

Minutes of a meeting of the Holmewood & District Internal Drainage Board held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at the Addison Arms, Sawtry Road Glatton at 7.00pm.

**Present** J Ayres (Chairman), G Bliss, Cllr G Bull, M Davis, J H Davis, J Mears, J D Wright, R Wright (Clerk), M A Wright (Secretary).

**Apologies for Absence** D J Collett, N Collett, L Parker, R Hollins, M Ulyett.

### **195/15 Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

### **196/15 Matters Arising**

a) Yaxley Water Control - Further to minute 188/14(a) The Chairman reported that details of a local contractor's name were still awaited from Mark Ulyett. The water control being lowered by some 25cm appears to be allowing the water levels to be managed more effectively.

b) Herberts Bridge – Further to minute 188/14(b) – The Chairman reported that the work had been completed to a satisfactory standard.

### **197/15 Pumping Stations**

a) Whittlesey Mere – The Chairman reported that P Camplin had undertaken further checks on the weedscreen cleaner. The reason for tripping “land to river” may be due to ice on the runway and the problem is not unique to Holmewood. The machine could be switched to manual in poor weather conditions or by fitting a longer cam or slowing machine on the inverter. These measures may not cure the problem completely but would help.

Messrs Speechley were undertaking improvements to No 1 pump.

b) Yaxley – J Mears reported that the current electricity reading was 443837. Concerns were raised over the pumping hours as it seemed to be pumping when little rain had fallen. The situation would be monitored and investigations made in order to ascertain whether seepage was evident.

### **198/15 Maintenance of Channels**

a) The Chairman reported that drain works had commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and due to high water levels in the new system at New Decoy Farm the stretch of drain through Corney's Farm 17-18-19a had been cleansed. The machine had worked for 197 hours at £38 per hour with £150 transport costs.

Problems with gate entry and electric fences were dealt with but it was suggested that in future all temporary fences must have approval from the Board prior to erection on site and should access be required they must be removed. RESOLVED – that all temporary fences must be consented and be at least nine metres from the brink of the drain.

D G Beaton had undertaken 64 hours of flail mowing at an hourly rate of £34.50. He had also flailed the main drain

The Clerk reported that Middle Level had raised concerns over a mesh structure near to the inlet on the Yaxley Lode (Pig Water). J Mears reported that the structure was put in by H S & D Burgess some 15 years ago. He agreed to remove the mesh.

b) Great Fen Project- Further minute 190/14(b). GFP to report:-

(i) Old Decoy Farm -

(ii) Rymes Reed – Fen Ditching were still on site.

iii) New Decoy – still pending. Site test should have been undertaken ready for thrust boring under the Ramsey Road.

iv) Corney's Farm – The drainage system is still operational and work on the two culverts under the Ramsey Road were still pending.

- v) Kesters Docking – works reported as ongoing until mid-January.
- vi) Clay stockade – planning permission granted but works not yet started.
- vii) Engine Farm – Application for consent made for – installation of new sluices/control structures and creation of new drain with infilling of existing one. Matters deferred until other schemes completed

### **199/15 General Matters**

- a) Planning Matters - The Clerk reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with no applications on behalf of the Board:-
- b)
  - (i) Risk Management – Systems of Internal Control and Risk Management. RESOLVED – that no changes were required to the Standing Orders or Financial Regulations and the Systems of Internal Control were still adequate.
  - (ii) The Health & Safety arrangements continue to be updated.
- c) Consents – Engine farm - pending
- d) ADA – The next Great Ouse branch meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 2.30pm at Prickwillow Village Hall, Main Street, Prickwillow.  
The Clerk reported upon the retirement of Dr J Venables and a request for donations towards a leaving presentation. RESOLVED – that no donation be made.
- e) Network Rail – Proposal to close Holme Crossing – Queenies crossing and foot crossing at Yaxley Pumping Station. It was reported that at the recent village meeting, option (a) a flyover on the south side was the preferred route. Cllr Bull stated that it was still very much in the consultation mode.

### **199/15 Payments made by the Board**

The Board considered and approved the payments vouchers 29 – 40 totalling £8,756.82

The Board also approved voucher 41 Fen Ditching Co – Drain works £7636.00 plus vat £1,572.20.

### **200/15 Estimates of Income and Expenditure**

- a) The Board considered income and expenditure for 2014/2015. The Clerk reported that drain works amounted to £7,636 which made expenditure £40,900.13, with income of £57,481.57 giving a working balance in hand of £16,581.44 to the year end.
- b) The Clerk referred to the internal audit arrangements following death of current auditor Mr G Whitfield – Mr Ivan Cooper a retired Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has offered to undertake audit review for 2014/2015. RESOLVED – That Mr I Cooper be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2014/2015 financial year.

### **201/15 Other matters**

- a) The question of district plans was raised. RESOLVED – that updated plans be circulated to all members
- b) The issue of parking on the single tracks was becoming a major problem. It was agreed that the matter be taken up with the great Fen Project.
- c) RB Organics – It was reported that lagoons had been constructed on agricultural land adjoining the processing factory. RESOLVED – that the Clerk makes investigations

**202/15 Date of next meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 at 7.00pm

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm