

RAMSEY UPWOOD AND GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey Upwood and Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board
held at the White Lion, Ramsey St Marys on Thursday the 19th May 2016

PRESENT

A C Roberts Esq (Chairman)	J I Edwards Esq
R Blackhurst Esq (Vice Chairman)	R H Lambert Esq
S W F Bedford Esq	P R Lummis Esq
P L E Bucknell Esq	C W Pickard Esq
J R Clarke Esq	P H Wagstaffe Esq

The Clerk to the Board and Mr Leo Butler (District Officer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from T F Bedford Esq, G S Halden Esq C W Smith Esq and C P Wilkinson Esq.

The Clerk reported that Mr Halden had tendered his resignation. The Chairman wondered if he really wanted to resign and would speak to him.

B.941 Inspection of the District

Prior to the meeting those Members present with the exception of Mr Pickard and including Mr T F Bedford undertook an Inspection of the District which embraced (inter alia):-

1. Catchwater Drain at Mr Sterling's property

The Board considered the maintenance work undertaken. Members noted bushes on the bank sides in particular.

2. Upwood Common Pumping Station and Inlet Slacker

Members noted the condition of the slacker which was now dammed off and the extent of the blanket weed in the main pump drain.

3) Catchwater Drain

Members viewed fences erected by Mr Cunnell.

4) Catchwater Drain between Points 58-2

5) Catchwater upstream of Point 4

6 Private ditch Mr Tatt wished to pipe and fill and install French drain.

The Board approved, subject to Consulting Engineer's technical approval that consent could be granted.

[Reference to points are to points on the Board's District Drain map]

B.942 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.

The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application (MLC ref 307) by D C Roberts & Son and in the payment made to D C Roberts & Sons.

Mr Bucknell declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Huntingdonshire District Council.

B.943 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 7th January 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.944 Clerk to the Board

Further to minute B.920, the Clerk reported that the Middle Level Commissioners hoped to appoint his successor at the end of June and that he would advise the Chairman in due course of the appointment made.

Mr Blackhurst proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Smith for his work for the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Board's appreciation of the work of Mr Smith be recorded in the minutes.

B.945 Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

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

B.946 Clerk's fee

The Board gave consideration to the Clerk's fee for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED

That the fee of the Clerk be increased in line with inflation for the year 2016/2017

B.947 Appointment of District Officer

The Chairman praised the work of Mr Butler over the last year.

RESOLVED

That L Butler Esq be appointed District Officer to the Board during the ensuing year.

B.948 Green Dyke Pumping Station

Further to minutes B.886 and B.922, Mr Pickard reported that the situation remained as reported at the last meeting.

B.949 Mr Lancaster

Further to minute B.893, the Chairman said the Board had noted the position regarding Mr Lancaster's land when passing by on the Inspection. Mr Pickard said he was disregarding the 9 metre byelaw strip. The Chairman advised that as Catchwater works were required this year Mr Lancaster would have to be contacted and would have to clear the Catchwater banks.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman and District Officer visit Mr Lancaster and the Clerk then write to him regarding the proposed drainworks.
- ii) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be empowered to seek to sort out his drainage rate arrears.

B.950 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.923, the Clerk confirmed that the position remained as reported at the last meeting save that the River Basin Management Plan had been confirmed

B.951 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.924, the Clerk reported that where a Board had more than one inlet, a separate licence would be required at a proposed "one off" charge of £1,500 imposed to recover the Agency's costs of considering the grant of the Transfer Licence, rather than an annual charge, where the abstraction took place from different watercourses.

The Clerk reported that within the proposals was an exemption for ports abstracting below the tidal limit and that he had queried why this was not also an exemption for IDBs.

Following discussions with Defra, he felt it possible that this exemption could also be granted to IDBs.

B.952 Mrs E V Johns

Further to minute B.925, the Clerk reported that Mrs Johns had paid her rates for this year but not for last year. The bailiffs had visited but had made a return of 'no goods'.

The Chairman felt that the Board should not incur costs when there was a legal charge on the land which should ensure eventual payment.

RESOLVED

That the Board review the position at the next meeting.

B.953 Mr Sterling

Further to minute B.926, the District Officer reported on the ditch access reinstatement carried out by Mr Sterling and that once the land had settled he could then level it.

RESOLVED

That the District Officer be authorised to take such action as he thought fit regarding levelling of land.

B.954 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

Ramsey, Upwood & Great Raveley I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2016

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters reported at previous meetings, only routine maintenance has been carried out.

Upwood Common Inlet Penstock

Damming off of the reported leaking inlet penstock is currently in hand. This will allow an assessment to be carried out of any repairs that may be required or alternatively if replacement would be a better option.

Pumping Hours

Green Dyke Pumping Station

Hours Run – April 15 – April 16 = 76 (5423)

Hours Run – April 14 – April 15 = 140 (5347)

Hours Run - April 13 - April 14 = 158 (5207)

Hours Run - April 12 - April 13 = 289 (5049)

New Fen Pumping Station

Hours Run no 1 – April 15 – April 16 = 204 (1142)

Hours Run no 2 – April 15 – April 16 = 89 (3183)

Total Hours Run = 293

Hours Run no 1 – April 14 – April 15 = 432 (938)

Hours Run no 2 – April 14 – April 15 = 525 (3094)

Total Hours Run = 957

Hours Run no 1 - April 13-April 14 = 58 (506)

Hours Run no 2 - April 13-April 14 = 468 (2569)

Total Hours Run =526

Hours Run no 1 - April 12-April 13 = 131 (448)

Hours Run no 2 - April 12-April 13 = 788 (2569)

Total Hours Run = 919

Upwood Common Pumping Station

Hours Run – April 15 – April 16 = 95 (3846)

Hours Run – April 14 - April 15 = 141 (3751)

Hours Run – April 13-April 14 = 172 (3610)

Hours Run – April 12-April 13 = 317 (3438)

Green Dyke Pumping Station

As per the Board's instruction an assessment of the amount of grant which might be achieved is currently under preparation and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Changes to Planning Procedures

These include the following:

- (a) Since the introduction of the development control and consent "surgery" the up take has been limited, but feedback from people that have used the service has been positive. The "surgery" has helped to improve received applications enabling them to be processed smoothly. The "surgery" will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of the month and this will be reviewed again at a later date.
- (b) The soakaway certification and checking service has been running for over a year and a number of people have taken up the process. Again like the "surgery" the feedback has been positive. Generally this has allowed simpler applications to be processed smoothly. The service will be continued and, as above, will be reviewed at a later date.
- (c) An initial surge in requests for the "Acceptability of Surface Water and Sewage Effluent Discharge" form has recently slowed but the feedback has been positive and the service will continue for the foreseeable future. However, we have had to advise some applicants/agents that this is not a consent document nor does it confirm agreement that a water level/flood risk management strategy has been agreed.

Responses to Planning Applications

Following the decision to "stand back" from the planning process standard letters are currently being sent to applicants to remind them of their responsibilities and duties under the Land Drainage Act and associated Byelaws.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 5 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, 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>
304	H/15/80260/COND	Ramsey Solar Ltd	Solar Farm	Bury Green Farm/Biggin Lane, Ramsey
305	Enquiry	Client of RPS Group	Land parcel 1 & parcel 2	Biggin Lane, Ramsey
306	H/16/80010/COND	Mr A Wilshire	Residence	St Marys Road, Ramsey St Mary
307	H/1600138/AGDET	D C Roberts & Son	Agricultural	St Marys Road, Ramsey St Mary
308	H/16/00211/FUL	Seagate Homes (UK) Ltd	Residential (52 plots)	St Marys Road, Ramsey*

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

Developments that are known to 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.

Erection of a food-store, petrol filling station, residential development, community facilities and associated highways and infrastructure works – Tesco Stores Ltd & Abbey Properties Cambridge Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 114, 133 & 168); Application to replace Planning Permission 0501658OUT for erection of foodstore, petrol filling station, residential development, community facilities and associated highways and infrastructure works at land at the corner of Stocking Fen Road and Ramsey St Marys Road, Ramsey - Lord De Ramsey's 1963 Settlement (MLC Ref No 244) and Reserved matters application for the residential phase consisting of 108 flats and houses, means of access (to eastern side of high lode), appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. Application made pursuant to outline permission 0501658OUT varied by permission 0900365S73 land at The Corner Of Stocking Fen Road and St Marys Road, Ramsey - Abbey Properties (Cambs) Ltd & Lord de Ramsey (MLC Ref No 248)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests. It is believed that the cost of installing the piling required to allow development to take place is proving to be much more expensive than was originally envisaged. Advice from the consultants over when and indeed if the piling (and hence new moorings) is likely to go ahead is awaited. In the mean time water vole mitigation works continue to be undertaken.

Mixed use development comprising employment (including trade counter sales) (use classes, B1, B2 and B8) car sales, car breaking, combined heat and power uses and a children's day nursery (D1), means of access and road layout at land opposite Viscount Garage, St Marys Road, Ramsey – Client of ESP Ltd (MLC Ref No 210) & Abbey Properties (Cambs) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 225 & 278)

Further to the last meeting clarification has been provided to the applicant's engineering consultant, Amazi Consulting Ltd, concerning relevant flood risk issues.

No correspondence has been received since late January.

Further involvement will be required as development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required.

Proposed erection of 5 no 125m high Wind Turbines at Greenhall Farm, to the north east of St Marys Road, Ramsey (Ramsey Gateway) (MLC Ref No 229) & Proposed Wind Farm at The Bill, St Marys Road, Ramsey – Abbey Properties Cambridgeshire Ltd (MLC Ref No 234) & Fivestone Ltd (MLC Ref No 249)

This development is now complete.

Erection of an open sided agricultural building at Colwyn, Upwood Road, Ramsey Heights - P Harper & Sons (MLC Ref No 264)

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

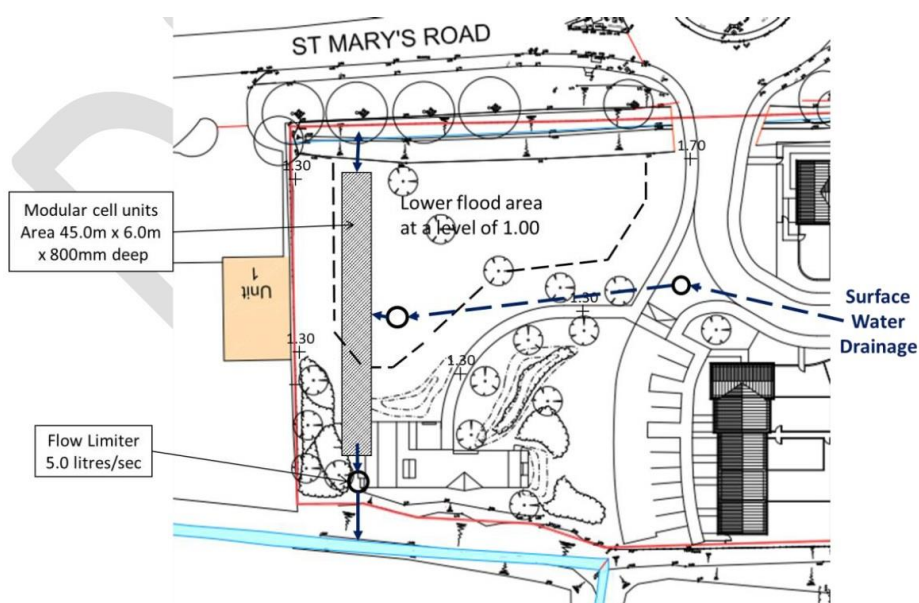
Construction of 52 dwellings and associated works on land adjacent to St Marys Road Industrial Estate (the former Ramsey North Railway Station) St Marys Road, Ramsey – (Ramsey SPA Site RA2 Ramsey Gateway) - Client of Maple Solicitors (MLC Ref No 276) & Seagate Homes (MLC Ref Nos 284 & 308)

Further to the last Board meeting a planning application was submitted to the District Council in February for the erection of 52 dwellings and associated infrastructure.



Extract from Portess and Richardson Architects Drawing Number 3696 P(00)02 Rev B

In accordance with current Government advice a SuDS system utilising an existing section of open watercourse and modular cell units (to reduce the discharge rates) has been proposed by the applicant's flood risk consultant, Stuart Hemmings. It is disappointing to note that neither the applicant nor Mr Hemmings consulted the Board prior to submitting the planning application, using the pre-application process, and it is sadly the case that the design suggested does not meet the Board's current requirements in respect of the Standard of Protection (SoP) provided. In addition no mention appears to have been made within the planning submission that suitable arrangements have been established for the **whole life funding, management and maintenance** of the associated water level/flood risk management systems.



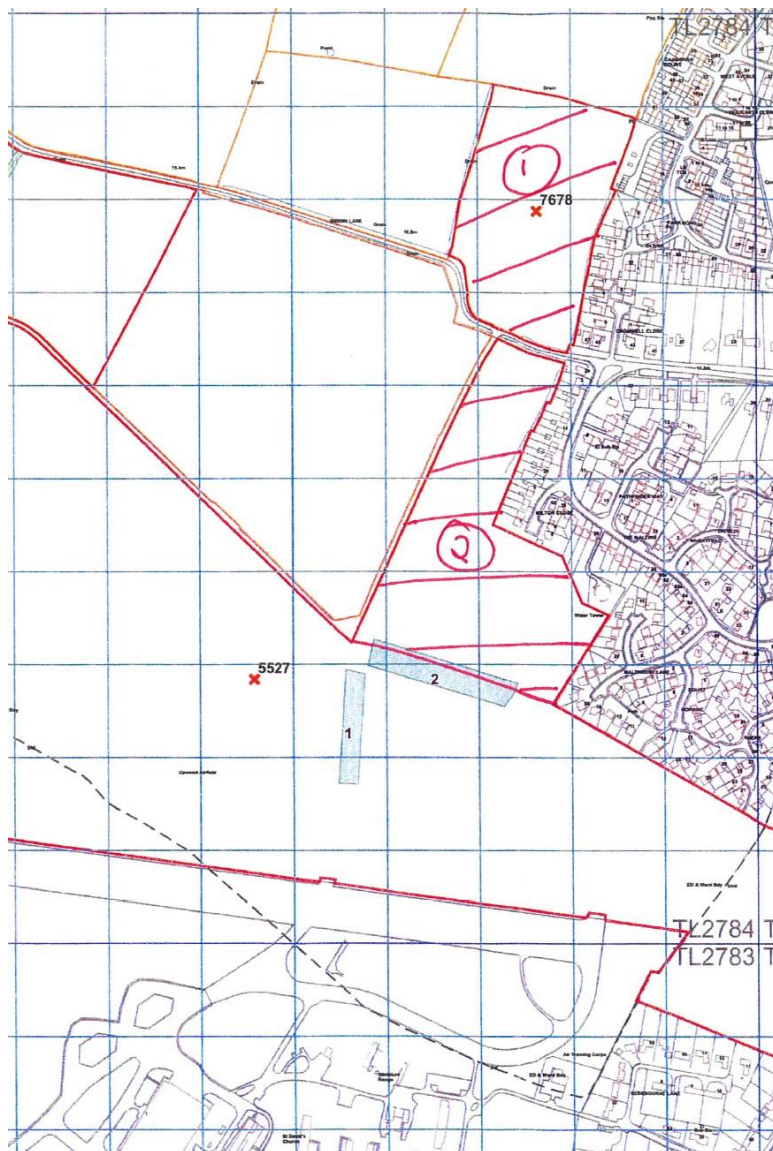
Extract from Stuart Hemmings' Drainage Strategy dated 25th February 2016

Further involvement will be required as development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required.

Potential development on land to the north & south of Biggin Lane, Ramsey including:
(a) Parcel 1 – to the west of 1 to 21 Park Road, 5 to 11 Oliver Close, 8-11 Cromwells Close and 47 Biggin Lane, (b) Parcel 2 – to the west of 2a to 26 The Malting, 1-6 Milton Close, south of 7 to 8 Milton close, 34 to the Water Tower, The Malting, and north west of 22-36 Malthouse Lane (MLC Ref No 305)

Enquiries have been received from the RPS Group in respect of two parcels of land as described above and shown on the plan overleaf.

The enquirer was advised of the Board's pre-application processes but to date no instruction to undertake any of these processes has been received



Extract from plan received from the RPS Group showing the location of the land parcels

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

No further correspondence has been received from HDC concerning the LDS and no further action has been taken in respect of the Boards'/Commissioners' interests.

Huntingdonshire SFRA Update

The Commissioners have been contacted by JBA Consulting concerning an Update to the current SFRA.

A response was made by the Commissioners on behalf of itself and the respective Boards within the District Council's area. It is understood that this response, which included concerns previously raised with the District Council in regard to the current SFRA, are being considered.

Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

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.*

The responses received during the consultation undertaken in September/October were analysed and reviewed and a Steering Group meeting was held in December to discuss the main issues raised.

Following the meeting a flow chart (see overleaf) illustrating the process that it is considered that developers will need to complete when making a planning application was produced. This flow chart is considered to be overcomplicated but, more importantly from the Board's perspective, the first contact with the RMA that is likely to receive the discharge concerned, is in step 13 just prior to the submission of the planning application. The refusal by a Board to issue consent for either byelaw or discharge can, in the correct circumstances, be an obstacle to further progress. In addition, some of the answers required to complete steps 5-10 will require the RMAs involvement. Therefore, in order to ensure that the Board is involved at an early stage it is considered that any initial consultation with an RMA should be at least at step 4.

Sections of a revised draft document have been issued to the Steering Group for further consideration and comment and these are currently being considered.

In respect of SuDS the content disappointingly conforms to the generic contents of the NPPF rather than realising that this does not accommodate the special circumstances that occur within the Fenland situation.

In addition, emphasis is made to reducing flood risk but fails to consider other issues such as viability, sustainability, carbon footprint, land use, water resources etc all of which should also be considered. Failure to do so could have adverse impacts and actually reduce "growth" in the area. The County Council currently hopes that the SPD will go before the County Committee on 9 June and subsequently be adopted by each of the Cambridgeshire local planning authorities.

Sequential Test

1. Identify vulnerability of the proposed development land use type **Table 4.2**

2. Can it be demonstrated that:
 a) The type and location of development you are proposing have been specifically allocated in the Local Plan; and
 b) The vulnerability classification and flood zones are still compatible **Relevant Local Plan and Tables 1, 2 & 3 of the NPPF / PPG**

3. Undertake the full Sequential Test and, if necessary the Exception Test using recognised national, local and Environment Agency guidance. Does the proposed development pass these tests? **Sections 4.4 & 4.5**

Pre-Application Consultation
 application service which covers flood risk and drainage. Does the WMA confirm that the proposed development may be acceptable in principle from a flood risk and drainage perspective? **Sections 3.2 & Appendix 5**

END – Consider alternative land use or alternative site

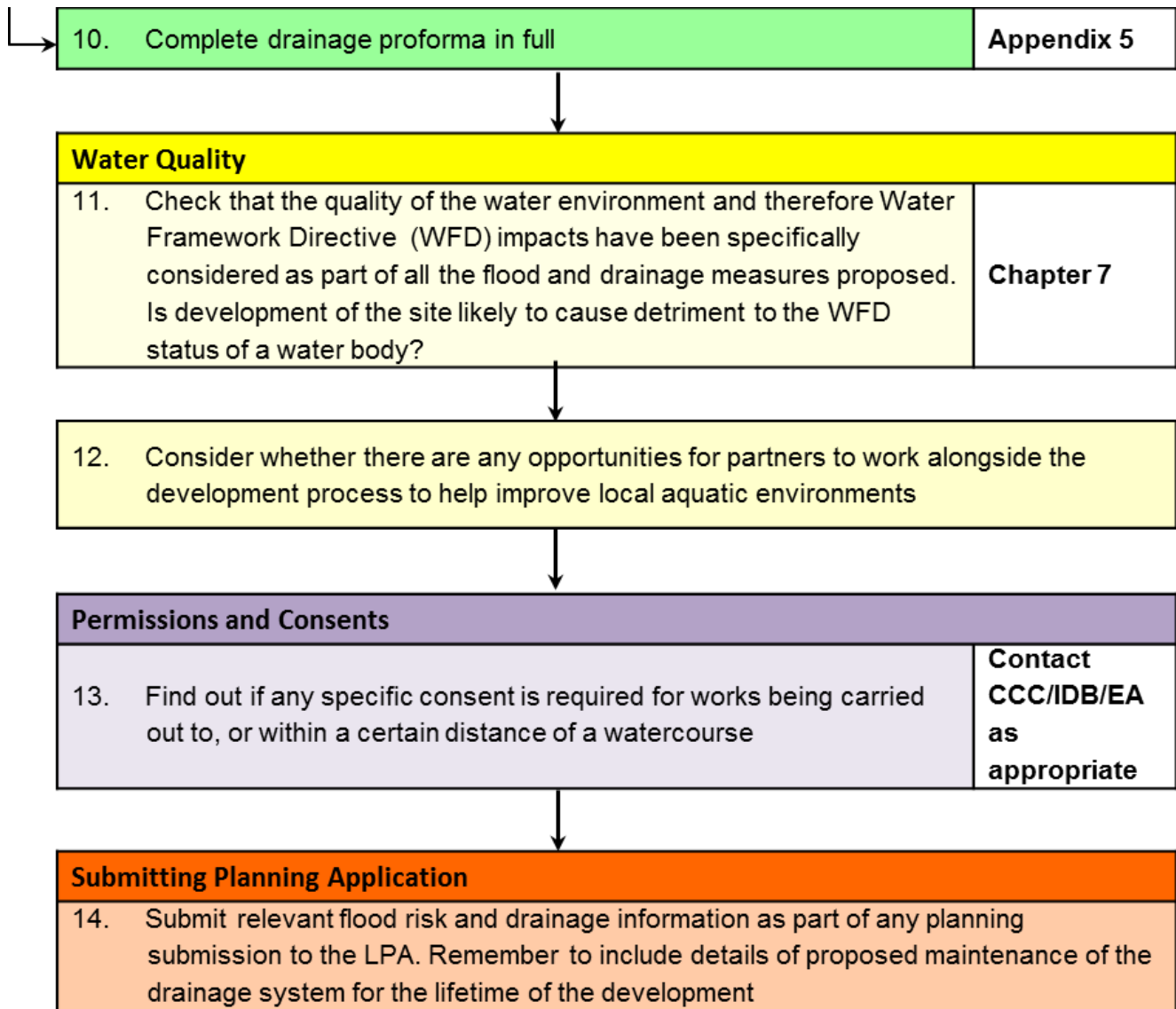
Preparation of Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy
 5. Is a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) & Drainage Strategy required? **Section 4.7**

6. Undertake the FRA and prepare your drainage strategy. Can you design a development that is safe and does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere? **Section 4.3.6 – 4.3.8 & Chapter 6**

7. Check which water management sub-catchment the site is in and its specific characteristics. Bear these in mind as site drainage must be designed so that any constraints can be mitigated against **Section 6.3**

8. Work up your drainage strategy in tandem with your site layout and highway designs. This will help avoid abortive work. Ensure the following have been addressed:
 a) Proposed drainage method (including justification for use of this method)
 b) Peak discharge rates (pre and post development)
 c) Peak discharge volumes (pre and post development)
 d) SuDS design principles
 e) Water quality, habitat and biodiversity
 f) Health & Safety, access and amenity **Chapter 6 & Appendix 5**

9. Ensure that the required management and maintenance of all site features has been set out clearly as part of the drainage strategy. Get initial agreements in place to cover management funding for the lifetime of the development **Section 6.9**



Both the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer and Assistant Engineer have and will continue to represent both the Middle Level Commissioners' and associated Boards'/Commissioners' interests by attending meetings and considering the various draft documents.

General Advice

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

- a) Robert Ayres – An application was received for byelaw consent to pipe and fill a private watercourse close to Poplar Farm, Uggmere Court Road, Ramsey Heights. This work will allow future crane access to Upwood Common Pump Station and was recommended for approval.

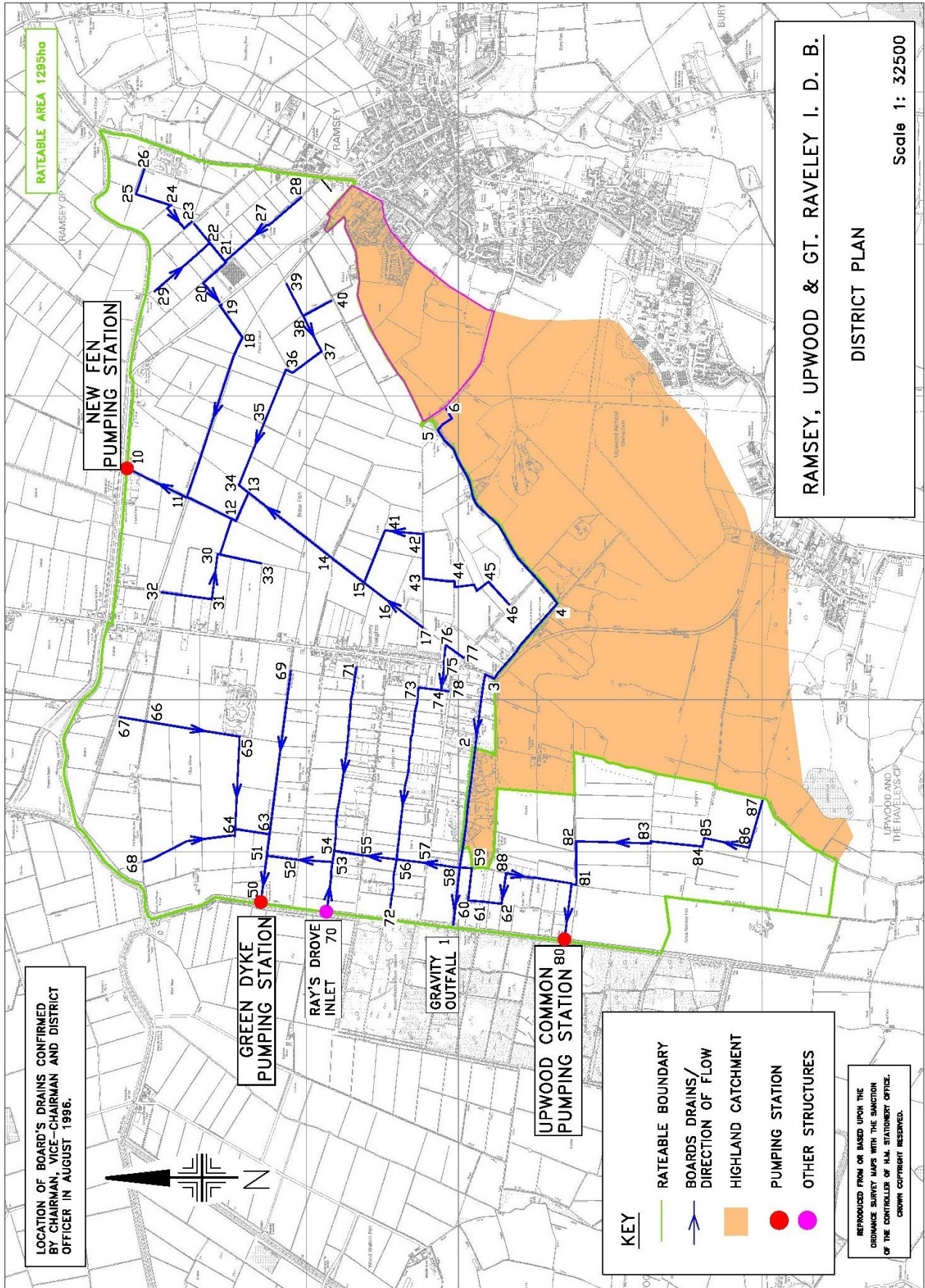
- b) The illegal fencing of pasture land off Harpers Drove against the Board's district drain between Points 57 and 58, and also against a small length of the Catchwater Drain between Points 1 and 2 has been investigated. The landowner has subsequently been asked to remove the fence.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Consulting Engineer

11 May 2016

RUGtR(328)\Reports\May 16



With regards to Upwood Common slacker, the Clerk reported that the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer had advised that the structure had been dammed off and the penstock could be repaired at an approximate cost of £1,500-£2,000 which was as much as a new one.

The Clerk referred to the Engineer's advice regarding the inlet and tabled the quotation received using either a 150mm or 200mm pipe.

The District Officer reported on the issues with Green Dyke slacker which he proposed should be discontinued. Mr Pickard questioned the use of this slacker, by irrigators. Mr Blackhurst confirmed he would be abstracting.

Mr Clarke queried why no planning application had been received from the travellers in Middle/Harpers Drove. Mr Bucknell advised that the camp was illegal and that Huntingdonshire District Council would be taking action. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the travellers who were not causing any issues for the Board.

Mr Clarke queried why no planning applications had been referred to the Middle Level Commissioners. The Board felt that there were discharges to the District drain between points 54 and 71 from septic tanks.

Mr Lambert referred to bushes and trees on the bank and Mr Pickard referred also to the leak through the bank of Great Raveley Drain near to Green Dyke pumping station.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) To proceed with the installation of a new inlet with a 200mm pipe at Upwood Common pumping station.
- iii) That the Clerk write to the Environment Agency regarding discharges from septic tanks at Middle/Harpers Drove.
- iv) That the Clerk refer the bushes on the bank and the leak through Great Raveley Drain close to Green Dyke pumping station to the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Engineer.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application (MLC ref 307) by D C Roberts & Son.

B.955 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.956 District Officer's Report

The District Officer advised that the time clock in Green Dyke pumping station had been repaired. He reported that the drainworks for 2016/2017 would include New Fen, the drain at the

rear of Tesco and the Catchwater and that the sides for spoil deposit at the Catchwater needed to be decided.

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 Chairman and District Officer be authorised to inspect the trees at the rear of Tesco's this year and be authorised to add works to the drainworks programme if felt necessary.
- iii) That the Chairman be authorised to take action to remove blanket weed from Upwood Common drain if he felt it desirable.

B.957 Environmental Officer's Press Release and BAP Report

The Clerk referred to the Environmental Officer's Press Release dated April 2016, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.958 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 Defra.

RESOLVED

That no proposals, save the proposals at Green Dyke pumping station, be formulated at the present time.

B.959 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>
Mr R Ayres	The piping & filling of an 8 metre length of the Watercourse – close to Poplar Farm off Heights Drove Road, Ramsey Heights	23 rd March 2016

RESOLVED

That the action taken be approved.

B.960 Environment Agency – Precept

- a) The Clerk reported that the precept for 2016/2017 would remain unchanged at £4,716.
- b) Local Choices Update

Further to minute B.873, the Clerk referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated April 2016 and reported that because of the appeals against the precept lodged some two years ago by the Board (and other Boards) the Agency had introduced a Local Choices Precept Programme which involved a far greater input from IDBs and IDBs being much more able to influence the Agency on the works on which the precept would be spent.

The Clerk updated the Board on the recent Environment Agency/IDB Strategic Meeting.

B.961 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- (a) The Clerk reported that the sum of £6,192.49 (£16,958.26 less £10,765.77 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2014/2015 together with the sum of £4,796.38 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2015/2016.
- (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.962 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 Thursday the 17th November 2016.

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 8th March 2016.

B.963 Health and Safety Audits

The Clerk drew attention to the continuing need to ensure that the Board complied with Health and Safety Requirements and reminded Members of the arrangements with Croner.

B.964 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.935, the Clerk reported that issues reported in January still remained under discussion. The County Council were, however, considering a project to extend the number of rain gauges within Cambridgeshire.

B.965 Banking Arrangements Changes to the bank mandate

The Clerk reported that due to his impending retirement relevant changes to bank mandates to name his successor would be required in due course.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Board's bank mandates.

B.966 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

The Clerk referred to the recently issued Practitioners' guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory Annual Accounts and Governance Statements which will apply to Annual Returns commencing on or after 1st April 2016.

B.967 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.968 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered their current Risk Management system.

The Clerk reported that the Board had in place a Risk Management Policy which was last reviewed in 2015.

He reported that the Board had in place operational, financial and governance policies and considered all of their key risks and how to mitigate against them at each scheduled meeting, at which operational and environmental risks were discussed, based upon engineer's reports, officer reports, budgets and costings covering the short/medium and longer term issues. Budgets were prepared and approved by the Board.

The Clerk reported that insurances were in place that confirmed the cover was appropriate to the business. Budgets/year-end forecasts were reviewed at intervals by the Board. This was deemed adequate for the size of the business and the District system was monitored on a regular basis to identify new/emerging areas of risk.

The Board considered this current policy/strategy to be appropriate in between carrying out more substantial, periodic formalised reviews of risk assessment/management and met the requirements that they were assessed by.

The Board queried in view of the Consulting Engineers' estimate for Green Dyke pumping station whether they were over insured.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk confirm the position regarding the insured value of Green Dyke pumping station with the Consulting Engineers.

- b) The Board reviewed and approved the insured value of their buildings.

B.969 Exercise of Public Rights

The Clerk referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

B.970 Annual Governance Statement – 2015/2016

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2016.

B.971 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £25,984.30 which had been made during the financial year 2015/2016.

The Clerk explained the payment made to Taylor Vinters.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to him and to D C Roberts and Sons.

B.972 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2015/2016

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2016 as required in the Audit Regulations.

The Board queried where Mrs Johns' debt was and whether it was included in debtors. The Clerk thought it was but would confirm to the Chairman.

RESOLVED

- i) That, subject to the query regarding Mrs Johns' debt, the Accounts be approved and the Clerk to advise the Chairman of the position regarding Mrs Johns' debt.
- ii) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2016.

B.973 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2016/2017

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 51.34% and 48.66%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £38,650 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 £19,844 and £18,806 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 12.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £18,806 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.974 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.975 Dates of next Meetings

RESOLVED

That the next Meetings of the Board be held as follows in 2017, viz:-

- i) Thursday the 5th January 2017
- ii) Thursday the 18th May 2017.

B.976 Trees on Catchwater Drain banks

The Board had viewed the trees on the Catchwater Drain at the inspection held earlier which were beginning to encroach on the Catchwater. The Chairman felt that Mr Sterling would be prepared to take action.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman discuss with Mr Sterling the removal of the trees.