

**Minutes of the Whittlesey & District IDB Meeting held on
Tuesday, 7th February 2023 at 2.30 pm @ The Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey**

Present: R Fletcher (Chairman), R Easton, A Wagstaffe, P Tingey, M Sweet, S Goodger, Cllr D Laws, Cllr B Wicks, Cllr K Mayer, Cllr D Mason, Cllr E Butler, R Price (CEO), A Price

WD17/22. Apologies for absence: A Cade (Vice Chairman), R Brown, J Fountain, I Stanley, M Fisher, H Whittome, C Saunders, T Martin.

a. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

- i) Pecuniary interests were declared, and all members agreed to abstain where appropriate.
- ii) The Minutes were read and approved for the meeting of 6th December 2022.

WD18/22. Matters Arising

a. Telemetry

R Price asked the appointed councillors when the A605 improvements will be finished and signed off as completed so the Board can move to inspect for its final consent. Cllr D Laws reported that the project was seeing some remedial works before it would be deemed completed if the Board's necessary requirements.

b. Rating Strategy and Mapping

R Price reported that due to upcoming changes in the Middle Level Commissioners Senior Leadership that obtaining the required information and working out how much discrepancy between both rateable areas the DTS system hadn't been implemented. R Fletcher asked when the system would be in use. The CEO suggested that it would be better to wait for the new Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer to be in place before looking to carry on the process.

WD19/22. Operation Engineer

- a. R Price ran through the current drainworks programme. As discussed at the December meeting the works will commence in the Conquest Lode area.
- b. R Price gave a review of general repairs that are currently underway within the district.

WD20/22. 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. R Price is to investigate with the NFU whether the Board are covered by the insurance for the emergency pumping costs.

b. i) ADA have been fighting the rising costs Electricity by gathering data from all members to send to DEFRA due to the incredible increases in standing charges on pumping stations. DEFRA are to speak to Ofgem to discuss whether these varying increases are lawful.

ii) There have been no new guidelines or slackening of the laws and regulations surrounding Badgers.

iii) Trial Beaver relocation have been deemed successful in other areas of the country. The Board has directed the CEO to object as strongly as possible to the introduction of Beavers into the area.

WD21/22. Payments 2021/22

The Board considered and approved the payments of Vouchers 88-118 totalling £118,695.59.

08-Nov-22	CAMBS CC PENSION	OE07	88		£ 797.30		£ 797.30
08-Nov-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	PSD13	89	813	£ 808.50	£ 161.70	£ 970.20
08-Nov-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	PSB09	89	837	£ 126.00	£ 25.20	£ 151.20
08-Nov-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	PSG08	54	788			£ 0.08
08-Nov-22	PD GREEN	DM03	90	SI-9	£ 1,250.00	£ 250.00	£ 1,500.00
08-Nov-22	MIDDLE LEVEL	PSB05	91	21779	£ 166.94	£ 33.39	£ 200.33
08-Nov-22	MIDDLE LEVEL	PSC14	91	21780	£ 104.20	£ 20.84	£ 125.04
08-Nov-22	MIDDLE LEVEL	PSB15	91	21781	£ 5,278.39	£ 1,055.68	£ 6,334.07
08-Nov-22	LEE DICKENS LTD	PSH00	92	20211209	£ 19,472.00	£ 3,894.40	£ 23,366.40
18-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE02	93	1106488664	£ 63.91	£ 3.19	£ 67.10
21-Nov-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	PSB04	94	848	£ 260.00	£ 52.00	£ 312.00
21-Nov-22	R HALES SALARY OCT	OE05	95		£ 281.60		£ 281.60
21-Nov-22	R HALES MILEAGE OCT	OE06	95		£ 93.83		£ 93.83
21-Nov-22	CAMBS CC PENSION	OE07	96		£ 797.30		£ 797.30
21-Nov-22	HMRC Tax Nic	AM05	97		£ 945.70		£ 945.70
21-Nov-22	R PRICE SALARY	OE01	98		£ 2,122.47		£ 2,122.47
21-Nov-22	PDSM LTD ADMIN	AM01	99	7	£ 1,250.00		£ 1,250.00
21-Nov-22	R PRICE MILEAGE	OE02	99	7	£ 996.05		£ 996.05
21-Nov-22	R PRICE PHONE	OE03	99	7	£ 32.11		£ 32.11
21-Nov-22	R PRICE INTERNET	OE04	99	7	£ 40.00		£ 40.00
21-Nov-22	PJ THORY	DM02	100	28202	£ 7,493.08	£ 1,498.62	£ 8,991.70
21-Nov-22	R J DALE	DM01	101	F208-22	£ 15,602.00	£ 3,120.40	£ 18,722.40
23-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE11	102	1106513325	-£ 627.67	-£ 104.60	-£ 627.67
23-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE11	102	1105870313	£ 522.88	£ 104.56	£ 627.44
23-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE11	102	1106513326	£ 460.94	£ 92.11	£ 553.12
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE09	103	1106543069	£ 24.71	£ 1.23	£ 25.94
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE06	103	1106543070	£ 320.87	£ 64.54	£ 385.41
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE08	103	1106543071	£ 608.67	£ 122.53	£ 731.20
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE01	103	1106543072	£ 41.38	£ 2.08	£ 43.46
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE07	103	1106543073	£ 85.84	£ 4.06	£ 89.90
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE12	103	1106543074	£ 200.21	£ 8.42	£ 208.63
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE13	103	1106543075	£ 269.56	£ 13.49	£ 283.05
30-Nov-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE03	103	1106543076	£ 185.03	£ 9.23	£ 194.26
13-Dec-22	ADA OUSE SUBS WIDB	AM08	104		£ 25.00	£ 5.00	£ 30.00
13-Dec-22	ADA OUSE SUBS	HIDB	104				£ 30.00
13-Dec-22	ADA OUSE SUBS	WWDC	104				£ 6.00
13-Dec-22	FALCON HOTEL MEETING	AM04	105		£ 186.92	£ 37.38	£ 224.30
13-Dec-22	MIDDLE LEVEL	PSB15	106	21861	£ 238.72	£ 47.74	£ 286.46
13-Dec-22	MIDDLE LEVEL	AM06	106	21852	£ 481.25	£ 96.25	£ 577.50
13-Dec-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	PSF01	107	863	£ 335.00	£ 67.00	£ 402.00
13-Dec-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	PSD02	107	870	£ 385.00	£ 77.00	£ 462.00
13-Dec-22	SC ELECTRICAL LTD	HIDB	108				£ 1,920.24
13-Dec-22	PJ THORY	DM02	109	28180	£ 11,370.24	£ 2,274.05	£ 13,644.29
13-Dec-22	PJ THORY	DM02	109	28211	£ 3,823.00	£ 764.60	£ 4,587.60
13-Dec-22	PJ THORY	DM02	109	28221	£ 3,784.77	£ 756.95	£ 4,541.72
13-Dec-22	PJ THORY	DM02	109	28236	£ 3,823.00	£ 764.60	£ 4,587.60
19-Dec-22	R HALES SALARY NOV	OE05	110		£ 211.20		£ 211.20
19-Dec-22	R HALES MILEAGE NOV	OE06	110		£ 83.00		£ 83.00
19-Dec-22	CAMBS CC PENSION	OE07	111		£ 797.30		£ 797.30
19-Dec-22	HMRC Tax Nic	AM05	112		£ 866.69		£ 866.69
19-Dec-22	R PRICE SALARY	OE01	113		£ 2,122.47		£ 2,122.47
19-Dec-22	PDSM LTD ADMIN	AM01	114	8	£ 1,250.00		£ 1,250.00
19-Dec-22	R PRICE MILEAGE	OE02	114	8	£ 1,567.15		£ 1,567.15
19-Dec-22	R PRICE PHONE	OE03	114	8	£ 32.11		£ 32.11
19-Dec-22	R PRICE INTERNET	OE04	114	8	£ 40.00		£ 40.00
20-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE02	115	1106570320	£ 68.43	£ 3.43	£ 71.86
23-Dec-22	PJ THORY	DM02	116	28250	£ 3,823.00	£ 764.60	£ 4,587.60
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE09	117	1106614447	£ 27.26	£ 1.36	£ 28.62
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE06	117	1106614448	£ 904.44	£ 180.88	£ 1,085.32
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE08	117	1106614449	£ 1,127.10	£ 225.42	£ 1,352.52
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE01	117	1106614450	£ 165.96	£ 8.30	£ 174.26
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE07	117	1106614451	£ 371.97	£ 74.08	£ 446.05
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE12	117	1106614452	£ 519.19	£ 103.35	£ 622.54
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE13	117	1106614453	£ 223.24	£ 11.14	£ 234.38
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE03	117	1106614454	£ 180.21	£ 9.00	£ 189.21
28-Dec-22	DRAX ENERGY	PSE11	118	1106623451	£ 851.65	£ 170.33	£ 1,021.98

WD22/22. Income & Expenditure

R Price reported on the current income (£373,027.00) and expenditure (£214,582.00) for 2022/2023. The Board currently was showing to be on course for being under budget.

WD23/22. Rates and Levy Requirement

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be met for 2023/2024 is:

a.	Agricultural Sector	57.55%
b.	Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council	36.34%
c.	Special Levy issued to Huntingdonshire D C	6.11%

In 23/24 a rate of 1p would raise £21,487.59.

The Whittlesey Board had raised a 15.75p rate for 2022/2023 fiscal year.

R Price presented the various rate options for 2023/24. When sending his spending forecast to the Councils in January electricity prices were twice what they were at the time of the meeting. Therefore, his estimation at the time was now incorrect. R Price had notified the councils that a rate of 26p would be needed to offset against the increase in electricity. This figure was taken from a 5-year average spend rather than a high usage year. The rate to cover the costs on current tariffs was 21.75p. Following discussion, R Fletcher noted that inflation costs and spiralling energy prices were a frightening prospect for the Board. However, that it would be prudent to set a rate at 20p having reviewed the account balances. This would make 25% increase with having to use some reserves if they are such needed. Cllr K Mayor seconded the motion. The rate was set at 20p in the £1. R Fletcher commented that this would be revaluated next year and adjusted accordingly if the Board was to make a substantial loss.

WD24/22. Date of next meeting

The next dates were set in place. The venue will be The Falcon Hotel, Whittlesey at 2.30pm on 13th June and 14th November, with food to be served afterwards.

WD25/22. Any Other Business

Cllr E Butler asked what the MLC rate had been set at. R Price didn't know the answer but would find out and report back to him.

The Board have instructed R Price to send a letter to R Burgess with the rate demand to outline that the Board feels it has spent enough time, money and other resources on trying to help alleviate the wet holes on his field. The survey in which the Board commissioned clearly shows that there is enough fall from his land to the pump to drain his land. Should he refuse to pay rates in the future as has been threatened the Board will take legal action.

The Chairman thanked everyone in attendance.

The meeting was called to close at 15.40pm.