

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March East Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 4th June 2015

PRESENT

C E Martin Esq (Chairman)	A J N Gee Esq
C W Albutt Esq (Vice Chairman)	J E Heading Esq
W Aveling Esq	D J Henson Esq
G C Dunham Esq	B M Keane Esq
P A Fisher Esq	D S Morris Esq
T E W Quince Esq	

The Clerk to the Board and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance. Mr Graham Moore and Mr Malcolm Downes attended for the part of the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from A W Coulson Esq, A Dunham Esq, R E Mason Esq, and P M Tegerdine Esq.

B.1110 Declarations of Interest

The Clerk 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.1111 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 5th June 2014 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1112 Board Membership

- (i) Further to minute B.1077, the Clerk reported that Mr Andrew Dunham had accepted the invitation to join the Board.
- (ii) Further to minute B.1979(ii), Mr Donald Morris confirmed that he would be retaining his Membership for the time being.
- (iii) The Chairman reported the resignation of Mr Wesley Poole following the sale of his land in the District.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered to the District by Mr Poole be recorded in the minutes and conveyed to him together with their best wishes for the future.

- ii) That Mr Paul Hayes be co-opted to Membership of the Board.

B.1113 Land Drainage Act 1991
Board Membership - Fenland District Council

- i) The Clerk reported that Fenland District Council had appointed Councillors B M Keane and T E W Quince to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.
- ii) The Clerk also reported that Mrs P M Brewin had been re-appointed, but unfortunately died on Wednesday the 11th March 2015, and added that Mrs Brewin was nominated on to the Board in July 2000.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Mrs Brewin.

RESOLVED

That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered by Mrs Brewin be recorded in the minutes.

B.1114 Flood and Coastal Defence Funding Review

Further to minute B.1042, the Clerk 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.1115 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.1081, the Clerk 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. He 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.

The Clerk 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.1116 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

March East I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2015

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the phased maintenance programme approved by the Board in 2008.

Provisional notices of the 2015 phased programmed machine cleansing works were issued last year.

Machine cleansing carried forward from the previous season covering the urban upstream reaches of the Mill Hill area, reach 71-70-75-79-80-81, were completed early last summer. This was done during a more favourable weather window, when suitable ground conditions prevailed.



Three separate areas of bank subsidence were identified along the Latches Fen pumped drain, reach 42-43. With the Chairman's approval, approximately 100m of timber piling and toe board revetments works were carried out to reinstate the bank to its original profile and to remove the slipped soil from the channel.



Bank subsidence, Latches Fen pumped drain, Reach 42-43

An accumulation of floating aquatic vegetation resulted in a culvert blockage along reach 55-56. A site inspection revealed the blocked culvert had resulted in water backing up on the upstream side by approximately 2m. With the Chairman's approval, the blockage was mechanically removed with a contractor's hydraulic machine.



A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has revealed that the majority of the drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. However, the inspection highlighted several reaches containing intermittent dense patches of reed, watercress and other emergent aquatic weed growth within the Board's district. It is recommended that the affected district drains be treated with Roundup herbicide as soon as suitable application conditions allow. This will control the early season growth and prevent the resultant bio-mass becoming problematic at culvert structures and at the Board's Pumping Stations' weedscreen during pumping operations. A sum has been included within the Board's estimated costs for this.

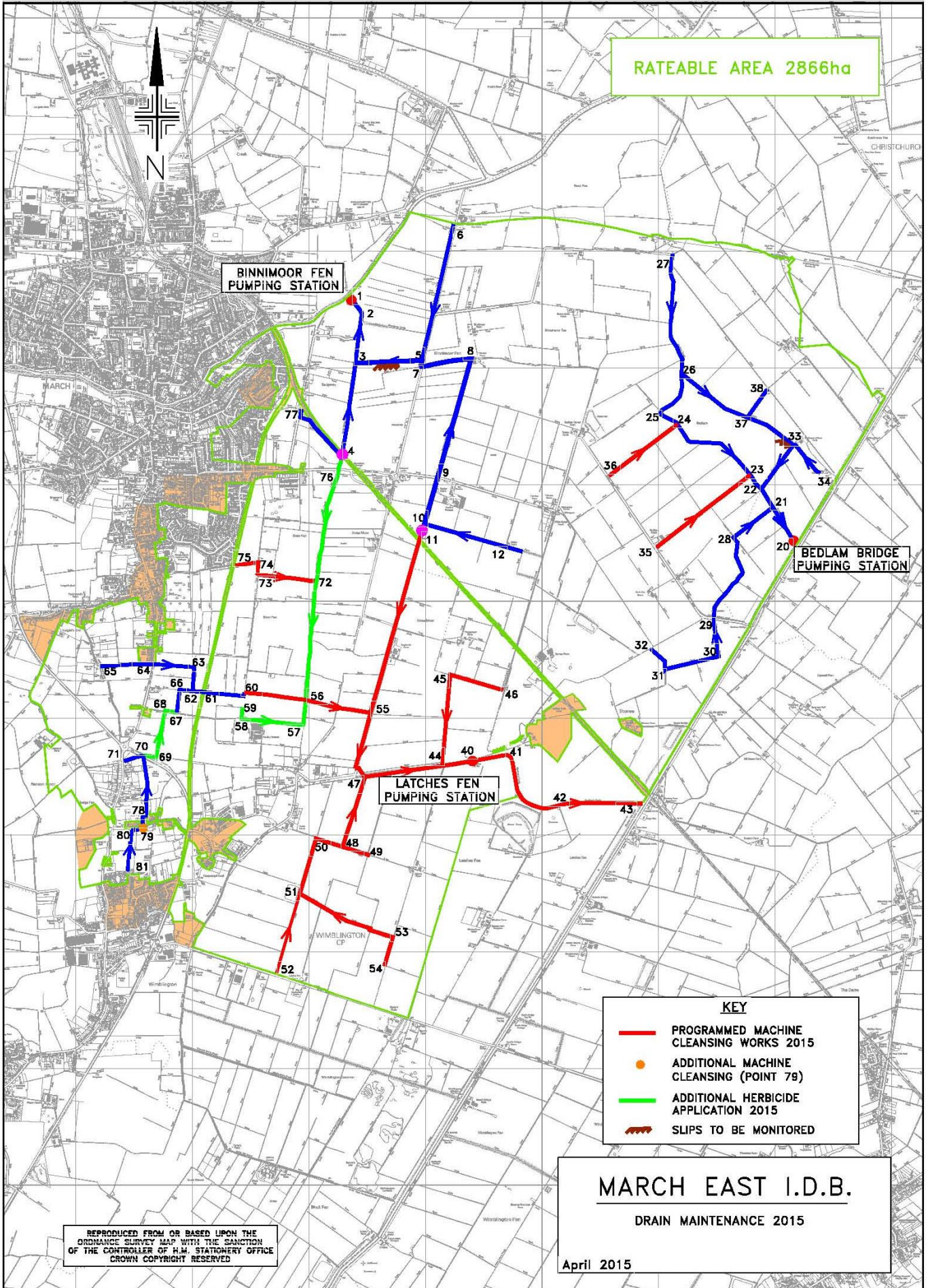
It was also noted during the inspection that old timber revetment works upstream of the culvert at Point 33 are showing signs of deterioration and are no longer supporting the bankside. A further short length of bank subsidence was identified on reach 3-5, adjacent to Binnimoor Road. It is recommended that both sites are monitored for any further deterioration that may occur during the year and any remedial piling works be undertaken as required.



Upstream Point 33



Reach 3-5 Binnimoor Road



RATEABLE AREA 2866ha

BINNIMOOR FEN PUMPING STATION

BEDLAM BRIDGE PUMPING STATION

LATCHES FEN PUMPING STATION

- KEY**
- PROGRAMMED MACHINE CLEANSING WORKS 2015
 - ADDITIONAL MACHINE CLEANSING (POINT 79)
 - ADDITIONAL HERBICIDE APPLICATION 2015
 - ▨ SLIPS TO BE MONITORED

MARCH EAST I.D.B.
 DRAIN MAINTENANCE 2015
 April 2015

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

The inspection also highlighted an accumulation of aquatic vegetation and waste material at the screened culvert on Bridge Lane, Point 79. It is recommended that the short length upstream of the weedscreen is machine cleansed following harvest of the adjacent crop this year. A sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for these works to be completed.



Bridge Lane Point 79

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs R & C Ashman, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for flail mowing of the district drains.

A provisional sum has been included within the Board's estimates for any bank slip repair, emergency cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance that may be required later in the year.

The estimated costs of this year's Weed Control and Drain maintenance works are as follows. Please refer to the site plan on the previous page for locations.

1.	Machine cleanse the following drains:			£	£
	<u>Latches Fen Pumping Area</u>				
	(i) Reach 55-56-60	1050	m	@	1.00 1050.00
	(ii) Reach 47-55-11	2250	m	@	1.00 2250.00
	(iii) Reach 47-48-50-51-52	2100	m	@	1.00 2100.00
	(iv) Reach 48-49	225	m	@	1.00 225.00
	(v) Reach 51-53-54	1150	m	@	1.00 1150.00
	(vi) Reach 40-44-47	1000	m	@	1.20 1200.00
	(vii) Reach 40-41-42-43	1800	m	@	1.20 2160.00
	(viii) Reach 44-45-46	1250	m	@	1.00 1250.00
	(ix) Reach 72-73-74-75	800	m	@	1.00 800.00
	<u>Bedlam Bridge Pumping Area</u>				
	(i) Reach 23-35	1000	m	@	1.00 1000.00
	(ii) Reach 24-36	750	m	@	1.00 750.00
2.	Roundup application to control reed water cress and other emergent weed growth in district drains	Item	Sum		950.00
3.	Allow sum for flail mowing.	Item	Sum		7000.00
4.	Machine cleanse weedscreen Point 79	Item	Sum		150.00
5.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for bank revetment, emergency Cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum		2000.00
		carried forward			24035.00

	brought forward	24035.00
6. Fees for inspection, preparation, and submission of report to the Board, arrangement, and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works.	Item Sum	2000.00
		<hr/>
	TOTAL	£26,035.00
		<hr/> <hr/>

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

Pumping Stations

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

Pumping Hours

<i>Bedlam Pumping Station</i>	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (11114)-May 13 (11322)=208	May 13 (11322)-May 14 (11536)=214	May 14 (11536)-May 15 (11731) = 195
No 2	May12 (9052)-May 13 (9778)=726	May 13 (9778)-May 14 (10136)=358	May 14 (10136)-May 15 (10877) = 741
Total Hours Run	934	572	936

<i>Binnimoor Pumping Station</i>	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (99)-May 13 (421)=432	May 13 (421)-May 14 (646)=225	May 14 (421)-May 15 (1020) = 599
Total Hours Run	322	225	599

<i>Latches Fen Pumping Station</i>	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (18380)-May 13 (19915)=1535	May 13 (19915)-May 14 (20744)= 829	May 14 (20744)-May 15 (21621) = 877
No 2	May12 (466)-May 13 (524)=58	May 13 (524)-May 14 (552)=28	May 14 (552)-May 15 (589) = 37
Total Hours Run	1593	857	914

Binnimoor

The grant position remains as was previously reported. The Engineers will discuss the forward grant position with the EA over the summer months and will put forward the case for having grant allocation identified in the EA's forward investment plans.

Bedlam Pumping Station



The inlet penstock at the station, which was thought to be over travelled past its closed position due to the loss of its bottom stop, was inspected. It was found that the bottom stop was in place, however, when the door was wound down tight onto the stop the door tipped over in its guide and passed the stop; this was due to excessive clearance within the guide. A stop has therefore been fitted to the penstock spindle to prevent this from occurring and as a result the leakage is now very slight. A new, slightly oversize, door could be fabricated and fitted to reduce the clearance if considered necessary.

It has been reported that an area to the east of the weedscreen decking is very wet. Whilst this could possibly be due to leak in the surge chamber leak it is noted that this area has been wet for many years and it is more likely that there is seepage from the 16 Foot River along the pipeline or alternatively leakage from the concrete pipeline joints finding its way to the lowest point

around the surge chamber.

Identifying the source of the leak is likely to be expensive and the Board is therefore asked if it wishes to; carry out investigations, to install a French Drain to capture the water and discharge it into the pumping drain or to continue to monitor the leak and review the situation next year.

Latches Fen

As requested the diesel engine was serviced last year.

Electrical Retesting

The periodic electrical installation condition report of the fixed electrical equipment, at Board's pumping stations to ensure continued compliance with Electricity at Work Regulations and the new BS7671: 2008 IEE Wiring regulations has been completed.

Electricity Supply - Metering

Binnimoor & Latches Fen

Following further discussions with Anglia Farmers and the electricity supplier, SSE, regarding mandatory upgrading of the electricity meters to AMR (Smart) Metering, suitable alternative Smart

Meters were sourced and have recently been installed at both stations. All of the Board's pumping stations are now fitted with meters which are read remotely.

High Rainfall Event

Between 8-10 August 2014 Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk experienced a significant high rainfall event.

The Middle Level Commissioners recorded 103mm of rain over this period at their March office which predominantly fell on the Friday (8 August). In the absence of more refined information it is considered that this event was close to the 1% AEP (1in 100 year event).

Flooding was reported to Cambridgeshire County Council, in its capacity as the LLFA, at Morton Avenue, where one property was flooded internally (Point 49); and Upwell Road (Point 50), where a garden flooded, see plan on following page for locations.

In addition, entries were made on social media showing flooding at Badgeney Road, Cavalry Drive and Green Street.



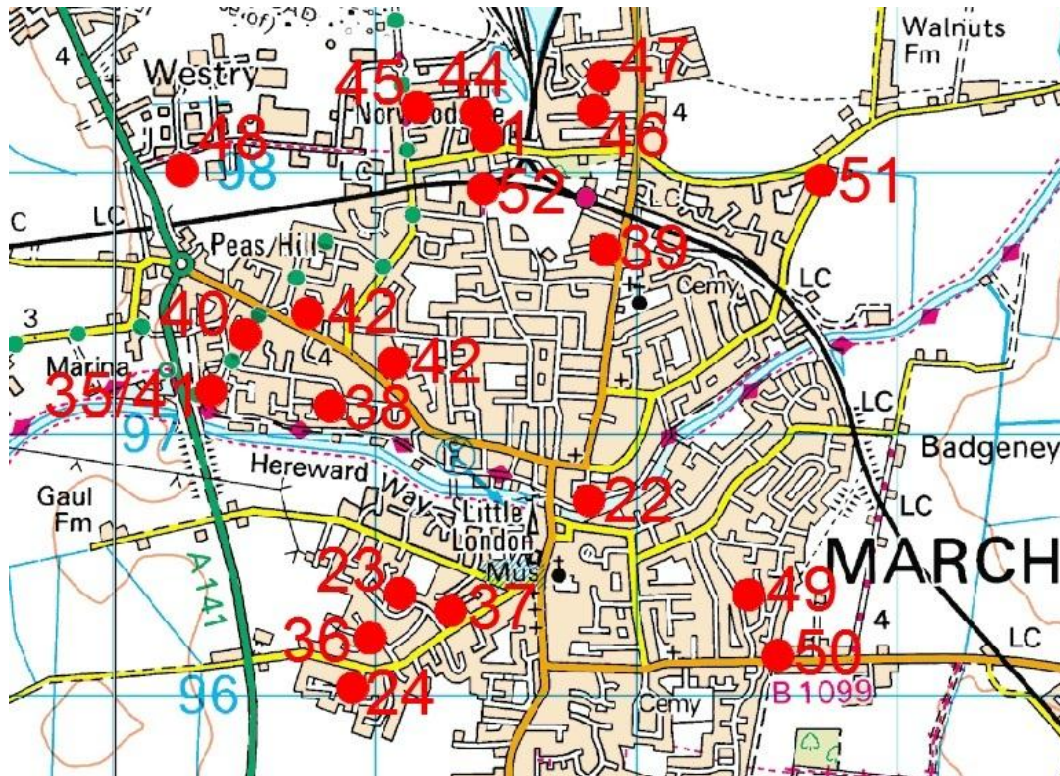
Badgeney Road (Unknown)



Cavalry Drive (Unknown)



Green Street (Tracey Hoy)



Extract from the Middle Level Commissioners' plan showing the locations of flooding reported to Cambridgeshire County Council between 8-10 August 2014

It should be noted that, to some degree, this event appears to support the findings of the Detailed March SWMP modelling results, as discussed in last year's report.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 32 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>
664	F/YR14/0213/F	Mr P Kendall	Travelling showpersons residential and storage site (4 residential mobile homes, 2 storage sheds & 1 storage container)	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
665	F/YR14/0232/O	G Scarborough Ltd	Residential (80 plots max)	March Road, Wimblington
666	F/YR14/0247/F	Mrs Harrington	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
667	F/YR14/0228/RM	Mr D Stewart	Residence	March Road, Wimblington
668	Byelaw Consent	St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd	Poultry Farm	Hooks Drove, Wimblington*
669	F/YR14/0306/F	Mrs L Pooley	Residence	Morton Way, Wimblington
670	F/YR14/0304/F	Mr & Mrs Francis	Residence	Coleseed Road, March
671	F/YR14/0335/F	Mrs J Jones	Residence	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
672	F/YR14/0323/F	Mr A Wiltshire	Residence	Wimblington Road, March
673	F/YR14/2002/CCC	CCC	Education	Cavalry County Primary School, Cavalry Drive, March*
674	F/YR14/0372/F	M & JM Hussey	Residential (2 plots)	Upwell Road, March
675	F/YR14/0358/F	Mr J McGarvie	Residential (3 plots)	Morton Avenue, March
676	F/YR14/0364/SCOP	GP Planning Ltd	Anaerobic Digestion Facility	Hook Lane Wimblington
677	F/YR14/0416/O	Mr & Mrs P Salter	Residential (7 plots)	March Road, Wimblington

678	F/YR14/0488/F	Mr M Payne	Residential (3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
679	F/YR14/0498/O	Mr & Mrs Gillet	Residential (2 plots)	The Avenue, March
680	F/YR14/0523/F	St Lawrence Hall Farms	Poultry Farm	Hooks Drove, Wimblington*
681	Pre-app	Fengrain Ltd	Anaerobic Digestion Facility	Hook Lane Wimblington
682	F/YR14/0596/F	Mr S Rooney	Residence	Rodham Road, March
683	F/YR14/0607/F	Mr & Mrs Cranwell	Residence	Jobs Lane, March
684	F/YR14/0653/F	Fengrain Ltd	Anaerobic Digestion Facility	Hook Lane, Wimblington
685	F/YR14/0683/F	Mr T Philpott	Residence	Badgeney Road, March
686	F/YR14/0679/F	Fengrain Ltd	Concrete pad/enclosure	Eastwood End, Wimblington
687	F/YR14/3109/COND	Mr J Pooley	Residence	Upwell Road, March
688	Pre-app	Mr Hayes	Residence	Coleseed Drove, March
689	F/YR14/0822/PNH	Mrs L Jaggard	Residence	King Street, Wimblington
690	F/YR14/0803/F	Mr & Mrs D A Harrison	Residence	Upwell Road, March
691	Pre-app	Client of PHA Wisbech	Residential (3 plots)	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
692	F/YR14/0843/F	Mr & Mrs P Bavister	Residence	Wimblington Road, March
693	F/YR14/0854/F	Mr A Connors	Residential (5 mobile homes and 1 touring caravan)	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
694	F/YR14/0884/F	Mr L Brownlow	Residence	Cavalry Drive, March
695	F/YR14/0894/F	Mr & Mrs Weaver	Residence	Lit-L Rag, Rodham, March

Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions

Developments that propose direct discharge to the Board's system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems. All the applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

Proposed development to the southeast of Barkers Lane – Cannon Kirk Developments (MLC Ref 385) & Cannon Kirk Homes (MLC Ref No 509) & Mr & Mrs Hopkins & Mrs Mitcham (MLC Ref No 585)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Redevelopment of and extension to poultry farm at Hooks Drove, Wimblington – Client of the Derek Salisbury Practice (MLC Ref No 545) & St Lawrence Hall Farms (MLC Ref Nos 563, 594, 595, 600, 603 & 606)

Further to the last Board report the additional byelaw application, to pipe and fill an extra length of private watercourse, was processed and recommended for approval in June.

Erection of 22 dwellings involving demolition of 2 no existing dwellings on land south east of 93-113 Grounds Avenue, March - Fenland District Council (MLC Ref No 552), Client of URS Scott Wilson (MLC Ref No 576) & Lovell Partnership (MLC Ref Nos 579 & 629)

Following the last Board meeting, further correspondence was received from the relevant parties concerning the condition of the private watercourse between the extent of the Board's Drain at Point 77 and the Anglian Water (AW) sewer that serves the area.

The matter was discussed with the Clerk to the Board who requested that the parties involved be advised that:

- (i) With the exception of our capacity as consultants to March East IDB the problem does not affect the Commissioners or the Middle Level system.
- (ii) The issue appears to have arisen because of developments permitted against the advice of the Board, in respect of Flood Risk, and no formal approach has been made to the Board with a FRA showing the issues or any proposed amelioration measures.
- (iii) If it is considered that the Board's involvement is appropriate then a formal approach to the Board is required, which will be considered, consistent with the Board's policy.
- (iv) Whilst the watercourse concerned is within its rateable area, the Board's system is unaffected and it is likely that any material action would only occur on a recharge basis.

It is not known whether this issue has been resolved to enable a connection to the AW sewer.

A decision on the discharge of the condition was issued by the District Council in September.

No subsequent information or correspondence has been received and the current position on-site is being ascertained. Discussions concerning the issue of discharge consent being required by the Board have not been concluded and consent has yet to be issued.

Erection of an industrial unit and 2.4 metre high palisade security fence at land east of 20 Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington – Law Fertilisers (MLC Ref Nos 588 & 608)

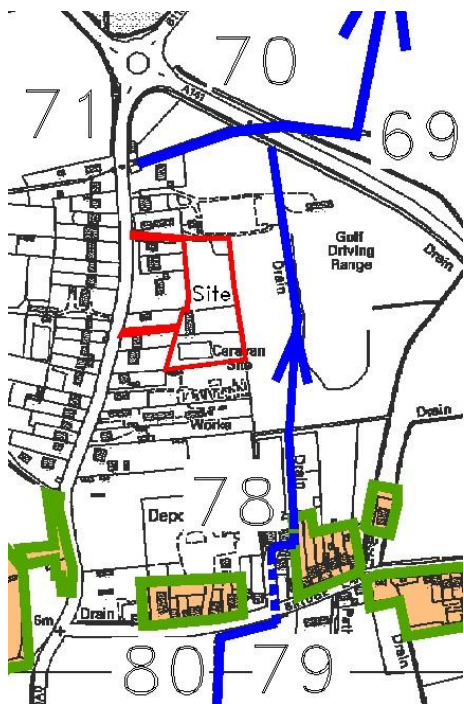
No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of 10 no single storey affordable dwellings comprising of 5 x 1-bed and 5 x 2-bed and 2.1 metre high fencing with associated parking involving demolition of 27 no garages – Roddons Housing Association (MLC Ref No 618) & Details reserved by conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, of planning permission F/YR13/0010/F (Erection of 5 x single-storey 1-bed dwellings with associated parking involving demolition of 30 garages) at land south-east of 13 Smiths Drive, March – Foster Property Maintenance Ltd (MLC Ref No 651)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents since the last Board meeting and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

The current position on-site is being ascertained.

Erection of 7 dwellings involving demolition of existing stables and outbuildings on land east of 54-62 March Road, Wimblington – Mr & Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref No 655 & 677)



Following the refusal of a previous planning application on this site in December 2013, a revised application was submitted to the District Council in May 2014.

This planning application was opposed on the Board's behalf due to several concerns including the site being within an area where drainage problems have previously been reported; 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.

The planning application was refused by the District Council in July and is understood to be the subject of a Planning Appeal against the Council's decision.

Proposed extension to Cavalry Primary School, Cavalry Drive, March - Client of Pick Everard (MLC Ref No 659) & Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 673)

Further to the last meeting a planning application was submitted to the County Council in late April 2014, with a response made on the Board's behalf in June.

During the processing of the planning submission it is most disappointing to note that, despite the County Council being the LLFA and having undertaken a Detailed SWMP, the application form states that during pre-application discussions between planning officers it was considered that "a Flood Risk Assessment would not be required".

This planning application was opposed on the Board's behalf for similar reasons to those detailed above for Mr & Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref No 655 & 677).

Despite the Board's concerns planning permission was granted by the County Council in June 2014 subject to the imposition of conditions, none of which relate to surface water disposal.

This development is one of two school developments that the Commissioners have dealt with on the respective Board's behalf, where concerns about the failure to fully consider relevant issues within areas of flood risk have been ignored by the County Council in its capacity as the LLFA (the relevant planning authority) and the applicant.

It is understood that work commenced on site in November. During January a message was received from the Coulson Building Group, the contractor, that:

"One of the storm drains near to the school but not on their land is partially blocked and needs to be cleared".

In response the contractor was advised that:

"Whilst we sympathise with your Company's position, the content comes as no surprise. The area is known for the absence of adequate infrastructure, poor drainage and flooding. This is not limited to recent events but goes back many years and has been confirmed by correspondence

with the County Council in its capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the client for this project and also the relevant planning authority.

You may be aware that the Board's letter to the County Council in response to the planning application dated 17th June 2014 opposed the proposals but unfortunately its comments have been ignored and planning permission has been issued. Given the site's location within wet spot 3, as identified in the Detailed March Surface Water Management Plan as prepared by Hyder Consulting on behalf of the LLFA, the failure to consider its contents and implement any recommendations is disappointing. Please note that the Board's position currently remains unchanged.

We note that your client has the approval of Hyder Consulting, in its capacity as consultant to the LLFA; planning permission from the County Council and an agreement from Anglian Water. However, the County's agent should have also advised that, in addition to these 'approvals', your client may require the Board's prior written consent. In particular NO increased rate or volume or connection made whereby such increase may occur may be made to the Boards system, without the Boards consent

Given the flooding problems that have previously and continue to detrimentally affect the area, most recently on the 8th August 2014, no consent permitting any increase in rate or volume will be given until this matter is resolved to the Boards satisfaction. The point of discharge is also a crucial factor. In this respect it would be beneficial if you could advise on the current position to enable a timely assessment of the proposals.

Ultimately, any resultant problem is a matter for the County Council as the LLFA, the applicant, and also as the competent authority that granted planning permission.

The Board takes this opportunity to advise that any contravention of the Board's byelaws is a criminal offence and that the costs of any enforcement will be charged to your client.

In response to your specific question, it is understood that surface water in the area discharges to the Board's system. The nearest Board's Drain is approximately 200m south of the site at the junction of Barkers Lane and the former railway embankment. However, the issue of the storm drain must be seen as part of the general discharge issues that require resolution by your client."

An enforcement notice was sent to the applicant's consulting engineer in January, a FRA has been supplied and further discussions are being undertaken as part of the pre-application discussion process.

Erection of 4-bed dwellings with attached garages at 2A Bridge Lane, Wimblington - Ms K Grange (MLC Ref No 663)

Further to the last meeting pre-application discussion has been undertaken with the applicant's consultant, Peter Humphrey Associates (PHA) Ltd, concerning a revised planning application for development for 3 dwellings at this location.

During the initial response we referred to the Board's 9.0m wide maintenance access strip and advised, following discussion with the Commissioners' Works Department, that any application to reduce the width of the access strip would be recommended for refusal. However, copies of correspondence from the Clerk to the Board with the

landowner dated from 2001 have subsequently been supplied advising that a clear access of at least 4.0m is required.

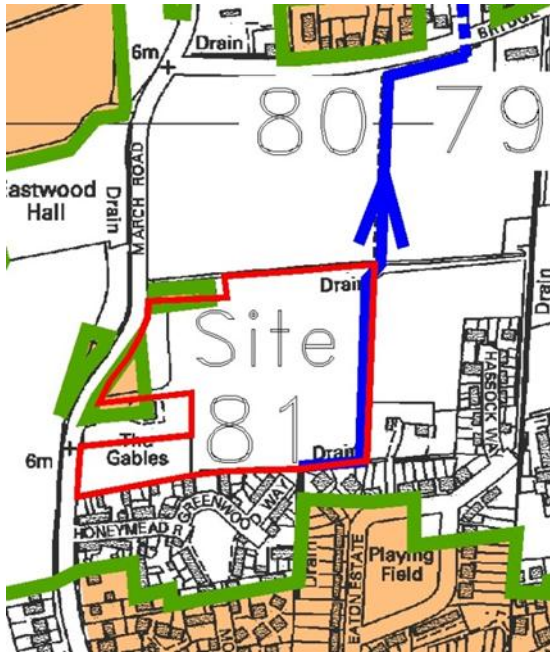
Given the changes that have occurred since 2001, for example maintenance machinery has become larger, amendments to the waste management regulations have occurred etc, the matter has been discussed with the Clerk to the Board. He has confirmed that the Board only adopted this drain following detailed consideration and on the specific understanding that a reduced byelaw width was appropriate and applicable here adding that a formal application for byelaw consent is still required. PHA has been advised accordingly.



Plan showing the extent of a 9.0m wide maintenance access strip in relation to the proposed layout

Erection of 80 dwellings (max) at land east of 38 March Road, Wimblington – G Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 665)

A response was made on the Board's behalf concerning a planning application for a residential development to the north of the Honeymead and Eaton Estates. As can be seen on the extract of the Board's plan (see following page), the nearest Board's watercourse, forms the eastern boundary and part of the southern boundary of the site.



This planning application was opposed on the Board's behalf for similar reasons to those detailed above for Mr and Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref No 655 & 677).

According to the District Council's website a decision on the application remains pending.

A detailed layout plan has yet to be produced but it is assumed that a reduced byelaw strip will also be required alongside the Board's Drain.

Erection of a Anaerobic Digestion Facility on land east of Fengrain, Hook Lane, Wimblington – G P Planning Ltd (MLC Ref No 676) & Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref No 681 & 684)

Following a response on a Scoping Opinion, the applicant undertook pre-application discussions prior to submitting a planning application to the District Council. Whilst some minor points which required resolution were outstanding, the principles of the major issues were discussed and agreed informally. This allayed initial concerns and it was hoped that the discussion would continue as the proposal progressed.

However, despite the Case Officer's recommendation to grant planning permission the Planning Committee refused the application.

Fenland District Council (FDC) Neighbourhood Strategy

Current developments and the position in relation to the following document are:

(a) Fenland Local Plan (formerly the Communities Development Plan) – Core Strategy

Following the end of the public consultations on the proposed 'Main' and 'Minor' modifications to the Local Plan that arose through the Public 'hearing sessions', the Planning Inspector considered all comments received in relation to the 'Main' modifications and issued the Inspector's report in April 2014.

The Inspector found the plan 'sound' subject to the incorporation of the 'main' modifications. This Report was presented to the District Council's Cabinet and

subsequently, to its Full Council, on 8 May 2014, where the Local Plan was formally adopted.

(b) Resource Use SPD

Following the receipt of some of the comments made within the public consultation during January/February it was agreed at the 24 April 2014 District Council Cabinet meeting that the revised SPD be subject to a further consultation which was undertaken during June.

Some generic responses were made by the Commissioners as part of this consultation. This response advised that some of the strengths of the original version had been removed which, in the Commissioners' opinion, significantly weakens the document.

The SPD was revised following consideration of the comments made during this consultation and was presented to District Council's Cabinet on 24 July 2014. The Cabinet recommended no further changes and the SPD was subsequently adopted by its Full Council later that day.

(c) Delivering & Protecting High Quality Environments in Fenland SPD

Following a public consultation held during January/February, the SPD was revised following consideration of the comments submitted during the consultation process. Like the Resource Use SPD, this revised SPD was presented to the District's Cabinet on 24 July 2014 and was subsequently adopted by its Full Council later that day.

Note. A *Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)* is a document that provides further details and/or guidance with reference to policies and proposals contained in a *Development Plan Document (DPD)* or *Local Plan*.

Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD

One of the proposed 'Main' modifications to the Local Plan that arose through the Public 'hearing sessions' of the Fenland Local Plan was that due to the various states at 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.

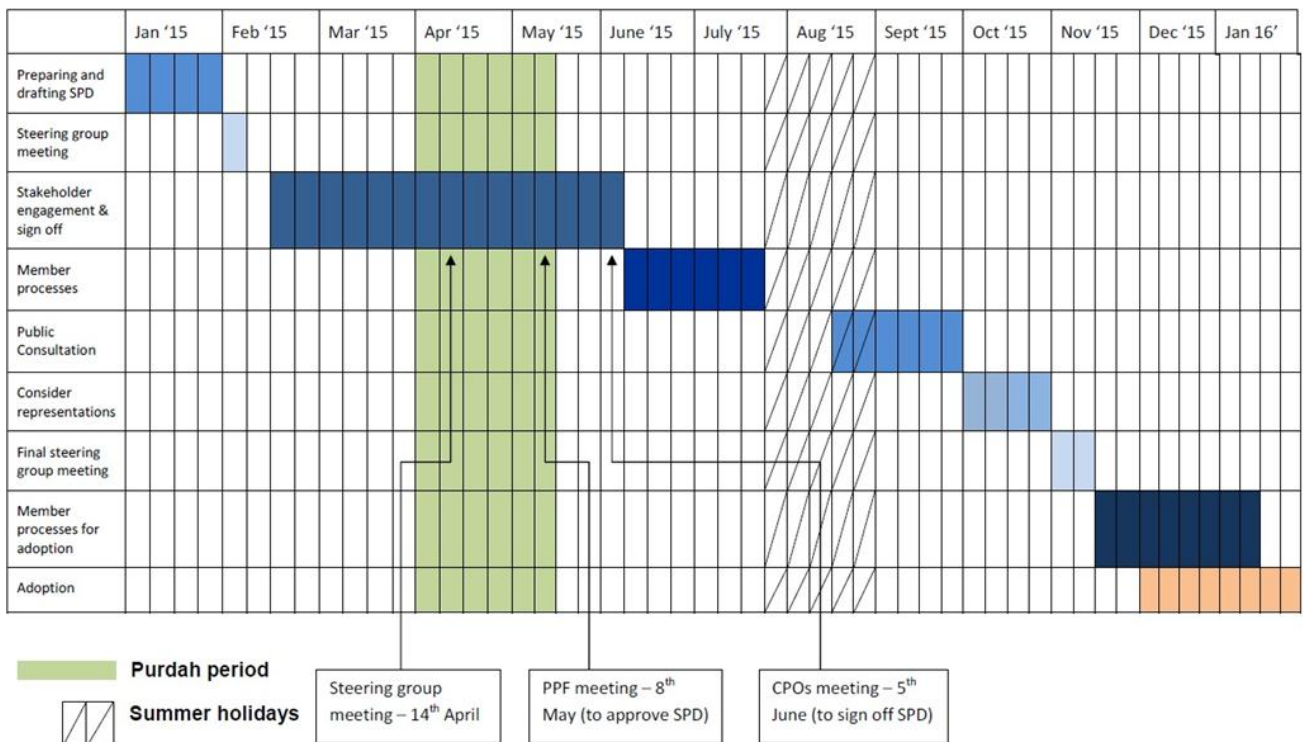
Cambridgeshire County Council volunteered to organise the production of this document via a steering group that involved all the LPAs within the County together with other relevant stakeholders including the Middle Level Commissioners.

The County Council is currently considering the contents of stakeholder comments in respect of the most recent draft which can be used to prepare the next version 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.

Following concerns from the Fenland Developers Forum (FDF), of which the MLC are a member, the District Council was asked to produce an Interim Guidance Note (IGN) to explain how it will consider flood risk issues when determining planning applications particularly with regard to the Sequential and Exception Tests. It is anticipated that this is a short term measure which will be superseded once the SPD is adopted.

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)



Note. The Fenland Developers Forum (FDF) is held at Fenland Hall, and aims to meet 6 times a year. Its purpose is to be a key development stakeholder in Fenland, as well as a recognised consultative body for a range of development matters. It encourages a collaborative partnership approach between all stakeholders who have an interest in the development of Fenland, delivering sustainable growth across the district.

Members of the forum include local developers, agents and architects, some statutory consultees and officers from Planning, Planning Policy and Building Control.

Detailed March Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)

Further to the last meeting it is understood that the County Council has been undertaking investigations seeking GiA funding from the EA and upon request provided the table below. A formal response to the Board has not been made.

SWMPs in Cambridgeshire	SWMP Completed	GiA Allocation	Scheme costs (£)	Progress	Latest update
March	✓	GiA not allocated until 2016/17 100,000 FDGiA 2017/18 385,000 FDGiA 115,000 – partnership contribution required 2018/19 385,000 – FDGiA 115,000 partnership contribution required	1,100,000		Pre-PAR produced. One of the three wet spots is viable. Discussions with stakeholders. Appointed consultancy to take forward urgent measures for Morton Avenue. The remainder of work will be recommenced when funding becomes available in 2016/17

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer continues to encourage the consideration of the contents of the SWMP and implementation of the suggested solutions as part of the planning process. However, both the District and County Councils appeared to ignore the plans contents and fail to understand that poor consideration given to 'growth' in the past had contributed to current and predicted problems.

During a recent meeting with representatives from the County Council, attended by the Clerk to the Board and the Commissioners' Planning Engineer, to resolve problems with various development control issues it was intimated that the District Council are uncertain of the SWMPs status in determining planning applications because it has not followed the appropriate Council internal processes.



Consulting Engineer

22 May 2015

March East (312)\Reports\May 2015

In response to the Vice Chairman, Mr Lakey confirmed that Mr Ashman's price was £36 per hour.

Mr Heading queried the ages of the respective pumping stations. Members requested that the Consulting Engineer's next report include the dates of building and last refurbishment.

With regards to the planning application at Cavalry Primary School, March (MLC Ref Nos. 659 and 673), Mr Moore referred to concerns regarding the weight to be placed on flood risk issues in the planning process.

In response to Mr Heading, the Clerk reported on the Board's previous decision to adopt the watercourse adjacent to the development at Bridge Lane, Wimblington (MLC Ref No. 663).

Further to the planning application for an anaerobic digestion facility at Hook Lane, Wimblington (MLC Refs Nos. 676,681 & 684), Mr Heading advised that there might be a further application on this site.

Mr Moore indicated that Cambridgeshire County Council might be approaching the Board again for funding. In response to Mr Heading, the Chairman and Vice Chairman indicated that the Board would not contribute.

In response to Mr Morris, the Clerk and Mr Downes outlined the situation regarding the eel regulations.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed control and drain maintenance
 - a) That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.
 - b) That R and C Ashman be re-appointed to undertake flail mowing operations in the District in 2015 provided their insurance is in order.
 - c) That, if an alternative contractor is required, the Chairman be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.
- iii) That the Consulting Engineers include in their report for the next meeting the ages of the Board's pumping stations together with the dates when they were last refurbished.
- iv) Bedlam Pumping Station

That a French Drain be installed, as recommended.

B.1117 Pumping Station Insurance Valuation

The Clerk reported that the pumping stations were currently valued, for insurance purposes, at £1,840,000, with a premium of £1,137, but that recent advice from the Consulting Engineers was to the effect that a total replacement of the stations would cost in the order of £2,315,000.

The Clerk advised that to insure at £2,315,000 would involve an additional premium of approximately £463.

RESOLVED

That the insurance valuation be increased to £2,315,000 which the Members felt provided adequate cover for those items at high/medium risk.

B.1118 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

The Clerk advised that currently, only works at Binnimoor were within the 10 year programme.

Mr Aveling referred to the lack of a gate on the Board's access strip at Binnimoor which allowed motorbike access. The Vice Chairman confirmed that youngsters tended to hang around there. The Clerk queried if it was a public footpath to which Mr Aveling indicated it was not.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Capital Programme be approved in principle.
- ii) That a suitable gate or stile be provided at Binnimoor to deter vehicular access.

(NB) – Mr Aveling declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.1119 District Officer's Report

The District Officer considered that most matters had been covered in the Consulting Engineer's report and that it had been a straight forward year.

Mr Morris felt that the ditching works undertaken last year had been carried out to a high standard.

RESOLVED

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

B.1120 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

The Clerk referred to the Environmental Officer's newsletter which had previously been circulated to members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

Mr Morris reported an increase in the number of moles in the District.

B.1121 District Officer's Fee

Further to minute B.1088(b), the Clerk reported that the annual payment in respect of the District Officer's fee would be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners pay award at 1.1%, as detailed in the Supplementary Schedule.

(NB) – The Chairman declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

B.1122 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.1123 Application for byelaw consent

The Clerk reported that the following application for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses had been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board, viz:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd	The culverting & filling of the Watercourse at Hooks Drove Poultry Farm, Hooks Drove, Wimblington & the provision of compensatory storage volume & the installation of 1 dyketector headwall to be placed in the Watercourse where it outfalls into the District Drain at Point 58 – Hooks Drove, Wimblington	19 th June 2014

RESOLVED

That the action taken be approved.

B.1124 Maintenance and supervision duties in connection with pumping stations and drains

- i) Further to minute B.1091(i)(a), the Clerk reported that the payments in respect of supervision duties would be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners pay award at 1.1%, as detailed in the Supplementary Schedule.
- ii) Further to minute B.1091(ii), the Clerk reported that further clarification had been received from the Board's insurers, who had confirmed that all Board members were covered under the Board's existing public liability cover. In consequence, insurance cover for the District Officer was not necessary.
- iii) Agreements relating to duties of the District Officer and Pumping Station Attendants

Further to minute B.1091(ii), Members considered the proposed agreements relating to pumping station duties.

RESOLVED

That the agreements be accepted and approved.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.1125 Environment Agency – Precepts

The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2015/2016 in the sum of £10,866 (the precept for 2014/2015 being £10,866).

The Clerk 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. He 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.

The Clerk 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.1126 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

a) The Clerk reported that the sum of £264.58 (£1,077.84 less £813.26 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 £802.64 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2014/2015.

(b) Further to minute B.1093(b), the Clerk 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 kept under review.

B.1127 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

The Board considered the following recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes, viz:-

MARCH EAST IDB

Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes

June 2015

2015-2016

		Transfer value to Special Levy - £1657.126 per hectare	<u>Area</u> (Hectares)	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Land</u>	<u>Special Levies</u>	
					<u>Fenland</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
		Opening Values (£)	2632.657	444,190	395,256	839,446
		Opening %		52.91%	47.09%	100.00%
<u>Location</u>		<u>Reason for change.</u>				
Law Fertilizers Ltd	Hook Lane Wimblington	Change to industrial units	-1.145	-180	1,897	1,717
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
		Total determinations	2631.512	-180	1,897	1,717
		Closing Values (£)		444,010	397,153	841,163
		Closing %		52.79%	47.21%	100.00%

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

B.1128 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £17.10.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1129 Association of Drainage Authorities

The Clerk 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.

The Clerk referred to his 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.

RESOLVED

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

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 £621 to £646.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2015.

(NB) – Mr Heading declared an interest as a Director of ADA.

B.1130 Health and Safety Audits

The Clerk 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.1131 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

The Clerk 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.1132 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £98,625.20 which had been made during the financial year 2014/2015.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the payment made to him.

(NB) – Mr Heading declared an interest ((as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1133 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.1134 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2014/2015

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts for the year ended on the 31st March 2015 and considered the completion of the Annual Governance Statement as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2015.
- ii) That the Chairman be authorised to approve the opening of a suitable investment account(s) for the Board.

B.1135 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.1136 Risk Register

The Clerk 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. He 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.1137 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 the Clerk 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 52.79% and 47.21%.

The Chairman referred to the age of the pumping stations which might require works.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved, subject to the insurance provision being raised by £300.
- ii) That a total sum of £79,911 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 £42,181 and £37,730 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 9.50p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

- v) That a Special levy of £37,730 be made and issued to Fenland 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.1138 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.1139 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 9th June 2016.

B.1140 Amalgamation

The Vice Chairman referred to the previous night's Euximoor IDB meeting which had raised the question of whether an amalgamation between this Board and Euximoor would be appropriate and whether discussions should commence. Members raised questions concerning the Euximoor District.

The Vice Chairman accepted that the finance position of the Euximoor Board was not as rosy as that of March East. He did refer to fewer landowners now being within the Euximoor District which would raise issues of that Board's sustainability for the future.

Mr Heading agreed that this should be looked at.

The Vice Chairman referred to IDBs justifying what they did and being seen to do so.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to discuss this with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Euximoor IDB.