

Minutes of a meeting of the Holmewood & District Internal Drainage Board held on Thursday 7th June 2018 at the Addison Arms, Sawtry Road, Glatton, at 11.00

Present J Ayres (Chairman), M Davis, J Davis, C Evans, T Stimpson, J Wright, R Wright, Mrs M A Wright

Apologies for Absence G Bliss, D J Collett, N Collett, L Parker

The Clerk reported that Cllr Watt was no longer a Councillor and the new representative would not be appointed until July.

293/18 Confirmation of Minutes – Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2018 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

294/18 Matters Arising

Water control Yaxley Fen – Further to minute 286/18(a) – Safety works – gate. The position would be checked with John Mears.

295/18 Pumping Stations

Whittlesey Mere - The Chairman reported that the condition of pump was satisfactory but problems with the weed screen cleaner were evident – the unit was removed and taken to FenFlows workshop and there was no oil in the tank. A replacement part was not available, so a complete new unit was required at a cost of £682.72. It was agreed that a new unit be purchased and fitted. The Clerk was asked to confirm the order.

Vulcan inspection reported that one weed grab tine on the cleaner was found to be distorted/bent and requires suitable repair.

FenFlow Ltd - Manufactured and fitted 4 new wheels as quoted at the price of £536.00.

b) Yaxley - J Mears was not present to report upon the condition of pump.

Vulcan inspection – Runway Track – The encastre was showing evidence of a settlement crack propagating down from the left-hand side (above light), this should be investigated and repaired accordingly – repair work still pending.

The repairs to the pump have been hindered due to the recent wet weather that has not allowed heavy plant to access the station. It was agreed that the Clerk contact FenFlow to ascertain the position about to the removal of the pump.

J Davis reported that the electric pole on Lords Farm that fed the supply to the Yaxley pump was tilting and it was agreed that the matter be reported.

296/18 Maintenance of Channels

a) The Chairman reported upon proposed drain works for 2018/2019. RESOLVED that Slubbing be undertaken on the lengths from the field before point 5 – 6 -7 -8 -9. 10 – 9 – 37. 37 – 53 – 52. 37 - 38. 38 – 40. The earth dam be replaced with a water control (point53)

b) Great Fen Project –

New Decoy/Corneys – Ditch diversion work to create new route for IDB water from top farm, around railway covert, past the farm yard and out to the east has been undertaken. The Board needs to agree adoption once the ditch has been shown to function adequately. It was agreed to inspect the drain in November to ascertain whether to adopt.

The penultimate water control has now been installed at Corneys Farm.

Engine Farm/Kester's Docking – Pump used to part fill pools at Engine Farm and Kester's Docking between Feb and end of March. A success. Abstraction to add water to these pools may take place again from main river over the summer depending on weather conditions.

Other matters - for information – Car park adjacent to the Rookery at Holmelode Farm – we are hoping to install an entrance splay and height barrier June/July, but other works are on hold pending funding. Rymes reedbed – Cannabis farm was discovered in an underground structure dug into the peat and wired into an overhead powerline. Take care in case there are more than one out there as only external signs were a trapdoor but if a vehicle had driven over it the whole structure would have collapsed. Network rail have made good the fence alongside Rymes Reedbed, up to the far north western corner where is access by trespassers from Yaxley footpath. This is where the cattle escaped onto the line last summer. We would appreciate any reports of trespassers in the area or suspicious activity relating to livestock.

The Project thanked all the water bodies for their work in holding water over the winter period as it improved the number of winter birds in the Fen. Grazing will shortly commence and checks that the graziers keep fencing outside the 9m maintenance strip will be checked. The ground conditions are still wet and soft and filling of ponds will take place in early autumn.

Natural England The Clerk reported upon the meeting with C Evans regarding the Water Management Plan and looking to see whether level could be raised around the nature Reserve. The main problem would be that if levels were raised around the reserve land elsewhere would flood. The position would be monitored and investigated as to how to increase levels around the reserve.

297/18 General Matters

a) Planning Matters - The Clerk reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with an application from M Channing extension at May Cottage Holme Road – D J Collett Tower Farm proposed change of use to residential (2 dwellings) – M Fitzjohn 42 Church Street double garage

b) Consents –

c) (i) Risk Management - Control and Risk Management – The Board considered Biosecurity Policy & Biosecurity Procedures Statement that ADA will implement in June 2018.

A revised Water Level & Flood Risk Management Policy will be implemented.

General Data Protection Regulations have been implemented and the 12 steps considered and adopted. A Privacy Policy and Data Protection Policy were agreed and adopted. The Clerk was appointed as the Data protection Office. Further advice from ADA/Defra is pending. The members present agreed to their data being held by the Board.

The Board considered the Baps plan and agreed to the contents. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Cliff Carson for the assistance given to the Board during his term of office. Cliff retires on the 30th June and his replacement is Peter Beckingham

(ii) The Health & Safety arrangements at station were considered and the Clerk gave an induction as to H & S at pumping stations and site visits.

d) DEFRA- Review of IDB Annual Returns had been made.

e) Water Abstraction – Water Resources abstraction licences – The Clerk reported that he had spoken to David Thomas of the Middle Level Commissioners who would fund the transfer licence

of £1500 as they were treating the internal drainage districts as part of the Middle Level system.

f) Register of Electors – The Board considered and approved the Register of Electors. The Clerk outlined the procedure regarding the 2018 election process.

298/18 Payments – The Board approved the following payments: -

2017/2018		
Hargrave Ag Ltd	grease	£489.24
Middle Level Commissioners	Consultancy fee	£75.60
A J Speechley & Son	Whittlesey mere	£1,512.59
The Addison Arms	Meeting expenses	£145.80
Havenpower	Whittlesey Mere	£2,190.69
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R Wright	Clerk's expenses	£2,798.90
Mrs M A Wright	Secretaries duties	£1,364.26
FenFlow Ltd	Weed screen cleaner	£643.20
Whittlesey & district IDB	Admin etc	£446.20
2018/2019		
Havenpower	Whittlesey Mere	£1,910.85
NFU Mutual	insurance	£2,258.44
SSE	Yaxley Fen	£300.52
Hugo Wright Ltd	Registration of assets	£950.00
I J Cooper	Internal audit fee 2017/2018	£120.00
FenFlow Ltd	Repairs to cleaner	£1,605.60

299/18 Estimates of Income and Expenditure

a) The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2018.

b) The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounting Statement return for the year ended 31st March 2018 and the Annual Accounts.

c) The Clerk reported that the Audit of the Accounts has been fixed. The period of exercise of public rights will be from 11th June 2018 to 20th July 2018 and the appropriate notices have been displayed. I Cooper a retired Finance Officer of Fenland District council has agreed to undertake the internal audit for 2018/2019. The Internal auditor reported that for 2017/2018 there were no specific issues for the period that he had to draw to the attention of the Board.

d) The Board considered gross expenditure of £59,725 less income of £5,725. Net income of £54,000 for year ending 31st March 2019.

In 2015/2016, 2017/2017 and 2076/2018 the Board levied a rate of 15p in the £. The General Fund Account as at 31st March 2018 stands at £59,008.88 and the Development Account at

£870.00. Resolved – that the estimate of £54,000 be approved and a balance of £6,221 be used from reserves so that a rate to raise £47,779 be levied.

300/18 Rate and Levy Requirements

Under section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be met for 2017/2018 is: -

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| a) Proportion to be met by Agricultural Sector | 96.03% |
| b) Proportion to be met by Special Levy issued to Huntingdonshire District Council | 3.97% |

RESOLVED – That a rate of 15p in the £ be levied for the year ending 31st March 2019

The approved expenditure of £47,788 for 2018/2019 is equivalent to: -

- a) A rate in the 15p on agricultural land & buildings to raise £45,881.40
- b) A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £1,897.50

301/18 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 22nd November 2018 at 9.30am

The Board to meet at the Great Fen Car Park Ramsey Road Holme to inspect the new cut on Decoy Farm. The inspection to be followed by a meeting at the Addison Arms for 11.00am