

**Minutes of the Whittlesey & District IDB Meeting held on
Tuesday, 23rd November 2021 at 2.30 pm via Zoom**

Present: R Brown (Chairman), R Fletcher (Vice Chairman), A Cade, A Price, R Price (CEO), P Tingey, H Whittome, M Sweet, T Martin, R Easton, P Bradshaw, R Easton, M Fisher, J Fountain, S Goodger, I Stanley, A Wagstaffe,

WD01/20. Apologies for absence: Cllr C Boden, Cllr Butler, Cllr Laws, Cllr Mayor, Cllr K Mayer, C Saunders.

a. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

- i) A Price and R Price declared a pecuniary interest.
- ii) The Minutes were read and approved for the meeting of 30th November 2021.

b. Election

R Price reported that sitting members term had come to an end. The election had been advertised and no new parties had applied to join the board. All sitting members had been re-elected to the board for the next term of 3 years.

- i) R Fletcher was elected as Chairman for the coming term. Put forward by R Brown and seconded by P Bradshaw.
- ii) A Cade was elected as Vice-Chairman. Proposed by R Fletcher and seconded by R Brown.
- iii) The Finance Committee was elected. The sitting members R Fletcher, A Cade, R Brown, R Easton, M Fisher, T Martin, P Tingey, Cllr E Butler were all re-elected.

Outgoing Chairman R Brown was thanked by the Board Members for his years of service and received a round of applause.

WD02/20. Matters Arising

a. Telemetry

The Board approved the addition of grease pump motor and pump syphon monitoring systems. Contractor Lee Dickens will complete the installation.

b. Rates

A Price reported that the amount of outstanding was less than £400.

R Price put forward that for future years the rate should be set at the first meeting of the year so that rate demands can be sent out at the start of the tax year. A deadline date for receiving rates was set for Rates to be paid. This date is 31st October, with a rate reminder going out on the 1st October. Expenses of the board will be recovered in addition to the outstanding balance via the Small Claims Court should the Board see fit.

R Price and A Price are to start gathering email information to rate payers with the aim of going digital and giving the option of direct debit payments.

d. Land Values

R Price is to find potential contractors to undertake the reappraisal of Land Values in the district. This information is a requirement for planning policy going forward.

e) Environment Act 2021

R Price reported that the Act had recently been passed to bring the UK up to speed with legislation since leaving the EU. As the Act had only been passed in the last few weeks it's still unknown as to how this will affect Board Activities.

WD03/20. Operation Engineer

a. R Price ran through the 2021/22 drain works programme. It is hoped to cover everything on the list. Work will start earlier this year weather permitting.

b. R Price reported gave an overview of outstanding repairs that needed to be made. Contractors were proving hard to come by. MLC were to be contacted to discuss the riverbank at Plantation Farm and the outfall at Old Plantation farm.

WD04/20. General Matters

a. Risk Management & Health & Safety

In 2018/19 the NFU did all the risk assessments. Anything flagged has now been dealt with. This is due to be re-evaluated upon new HSE legislation.

b. ADA continue to address issues affecting land Drainage Authorities. Subscriptions will increase by about 2% in 2020/21.

In R Price's opinion, the ADA is value for money, having been very supportive during the current predicament and have offered solutions.

i) R Price reported that HM Treasury and Defra are looking to remove Red Diesel from all industries that are not considered Agricultural. Talks between IDBs, ADA and the government are ongoing.

ii) ADA continue their efforts for Boards to gain blanket licensing for Badger sett removal.

iii) ADA reported that there is a rising effort within Conservation Groups to reintroduce Beavers into the UK.

WD05/20. Payments 2021/22

The Board considered and approved the payments provided dating from 1st June to 20th November. The Board thanked A Price for the new spreadsheets in which information is presented.

R Brown asked that going forward the Board should have a digital payment system whereas 2 people must log on to the Banking System to approve payments. This should protect the Board and its employees from potential fraud and allegations of it. A vote was held, and the motion was passed.

WD07/20. Income & Expenditure

A Price reported on income and expenditure for 2020/2021. The Board at this time was projected to come under budget depending on how much rainfall the area received over the winter. Electricity has been the Board's main source of expenditure in the past two financial years due to heavy rainfall.

9. Dates of next meeting

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st March 2021 due to Half term commitments. The venue will be The Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey at 2.30pm with food to be served afterwards.