

# UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board  
held at the William Marshall Centre, Welney on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January  
2022

## PRESENT

K Goodger Esq (Chairman)  
P Clabon Esq (Vice Chairman)  
H G Bliss Esq  
S A Calton Esq  
R D Gladwin Esq  
R Gott Esq  
G W Gowler Esq  
S Hartley Esq  
Cllr J Kirk Esq  
R S Means Esq  
A Quail Esq  
J Quail Esq  
Cllr C N T Rose Esq  
B Scott Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board), Mr Carl Nunn (District Foreman) and Mr Paul Hartley were in attendance.

## Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Crofts, Cllr Rackley, Cllr Sutton and P M Tegerdine.

## B.1975 Standing Orders

Further to minute B.1933, Miss Ablett advised that there had been a further minor change to the Standing Orders approved by the Board at it's meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## RESOLVED

To approve the further change to the Standing Orders.

## B.1976 Declarations of Interest

Miss Ablett 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.

R S Means declared an interest in discussions relating to World's End Farm, Nordelph, and, in connection with Contravention of Byelaws, the trees planted at the drain from Nordelph Pump to Crouches Reservoir, running parallel to Popham's Eau

#### B.1977 Confirmation of Minutes

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the Minutes of a Meeting/Inspection held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

#### B.1978 Resignation of Board Member

Miss Ablett referred to the letter of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from C F Hartley Esq, advising of his resignation from the Board.

#### RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to C F Hartley thanking him for his services to the Board and District.

#### B.1979 Vacancy in Membership

Consideration was given to the filling of the vacancy created by the resignation of C F Hartley.

Paul Hartley was invited to join the Board and he accepted this invitation.

#### B.1980 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Middle Level and South Level Barrier Bank works

Further to minute B.1937, Miss Ablett referred to a Newsletter from the Environment Agency dated December 2021.

#### B.1981 Amendments to the Constitution

Further to minute B.1936, Miss Ablett reported the Statutory Instrument had been signed on 29<sup>th</sup> November, published, and she confirmed no objections had been received. She further reported a list of the names and addresses of the elected Members had been sent to Defra for the minister to issue an Instrument of Appointment of First Elected Members.

Miss Ablett confirmed that the Chairman would be kept informed of any updates.

#### B.1982 Worlds End Farm, Nordelph

Further to minute B.1938, Miss Ablett reported that further emails had been received from Mr Partridge since the last meeting concerning various matters and Mr Partridge had advised he would be attending the meeting in order to address the Board. In his absence, Miss Ablett advised that most points raised in the emails had already been addressed by the Board so would not be discussed further.

Miss Ablett advised the Board that Mr Partridge had raised a point relating to the drain alongside the road at Worlds End Farm. She reported that Mr Partridge considered the bank should be trimmed back and the drain cleaned out and he had advised that although a Contractor had undertaken this work, on his behalf, several years ago, he considered the Board should be paying for the work to be carried out.

The Chairman advised this had not been done as it was considered unsafe to do so at this time.

Miss Ablett reminded the Board that at the May meeting last year she had reported that a meeting had been held with Mr Partridge and his agent, Adam Case of Cruso & Wilkin, after which he had confirmed he hoped that matters would be concluded.

(NB) – R S Means declared an interest when this item was discussed.

#### B.1983 Hales Drove, Old Croft River

Further to minutes B.1939 and B.1972, the Chairman reported the piling work at Hales Drove had been completed and he was very happy with the work undertaken.

#### B.1984 Joint Maintenance Works – Old Croft River

Further to minute B.1940, the Chairman reported that the fence had been removed.

#### B.1985 Site of former Shrub House, 46 Church Road, Christchurch – Planning Application F/YR15/0104F)

Further to minute B.1941, Miss Ablett, reported that the outstanding discharge contribution had been received and the Consent document issued.

#### B.1986 Roadway to Nordelph Pumping Station

The Vice Chairman reported that a delivery of planings had been received, most of which had been laid. He added that the roadway would need continued maintenance and requested that a further delivery of planings be ordered.

#### RESOLVED

That the Clerk writes Norfolk County Farms Division requesting another delivery of planings so the roadway can continue to be repaired.

#### B.1987 Structure under the Road at the Sixteen Foot River

Further to minute B.1943, the Chairman reported the clay had been delivered and the structure had been sealed. He thanked Messrs A & J Quail for their assistance with this matter.

#### B.1988 Electrification of Cock Fen Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1944, Miss Ablett reported UK Power Networks was acquiring rights of access over the remaining access road which the Board had no right of way over, which left the matter regarding the Pumping Station Site to be dealt with.

Miss Ablett further reported the Assistant Clerk was waiting to hear from UK Power Networks' solicitor to confirm what information they would accept as form of title, ie. a first registration at the Land Registry or a Statutory Declaration from the Assistant Clerk, Iain Smith or the Chairman.

She added the Assistant Clerk had recently found some information on microfilm relating to Cock Fen pumping station, which she was hoping to review shortly as this may contain information that may be of assistance.

The Chairman expressed his concern that the position appeared to be the same as that reported at the May 2021 meeting. He requested the Assistant Clerk chase UK Power Networks' solicitor to resolve the matter regarding ownership as a matter of urgency, as this was delaying commencement of works. He was conscious the installation of the 3-phase electricity had originally been planned for March 2022 ready for installation of electric motors and panel in May/June 2022.

#### RESOLVED

That the Assistant Clerk chase UK Power Networks' solicitor to resolve the matter regarding ownership as a matter of urgency.

#### B.1989 Asset Refurbishments – Grant-in-Aid

Further to minute B.1945, Miss Ablett reported that due to the small amount of grant available this year, the challenges and costs linked to production of a business case, together with the need to refurbish more than one or two structures, a decision was made to defer any potential works, which had been agreed with the Chairman. She added that a co-ordinated plan and grant bid for phased multiple structures would be developed.

Miss Ablett advised a meeting was planned for the middle of February to discuss how this would be structured, the level of detail required and any potential barriers and hurdles that might exist, which would need to be overcome.

The Chairman advised a meeting had been arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> February.

#### RESOLVED

That the Chairman's actions be approved.

## B.1990 Flint House Road Structure – Ownership

Further to minute B.1974(2), Miss Ablett reported the Clerk had written to the Chairman last June advising he had previously challenged the Highway Authority regarding the structure and they appeared to be certain it was owned by the Board.

She further reported she had emailed the Chairman on 1<sup>st</sup> July attaching a letter received by Iain Smith back in 2011, together with a document entitled "Road & Rail Traffic Act 1933 – List of Bridges", which was dated 1934, which indicated the structure entitled Flint House Drove, Upwell at Flint House was at that time owned by Upwell Fen Drainage Commissioners.

The Chairman advised the structure was in need of repair and requested the Consulting Engineer meets with the District Foreman to ascertain the repairs required and to make the necessary arrangements.

This was agreed by all Members.

### RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineer meets with the District Foreman to ascertain the repairs required to the structure and to make the necessary arrangements.

## B.1991 Contravention of Byelaws

### i) Trees planted at drain from the Nordelph Pump to Crouches Reservoir, running parallel to Popham's Eau

Further to minute B.1974(4)(iv) the Chairman reported that as the trees had been planted 5 metres from the edge of the drain, which was within the Board's 9 metre maintenance strip, a letter should be sent to the landowner requesting they be removed.

The Chairman advised that when applying the Board's Byelaws, all landowners/occupiers had to be treated in the same manner.

(NB) R S Means declared an interest in this matter.

### RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to the land owner advising of the contravention of byelaws and requests the trees within the 9-metre maintenance strip be removed.

### ii) Outfall at Prospect Farm – An application for byelaw consent for the installation of a pipe and outfall into the Board's watercourse has been recommended for approval.

Further to minute B.1958, Miss Ablett reported that an application for byelaw consent for the installation of a pipe and outfall into the Board's watercourse had been recommended for approval.

### B.1992 Nordelph Pumping Station – Right of Way

Further to minute B.1947(4)(v), Miss Ablett reported the Operations Engineer had confirmed a right of way exists from Coronation Avenue along the riverbank of Popham Eau, passed the bungalow and crosses the river between the bungalow and the pumping station. She advised that although this was not a right of way for vehicles, other landowners may have a right of way in order to access their land included in their title deeds.

Miss Ablett advised the Assistant Clerk had reviewed various deed packets held on behalf of the Board, none of which made reference to a right of way.

### RESOLVED

That the Clerk reviews the Land Registry to ascertain whether a right of way past the pumping station exists in the title deeds of other land owners.

### B.1993 The Old Croft Outlet

Further to minute B.1945(iii) and B.1974(5) Miss Ablett reported that the Operations Engineer had visited the site last year and had spoken with the District Foreman and he considered the structure was that of the Board although it was situated on Middle Level Commissioners' land. She further reported the Engineer considered a long reach excavator would be required to clear the debris.

Miss Ablett advised the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive had recently discussed the matter with the Chairman and had agreed that, as a gesture of goodwill and to move things forward, the Middle Level Commissioners would offer to cover a third of the costs of hiring a machine to undertake this work.

The Chairman considered this to be a fair compromise and Members were in agreement.

### B.1994 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett 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 advice and using activity-based risk assessments.

#### ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a seventh Chair's Meeting was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- 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.

Miss Ablett reported the Clerk had received correspondence, since the last meeting, from the senior policy adviser at HM Treasury, via ADA, who had clarified circumstances where it would remain possible to use red diesel for water level management activities.

She added that IDBs using their direct workforce and contractors would be able to use red diesel in their vehicles/machinery to complete water level and flood risk management work on land used for agriculture (working under the expectation that such activity on this land will at least in part be for the benefit of agricultural activity).

Miss Ablett reported the Clerk has responded to ADA regarding the use of red diesel for pumping stations and machinery for maintaining urban ditches and that he would update the Board when further information became available.

iii) Applications for byelaw consent

That the following applications 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>
Robert Palmby	Installation of 100m diameter steel pipe and outfall between points 128 and 129	26 July 2021
Clive Benjamin	Piping and filling of 15 meters od private watercourse alongside 1 Brimstone Close, Christchurch.	28 July 2021

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

iv) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association was held on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The Conference was once again held virtually and was split into two parts; the Conference in the morning and AGM in the afternoon. It is expected that, whilst in future years it is hoped to return to a face-to-face format, the clear separation between conference and AGM is likely to be retained.

Speakers this year included Rebecca Row MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Defra), Dieter Helm (economist) and Lord De Ramsey (then President of ADA).

Topics covered included the challenges of climate change and the need to step up to the plate in delivering on the aim to achieve a net zero target as soon as possible, the importance of partnership

working and the importance of agriculture in feeding the nation. The latter included the need to better educate the population, who clearly desire to move forward on delivering climate change and ecological objectives, but do not fully appreciate the role of agriculture, its real impacts or even properly understood where and how food is sourced. One example given that challenged a common assumption that agriculture was bad for the environment was that recent monitoring of CO2 release had shown that a well irrigated peat field of onions released less CO2 than adjacent dry grassland.

In his speech Lord De Ramsey announced that he was stepping down as President and that his place would be taken by Henry Cator. He was warmly thanked by ADA for his many years of service and was presented with a painting by an artist which it is known he admires. Henry spoke about how pleased he had been to be invited to take over the role and that he looked forward to working with ADA to meet the future challenges of the industry.

The AGM that followed gave an update on the work of ADA, noting the likelihood that, despite vigorous lobbying, the expectation was that from 1st April 2022 IDBs would no longer be able to use red diesel for anything other than heating or to run generators. This will impact on costs and will provide challenges to the continued use of agricultural contractors. The passing of the Environment Bill was touched upon which will release barriers to the formation of new IDBs and will also provide opportunities for IDBs to explore extending their boundaries if it was clearly beneficial to do so. Innes Thomason spoke on the work of ADA and the consultations ADA had responded to, including proposals to extend beaver introduction and a water abstraction licencing charging review amongst other things. Finally, it was reported that the ADA Board had agreed to a 1% rise in subscriptions for the 2022/23 year and noted that with inflationary pressures a higher increase should be expected next year.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, venue to be decided.

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 will be held on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

d) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1795, ADA has advised that there was an error in the Model Byelaws relating to a Penalty Notice which 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, as such, 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.

v) Environment Act

In November 2021 Defra announced that the Environment Act became law. The stated aim of this Act is to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve the natural environment. However, the Act also includes powers (specific to IDBs) which amend the Land Drainage Act 1991, addressing the technical issue of missing or incomplete data, which is preventing existing internal drainage boards from expanding and new ones from being established. Defra have stated that they will be working on the associated secondary legislation over the coming year and will be engaging with IDBs through ADA on this.

vi) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

Further to minute B.1946(iii) and B.1973, Miss Ablett reported that a survey had been carried out and confirmed the likely cost for the installation of telemetry at the Board's pumping stations would be in the region of £12,064.13.

She reminded Members that only 50% of the cost would be payable by the Board.

Miss Ablett advised that as the GIA bid had been approved, an order would be placed and the Consulting Engineer would liaise with the Chairman to arrange installation.

vii) National Drainage Show & Floodex 2022

That the National Drainage Show & Floodex 2022 will be held at ExCel, London on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

B.1995 Consulting Engineers' Report, including Planning and Consenting Matters

The Board considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers.

Nordelph Pumping Station

Miss Ablett reported the Consulting Engineer and the District Foreman had met with the meter operator from EDF on site on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The meter operator advised that before the meter could be replaced the fuses would have to be downgraded. She further reported the Consulting Engineer had advised this was not an option as it would not have allowed any discrimination between the supply cut out fuses and the panel fuses.

Miss Ablett advised the Consulting Engineer was attempting to contact UK Power Networks as it was not an option to downgrade fuses due to the pump's draw so upgrading to CT metering was the only option.

Miss Ablett reminded Members that in the past they had resolved the cost of installing CT metering should not be met by the Board and she enquired whether this position remained unchanged.

Members requested the Consulting Engineer continued to liaise with UK Power Networks regarding the fuses and confirmed they did not consider the cost of installing CT Metering to be a matter for the Board.

The Croft off Church Road, Christchurch – Hazelmere Homes (MLC Ref Nos 106, 167, 230, 240 & 242)

Miss Ablett referred to the Planning Engineer's comments regarding the application and enquired whether the Board wished for him to confirm the position with Anglian Water regarding the on-site waste water systems having been adopted as Public Sewers.

Development at Stanborough House, Welney Road, Lakesend (MLC Ref Nos 339 & 522)

Miss Ablett referred to the Planning Engineer's comments relating to the application and enquired whether the Board wished for an Advisory Notice to be issued to the applicant, within a reasonable period of say two months and/or request a note be made to the Local Land Charges Register, given that the planning application was retrospective.

The Right to Connect

Miss Ablett referred to the Planning Engineer's report on The Right to Connect and enquired whether the Board wished to support removal of the Right to Connect to public sewers or not.

RESOLVED

i) That the Report and the actions therein be approved.

ii) Nordelph Pumping Station

That the Consulting Engineer contacts UK Power Networks regarding the fuses and if CT metering was the only option to also contact Anglia Farmers regarding the cost implications.

iii) The Croft off Church Road, Christchurch – Hazelmere Homes (MLC Ref Nos 106, 167, 230, 240 & 242)

That the Planning Engineer confirms the position with Anglian Water

iii) Development at Stanborough House, Welney Road, Lakesend (MLC Ref Nos 339 & 522)

That the Planning Engineer issues an Advisory Notice to the applicant and requests a note be added to the Local Land Charges Register, if the application submission is not received within two months.

iv) The Right to Connect

That the Board opposes the Right to Connect be public sewers.

B.1996 Finance Committee Report

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Finance Committee had not been held since the Board's last meeting.

The Vice Chairman reported he was conscious of the age and condition of both the tractor and the flail mower, together with the costs being incurred by the Board on repairs, as reported in the

District Foreman's report. He advised the Chairman had requested an idea of replacement costs, lead times and terms of purchase be obtained from both Ernest Doe and G & J Peck Ltd and these were reported to the Board.

The Vice Chairman confirmed he was conscious of the Board's increased expenditure relating to the work being undertaken at Cock Fen Pumping Station and enquired whether the Board wished for the replacement of the tractor and flail mower to be investigated further and seriously considered or whether the Board were happy to continue paying for the repairs.

This was discussed further by Members and it was agreed not to replace the plant at this time, but to consider it further once the work at Cock Fen Pumping Station had been completed.

The Vice Chairman enquired whether the Board should consider having the flail mower refurbished and it was agreed for an inspection to be carried out to ascertain its state of repair.

#### RESOLVED

That an inspection of the flail mower be carried out in order to ascertain its state of repair.

#### B.1997 District Foreman's Report

The Board considered the Report of the District Foreman.

The Chairman expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Board, to Carl for his hard work and services to the Board

#### RESOLVED

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

#### B.1998 Conservation Officer's Newsletter

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2021, which had previously been circulated to Members.

#### B.1999 District Labour Board's Employee Wages

Further to minute B.1846, Miss Ablett reported that the District Foreman's wages will be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award.

#### B.2000 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that ADA had increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022.

#### RESOLVED

That the increased subscription for 2022 be paid.

#### B.2001 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 appeals against the determination.

#### B.2002 Rate Arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £101.59.

#### RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

#### B.2003 Health and Safety Report

Further to minute B.1962 and the visit by Cope Safety Management to the District on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, The Vice Chairman reported that the meeting with COPE Safety Management had gone very well and no significant observations or operational issues had been raised. He confirmed they were pleased with the work the Board had done and was continuing to do.

#### B.2004 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

#### B.2005 Defra IDB1 Returns

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

### B.2006 Expenditure/ Estimate Update

The Board considered the Estimate Update for 2021/2022.

### RESOLVED

That the update be approved.

### B.2007 Date of Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 17:30 at The William Marshall Centre, followed by a meal at the Lamb and Flag Public House, Welney.

### B.2008 Any Other Business

i) The Vice Chairman advised that the level of diesel held in the tank at Cock Fen Pumping Station was monitored by a Tank Scout system, which maintained the set levels by automatic ordering. He advised that due to the electrification of Cock Fen pumping station and so as to keep the volume of diesel held to a reduced level the Tank Scout system should be paused until further notice.

ii) The Chairman requested that the adoption and un-adoption of the drain at Birchfield Road, parallel to Old Bedford River be included as an item for discussion in the agenda for the May meeting.

### RESOLVED

i) That Anglia Farmers be requested to pause the automatic ordering until further notice.

ii) That the adoption and un-adoption of the drain at Birchfield Road, parallel to Old Bedford River be included as an item for discussion in the agenda for the May meeting.