

**Minutes of a meeting of the Holmewood & District Internal Drainage Board held on
25th July 2022 at Ladyseat Farm, New Long Drove, PR7 3PN, at 11.00 am**

Present: J Ayres (Chairman), N Collett, J Davis, K Smith, J Mears, Cllr J Clarke. R Price (Clerk).

Apologises for Absence: T Simpson, J Wright, L Parker, G Bliss, M A Davis, D J Collett.

Declaration of members Pecuniary Interests: Members stated they would abstain from voting on issues directly impacting their interests.

342/20 Confirmation of Minutes: Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2022 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

343/20 Matters Arising

- a) The Clerk reported that the Board's preferred contractor Avonmouth Engineering were having to come and re-evaluate pump 2 at Whittlesey Mere Pumping Station as their previous project manager had left the company and they were unable to find any supporting notes.
- b) The Clerk reported that he had attended the Yaxley Pumping Station and that the level rods now travelled to maximum depth. It was felt by the Board that the condition of the sump should be monitored going forwards rather than spending a vast amount of money (quoted £35,00) on a short-term fix.
- c) The Clerk reported that Middle Level Commissioners are to be contracted to mend the inlets that have been damaged. Unfortunately, MLC are not willing to pay anything towards the damage caused by their flail mowers.
- d) The Clerk read out a report prepared by Lorna Parker updating the Board on the Great Fen Project's on going works and plans going forward.

344/20 Maintenance of Channels

- a) The Chairman reported that as part of the 2022/2023 drainage works this year would incorporate the Yaxley catchment of the Board.
- b) Great Fen Project – Issues with Thistles, The Chairman reported that the tenant of the Board owned cottage was complaining about the amount of thistledown. The Clerk would contact Lorna Parker of the Great Fen Project to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter.
Resolved that the Chairman and N Collett along with representatives from the Great Fen drive the route required for access to inspect the district in order to monitor water levels be undertaken and a consensus tried to be reached upon the Covid restrictions being eased.

345/20 General Matters

a) The Clerk reported that the passed motion for a full Health & Safety Audit to be completed by the NFU was still to be undertaken. J Davis reiterated his beliefs that the board needed to be more proactive in protecting members of the General Public and it's work force.

346/20 Payments

Payments for the financial year of 2021/22 were presented to the board by the Clerk. All payments were scrutinised, and the Board accepted them as being true and accurate.

No Payments had been made in the current financial year of 2022/23.

347/20 Annual Accounts year ending 31st March 2022

a) The Board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2021/2022 and signed the Certificate of Exemption.

b) Audit Arrangements – External Audit –Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as external auditor. The 2021/2022 audit has been advertised with inspection of accounts from 13th July to 28th August 2022.

c) Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex-Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has undertaken the internal examination for the 2022/2023 accounts. The Board noted the internal auditors report on 2021/2022 financial years accounts.

348/20 Estimates of Income and Expenditure

The Clerk presented a schedule of income of £75,311.65 and expenditure of £88,190.00 that the balance held with Barclays Bank as of 1st June was £100,201.72.

350/20 Date of Next Meeting - TBC

The Chairman thanked member for their attendance and the meeting closed at 12.45.