

Minutes of a meeting of the Whittlesey & District IDB held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the Town Hall, market street, Whittlesey at 2.30pm

**Present** R C Brown (Chairman), R W Fletcher (Vice Chairman), A Cade, J Fountain, M Fisher, T Martin, W Tingey, Cllr Kay Mayor, R Wright CEO, R L Price OE.

The Chairman was disappointed in the number of attendees and those that had not given their apologies.

The CEO reported that Fenland had ratified and appointed the following representatives Cllrs D Mason, Mrs D Laws, Mrs Kay Mayor, C Marks and Bob Wicks.

All new members are reminded that they need to complete a Members Interest Form

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Kay Mayor to her first meeting of the Board.

**Apologises** Cllr B Wicks, Cllr D Laws, Cllr D Mason, Cllr E R Butler, P M Bradshaw, C Saunders, I Stanley, M W Sweet.

**WD297/19 Confirmation of Minutes** – resolved that the minutes of the Board meeting 4th June 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

The CEO read out the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 that were agreed to be correctly recorded and were then signed as being a true record.

### **WD298/19 Matters Arising**

a) Telemetry – Further to minute WD286/19. The CEO reported that the remote sensor for the water control at the rear of Engine/Manor farm has been installed.

A quote for 5 Micro Solar Pack Assembly (Site watch TM Operation) for £20,176.25 had been circulated and would be discussed under item 302/19 (c)

b) A605 Kings Dyke Scheme Further to minute WD286/19(b) – The main Contractor French Kier are no longer in place but investigations are still under-way and it is believed that a new Contractor will be appointed. Cllr K Mayor thought that an appointment could be made by the end of the year.

c) Lords Farm Further to minute WD286/19 (c). The OE reported that work to replace the temporary pump with the re-condition unit from South Holland IDB was under-way. The actual commissioning of the pump was being held up as UK Power Network needed to change the fuses but as, yet they had not inspected the site. Photos of the installation were circulated to members present.

d) Old Plantation – Further to minute WD286/19(d). The CEO reported that he had spoken with Mr Abblitt who had concerns over the liability of the old outfall and to date had not made an offer.

e) Wisbech Garden Town – Further to minute WD286/19€ – The CEO reported that no further news had been received.

### **WD299/19 Operating Engineer**

a) The Operation Engineer reported upon his 2019 drain works programme. Works in the Goosetree Estate, Beggars Bridge, Wype catchments had been completed. The Drysides catchment and Micklewaite area had also been completed. The works were started later than anticipated and concern was raised as at present a machine was broken down. An issue with working under over head wires and poles close to the drain edge had been encountered and were being dealt with in the appropriate manner.

It was agreed to re-visit working arrangements next year and probably using P Green more and earlier. The problem of using 3m strips and other environmental enhancements would also need to be addressed. Badgers continue to be a major concern and urging ADA to seek new working arrangements was raised.

b) The Operation Engineer stated that the new drainage system at Drysides had been completed and T Martin reported no problems in the eighteen months that the works had been completed. The CEO

stated that seepage from the old section of the main drain to the clay workings was causing concerns. RESOLVED – That a site inspection of the new system be arranged, and any recommendations be referred to Forterra prior to adoption.

T Martin raised concern over issues at Micklewaite and whether private drains should be adopted. RESOLVED – that the OE liaises with T Martin over the matter and reports back to the Board.

c) The Plough, Ramsey Road – culverting from water control in front of McPartlyn. The OE reported that he had spoken to Mr McPartlyn and was hopeful that matters would be resolved.

d) The CEO reported that flail mowing rates from April were £44.50 for main mower and £24.40 for front mounted mower.

e) The Chairman mentioned that concerns over the number of times that Beggars Bridge tripped out had been reported to him. The OE was aware of the situation that had arisen primarily because the weed screen cleaner was not operational and therefore weed accumulated tripping out pump.

### **WD300/19 General Matters**

a) Planning – The CEO presented a schedule of matters reported upon by the Consulting Engineer from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019

b) Risk Management & Health & Safety

The CEO reported upon the risk management assessment: — Risk management Strategy & Policy – Standing Orders – Financial regulations and Systems of Internal Controls. The CEO felt that the new Clerk would need to update policies and procedures in line with the revised administration arrangements.

The recommendations of the Risk Survey undertaken by the NFU was being implemented and safety rails were being installed in the locations mentioned.

Good Governance Guide – Member were reminded of the guide that gave members a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities.

The Board review of Byelaws has been put on hold until revisions to the latest model ones have been agreed between ADA & Defra.

c) Consents – No 52 P Green Blackbush & Underwood's – erection of security barriers

No 53 W G Beaumont & Son Ltd – maintenance to gas pipe over drain at Oldermere, Wype

The CEO reported that an application for work within the nine-meter maintenance strip at 60 South Greenpoint 44 on the district plan had been made. He had spoken to the applicant and they were agreeable to works being undertaken to tidy the length of drain.

d) Defra.

The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill – Its progressing through the House of lords has been held up because of Brexit.

e) ADA – Continue to address issues affecting land Drainage Authorities

f) Water Abstraction – Further to minute WD280/19(c) – The transfer of water from the Nene to the Middle Level Whittlesey Dyke should be covered by one licence that will be provided for by the Middle level Commissioners. The CEO has spoken to D Thomas of the MLC and progress has been made and an application submitted.

Lower Nene Water Planning Group – Users of water from the Nene have set up a workgroup to look at the management of water and the quantity that can be used.

Renewal of licence, under different terms, DJC Farms Ltd

The Chairman felt that Middle Level Commissioners through John Fenn had looked after water needs of the IDB's needs very well.

g) Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd –No change in the status

h) Vulcan Inspection - an examination of Must Farm Centrifugal pump and its motor had taken place and was found to be in a satisfactory condition. Inspections of the pressure vessels were underway and arrangements for them to be primed were in hand

**WD301/19 Payments** – The Board considered and approved the following payments: -

2019/2020: -

Vouchers 23 – 37 £26,964.62

Voucher 38 – 68 £47,967.78

Vouchers 69 – 89 £57,773.54

**WD302/19 Income & Expenditure year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

a) The CEO reported that the Notice of conclusion of audit had been advertised. The External auditor had no matters to report and considered that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had been met.

b) The CEO reported upon banking arrangements – as at 31/09/2019 accounts were held with Barclays Bank £194,411.24, Cambridge & Counties £75,000.00, Shawbrook Bank £75,820.37  
nsi £74,736.85.

c) The CEO presented a schedule of income of £135,676.37 and expenditure of £127,126.76.

Since the report income received up to 1<sup>st</sup> November was £233,234.05 and expenditure £53,034.73

The CEO reported that a sum of £20,000 had been included in repairs and renewals for telemetry expansion, to date out of the budget of £46,950 £30,820 had been spent. It was agreed that the remaining element of the budget would be best spent on maintenance at the stations as opposed to expansion of the telemetry system.

**WD303/19 Future Administration of Board** – The Chairman reported that the CEO has stated that he wished to retire and that future arrangements for the administration of the Board should be in place and agreed by the end of December 2019. The Chairman referred to the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee which was endorsed by the members present. RESOLVED - that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and CEO arrange to meet Richard and representatives from PDSM Ltd to discuss future administration and Engineering arrangements.

The CEO mentioned that since he retired from the Lgss pension scheme in 2017 a cessation valuation had been undertaken at a cost of £2,500. The valuation report confirmed a funding shortfall of £220,000 against the liabilities of the Boards eligible employees. Advice had been taken and several IDBs were in the same position. Richard was happy to be a contributor to the scheme and this would be considered when his appointment was confirmed.

**WD304/19 Dates of meetings for 2020**

11<sup>th</sup> February – 2nd June – 3rd November

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 4pm and thanked all members for their attendance.