

Minutes of a meeting of the Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Monday 8th April 2024 at The Falcon Hotel, 1 London Street, Whittlesey at 6.30pm

Present: M Dale (Chairman), R Stevenson, R L Price (CEO), O Wheatley, C Brown, Cllr E Sennitt Clough, Cllr A Miscandlon

Apologies for Absence – J Fountain, M Sweet, Cllr H Nawaz, Cllr K Mayor, Cllr D Laws

FD11/23 Confirmation of Minutes – RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2023 were recorded correctly and that they be signed as being a true and accurate record.

FD11/23.1

The Board coopted C Brown on to the Board. He was nominated by M Dale and seconded by O Wheatley.

FD12/23 Telemetry

The CEO reported that the telemetry installation by Lee Dickens Ltd had been completed and was fully operational. The installation and testing of a digital syphon valve (DSV) was completed, and a upgraded stainless-steel version was still to be installed. The Chairman reported that the DSV was installed as a failsafe option should the flap-valve fail to seal, and water start to backflow through the pump.

FD13/23 Pension Cessation

The CEO reported that the Board is up to date with its payment plan. £2650 had been paid for the year.

FD14/23 District Officer

MD reported that the entire district would be flail mowed and basket cut in this year's drainage maintenance scheme. North Level IDB would be cleansing the counter drain in which he would request that this year, the works be done from the South.

M Dale reported that during the winter the pump had started to rattle. Middle Level Commissioners attended the site to set up a grease pump to continuously lubricate the thrust bearing.

ACTION: R Price is to investigate prices to lift the pump and repair.

General Matters-

FD15/23 a) Risk Management and Health & Safety

The CEO reported that a Health and Safety Audit was still to be arranged.

FD16/23 b) ADA and EA

The CEO reported that the ADA were in talks with DEFRA and Ofgem to investigate the rising standing charge costs on new electric tariffs. ADA had gathered data from all Boards across the

United Kingdom with some stations seeing an increase as high as 1000% in the past 2 fiscal years. More information was to come once parliament had sat on the matter. R Price reported that a storm recovery fund was being made available from Defra to assist in the above normal expenditure caused by the wet weather since storm Babet in October to the end of April 2024. He is awaiting more information on how to claim from ADA.

FD17/23 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2024/25

The CEO reported income of £120,183.00 and an expenditure of £14,201.00. This increased income was due to discharge consents totalling £96,000.00 from the Whittlesey Larkfleet Development (now Allison). This money is to be set aside for improvements as the capacity of Pumping station will need to be increased in time as the area continues to develop.

R Price explained that the current expenditure is currently low as they hadn't received invoices for a lot of the work completed by subcontractors in 2023/24 which will be added in due course as sundry creditors.

FD18/23 Rates and Levy Requirement

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2024/2025:

- a) Proportion to be borne by Agricultural Sector 40.82%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council 59.18% In 2024/2025 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £1,191.64. The estimated net expenditure of £31,720.67 in 2023/2024 is equivalent to:
 - a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 26.75p in the £ to raise £13,011.94
 - b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £18,864.43

RESOLVED – that a rate of 22p in the £ be levied:

- a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land & buildings of 22p to raise £10,701.37
- b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £15,514.63
- c) That the Clerk/Consultant be authorised to collect any outstanding drainage rate through the appropriate court
- d) That the seal be affixed to the Record of drainage rate and special levies.

FD19/23 Date of next Meeting – June 2024