

Minutes of a meeting of the Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Monday 19th July 2022 at The Falcon Hotel, 1 London Street, Whittlesey at 6.00pm

Present: P D Band (Chairman), M W Dales, M Sweet, R L Price (CEO), Cllr B Wicks, Cllr A Miscandlon, R J Stevenson, A Price.

Apologies for Absence – O Wheatley, Cllr D Laws, Cllr K Mayor.

1/22 Confirmation of Minutes – **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26th July 2021 were recorded correctly and that they be signed as being a true and accurate record.

2/22 Pumping Station

The CEO reported that the telemetry installation by Lee Dickens Ltd had been completed and was fully operational. Lee Dickens had also been contracted to design a digital Syphon Breaker to allow the Board to be notified when the Whittlesey Washes are backflowing through the pump.

3/22 Pension Cessation

The CEO reported a payment plan had been arranged with the Pension Company to pay the Board's dues.

M W Dale explained the arrangement which would see the Board pay the amount of £13,293.12 over a 4-year period so that the rate could be adjusted to cover the fee rather than drain reserves. £3000.00 are to be paid upfront with 4 annual payments of £2650.67.

Cllr B Wicks motioned that the Board agree to the payment plan as a small rate increase to cover the cessation fee was favourable.

RESOLVED – The Board voted and passed the motion.

4/22 Planning

The CEO reported that North Level Internal Drainage Board as Consultant Engineers had drawn up a Planning Policy and maps on behalf of the Board. With this in place, they will be notified by Fenland District Council of any prospective planning which could affect the Board's system.

5/22 District Officer

MD reported that the entire district would be flail mowed and basket cut in this year's drainage maintenance scheme.

General Matters-

6/22 a) Risk Management and Health & Safety

The CEO reported that a Health and Safety Audit was still to be arranged.

7/22 b) ADA and EA

The CEO reported that the ADA were successful in their discussions with DEFRA and HM Treasury. IDBs will be able to continue using red diesel where there is benefit to Agricultural sector.

ADA's next point of call is to represent the IDBs in discussions over the ever-increasing energy prices.

8/22 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2021/22

The CEO reported income of £21,617.05 and an expenditure of £15,899.64. A surplus of £5717.41 was reported. The surplus was made due to low pumping costs, VAT rebates and an increased highland water contribution claim.

9/22 Annual Accounts 2021/2022

a) The Board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2021/2022 and signed the Certificate of exemption as the Boards turnover did not exceed £25,000.

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 Monday 13th July to Friday 28th August 2022. 3 Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex-Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has undertaken the internal examination for the 2021/2022 accounts. The Board noted the internal auditors report on 2021/2022 financial years accounts.

10/22 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 borne for 2022/2023:

a) Proportion to be borne by Agricultural Sector 40.82%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council 59.18%

In 2022/2023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £1,191.64. The estimated expenditure of £24,168.67 in 2022/2023 is equivalent to:

a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 20.00p in the £ to raise £9,865.65 b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £14,303.85

RESOLVED – that a rate of 15p in the £ be levied:

a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land & buildings of 15p to raise £7,311.75

b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £10,562.85

c) That the Clerk/Consultant be authorised to collect any outstanding drainage rate through the appropriate court.

d) That the seal be affixed to the Record of drainage rate and special levies.

11/22 Any other Business

P Band (Chairman) announced that he wished to stand down as Chairman and retire from the Board as he no longer had interests in the area. The Board thanked him for his years of service both as Chair and pump attendant.

The Board moved to elect a new Chairman. M W Dale was nominated by Cllr B Wicks and seconded by Vice Chairman M Sweet.

The CEO has been tasked with filling the 2 vacancies on the Board.

The Board voted to create a Finance Committee that would meet in February of each year to set the rate in advance of the upcoming fiscal year to adhere to the Good Governance Guide as set by ADA.

12/22 Date of next Meeting – February 2023