

Minutes of a meeting of the Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at the Three Horseshoes, March Road, Turves at 7.00pm

**Present** P D Band (Chairman), M W Dale, R J Stevenson, M Sweet, T J Fletcher, Mrs M A Wright, R Wright

**Apologies for Absence** O Wheatley, Cllr C Boden

**Declaration of members Pecuniary Interests** - none

#### **144/19 Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

#### **145/19 Matters Arising**

All matters that are on-going will be reported in the main agenda.

#### **146/19 Maintenance of Channels**

- a) It was reported that during 2018/2019 - 23 hours of flail mowing with the back mower and 3.53 hours with front mower were undertaken at a cost of £1,078.34, P Green undertook 50 hours of machine work on slubbing and re profiling drain side at a cost of £2,025. M W Dale installed a culvert between Childers Estate and G W Dales land to aid access to the Boards drain at a cost of £395.
- b) The Board considered works for 2019/2020. It was agreed that an inspection should be made to ascertain the sections that required the banks re-profiling and where general slubbing was needed. It was agreed that the whole district should be flailed mowed.

In general sections 6 - 7 and 7-8 could be looked at for this autumn as they are broadly similar in length to the section 8-9 that was done autumn 2018. Also, it may help to do a crossing culvert at 12 and on the internal ditch running between section 6-7 and 20-21 (one each end). The material for filling could be generated by the re-profiling work on 6-7. If the land- owners are concerned about access issues a simple field barrier to prevent vehicle access could be installed for approx. £150 and would be two channel section posts approx. 0.5m tall with a sliding tube cross piece.

#### **147/19 Pumping Station**

- a) The Chairman reported that the fire extinguisher was serviced and that A J Speechley & Son undertook a service on pump motor and panel at a cost of £978.32.
- b) Inspection of the lifting equipment, centrifugal pump and its motor slip ring and the control panel was undertaken.
- c) SSE A new electricity contract from 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2023 has been agreed with SSE.

#### **148/19 General Matters**

- a) Planning - The Clerk reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with planning applications on behalf of the Board: -  
CPIER report - R Nunn single storey extension -Mrs V Brown reserved matters on layout and scale.

Mr & Mrs Beckett Single storey extension, 55 Coates Road – soak away system agreed. Mr Malinowski single storey extension -K Tadman 15 Drybread – single storey extension. -G & J Ping Coates Road – 15 dwellings -Larkfleet 110 dwellings of Eastrea Road -R J Dale Agricultural building the Fold – soak away system agreed.

- b) Risk Management - Control and Risk Management – Mr Wright reported upon the risk management assessment and that a review of the Board's insurance cover along with recommendations by ADA to review Systems of Internal Control and all policies and procedures on a regular basis. The Systems of Internal Control in placed were reviewed along with policies and procedures.

The Board have produced Biosecurity Policy & Biosecurity Procedures Statement that were implemented in June 2018.

A revised Water Level & Flood Risk Management Policy will be implemented.

General Data Protection Regulations were implemented in May 2018.

ADA and Defra are looking at a revision to the model Byelaws so until they have resolved the issues the adoption of new byelaws will be suspended.

The Clerk attended a workshop in Peterborough - Good Governance Guide – It provided members with a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities. The workshop was well attended, and future events will cover Finance, Environment, Health & Safety and welfare and Communications engagement.

The Health & Safety arrangements continue to be updated, -Whittlesey & District IDB have implemented a review of policies and procedures by the NFU and this will be available for the Board to adopt.

- c) DEFRA- Scrutiny of IDB's web sites to show that appropriate Governance documents have been listed has been suggested so work may be required to the Board's web site.
- d) ADA –Catchment Strategy – The EA, LLFA. IDBs and other partners are co-operating in work that is looking at the pressures on the catchment from a development and climate change perspective.

The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill – Its progressing through the House of lords – Its main aim is to put Somerset Rivers Authority onto a statutory footing as a precepting body and to reform IDB rating of annual values.

Subscriptions will increase by about 2% in 2019

Lower Nene Water Planning Group – Users of water from the Nene have set up a workgroup to look at the management of water and the quantity that can be used.

- e) Consents: No 9 R J Dale two farm access gates.  
No10 Anglian water – Replacement water Main Cow Way
- f) Water Abstraction –Mr Wright to report that he attended a Lower Nene Water Resources Working Group. Water from the Nene is divided upon to Anglian Water, Middle Level Commissioners, Feldale IDB. North Level District IDB.
- g) Environment Agency – Water abstraction licences for previously exempt activities. Transferring water from one inland water to another for abstracting purposes. North Level had problems with completing the application form and suggested the Board held back until they had resolved the issues.

## **149/19 Payments**

The Board considered, and approved payments made during 2018/2019

- Vouchers 1-26 that amount to £14,558.63
- Voucher 27 Whittlesey & District IDB – insurance cover £766.35
- Voucher 28 Middle Level Commissioners – fees £67.50

## **150/19 Annual Accounts 2018/2019**

- a) The Board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2018/2019 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 2018/2019 audit has been advertised with inspection of accounts from Monday 17 June to Friday 26 July 2019.

Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has undertaken the internal examination for the 2018/2019 accounts. The Board noted the internal auditors report on 2018/2019 financial years accounts.

### **151/19 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2019/2020**

The position of CEO for Whittlesey & District IDB has been advertised and five suitable applications have been received. Mr Wright has also had talks with North level District IDB and Middle Level Commissioners. MLC 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 £579.15 office expenses £235.33

The Board felt that future administration rested upon the decision of Whittlesey & District as to whether they had an independent Clerk. Failure to secure an independent Clerk may mean that the Board would attach to either North Level & District or Middle Level Commissioners.

The Board considered and approved estimates of Income of £965 & Gross Expenditure of £15,250 – net £14,285 for 2019/2020. The Chairman's allowance for 2019/2020 was fixed at £600 and the Clerks salary at £2,500

### **152/19 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 2019/2020: -

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 2019/2020 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £1,189.97.

The estimated net expenditure of £14,285 in 2019/2020 is equivalent to: -

- a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 12.00p in the £ to raise £5,829.36
  - b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £8,450.28
- RESOLVED – that a rate of 12p in the £ be levied: -
- a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land & buildings of 12p to raise £5,829.36
  - b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £8,450.28
  - 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.

### **153/19 Date of next meeting**

Date to be confirmed for May 2020.