

Minutes of a meeting of the Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on the 16th January 2020 at The Three Horseshoes, March Road Turves, at 6.00pm

Present: P D Band (Chairman), M W Dale, M Sweet, R J Stevenson, O Wheatley, Cllr C Boden, Cllr D Laws, Cllr K Mayor, Cllr A Miscandlon, Mrs M A Wright (Clerk), R Wright (Consultant), R L Price, A Price, Mrs L Price. T J Fletcher was present but did not participate in any discussions.

Apologies for Absence - none

154/20 Nominated Representatives – The Chairman reported that the following Councillors have been appointed by Fenland District Council as the nominated representatives:- Cllr Dee Laws (Portfolio Holder of Planning), Cllr Kay Mayor (Chairman of Council), Cllr C Bowden (Leader of Council & Portfolio Holder of Finance), Cllr Alex Miscandlon (Vice Chairman of Council).

The Councillors were given a form regarding the Register of Members Interest to complete. It was reported that the term of office of the elected members would expire on 31st October 2020 and election notices would need to be prepared in 2020.

155/20 Declaration of members Pecuniary Interests – Cllr D Laws planning items, R J Stevenson land at Drybread Road.

156/20 Confirmation of Minutes - RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

157/20 Future Administration of the Board – The Clerk reported that she and the Consultant wished to retire and that future arrangements for the administration of the Board needed to be in place and agreed by the end of January 2020. The Clerk referred to her first meeting at The Bricklayers Arms, Station Road, Whittlesey, after her appointment as Clerk on the 1st September 1995.

The Consultant referred to the decision of the Whittlesey & District IDB: -

Following the advertising undertaken for the CEO replacement one applicant had withdrawn and the following options were available: -

George Dann – self-employed Drainage Consultant – BSC, MCIWEM CWEM

Kenneth Pratt – Senior/Principle Engineer WSP Lincoln – BSc, CEng, CEnv, CEWM etc

Richard Price/PDSM Ltd – Operations Engineer Whittlesey & District IDB

Middle Level Commissioners – part or full administrative duties

The Committee scrutinized the applications and after careful consideration felt that the preferred option would be to appoint Richard price as Clerk/Operation manager with support from PDSM Ltd in the administrative role. The use of Middle Level Commissioners as Consulting Engineers for planning and maintenance of weed screen cleaners, South Holland IDB for plant hire for weed cutting and North Level & District IDB for general assistance would continue for the present time.

Middle Level Commissioners have quoted £1,750 for Finance rating only and Admin/finance/rating £3000 with office expenses of £351.

The current charges are salary £1650, pension £580 office expenses £250.

The Chairman introduced Richard, Andy and Lynne Price. The Board had been circulated their CV and were given a brief presentation from them as to how they would administer the Board.

RESOLVED – That R L Price be appointed as Clerk to the Board, as from 1st February 2020, with a salary of £500. PDSM Ltd be appointed to provide administrative services to the Board at an annual fee of £2,000.

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158/20 Pumping Station

Site watch Pump Station Monitoring System
Site Survey @ Feldale Pump Station



We will provide a quotation for the supply, installation and commissioning of a Site watch™ Pump Station Telemetry System to the Whittlesey IDB standard specification (**please note that this does not include CCTV**). The pump station will be commissioned onto the existing WIDB Site watch Pump Station Application.

As space is limited within the pump control panel, Matt Cullip (AJ Speechley & Son) will look to provide the monitored circuits in a small junction box, that will be mounted on the wall behind the panel. Matt may also look to decommission the obsolete pump timer/controller, originally installed so the pump would run during the cheaper electrical tariff period.

Telemetry power will be fed via a dedicated 6A MCB from the pump stations fuse board. Matt Cullip recommends that the obsolete MK distribution board is first upgraded.

The Midi8 Remote Terminal Unit and Marshalling enclosure will be mounted alongside the distribution board.

The Midi8 RTU will be powered (230VAC) via a metal clad switched/fused spur. All power and signal cables will be steel wired armoured (SWA) and will be routed around site using suitable cable management (either galvanised tray-work and/or 20mm galvanised conduit).

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- Radar sensors will be fitted to monitor upstream and sump water levels (this will also provide a weed screen blocked alarm).
- The upstream water level sensor will be mounted on a frame that clamps to the existing Kee Klamp handrails.
- The frame will place the sensor in the center of water channel, spanning approximately 1m over the water.
- The sump level sensor will be located using a wall mount bracket.
- A magnetic contact will be fitted to the pumping station door, to monitor entrance/exit.

A cellular scan was completed and 2G network signal strength was very good (T Mobile /O2) from within the pumping station building. There will be no need to run a cellular extension cable outside the pumping station.

Monitored Points

Digital Inputs

- Pump Run/Stop
- Pump Hand/Auto
- Pump Tripped/healthy
- Extra Low Level
- Pump Station Door Open/Closed
- 3 Phase Failure

Analogue Inputs

- Upstream Water Level
- Sump Water Level
- Pump Current
- Weed screen blocked (derived from difference in two water levels)
- Pump Hours Run (derived from Pump Run signal)

The quote for the works being £7,804 with subscription costs of £480

The Chairman reported that as he no longer lived within the district it was not as easy to monitor water levels and manage the pump. M W Dale had been assisting the Chairman as he lives more local.

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The Chairman and M W Dale both felt that telemetry would improve the monitoring system and as it could be linked to the Whittlesey & District IDB system the new Clerk would also have a better understanding of the pump operation. The Board had also instructed William Morfoot Ltd to carry out a GPS survey on the ditch systems within the district due to issues raised from ratepayers.

RESOLVED – that the Telemetry system be installed at the quoted price.

159/20 General Matters

a) Planning – It was reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with planning applications on behalf of the Board: -

K Tadman 153 Drybread Road – extension

G & J Ping Ltd 15 dwellings Eastrea Road

Larkfleet homes 110 dwellings Eastrea Road

R J Dale Feldale – Agricultural storage building – infiltration certification agreed

R Nunn extension

Mrs V Brown reserved matters relating to landscaping

Mr & Mrs Beckett Bee Cottage Coates Road – extension – infiltration certification agreed

Mr Malinowski extension

Rose Homes Ltd 47 March Road – 4 dwellings

The Consultant reported that he met with Larkfleet Homes regarding issues with water sitting in the outfall ditch and in their SUDs pond.

The Consultant has also spoken to T Stafford regarding further development on land at Drybread Road.

Plot 1, 51 Coates Road – self-certification agreed

The issues regarding the procedures adopted by the Middle level Commissioners and the frustration shown by the planning section at Fenland District Council and developers were highlighted by Cllr D Laws. RESOLVED – that as from 1st April 2020 planning matters were to be in house.

b) Environment Agency – Water abstraction licences for previously exempt activities.

FELDALE PUMPING STATION TL3098NW - NPS/NA/001316

The Boards application for a New Abstraction Licence, was received on 21/10/2019. The Consultant reported that the following comment had been received regarding the application. The Agency have looked at the application and as there are no details about the transfer structure (a penstock) including dimensions and upstream and downstream water levels, we are unable to estimate the quantities that could potentially be transferred per hour, per day and per year.

The application form also refers to a Water Level Management Plan which may also help to estimate the quantities of water transferred through the Penstock at Mortons Leam. The Consultant reported that he had spoken to the Agency and the matters raised would be dealt with.

c) Water Resources East (WRE) – WRE has recently become an independent company working with partners representing industries, the environment sector, agriculture and energy to develop plans and policies to sustainably secure the long-term future of water supply for all users and uses.

A contribution from IDBs is being sought – the suggested contribution from Feldale IDB is £50.70

RESOLVED – that the Board agreed to the contribution of £50.70 being paid.

d) Vulcan Inspection Services have inspected the pump and recorded “No Defects”

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e) Baps Report – The Board adopted the bap report for 2018-2019 submitted by the environmental officer of the Middle Level Commissioners.

160/20 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2019/2020

The Consultant reported that the Board had made a surplus of £5,775.48 in 2017/2018 and £5,987.10 in 2016/2017. In 2018/2019 a surplus of £3,439.39 was made. These surpluses would finance the telemetry system and a higher electricity consumption anticipated due to the high volume of rain that had fallen in the last month. He reported that to date income of £14,022.82 has been received and expenditure of £6,444.02 made.

The Chairman thanked Marilyn and Russell for their services to the Board over the past 25 years which was endorsed by all members. Marilyn was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

RESOLVED –

- i) that a garden bench up to the value of £350 be purchased and presented to Marilyn.
- ii) that Russell who had acted as an unpaid consultant be paid the sum of £650 for work undertaken on behalf of the Board.

161/20 Date of next meeting -

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday 14th May 2020.