for mitigation. This model would be made available to those IDBs which wished to follow a similar path. Once what could be reasonably achieved has been defined a policy to steer implementation would be produced. Obviously, the aim will be to achieve net zero or as close to it as can be realistically and practically be achieved.
- d) The Chief Executive outlined the work of WRE, including the regional reconciliation of water supply just carried out, the proposals for two new reservoirs (one in Lincolnshire and one in Cambridgeshire) and the future plans for water security providing a 1 in 500 year level of drought tolerance for potable water supply. On this latter point he advised that he had been pushing hard for the needs of agriculture to be taken into account, noting that wet farming and environmental targets for farming would require extra water in this region. Also, he considered that separating agricultural need from environmental need was an error and failed to recognise the close tie between the two.
- e) It was reported that it seemed increasingly likely that despite lobbying MPs and Defra it will be the case from the 1st April 2022 that IDB's will lose access to red diesel for anything other than powering generators and for heating. This will increase costs and will present problems with the use of contractors who also work for agriculture which will have an exemption, hence can continue to use red diesel in plant.

Members discussed the implications of the loss of the use of red diesel to the Board and to the Board's contractors and the need for both parties to be able to demonstrate compliance with the new regulations. Cllr Booth queried that it would be difficult for either the Board or contractors to develop policies/strategies until full guidance concerning the matter was received from Defra, which he understood was still awaited.

RESOLVED

To wait for further guidance from Defra before developing policies or strategies concerning the use of red diesel.

- f) On member training it was agreed that the MLC would set up a Zoom type seminar running several of the ADA video training sessions back-to-back. All members of all MLC administered IDBs would be invited and attendance will be recorded. This was seen as the most efficient way of delivering the training that Defra expects members to have undertaken.
- g) For the next round of IDB meetings, the MLC website secure pages will be used for Board meeting documents. Members will be sent links to the appropriate webpage with a password. The documents can then be downloaded whenever it is convenient to do so. **MEMBERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THIS ROUTE RATHER THAN REQUIRE PAPER COPIES OF DOCUMENTS.** In exceptional circumstances – for example for those members without email addresses - a paper copy of the relevant documents can still be printed off, bound and sent out. The use of the Microsoft Teams software is also to be explored for future years.
- h) GDPR was discussed and it was resolved that for internal matters, or where working with partner organisations all email addresses will be visible to allow members to see who has knowledge of the matter under discussion. All external communications will normally be blind copied unless there is a need to show the address or the address is already known (for example when a member is passing on a query he or she has received themselves). It was also agreed that the website could continue to show names and primary contact numbers as long as addresses were not identified.

iii) Application for byelaw consent

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

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date Consent Granted</u>
Mr A Castle	Piping of 33.5m of watercourse Between Soffits and Halfpenny Barns, Halfpenny Lane, Elm	1 st July 2021

Mrs E Smith

Construction of surface water and treated effluent discharge outfall within the bank of the Authority's watercourse on Newbridge Lane

24th September 2021

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

iv) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 84th Annual Conference of the Association was held virtually on Wednesday 10th November 2021.

b) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1831, ADA have advised that there was an error in the Model Byelaws relating to penalty note referred to s37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, which was actually repealed on the 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020. Consequently, Defra has amended the Penalty Notice attached to the byelaws to include the correct reference. This Penalty Notice is not part of the Byelaws and hence is a simple correction. There is no requirement either to readvertise or seek DEFRA approval and the version now uploaded to the website is the corrected one.

RESOLUTION

That members approve the updated byelaws

iv) National Drainage Show and Floodex 2022

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

B.2014 Delivery of Annual Maintenance Contract

Further to minute B.1984, the Board considered the Report of Mr Harrison.

Mr Harrison reported that most had been discussed earlier in the meeting. He informed members that it had been a better season and he was managing to complete works with no major issues being foreseen at this moment.

RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

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

B.2015 Consulting Engineer's Report, including planning and consenting matters

The Chairman reported on the attenuation area near Point 29 which had largely been completed by HL Hutchinson Ltd, with the resulting spoil being taken away from site. He informed members of an issue with the boundary stakes being in the wrong place, resulting in it diverging towards the Board's drain at Point 29. He confirmed that there had been a meeting with Co-Part who had confirmed that they were content with the situation as it is.

He confirmed that there were some works to be completed, but these could be attended to when works were done to install the outfall.

In response to Cllr Booth, Mr Hill confirmed that should additional developments wish to utilise the facility they would be required to pay to the Board the relevant development contribution.

The Chairman confirmed that the works as completed to date met with the Board's and Consulting Engineer's approval. It was proposed by Mr Lake and seconded by Mr Harrison to approve the adoption of the attenuation area.

The Chairman referred to the previous proposal to line the channel close to Point 66 (Scout Hut) and following a further review and consideration of the limited access and requirement for future maintenance works, it had been decided that the most cost-effective solution to provide the best long-term value for money to the Board would be to pipe this section with the largest sized pipe available for installation at this location.

In response to Cllr Booth, Mr Harrison confirmed that if the section was concrete-lined, any future maintenance on the section would need to be carried out by hand.

In response to queries raised, the Chairman accepted that the piping and filling of channels was against the Board's general policy, but confirmed there were already smaller pipes/culverts downstream of the section and there was an open watercourse upstream, so taking all these points into consideration it had been agreed by the Works Committee that this solution provided the best overall value for money to the Board and should not impact on the overall efficiency of the system.

Mr Harrison queried if a maintenance assessment would be required while plans were developed, and, in response, the Chairman did not consider this necessary as the system in this area worked effectively during last winter's rainfall event.

Mr F Leach expressed concern and disappointment that this scheme was still outstanding as this area had been within the Board's improvement programme for a number of years and Mr Buttress considered progress was being held up by the Board's Consulting Engineers.

Members queried the possibility of the railway station being in the vicinity and the possible implications of this. Mr Hill reported that this had previously been taken into account by the Board, but as there were currently three potential sites mentioned and no time-scale of likely development, the Board's position was that they needed to address the problems now and could not wait on possible future developments which were likely to be many years away, if they were even going to happen.

The Chairman reported that the Engineers had carried out a site survey and it was anticipated that plans could be available in the near future.

Flood Alleviation Investigations

The Chairman reported that the Works Committee had discussed the future requirements for the Board and had initially approached some local consultants to get quotes concerning an assessment of the District to provide possible solutions for consideration. He reported that they had been requested to take into account the whole area north of the A47 trunk road being developed, as this was likely to be the case within the next 20 years.

Mr Lake queried if there was any indication on the size of the attenuation that may be required and the Chairman referred to the potential options that could be considered before detailed plans could be started. He referred to the options that could be considered in developing future plans.

- Widening watercourses to provide additional storage
- Additional water control structures
- Additional pumping facilities
- Attenuation ponds within the system

Mr Lake considered the culverts under the A47 trunk road could need improving and there could be a requirement for an additional pump nearer to Wisbech to take the increased discharges from the larger developed area.

Mr Harrison considered that although the Board was aware that there were major works required, it was difficult knowing how best to approach getting the best judgement to find solutions. Mr F Leach referred to an email from the Middle Level Chief Engineer stating that the Middle Level did not have the capacity to carry out this work and detailing the steps that would need to be taken, yet the current Consulting Engineers report appeared to be suggesting that a new survey be carried out and that a meeting be organised to discuss the issues involved.

Mr F Leach reported that in discussions with one of the consultants, it had been pointed out that, due to the complexities of the District System, any detailed modelling of the system could eventually cost more than any proposed works, so it was a complex situation to find the best way forward.

Mr Lake considered it very important to make decisions on how to progress matters and the possible need for additional Board meetings to review matters.

The Chairman referred to the Board's proposals possibly aligning with future flood protection for Wisbech and Mr F Leach commented on any proposals being linked and developed into the Environment Agency's flood defence grant-in-aid funding programme.

Mr Buttress considered that a meeting should be held with the Clerk and Consulting Engineers to develop a strategy for possible future District-wide improvement works and future grant-in-aid.

The Right to Connect

Cllr Booth reported on a recent Council presentation on this subject and outlined the issues associated with continued development and the automatic right to connect. Members raised concerns that this current policy would continue to stress existing systems which were already at, or over, capacity.

Planning Matters

Mr Buttress raised concerns over the Engineers Report previously being received without enough time left available before meetings to properly review them, and that he considered that the Planning Engineers should be available to attend every meeting to present his report and review and answer queries raised by members.

Concerning the Co-Part site, the Chairman reported that there had been a recent meeting with representatives from Co-Part and they had confirmed their agreement to meeting the Board's requirements.

With regards to the Medworth Energy proposals he reported that there had been proposals for further remote meetings but the engineer was not aware of anything further to update on. He confirmed that the Board had made their requirements known and Cllr Booth reported that it was his understanding that the matter had now been referred to the Secretary of State.

Development at Elm south of Friday Bridge Road

Members approved for the Consulting Engineers to continue discussions with the developer and agent to resolve and regularise the outstanding issues associated with the development.

Erection of 20 dwellings at land west of Cedar Way, Elm

Members raised concerns that adequate arrangements concerning the long-term ownership, funding, management and maintenance of the system were not in place and requested that the engineer continue discussions with the developer and agent to resolve and regularise these outstanding matters to the satisfaction of the Board.

Erection of up to 6 dwellings at land south of 6 Friday Bridge Road, Elm

Mr F Leach raised concern over the comment that no response had been received from the Board concerning this development and that he could not recall receiving any such request. However, he did concede there was a lot of correspondence received concerning development, but it was disappointing that the engineer was not available to explain the situation further.

Members raised concerns over the outstanding matters concerning this development and agreed the Consulting Engineer should be authorised to take any steps necessary to regularise the situation.

Erection of 13 dwellings on land north and west of 47 Friday Bridge Road, Elm (MLC ref no 1591)

The Chairman reported that the Committee did not consider the original drainage solution proposed would work and subsequent proposals/suggestions had been received/made which are now being considered further.

Grantham to Bexwell pipeline (MC ref no 1579)

In response to the Chairman, Mr Harrison confirmed that works had started today on boreholes around the Friday Bridge area and that it was likely that the proposal could be very close, or just inside, the Board's area.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report be approved
- ii) That the Middle Level Planning Engineer (or a substitute) be requested to attend all meetings of the Board to present the Consulting Engineers Report
- iii) a) The Board confirm that the works carried out at the attenuation area near Point 29 (H L Hutchinson Ltd) meet with their approval
b) The Board approve to adopt the attenuation area near Point 29 (H L Hutchinson Ltd)
c) The Board approve for the works to commence on the land transfers.
- iv) The Board approve the piping of the watercourse near Point 66, this option providing the most effective and best overall value for money solution and for the Works Committee be authorised to deliver the scheme as soon as practicable.
- v) That the Works Committee be authorised to meet with the Clerk and Consulting Engineers to develop a strategy to enable future District-wide improvement works and grant-in-aid funding to be identified and progressed.
- vi) The Board support the proposal to remove the right to connect to public sewers and for the Clerk to promote and lobby the Board's position on this.
- vii) a) Development on land south of 111 Friday Bridge Road, Elm (MLC ref no's 183, 1313 and 1456)
The Consulting Engineer to continue discussion with the developer and agent to resolve and regularise the outstanding issues associated with the development.

b) Erection of 20 dwellings at land west of Cedar Way, Elm (MLC ref no's 1309, 1331, 1362 and 1549)

The Consulting Engineer continue discussion with the developer and agent to resolve and regularise the outstanding issues and long-term ownership, funding, management and maintenance arrangements for the upkeep of the on-site water level and flood risk management system to the satisfaction of the Board.

c) Erection of up to 6 dwellings at land south of 6 Friday Bridge Road, Elm (MLC ref no's 1480, 1516, 1553, 1577 and 1589)

The Consulting Engineer be authorised to take any actions be considered appropriate to resolve and regularise the outstanding matters associated with these developments.

B.2016 Capital Improvement Programme

Mr Hill reported that the current programme, approved at the last meeting of the Board, included works to the channel at Point 66 and the Boards required works to the attenuation area at Point 29, which are scheduled.

The plan also included provision for improvements to, and additional water control structures. However, these works were likely to be put on hold pending the outcome of the meeting to develop a strategy to enable future District-wide improvement works.

Mr Hill reported that, as authorised by the Board, the Works Committee had approved the drawing down of the additional £500,000 loan for the future improvement works and that this had now been received.

In response to Cllr Booth he reported that the interest rate was fixed at 1.79% and that the repayments were now fixed for the term of the loan, which was 25 years, Members considered it was highly likely that rates for borrowing would be increasing in the near future.

RESOLVED

That the action taken by the Works Committee in authorising the draw down of the £500,000 loan facility be approved.

B.2017 District Officers' Report

The Chairman referred to the ongoing pollution problems which were being investigated by the Environment Agency and reported he had noticed markings and debris on the roadside around the Mick George site and a flattened area of bankside which could indicate a lorry depositing organic matter into the watercourse.

Mr F Leach reported that the Environment Agency had contacted him this week concerning Floorspan and that they do not hold a licence to discharge. He recalled that he had previously

inspected an interceptor system on the site between the premises and the drain but he did not consider it viable that the current pollution problem could be coming from this site through the interceptor/settlement system. He considered that the Environment Agency were working on the problem but it still remained difficult to pinpoint the point of discharge for the polluted matter and referred to the condition of the site and how pits on the site had been infilled with waste material before development took place.

Mr Buttress referred to previous discussions and site meetings with Anglian Water concerning the discharge of polluted matter and Mr F Leach reminded members that Waldersey IDB members were also in regular contact with the Environment Agency concerning the discharge of polluted matter into watercourses.

RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the District Officers be thanked for their services.

B.2018 Works Committee Report

The Chairman referred to the meetings of the Works Committee and matters discussed, the majority of which had been discussed throughout this meeting's agenda.

Mr Buttress referred to the need to hold regular scheduled meetings in view of the many matters the Board were required to deal with. The Chairman agreed to arrange a further meeting before Christmas at which the Committee could schedule further regular meetings.

B.2019 District Officer's Fees

Mr Hill referred to the discussion from last years meeting and the rates set.

Mr Buttress and Mr F Leach confirmed that they were happy with the current arrangements and that, following the meeting, they would be submitting claims for works carried out over the previous six months.

The Chairman confirmed he was content with the arrangements put in place last year and Mr F Leach commented that it as important for him to submit a claim in relation to the time he spends working on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED

That the arrangements remain unchanged for 2022/2023 and they be reviewed again November 2022 meeting.

(NB) – Messrs Buttress, Day and F Leach declared financial interests when this item was discussed.

B.2020 Association of Drainage Authorities
Subscriptions

Mr Hill reported that ADA had increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022.

In response to Cllr Booth, Mr Hill reported that last year's subscription was around £870 and a 1% increase would be in the order of approximately £9.00.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2022.

B.2021 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 determinations 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 determinations.

B.2022 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £14.50.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.2023 Contribution from Developers

With reference to minute B.308(iv) the Clerk 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.2024 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2020/2021

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.
- b) In response to Cllr Booth, Mr Hill reported that the specific points raised in relation to Hundred of Wisbech IDB were generally a matter of timing in receiving approval, internal audit work and the ability to update the website. He confirmed that procedures had been looked at with a view to streamlining them further.

The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.

B.2025 Defra IDB1 Returns

Mr Hill referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2020/2021 which the Board noted and approved.

B.2026 Expenditure/Estimate Update

The Board considered the Estimate Update for 2021/2022.

Mr Hill reported that he had reviewed the likely expenditure with the Chairman and District Officers and it was hoped the out-turn for the year would be within the budget allocations.

He referred to the reduction in likely loan repayment costs resulting from a full year's repayment on the additional loan being included in the budget and only one half year payment being made from when the loan draw-down was made. He reminded members that, as last winter, pumping costs can escalate beyond budgets in severe rainfall events.

He commented on the District Officers' plan for expenditure concerning the drain maintenance programme and the element of uncertainty concerning expenditure for the improvement works which were all being funded from allocated balances.

RESOLVED

That the update be approved.

