

## UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board  
held at the Lamb and Flag Public House, Welney on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### PRESENT

K Goodger Esq (Chairman)	R D Gladwin Esq
P Clabon Esq (Vice Chairman)	R Gott Esq
H G Bliss Esq	C F Hartley Esq
J Quail Esq	

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Carl Nunn were in attendance.

### Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs V M Spikings, N R Russell Esq, P Russell Esq and B Scott Esq.

Prior to the Inspection, the Chairman updated Members:-

### B.1603 District Labour Revised Working Arrangements

Further to minute B.1579(c)(i), the Chairman reported that Graham Nunn had confirmed in writing that he would accept voluntary redundancy which was accepted. He advised that Graham would be finishing during August 2016.

Further to minute B.1579(a)(ii), the Chairman reported that he had been approached by Carl Nunn concerning his pay rise which was not due to take effect until October 2016 and which he had requested should take effect from May 2016. He informed Members that Carl used a number of his own tools while carrying out maintenance works for the Board, and that, as he had taken over the role of District Foreman, he considered he should receive the pay for that post.

Members discussed the matters considered at the last meeting and agreed to further review the position at the next meeting of the Board.

### B.1604 Excavator

The District Foreman referred to issues of cott in the pump drains at Cock Fen and Upwell Fen pumping stations and that these generally were required to be machine cleansed annually. The Vice Chairman reported that he had made various enquiries concerning the sale of the Board's Volvo excavator and that, from these, it was likely that the maximum sale value would be £20,000. He confirmed that the Board had currently received two offers, one of £15,000 and one of £20,000.

### RESOLVED

That the Board's Volvo excavator be sold, at the highest value, and that a letter to be sent to all Board members to seek their approval to take advantage of the offer.

### B.1605 Drain Maintenance Work

The Chairman referred to future drain maintenance works and that he had contacted the Downham Group of IDBs, the Kings Lynn Consortium and Fen Group for quotes. He reported that the Downham Group were unable to provide a quote due to likely administration changes and had received two quotes; £46.00 per hour from King Lynn Consortium (formerly Kings Lynn Consortium) and £39.00 per hour, plus £100 transport, from Fen Group.

The Chairman's recommendation was to accept the quote from Fen Group for the Board's drain maintenance works.

### RESOLVED

That all Board members be written to, seeking their approval of this recommendation.

### B.1606 Flail mower

Further to minute B.1584(ii), the Vice Chairman confirmed that the Board's flail mower had been serviced for this year's grass cutting programme, but that, as it was nearing the end of its useful working life, he had therefore made general enquiries regarding a replacement, from Spearhead, Shelbourne Reynolds and McConnell.

### RESOLVED

That quotations to be obtained and that the matter to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board.

### B.1607 Fuel prices

Further to minute B.1598, Mr Hill reported that he had checked the purchase dates of fuel by the Board with those of the Middle Level Commissioners and confirmed that for purchases of around the same time period, the price of fuel purchased was the same or lower than that paid by the Commissioners. He confirmed that when purchasing fuel, the Commissioners' staff obtained quotes and the price paid is either the same as, or lower than the Anglia Farmers price.

The District Foreman advised that when ordering fuel he telephones several suppliers to get the best price available on the day. Members were content that the Board were purchasing fuel at the best available price.

### B.1608 Inspection of District

The Inspection of the District embraced (inter alia):-

1) Gravity Outfall, Point 125.

Members referred to the Consulting Engineer's Conditional Report and viewed the outfall and approved for the area to be cleansed when this section of watercourse was next included in the routine maintenance programme.

## RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to obtain quotations for the work.

2) Upwell Fen Pumping Station (A Quail Esq joined the Inspection at this point)

Members discussed the possibility of the installation of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment at the station and the Chairman demonstrated the issues involved in manually clearing the weedscreen.

3) Cock Fen Pumping Station

Members discussed the possibility of installing automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment at the station, due to the high volume of cott in this area.

## RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineers be requested to obtain quotations for the installation of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment at Cock Fen and Upwell Fen pumping stations, together with the installation of a hard standing area and access ramp at Cock Fen pumping station, and that this matter be discussed further at the next meeting of the Board.