

RAMSEY FIRST (HOLLOW) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey First (Hollow) Internal Drainage Board
held at Ramsey Golf Club on Thursday the 2nd July 2015

PRESENT

P A Drinkwater Esq (Chairman)	P R Lummis Esq
D J Caton Esq (Vice Chairman)	A C Roberts Esq
C C Armstrong Esq	D C Roberts Esq
J C Armstrong Esq	R E Stacey Esq
R Blackhurst Esq	D E Stokes Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board and Mr Christopher Convine (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance. Mr Peter Bucknell, Chairman of Warboys Landfill Site, attended to report on the item referred to in minute B.686.

Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from T E A Noble Esq.

B.675 Declarations of Interest

Miss Ablett reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

B.676 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 3rd July 2014 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.677 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That P A Drinkwater Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.678 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That D J Caton Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.679 Election of Members of the Board

Miss Ablett reported that, as the number of candidates for membership of the Board did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (twelve), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from the 1st November 2014, viz:-

ARMSTRONG Cedric Charles	NOBLE Robin George Swannell
ARMSTRONG Jacob	NOBLE Thomas
BLACKHURST Richard	ROBERTS Andrew
CATON David	ROBERTS David
DRINKWATER Paul Andrew	STACEY Robert
STOKES David	

Miss Ablett also reported that Mr S Whittome, who became a member in June 1991 and was Vice Chairman from July 1995 – July 2006, did not seek re-election to the Board.

RESOLVED

- a) That the decision of Mr Whittome be received with regret and that the Board's appreciation of his services to the District be recorded in the minutes.
- b) That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Whittome.

B.680 Death of Mr R G S Noble

Miss Ablett referred to the death of Mr Robin Noble on Wednesday the 7th January 2015 and confirmed that Mr Noble had been a Member of the Board since 20th February 1980.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Mr Noble.

RESOLVED

That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered to the District by Mr Noble be recorded in the Minutes.

B.681 Filling of vacancies

Consideration was given to the filling of the vacancies on the Board caused by the death of Mr Noble and the resignation of Mr Whittome.

The Vice Chairman reported that he had approached Mr Ben Rignall (son of a landowner in the District) who had confirmed that he would be prepared to fill a vacancy on the Board.

RESOLVED

That Mr Rignall be co-opted to membership of the Board.

B.682 Land Drainage Act 1991
Huntingdonshire District Council

Further to minute B.638, Miss Ablett reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had appointed Mr P R Lummis to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Miss Ablett also reported that Mr N Orr had not been re-appointed.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Lummis.

B.683 Appointment of District Officer

RESOLVED

That C C Armstrong Esq be appointed District Officer to the Board during the ensuing year.

B.684 Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

That the Middle Level Commissioners be appointed Clerk to the Board for the ensuing year.

B.685 Clerk's fee

The Board gave consideration to the Clerk's fee for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED

That the fee of the Clerk be increased in line with inflation for the year 2015/2016.

B.686 Warboys Landfill Site

Further to minute B.651(iv), consideration was given to a letter received from the Environment Agency dated 3rd February 2015. Miss Ablett reported that a representative of the Agency had been invited to the meeting but had been unable to attend.

Mr Bucknell reported that it was whilst Fenside Waste were running the operations, approximately two to three years ago, that the pit overflowed. At that time, when asked how hazardous the liquid was, the Environment Agency had advised it was almost drinkable. Mr Bucknell added that since then changes had been made to the levels so that the leachate did not run over the bunds and confirmed that the operation was run very well now.

The Chairman stated that the site was still getting higher and higher.

Mr Bucknell reported that a requisite of the planning application had been that 1 metre of soil had to be put over it and that, as Mick George were capping off, this was being carried out. He added that it was expected to drop 1 metre a year.

The Chairman reported that he was happy as, if it was now capped off, there would not be too many concerns.

Mr D Roberts reported that Cells 1 and 2 were where the problems arose, as the waste that went in could be high level, maybe even toxic, and as the containers were made of steel these would rot over time. He also referred to a journal published by the Environment Agency stating that the contents would outlast the containment. When asked to comment on this statement the Environment Agency had advised that this was only the view of one person.

Mr Bucknell advised that on appeal it was confirmed that it could take up to 1,000 years before the drums would breakdown and that was when any problems may occur.

Mr D Roberts reported that when Cell 2 had been installed the then operators had dug out far more than they should and there would be no warning if the pit leaked until dead fish started appearing.

Mr Bucknell reported that the wells were pumped every month, although admittedly the pumps could not get low enough as they were put in incorrectly at the beginning. He advised that Cell 3 was non-compliant but that the Environment Agency were fully aware of this.

Mr D Roberts stated that the containers should be sealed as that was the agreement and nothing should come out of them without being tested.

Mr Bucknell's view was that, as long as levels remained consistent they must manage as best they could and added that the operators had monitors at the offices and their own regulations in place to assist in the identification/notification of any problems.

The Chairman commented that the new owners were now doing a good job.

Mr Bucknell reported that the Warboys Landfill Site Group were meeting on the 22nd September. He confirmed that the Environment Agency would be present and asked whether the Chairman would also like to attend. Members felt that both the Chairman and the District Officer should attend.

Mr Bucknell agreed to make arrangements for the meeting agenda to be sent to the Clerk to pass on to the Chairman, together with the leachate report relating to the period from December 2013 to April 2015.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman and District Officer attend the meeting of the Warboys Landfill Site Group on the 22nd September to put the Board's questions to the Environment Agency.
- ii) That the Chairman be authorised to liaise with the Clerk if any questions remained unanswered to enable him to put these in writing to the Environment Agency.

B.687 Ramsey Hollow Bridge

Further to minute B.645, the Chairman confirmed that the bridge repair and the making of a footway had been completed in June 2015 by the Board's employee Tristram Allen.

B.688 Contravention of byelaws

Further to minute B.646, the District Officer apologised to the Board as he had not yet contacted the owners of the fence.

RESOLVED

That the District Officer visit the owners of the land where the fence was erected.

B.689 Flood and Coastal Defence Funding Review

Further to minute B.601, Miss Ablett referred to a letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State dated the 9th February 2015 and indicated that it appeared that no action would currently be required from the Board in consequence.

B.690 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.647, Miss Ablett reported that the draft 2015 River Basin Management Plan had been out to consultation until 10th April 2015 and that the Flood Risk Management Plan had been published by the Agency. The Clerk had identified errors in both plans and had established that some of the facts included were also incorrect. He had continually tried to ensure that no measures for the Boards to undertake, or that may incur costs to the Boards, were included in the plans and it now seemed that this had been successful as no material measures appeared to have been included within the draft Plan. He had formally responded to both plans.

Miss Ablett drew attention to the extensive work carried out by Cliff Carson, the Environmental Officer, on the Biodiversity Action Plan which had helped to contribute to the fact that the Environment Agency seemed satisfied with the actions being taken by the Boards in this regard.

B.691 Consulting Engineers' Report

The Board considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers, viz:-

Ramsey First (Hollow) I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – June 2015

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has been undertaken. The inspection revealed that the majority of district drains remain in a satisfactory condition, and are being maintained to a good standard. However, the inspection highlighted stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation throughout the Board's drains, predominantly within Meggs Drove drain, reaches 13-14-15-16-17-18-20-22-23 and the Hollow Heap Farm drain, 32-33-34. It is recommended that these drains are treated with



Hollow Heap Farm Drain, reach 33-34

a roundup application and lightly machine cleansed following this year's harvest.



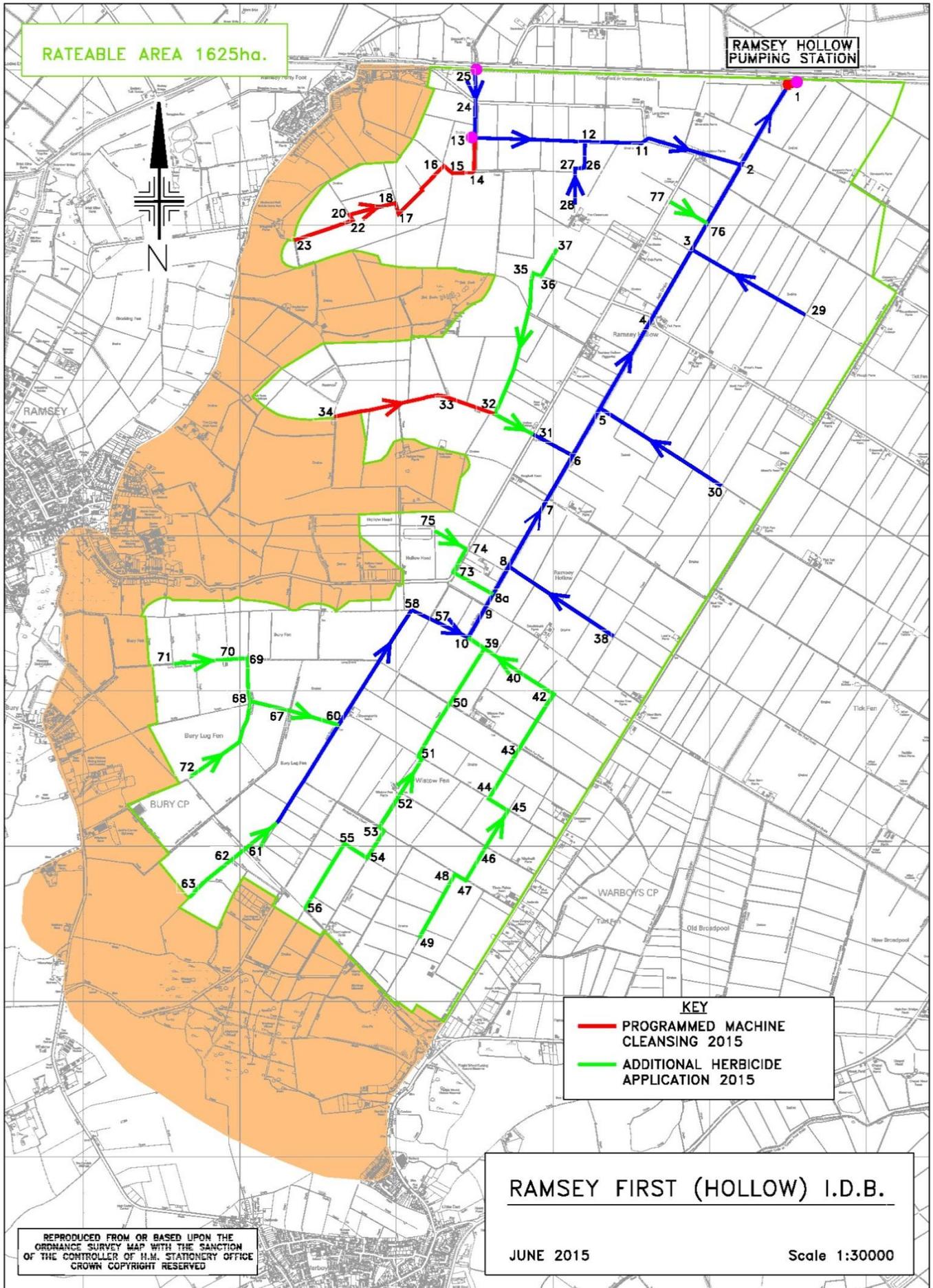
Wistow Fen Drain, reach 52-53

Stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation are also evident throughout the Wistow Fen Drains, reaches 39-50-51-52-53-54-55-56 and 10-39-40-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49. It is recommended that an application of Roundup herbicide is applied and continual monitoring is carried out throughout the year to ensure the condition of the drain does not deteriorate any further.

It is also recommended that an application of Roundup herbicide is applied to any other District drain where it is required to control stands of reed, typha (Bullrush) and emergent aquatic vegetation. Provision has been made within the estimated costs to allow for such herbicide applications to be undertaken.

RATEABLE AREA 1625ha.

RAMSEY HOLLOW PUMPING STATION



KEY
— PROGRAMMED MACHINE CLEANSING 2015
— ADDITIONAL HERBICIDE APPLICATION 2015

RAMSEY FIRST (HOLLOW) I.D.B.

JUNE 2015

Scale 1:30000

REPRODUCED FROM OR BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

The cutting of the numerous self-sown Willow and Elder saplings along the banks of Ash Drain was postponed last year due to wet ground conditions. It is recommended that the works are again postponed until the main pump drain requires machine cleansing.

Messrs R & C Ashman have indicated that they are available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements again this year. Flail mowing in advance of the machine cleansing works will be required to afford the machine operator optimum visibility to undertake the cleansing work. It is also recommended that the recently trimmed bank sides, adjacent to the culvert site at Hollow Lane Corner Drain (reach 73-74), are mown on an annual basis to promote the colonisation of grass species which should, once established, provide a tight grass sward and improve bank stability. Similarly Meggs Drove drain, reach 13-24-25, would benefit from annual flail mowing to reduce the presence of broadleaved weeds and encourage a tight grass sward to establish. A sum for flail mowing both the aforementioned reaches has been included within the Board's estimated costs.

A provisional sum has been included within the estimated costs for any emergency machine cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works that may be required later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain Maintenance works follows. Please refer to the previous plan for locations.

1 Machine cleanse the following reaches			
i)	Meggs Drove drain, Reach 13-14-15-16-17-18-20-22-23	1700 m @ 1.00	1700.00
ii)	Hollow Heap Farm drain, Reach 32-33-34	1100 m @ 1.00	1100.00
2 Allow sum for Roundup herbicide application Where required throughout the district			
		Item Sum	850.00
3 Allow for flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing			
		Item Sum	2500.00
4 <u>Provisional Item</u> Allow for emergency machine cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works			
		Item Sum	2000.00
5 Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement of herbicide treatments and machine cleansing works			
		Item Sum	900.00
TOTAL			£9050.00

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they are weather dependent, and they will not be held responsible for the efficacy or failure of any treatment.

Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station

Other than the matters described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Extension to Existing Electric Pumping Station

An outstanding item from the scheme is the presence of clay left in the main drain as a result of the need to install a clay dam. The Board has retained a proportion of the retention money from the civil work's contractor to reflect this defect. A survey was undertaken to establish the quantity of clay and this was found to be approximately 163 cubic metres. The contractor has made several enquiries about the payment of the outstanding retention money. One of the main problems preventing the work being undertaken is the provision of a suitable dumping area for the clay.

Electric Pumping Station - Pump No 1 Overhaul

Following the lowering of the district water levels last autumn the overhauled no1 pump was reinstalled and returned to service.

Pumping Hours

Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station	Total hours run Jun 11 - Jun 12	Total hours run Jun 12- Jun13	Total hours run Jun 13 - Jun14	Total hours run Jun 14 - Jun15
No 1 Electric	14431-14449 = 18	14449-15413 = 964	15413 -15413 = 0	15413-15840 = 427
No 2 Electric	8795 – 8818 = 23	8818 – 8967 = 149	8967 – 9692 = 725	9692-9760 = 68
No 3 Diesel	40 – 58 = 18	58 – 261 = 203	261 – 329 = 68	329-339 = 10
Total Hours Run	59	1316	793	505

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 3 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
144	H1400389FUL	Mr & Mrs R Whitehill	Residence	The Hollow, Ramsey
145	H1401113FUL	Mr & Mrs Caton	Residence	The Hollow, Ramsey
146	H1401031OUT	Mr H Dawson	Residential (9 plots)	Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water disposal to soakaways, or similar infiltration systems. The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

Replacement building to provide accommodation for seasonal farm employees; removal of redundant farm structures at Three Fishes Farm, Puddock Road, Warboys – Three Fishes Farm Ltd (MLC Ref No 130)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Residential development for 9 houses following demolition of industrial building at Altanet Technology Ltd, Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot - Mr H Dawson (MLC Ref No 141 & 146)

Further to the last meeting a planning application for the above development was submitted to the District Council.

This planning application was opposed on the Board's behalf due to several concerns regarding the adverse impacts on the receiving watercourses, including the Board's system; the failure by the applicant to provide an appropriate Flood Risk Assessment that meets the Board's requirements and insufficient consideration being given to the design and future long-term maintenance of the proposed treated effluent/surface water disposal system.

Despite these concerns the District Council granted planning permission in January subject to conditions, including one relating to surface water disposal.

Demolition of 43 Station Road and residential development of site to provide approximately 150 dwellings with associated infrastructure at Old Mill Avenue, Station Road and 43 Warboys Road, Warboys - Gladman Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No142)

Planning permission was permitted by the District Council in January subject to conditions, including several relating to surface water disposal.

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Further to the last meeting, the Commissioners, on the Board's behalf, have been consulted and provided responses in respect of the following documents:

(a) Adoption of the Wind Energy in Developments in Huntingdonshire 2014 SPD

The main purpose of this document concerns the provision of wind turbines within the landscape, associated sensitivity and cumulative impact, however, a generic response was made concerning the related flood risk/byelaw consent related issues, Biodiversity and Wildlife Issues.

(b) Water Cycle Strategy (WCS)

As detailed previously the majority of the proposed growth within Huntingdonshire is outside of the catchment of both the Commissioners and its associated Boards. However, further comment has been made on the revised document, primarily in respect of discharges from Anglian Water (AWS) Waste Water Treatment Works.

(c) Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036

The District Council requested that the Commissioners and relevant associated Boards provide further comment on the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 as part of a targeted consultation.

Generic responses specifically relating to waste water management, the water cycle study, strategic flood risk, biodiversity and strategic expansion locations were made.

Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD

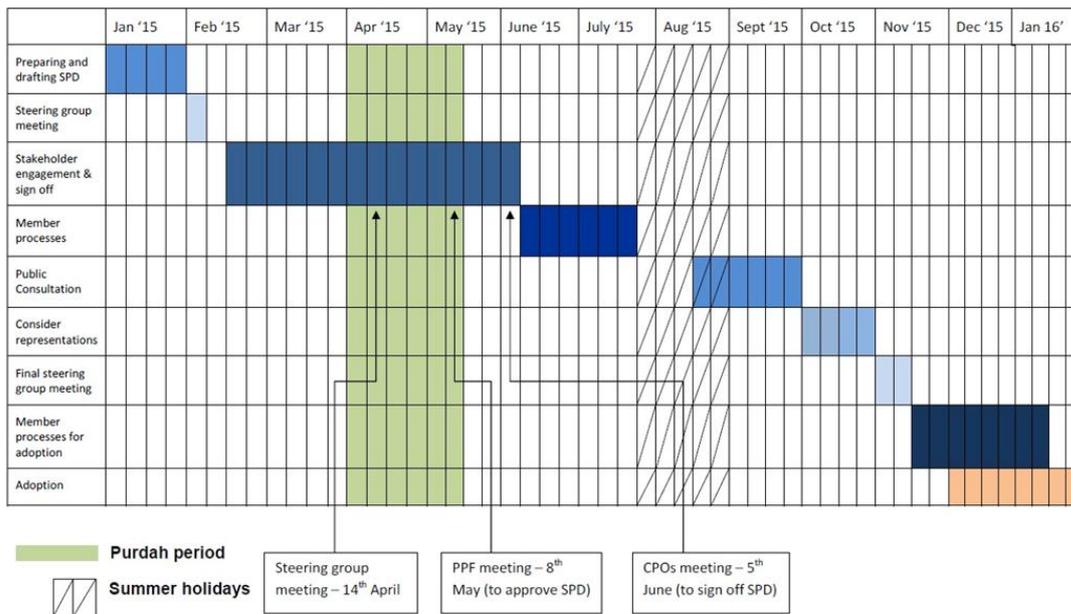
Due to the various states which the local planning authorities were at, in respect of their respective Local Plans, it was considered that a Flood and Water SPD should be produced to clarify and to ensure that all emerging guidance and relevant legislation is considered and adequately addressed in the local decision making process. The final document will be used to further assess planning applications primarily on flood risk and drainage matters.

Cambridgeshire County Council volunteered to organise the production of this document via a steering group that involved all the LPAs within the County together with other relevant stakeholders including the Middle Level Commissioners.

Following the receipt of stakeholder comments the County Council has issued a 'final' draft which, it is hoped, can be presented to the various Councils for consideration prior to a public consultation and adoption toward the end of the year.

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the MLC and associated Boards' interests by attending meetings and considering the various draft documents discussed above.

Cambridgeshire County Council Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document – timescales for 2015 (v3)



General Advice

Assistance has been given, on the Board’s behalf, in respect of the following:

- (a) A land survey was undertaken to establish the possibility of excavating a new drain between Points 11 and 77 to overcome problems with a Board’s drain between Points 2 and 11. Unfortunately the survey revealed high land levels in the area adjacent to Ramsey Hollow Drove/Long Drove that would require deep watercourses to be cut together with the requirement for a new culvert under the road to provide a positive flow route.
- (b) BT Openreach had initially installed posts in the verge of Long Drove and alongside the Board’s drain within the 9 metre byelaw strip without the necessary consent. These posts were subsequently moved to the opposite side of the road but overhead cables were then installed, crossing the Board’s drain, again without consent despite BT being informed of what is required. BT has been contacted again and after a site meeting it was agreed the best route for the cable was to install it underground where it crosses the drain. This will prevent maintenance equipment from inadvertently hitting the cables. A formal application for byelaw consent is awaited.

Consulting Engineer

16 June 2015

Ramsey First (Hollow) (324)\Reports\June 2015

The Chairman requested that the Willow and Elder saplings along the banks of Ash Drain be cut down before the commencement of machine cleansing work.

With regards to Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station, Mr Convine confirmed that a survey had been carried out to re-assess the amount of clay remaining and the contractor advised that 163 cu.m. of clay were required to be removed. He advised that, at present, no attempt had been made to remove the clay and therefore retention monies amounting to £4,567 were being withheld.

Miss Ablett reported that Mr Ashman had gone bankrupt but had set up a new business in his wife's name and that there had been some concern as to whether Mr Ashman had adequate insurance cover in place to satisfy the Board. She confirmed that, following discussions with the NFU, and after reviewing the insurance policy documents, the Clerk was satisfied that the current insurance was sufficient.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

(ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken and the Willow and Elder saplings at Ash Drain be cut before the machine cleansing work commenced.

(iii) Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station

That the retention money continue to be withheld from the contractor until the remaining clay was removed.

B.692 Pumping Station Insurance Valuation

Miss Ablett reported that the pumping station was currently valued, for insurance purposes, at £920,940 with a premium of £611, but that recent advice from the Consulting Engineers was to the effect that a total replacement of the station would cost in the order of £1,300,000.

Miss Ablett advised that to insure at £1,300,000 would involve an additional premium of approximately £250.

RESOLVED

That the insurance valuation be increased to £1,300,000 which the Members felt provided adequate cover for those items at high/medium risk.

B.693 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle.

B.694 District Officer's Report

i) The District Officer reported that, due to the build up of rubbish and the drain not being flailed, the culvert at point 2 near Ash Drain kept blocking up. He recommended that both sides of the drain up to the bungalow should be flailed to help alleviate the problem.

He also suggested that the Board construct a funnel, using the shuttering already at the pumping station, to direct the weed and rubbish towards the culvert.

ii) Further to minute B.653(ii), consideration was given to flail mowing operations.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.

(ii) That the drain from point 2 near Ash Drain up to the bungalow be flailed both sides.

(iii) That the District Officer meet with the Consulting Engineers to discuss the construction of a funnel at the culvert at point 2, using the existing shuttering at the pumping station, and obtain a quotation for the works.

B.695 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Implementation

Miss Ablett referred to the Environmental Officer's newsletter which had previously been circulated to members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.696 Payments to Pumping Station Attendant and District Officer

i) Further to minute B.656(ii), Miss Ablett reported that the payments to the Pumping Station Attendant and the District Officer would be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award which for 2015/2016 was 1.1%.

ii) Agreement relating to District Officer's duties

Further to minute B.656(iii), Members considered the proposed agreement relating to District Officer's duties.

RESOLVED

That the agreement be accepted and approved.

(NB) – Mr C Armstrong declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

iii) Pension for Pumping Station Attendant

Further to minute B.657, the Chairman requested that the Board consider bringing forward the Staging Date for the Pump Attendant's pension and asked Miss Ablett of the procedures regarding this.

Miss Ablett reported that the new staging date must be advised to the employee at least six weeks before and the Pension Regulator notified at least one month before the new staging date. She added that any if any decision regarding the pension scheme was to be resolved at the next annual meeting the earliest date then available would be 1st September 2016.

Miss Ablett outlined the several options available in respect of the ways in which the Board could calculate the contributions for its employee.

In response to Members, Miss Ablett advised that other Boards were using option Tier 1 as this appeared to be the most straight forward with contributions based on basic pay only, but from the first pound earned by the employee.

Members agreed that option Tier 1 seemed to be the most satisfactory option.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted and the pension scheme considered further at the next meeting.

B.697 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.698 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2015/2016 in the sum of £5,793 (the precept for 2014/2015 being £5,793).

Miss Ablett reported that, due to the lodging of the appeal by this and other IDBs the Environment Agency had responded by introducing a new style of working with IDBs and had agreed to allow IDBs much more say in where the precept monies should be spent. She reported that the Anglian Region RFCC had agreed to introduce a six year programme where the IDB monies could be discussed and agreed that it could be spent in part on watercourses which the Environment Agency would otherwise regard as low priority.

Miss Ablett added that in the circumstances, the reason for lodging of the precept appeal appeared to have been met by the Environment Agency and recommended that the Board now withdraw their appeal.

RESOLVED

That the appeal against the precept be withdrawn.

B.699 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £892.07 (£16,197.45 less £15,305.38 paid on account) (inclusive of administration) had been received from the Environment Agency based

on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2013/2014 together with the sum of £10,247.68 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2014/2015.

b) Miss Ablett referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

RESOLVED

That the position be noted and the situation be kept under review.

B.700 Association of Drainage Authorities

Miss Ablett reported:-

a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Wednesday the 11th November 2015.

Miss Ablett referred to the Clerk's e-mails to the Chairman dated 29th January and 6th February and to the letters from the ADA Chief Executive and his replies and to his meeting with the new ADA Chief Executive Innes Thompson.

Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had received a letter from Henry Cator, the ADA Chairman, requesting donations from Boards for a gift to mark Jean Venables' retirement and the Chairman had authorised a donation of £20.

RESOLVED

i) That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association if a Member wishes to attend.

ii) That the donation to mark the retirement of the ADA Chief Executive, authorised by the Chairman, be approved.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

On the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 17th March 2015.

c) Subscriptions

That it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 4% in 2015, viz:- from £490 to £510.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2015.

B.701 Health and Safety Audits

Miss Ablett reminded the Board of their need to ensure that working practices were safe, particularly around the pumping station and reminded the Board of the arrangements with Croner.

B.702 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Miss Ablett reported that the major topics which had been discussed at recent meetings were road flooding; the flood event of 8th August 2014 which had affected many properties; the non-implementation of SUDS and Defra's alternative to proceed through the planning system; Cambridgeshire County Council's proposal to establish a limited company to perform the SUDS role in conjunction with the local planning authorities; tidal river and agitation dredging; Ouse Washes section 10 inspection as a reservoir and surface water management plans.

B.703 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £83,939.51 which had been made during the financial year 2014/2015.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman and the District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to them.

B.704 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2013/2014

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2014.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2014.

B.705 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2014/2015

Miss Ablett reported that in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, Internal Drainage Boards' accounts are required to be approved by resolution on or before 30th June, following the relevant year of account.

RESOLVED

- (i) That in accordance with the above Regulations the minutes record that approval of the accounts was given on 26th June 2015.
- (ii) That the Chairman was authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2015.

B.706 Review of Internal Controls

Members considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.

Members considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor and the proposed Audit Strategy and Audit Plan.

RESOLVED

- i) To engage Whiting & Partners for the next three years (2015/2016 – 2017/2018).
- ii) To approve the Audit Strategy and Audit Plan.

B.707 Risk Register

Miss Ablett reported that it was necessary every 4-5 years to consider the formal Risk Register and in between times to judge the risks when considering the Consulting Engineer's and other reports and when setting budgets and rates/special levies. She advised that these risks had been analysed by the use of the Risk Matrix and added that, although the risk registers for IDBs very rarely changed, they would/could change over time and it was important for Boards to consider formally and that consideration was due this year.

Members considered the Board's Risk Register.

RESOLVED

That the Risk Register be approved and kept under review and the policy to review risk between formal reviews be continued.

B.708 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2015/2016

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2015/2016 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 93.50% and 6.50%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £67,289 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £62,912 and £4,377 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 26p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £4,377 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).

vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.709 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.710 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 30th June 2016.