

**Minutes of a meeting of the Holmewood & District Internal Drainage Board held on  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Ladyseat Farm, New Long Drove, PR7 3PN, at 11.00 am**

**Present:** J Ayres (Chairman), D J Collett, N Collett, M A Davis, J Davis, 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

**1/21 Confirmation of Minutes:** Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

**2/21 Matters Arising**

a) The Clerk reported to the board that one of the pumps at Whittlesey Mere Pumping Station had started to vibrate heavily and that Middle Level Commissioners had been contacted to investigate the matter. The Insurer NFU had been contacted and will cover the costs.

b) The clearance of the Sump and Weedscreen at Yaxley Pumping Station was required, and the Clerk would investigate the situation and obtain quotes to undergo the work.

c) It was voted on and passed that the Board would cease to identify the Drain at Map point 71 to the Pig water at RBOrganic. The Board felt that it was not cost effective going forward due to small amount of time needed to do the drain maintenance with the expense of having to low load a machine through Yaxley to complete the work.

d) The Clerk was to approach Middle Level to see when they would be repairing the inlets which they had damaged whilst flail mowing at Engine Farm, Top Farm and Yaxley.

e) With the resignation of Chris Evans from the Board. A decision was made to invite Katy Smith to apply to join at the upcoming election.

**3/21 Maintenance of Channels**

a) The Chairman reported that as part of the 2020/2021 drainage works this year would incorporate Whittlesey Mere catchment of drains: 3 sections are to be completed, encompassing the Nature Reserve and Caldecote Dyke. Yaxley Pumping Station's sump was reported by J Mears to require desilting 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.

#### **4/21 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.

#### **5/21 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.

#### **6/21 Annual Accounts year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

a) The Board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2020/2021 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 2020/2021 audit has been advertised with inspection of accounts from 28<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021. 3 Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex-Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has undertaken the internal examination for the 2020/2021 accounts. The Board noted the internal auditors report on 2020/2021 financial years accounts.

#### **7/21 Estimates of Income and Expenditure**

The Clerk presented a schedule of income of £54,765.50 and expenditure of £62,788.45 to date and confirmed that the balance held with Barclays Bank as of 20<sup>th</sup> July was £33,011.53.

#### **8/21 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 16p in the £ be levied for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

- a) A rate in the 16p on agricultural land & buildings to raise £48,940.16
- b) A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £2,024

#### **9/21 Date of Next Meeting - TBC**

The Chairman thanked member for their attendance and the meeting closed at 13.15.