

**Minutes of a meeting of the Holmewood & District Internal Drainage Board held on  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at Ladyseat Farm, New Long Drove, PR7 3PN, at 11.15 am**

**Present:** J Ayres (Chairman), D J Collett, N Collett, M A Davis, J Davis, C Evans, J J Mears, Cllr J Clarke.  
R Price (Clerk).

**Apologies for Absence:** T Simpson, J Wright, L Parker, C Evans, G Bliss.

**Declaration of members Pecuniary Interests:** none

**342/20 Confirmation of Minutes:** Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

**343/20 Matters Arising**

a) The Clerk reported that the board had received an application for consent from The Great Fen Project in relation to the installation of a solar pump at engine farm. The Board at this time felt the need to decline this consent until the relevant planning permissions were in place for the project area and more information was available.

ai) D J Collett asked that a 'Working Party' be created within the Board to make recommendations to the full Board to help speed up the process in which applications are processed going forward.

b) The Clerk reported that the Board had still not paid Fenflow for the refurbishment of the Weedscreen Cleaner at Whittlesey Mere Pumping Station. The Chairman explained that the E-stops at the station were still not working correctly, and that discussions were still on going in working out a solution. The Board voted that Middle Level Commissioners Engineering department be used for all future repairs.

**344/20 Maintenance of Channels**

a) The Chairman reported that as part of the 2019/2020 drainage works this year would incorporate Whittlesey Mere catchment of drains: Engine Farm through Corneys and New Decoy. The route of which is to be distributed with the rate demands.

Yaxley Pumping Station's sump was reported by J Mears to require de-silting to enable the pump to lower the levels. It was decided that ADC would be contacted to clean out the sump when the ground was hard enough to stand, and the levels had reduced once the irrigation season had been completed.

b) Great Fen Project – Issues with electric fencing, electric gates across tracks to the riverbank and electric fencing connected to structures has caused the Chairman great concern and he felt that more co-operation between the Great Fen and Board was required.

Resolved that the Chairman and N Collett along with representatives from the Great Fen drive the route required for access to inspect the district in order to monitor water levels be undertaken and a consensus tried to be reached upon the Covid restrictions being eased.

### **345/20 General Matters**

a) The Board motioned and passed for a full Health & Safety Audit to be completed by the NFU upon them being back in the office following the easing of Covid restrictions. J Davis felt that the board needed to be more proactive in protecting members of the General Public and it's work force.

### **346/20 Payments**

Payments for the financial year of 2019/20 were presented to the board by the Clerk. All payments were scrutinised, and the Board accepted them as being true and accurate.

### **347/20 Annual Accounts year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

a) The Board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 audit has been advertised with inspection of accounts from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 3 Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex-Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has undertaken the internal examination for the 2019/2020 accounts. The Board noted the internal auditors report on 2019/2020 financial years accounts.

### **348/20 Estimates of Income and Expenditure**

The Clerk presented a schedule of income of £53,133.90 and expenditure of £53,133.90 to date and confirmed that the balance held with Barclays Bank as of July 17<sup>th</sup> was £78,663.28.

### **349/20 Rates 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 2020/2021 is: -

a)	Agricultural Sector	96.03%
b)	Special Levy issued to Huntingdonshire D C	3.97%

The Board made a deficit of £649.28 in 2019/2020.

The rate for 2019/20 was set at 15p. The Board are to consider the rate for 2020/21.

Resolved – That a rate of 15p in the £ be levied for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

- a) A rate in the 15p on agricultural land & buildings to raise £45,881.40
- b) A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £1,897.50

### **350/20 Date of Next Meeting - TBC**

The Chairman thanked member for their attendance and the meeting closed at 12.45.