

Minutes of a meeting of the Whittlesey & District IDB held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at the Town Hall, Market Street, Whittlesey at 2.30pm

**Present** R Fletcher (Chairman), A, Cade, J Fountain, M Fisher, I Stanley, P W Tingey, H Whittome, Cllr E R Butler, Cllr D Laws, R Wright (CEO), R Price (OE)

**Apologies for absence** R Brown, P Bradshaw, R Easton, T Martin, C Saunders, M Sweet, Cllr D Mason

The CEO reported that Fenland had appointed the following representatives but had not yet been ratified by Cabinet – Cllrs D Mason, Mrs D Laws, Mrs Kay Mayor, C Marks and Bob Wicks. The appointments needed to be ratified by FDC Cabinet Committee and this would take place on 27 June.

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

**WD285/19 Confirmation of Minutes** – Resolved that the minutes of the Board meeting held on 12th February 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

**WD286/19 Matters Arising**

a) Telemetry- Further to minute WD278/19 the CEO reported that work on the remote control of pump operations was progressing. The remote sensor for the water control at the rear of Engine/Manor Farms, Wisbech Road, Coates had yet to be installed but all other works in phase 2 had been completed. Works in phase 3 had yet to be determined but could include CCTV and weather stations.

b) A605 Kings Dyke Scheme Further to minute WD278/19 (c) Contractors had erected newt/hedgehog fencing and started clearing trees and bushes from part of the site.

c) Lords Farm Further to minute WD278/19 (d). The OE reported that works had not yet started due to summer levels but hoped that works could be completed within two months. The contractor Drake Towage had looked at the site would make some alterations to the building.

d) Old Plantation – Further to minute WD278/19(e) The CEO reported that he had been unable to contact Dale Abblitt but had left a message. A Cade had spoken to dale and he was interested in purchasing the site.

e) Wisbech Garden Town – Further to minute WD283/19 – The CEO reported that he had contacted North level and Middle Level regarding the scheme but had little feedback. Cllr Laws reported that the scheme was being push hard by forces at Fenland District Council, Cllr Laws would send a presentation slide to the CEO so that he could distribute it to all members.

**WD287/19 Operating Engineer**

a) The Operation Engineer submitted his 2019 drain works programme:- North-eastern area to be flailed and basket cut, North-western area main drainage channels to be flailed and basket cut(from inlets to pumping stations Conquest, Tebbitts and Manor, , southern area to be flailed and basket cut, Whittlesey Fifth area to be flailed and basket cut, works in the Drysides area had yet to be determined

b) The Plough, Ramsey Road – culverting from water control in front of McPartlyn. The OE reported that work had been completed but Mr McPartlyn had refused to pay for the part of the works and had submitted his own invoice for spoil carted to the site. Resolved that a letter be sent to Mr McPartlyn setting out the Boards position and stressing that no formal consent has been given for the fencing or culverting

**WD288/19 General Matters**

- a) Planning – Matters reported upon by the Consulting Engineer:  
 C Saunders – Agricultural building Glassmoor bank – soak a way system approved.  
 D Taylor 95 Wype Road, Eastrea – two dwellings – soak a way system approved.  
 Sueshire Services extension Benwick Road – use of soak a way approved.  
 Details of application from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 28<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated to members.
- b) Risk Management & Health & Safety - The 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 CEO attended a Good Governance Guide run by ADA/Defra – It provided members with a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities. The workshops held by ADA were well attended and future events will cover Finance, Environment, Health & Safety and welfare and Communications engagement.  
 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 – P Green had made an application for gates to be fitted on field entrances. The Board agreed in principle but would always require access. The CEO & OE were scheduled to meet with Mr Green and access would be discussed.
- d) Defra - 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.
- e) ADA – Continue to address issues affecting land Drainage Authorities  
 Subscriptions will increase by about 2% in 2019
- f) Water Abstraction – Further to minute WD280/19(c) – The transfer of water from the Nene to the Middle Level Whittlesey Dyke should be covered by one licence that will be provided for by the Middle level Commissioners. No further information has been received regarding the matter.  
 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.
- g) Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd –No change in the status
- h) Website Governance – The Board’s website contained the relevant policies, procedures and information as required under the Transparency guide.

**WD289/19 Payments** – The Board considered and approved the following payments:

2018/2019:-

Voucher 154 – GMGB Civils & Lintels – plant hire £54.85, v155 HMR&C payee £881.37 v156 J H Services – district work £518.49,v157 R Hales salary £36.70,v158 Middle Level work on weed screen cleaner RM £511.20 v159 R Price salary £2152.96,v160 A J Speechley & Son work Beggars Bridge £114.00, v161 R Wright fee £1866.00,v162 SSE electricity £33.65,v163 SSE – meter charges Conquest Lode £120.00,v164 Havenpower – electricity RM £460.07

Vouchers 165-194 £40,994.75.

2019/2020 - Vouchers 1 – 22 £48,178.64

**WD290/19 Annual Accounts year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

- a) The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The form was duly signed by the Chairman & CEO
- b) The CEO presented the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 which was duly approved and signed by the CEO & Chairman.

c) The CEO presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 – The Accounts having been circulated were approved and signed by the CEO & Chairman.

d) The CEO reported that the Notice of public Rights and Publication of unaudited Annual Return will run from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 26 July 2019 and the appropriate notices have been displayed.

e) The Board considered and approved Internal Audit arrangements for 2019/2020. Mr Cooper has undertaken the 2018/2019 re-view and there were no specific issues that must be brought to the attention of the Board.

f) The CEO reported upon banking arrangements – as at 31/03/2019 accounts were held with Barclays Bank £189,985.68, Cambridge & Counties £75,975.00, Shawbrook Bank £76,578.20  
nsi £75,278.9making a grand total of £417,818.20. The current Barclays bank statement up to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 was circulated at the meeting.

#### **WD291/19 Income & Expenditure (pages 9- 10-11)**

The CEO reported upon estimated income of £6,792 and gross expenditure of £314,160 for 2019/2020

#### **WD292/19 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 met for 2018/2019 is: -

a) Agricultural Sector	57.55%
b) Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council	36.34%
c) Special Levy issued to Huntingdonshire D C	6.11%

In 2019/2020 a rate of 1p would raise £21,487.59.

The Board made a deficit of £31,304.95 in 2018/2019

The Whittlesey Board have raised a 12p rate since 2009/2010.

The net expenditure of £307,368 represents a rate of 14.30p

RESOLVED – that the Board levy a rate of: -

- An Agricultural rate of 12p in the £ to raise £148,402.56 be levied
- A special levy on Fenland District Council of £93,704.88
- A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £15,743.64
- The CEO affix the Boards seal to the Record of Rate
- The CEO be empowered to recover any outstanding rate through the appropriate court.

#### **WD293/19 CEO Retirement**

The CEO reported he was waiting for one application before being able to give a presentation to the Board. The North level & District IDB had declined to tender for services to Holmewood & District, Woodwalton and Whittlesey & District as these authorities were under the Ouse catchment and they were a Welland & Nene catchment. They would be prepared to tender for Feldale. Details had been received from the Middle Level Commissioners.

#### **WD294/19 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Town Hall, Market Street, Whittlesey at 2.30pm