

Minutes of a meeting of the Holmewood & District Internal Drainage Board held on Monday 1st June 2015 at the Addison Arms, Sawtry Road, Glatton at 7.00 pm.

Present G Bliss, D J Collett, N Collett, M Davis, J Davis, R Hollins, J Mears, J D Wright, R Wright (Clerk) Mrs M A Wright (Secretary). In the absence of J Ayres the Vice Chairman G Bliss acted as Chairman for the meeting.

Apologies for Absence Cllr G Bull, L Parker, K Carver, J Ayres

203/15 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2015 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

204/15 Matters Arising

a) Water control Yaxley Fen – Further to minute 196/15(a) – IT was reported that M Uyllett being on long term sick leave had not forwarded the name of the contractor to undertake the necessary safety work. J Mears agreed to undertake the works.

b) East Coast Main line – Further to the consultations regarding closure of Conington, Holme, Queenies and Yaxley Lode level crossings. The Clerk reported that it was likely that the Yaxley Lode and Queenies crossings would be lost and bridges at Conington and Holme would be built.

It was felt that the bridge at Holme would be beneficial as it had been reported that the crossing could be closed for 47minutes in an hour during busy times.

206/15 Pumping Stations

a) Whittlesey Mere

The Clerk reported that a service of the shutter doors would be arranged. The pumps were in good mechanical order.

b) Yaxley

J Mears reported that at the moment the pump was switched off. The pump was in good order. The electricity reading to date was 447488.

207/15 Maintenance of Channels

a)The Chairman reported upon proposed drain works for 2015/2016. The works scheduled would include lengths 2-32, 4-5-6-7-8-9-10, 8-36-37-38-39a, 38-40.

The concern as to saplings on 24-25 would be monitored as would growth elsewhere to determine what would be flailed in addition to the lengths where drain works were to be undertaken. Members were asked to report any areas of concern directly to the Chairman.

b) Great Fen Project –

i) The Clerk reported that monthly meetings have been held with representatives of the Great Fen Project to discuss and progress works.

ii) Kate Carver submitted a report upon the Great Fen Project covering the following. The report was circulated to all members.

- Old Decoy Farm
- New Decoy Farm
- Corney's Farm
- Engine Farm
- Rymes - Car park
- Clay stockade – legal problems with lease.
- New footbridge New Decoy to Chalderbeach

- ii) Concerns were raised over the size of the bridge and that it may allow access to vehicles. The clerk reported that once constructed it would be inspected and measures suggested to prevent vehicular access. D Collett was concerned that entry onto the land he farmed would be opened up. The Clerk again stressed that upon completion the security aspect would also be addressed.
- iii) Messrs Davis raised concerns that the Yaxley pump was pumping excessively and felt that it was due to an ingress of water from Rymes Reedbed through the railway drain at point 54. The Clerk would meet with them to look at the issue.
- iv) J Davis asked whether it would be beneficial to move meetings today times in order that representatives from the Great Fen could attend. It was noted that the November meeting was a morning one and meeting dates and times for 2016 would be discussed.

208/15 General Matters

a) Planning Matters - The Clerk reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with The Wildlife Trust planning application for Engine Farm New Long Drove. Concerns were raised over a work plan and impact upon IDB drainage system/ Also drawings of the sluice design were requested.

b) Consents

37 Wildlife Trust BCN – new bridge from New Decoy to Chalderbeach (see 207/15(b)/(ii)

c) (i) Risk Management - Control and Risk Management – The Clerk reported that Systems of Internal control had been reviewed and no changes were proposed. The payment of accounts through the internet needed to be mentioned and it was agreed that the Clerk could make the payment but would e mail details top the Chairman/Vice-Chairman to ratify approval.

(ii) The Health & Safety arrangements continue to be updated.

d) DEFRA – Amalgamations – no further developments

The Environment Agency were undertaking a study /strategy on Whittlesey Mere Pumping Station Eel Review.

e) Election

i) The Clerk report that the term of Office of members expires on 31st October 2015.

ii) RESOLVED – that the proposed Register of Electors be approved and the Chairman signs it as a true record.

209/15 Payments

The following payments were approved:-

2014/2015		
Fen Ditching	Drainworks	£9,163.20
Swalec	Whittlesey Mere	£2,152.53
Addison Arms	Meeting expenses	£20.60
Fen Ditching Ltd	Drain works	£3,769.34
Bt	Phone	£72.16
D G Beaton	Flail mowing	£828.00
Hargrave Ag	Grease	£411.30
Mrs M A Wright	Secretaries duties	£1,087.18
Cambs County Council	Pension contributions	£1,211.50
R Wright	Clerks expenses	£2,506.16
Swalec	Whittlesey Mere	£1,257.25
2015/2016		
Swalec	Whittlesey Mere	£875.74
Swalec	Yaxley Fen	£1,965.02

Middle Level Commissioners	Fees	£1,235.20
Whittlesey & District IDB	Insurance	£1,832.00
NFU Mutual	Insurance	£448.38
LGSS	Pension	£1,247.60
Davies Contracting Ltd	Drain works	£172.20
Information Commissioner	Registration renewal	£35.00
Ivan J Cooper	Internal audit fee 2014/15	£100.00
Edf Energy	Metering charges Whittlesey mere	£518.40
Swalec	Whittlesey Mere	£477.27

210/15 Estimates of Income and Expenditure

a) The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015.
b) The Board considered and approved the Annual return for the year ended 31 March 2015 and the Annual Governance statement. It was resolved that the Clerk and Chairman sign sections 1 & 2 of the Annual return.

c) The Board considered the estimates for 2015/2016
Clerks fee currently £2,380.00 increased to £2,450 Secretary's salary £945.54 increased to £1,050, Chairman's expenses £846.24 to £870.00 and Attendants fee £211.50 to £220.00

e) The Clerk reported that the Audit of the Accounts has been fixed for 8th June 2014 and the appropriate notices have been displayed. I Cooper a retired Finance Officer of Fenland District council had agreed to undertake the internal audit for 2014/2015 following the death of Mr G Whitfield. I J Cooper reported that no specific issues for the period of the audit had to be drawn to the attention of the Board.

RESOLVED – that I J Cooper be appointed as internal auditor for the financial years 2014/2015 & 2015/2016.

211/15 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 2013/2014 is: -

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| a) Proportion to be met by Agricultural Sector | 96.05% |
| b) Proportion to be met by Special Levy issued to Huntingdonshire District Council | 3.95% |

In 2015/2016 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £3,186.12
The estimated net expenditure of £52,960.00 in 2015/2016 is equivalent to a rate of 16.62p.
As the Board had made a surplus of £2,590.66 last year and the estimates included contingencies it was proposed that the rate of 15p in the £ be levied.

RESOLVED: -

- A rate in the 15p on agricultural land & buildings to raise £45,904.65
- A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £1,887.15

212/15 Date of Next Meeting Thursday 19th November 2015 at 9.30pm

The meeting was closed at 8.25pm