

Minutes of a meeting of the Whittlesey & District IDB held on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at the Town Hall, Market Street, Whittlesey at 2.30pm

Present: R Brown (Chairman), R Fletcher (Vice Chairman), R Easton, S Goodger, C Saunders, M Sweet, I Stanley, A Wagstaffe, A Cade, M Fisher, P Tingey, Cllr D Laws, Cllr C Boden, Cllr E Butler, Cllr K Mayor, Cllr B Wicks, Cllr D Mason, R Wright (Outgoing CEO), R Price (Incoming CEO and OE), A Price

The Chairman welcome Andrew Wagstaff, who was attending his first meeting as was Cllr B Wicks. He also welcomed A Price from PDSM Ltd.

Apologises for absence: P Bradshaw, T Martin, H Whittome

Members Declaration of Interest – Cllr Butler declared an interest in Planning and abstraction matters. Cllr D Laws declared an interest in planning matters.

WD305/20 Future Administration of Board

It was reported that Russell Wright the Outgoing CEO had officially retired on 31st December 2019. R Price was appointed as Clerk & operation Engineer as from 1st January 2020 at a starting salary of £34,170 and a new contract of employment would be drawn up. The Board approved R Price as a member of the LGPS as from 1st April 2020. PDSM Ltd were appointed to assist the new Clerk & Operation Engineer in an administrative role in the field of land Drainage. The fee was fixed at £15,000 per annum and would cover all administration charges.

The Chairman thanked Russell Wright for his 28 years of service and his service would be recognised with a trip to be organised for later in the year.

WD306/20 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Board meeting held on 5th November 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

WD307/20 Matters Arising

a) Telemetry – Further to minute WD298/19 & WD302/19(c) It was reported that the Data Centre Subscription of £2,388.00 had been paid and covered the period up to 31st Oct 2020. The remote sensor for the water control at the rear of Engine/Manor Farms, Wisbech Road, Coates had been installed and commissioned. ODN's to be given by William Morfoot at a later date.

b) A605 Kings Dyke Scheme Further to minute WD298/19(b) – The Leader of Cambs County Council had stated on TV that the scheme would go ahead.

c) Lords Farm Further to minute WD298/19(c). It was reported that the bulk of electrical work to the new panel had been completed at a cost of £2,967.47. A supply upgrade from UKPN was in hand.

d) Old Plantation – Further to minute WD298/19(d). It was reported would need to address issues regarding liability before D Abblitt agreed to a purchase.

e) Must Farm – Further to minute Wd299/19(b) – It was reported that adoption of the new system would be confirmed after a meeting with Tim Martin, hopefully in the Spring.

f) Micklewaite Area – Further to minute Wd299/19 (b) adoption of further drains in the Micklewaite area. The matter was not resolved as details need to be confirmed with by Tin Martin.

g) Wype Pumping station - UK Power Network have had customers complaining of flicker on their supply that are connected to the same network and it looks to coincide with a pump starting.

WD308/20 Operating Engineer

a) The Operation Engineer reported on his 2019 drain works programme: - 81km of 103km had been basket cut. Due to adverse weather conditions the works programme was late starting, and he is still waiting for crops to be harvested. R Easton put to the board that at this late time in the year if crops had not been lifted then the board should enforce its powers and run through the crops. This was seconded by a consensus.

b) The OE reported that a new drainage channel has been cut in the Whittlesey 5th Catchment to Increase the capacity of the system.

c) The Plough, Ramsey Road – The OR reported that discussions were ongoing over the cost of the culvert.

d) Drainage issues Barn & Fourth Reach Farm, Oil Mills Road, Ramsey Meresidem – William Morfoot Drainage had surveyed the area of the effected land. A meeting with the landowners was to be arranged to discuss solutions.

WD309/20 General Matters

- a) Planning – Matters reported upon by the Consulting Engineer:
JRL Property – Erection of 4 Industrial Units. Draining into an attenuation pond.
Mr T Miles Conversion of existing barn to a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling. Drainage unresolved.
Mr P Grice – Conversion of existing barn to single-storey 3-bedroom dwelling.
Chapelbridge Farms – Change of use from agricultural building to single-storey, 2 bedroom dwelling. Drained to soak away.
Concerns were raised by Cllr D Laws regarding the handling of planning matters by MLC. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the F&GP Committee and a possible meeting with MLC. Cllr D Laws agreed to attend any meeting.
- b) Risk Management & Health & Safety - The outgoing CEO reported upon the risk management assessment: Risk management Strategy & Policy – Standing Orders – Financial regulations and Systems of Internal Controls were considered and agreed that no changes were to be made at present. A general review of all policies, procedures, etc would be carried out once ADA had approved model forms.
The Board review of Byelaws has been put on hold until revisions to the latest model ones have been agreed between ADA & Defra.
- c) Consents – R Wright reported upon an application from Tom Merchant for works within nine metre maintenance strip at Benwick Road, Whittlesey.
Application from Darren Pedley for works within the nine-metre maintenance strip at 60 South Green, Coates.
- d) Pension Regulator – R Wright reminded the board that they needed to consider re-enrolment and re-declaration before the 1st April.
R Price is to be enrolled into the local government pension scheme. The contribution rate of which has decreased from 36.8% to 21.5%.

WD310/0 Payments – The Board considered and approved the following payments for 2019/20:-

Vouchers

90	R Hales – salary £79.74
91	Actavo Hire & Sales Ltd – safety fencing £216.63
92	Drake Towage Ltd Pump Modifications Lords Farm £11,930.70
93	PDSM Ltd work at Lords Farm £225.00
94	P J Thory Ltd Drain work £10,571.40
95	Havenpower fuel Ramsey Mereside £220.66
96	Havenpower fuel various £1,135.41
97	Swalec Old Plantation fuel £25.58
98 -130	£90,139.38
131-143	£33,598.76

WD311/20 Income & Expenditure year ending 31st March 2020

- a) R Wright informed the board that mandate changes were underway to change signatories with Barclays Bank PLC. The removal of R Wright and addition of R Price on the account. The current signatories include R Brown and R W Fletcher.
- b) Changes to the Cambridge & Counties, Shawbrook and nsi accounts would also need to be made by removing R Wright and replacing with R Price.
- c) R Wright reported that the board has seen £259,535.16 income and expenditure of £253,474.72.

WD312/20 Date of next meeting

Thursday 4th June 2020 – Town Hall, Market Street, Whittlesey at 2.30pm.