

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Waldersey Internal Drainage Board
held at the Sportsman Public House, Elm on Wednesday the 17th June 2015

PRESENT

G W Lankfer Esq (Chairman)	N J Harrison Esq
S J Flint Esq (Vice Chairman)	M J Mottram Esq
J E Arnold Esq	J P Smith Esq
J T Clarke Esq	W Sutton Esq
B R Darlow Esq	P M Tegerdine Esq
B Wales Esq	

The Clerk to the Board and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance. Mr Dan Matthews (Farmcare Ltd) also attended.

B.960 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.961 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 18th June 2014 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.962 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That G W Lankfer Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.963 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That S J Flint Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.964 Election of Members of the Board

The Clerk 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:-

ARNOLD John Edward
CLARKE James Templeman
DARLOW Bernard Robert
FLINT Samuel
HARRISON Nigel
TEGERDINE Peter

LANKFER Gerald William
LANKFER Peter
MOTTRAM Michael
PAYBODY Thomas
SMITH James
WALES Ben

B.965 Board Membership

- a) Further to minute B.933, the Clerk reported that Mr Ben Wales had accepted the invitation to join the Board.
- b) The Clerk reported that Mr Tom Paybody had resigned from the Board as he was no longer employed by Farmcare Ltd and that Mr Dan Matthews had been appointed as his replacement.

RESOLVED

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

The Chairman welcomed Messrs Wales and Matthews.

B.966 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership – Fenland District Council

The Clerk reported that Fenland District Council had appointed Councillor W Sutton to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Sutton.

B.967 Flood and Coastal Defence Funding Review

Further to minute B.898, 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.968 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.936, 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.969 Flail mowing in the District

Further to minute B.937, the Chairman expressed satisfaction with the standard of flail mowing that had been undertaken in the District last year.

RESOLVED

That Hundred of Wisbech IDB be requested to continue undertaking flail mowing operations in the Waldersey District.

(NB) – Messrs Harrison, Sutton, Tegerdine and Wales declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.970 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

Waldersey 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.

Northern Area

A recent joint inspection of the Northern Area has been undertaken with the Chairman and District Officer. The inspection indicated that the majority of district drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard.



Elder bushes, reach 5-15

The district inspection highlighted that reach 5-15 contains sporadic stands of emergent aquatic weed and reed growth along its length. It is recommended that the affected reach is treated with an application of Roundup, followed by light machine cleansing to remove the reed stands and weed mass after harvest. In order to carry out the recommended machine cleansing works a number of elder bushes will need to be removed from the side slopes, allowing the contractors machine access to the

watercourse. A sum has been included within the estimate for the removal of the elder bushes and treatment of the stumps to prevent further regrowth.

Stands of common reed, typha (bulrush) and emergent aquatic vegetation are also evident in the Coldham, Overstone drain, reaches 34-35-36 and 8-26-27. It is recommended that the affected drains are treated with an application of Roundup to control the emergent aquatic growth during the summer months, when the full canopy extension stage has been reached

Following the Board's approval at its annual meeting in 2013, programmed bi-annual machine cleansing will be undertaken this year along the Coldham, Overstone drain, reach 40-39-38-41-42, and Nettle Bank spur drain, reach 15-16-17-18. Please refer to the following site plan for locations.

A further provisional sum has been included in the estimate to allow for any emergency machine cleansing, culvert clearance or bank reinstatement works that may be required in the district later in the year.

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



**SOUTH BRINK
PUMPING STATION**

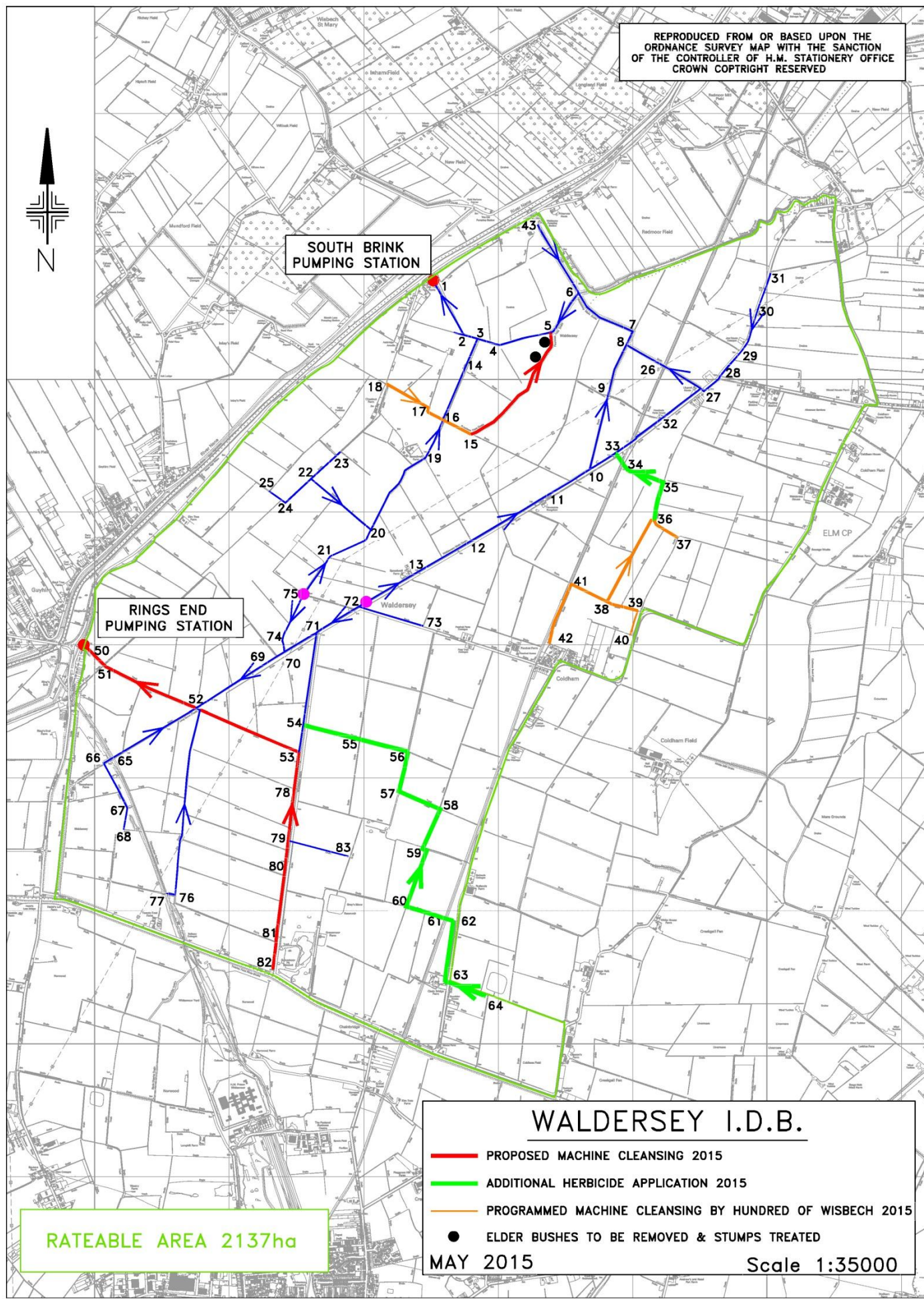
**RINGS END
PUMPING STATION**

RATEABLE AREA 2137ha

WALDERSEY I.D.B.

- PROPOSED MACHINE CLEANSING 2015
- ADDITIONAL HERBICIDE APPLICATION 2015
- PROGRAMMED MACHINE CLEANSING BY HUNDRED OF WISBECH 2015
- ELDER BUSHES TO BE REMOVED & STUMPS TREATED

MAY 2015 **Scale 1:35000**



Southern Area

A recent joint inspection has been undertaken with the Southern Area District Officer. The inspection revealed the District Drains in the southern area, are generally in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. However, the inspection highlighted that sporadic stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation are evident throughout the Rifle Butt drains, reaches 54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64. It is recommended that the affected drains are treated with an application of Roundup to control the emergent aquatic growth later in the year.



Rifle Butts, reach 59-60

Dense stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation were also identified in the Graysmoor Drove Drain, reaches 53-78-79-80-81-82 and Rings End Pump drain, reach 50-51-52-53. It is recommended that these reaches are treated with an application of Roundup herbicide and lightly machine cleansed following harvest this year.

A sum to allow for flail mowing of district drains has also been included within the estimate.

The estimated costs of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain Maintenance works are as follows. Please refer to the following plan for locations.

Northern Area

1.	Machine cleanse reach 5-15	1023 m	@	1.00	1023.00
2.	Removal of Elder bushes & treatment of stumps	Item	Sum		600.00
3.	Machine cleanse Nettle Bank reach 15-16-17-18	750 m	@	0.50	375.00
4.	Machine cleanse Coldham Overstone drains				
	(i) Reach 37-36-38	950 m	@	0.50	475.00
	(ii) Reach 40-39-38-41-42	1230 m	@	0.50	615.00
5.	<u>Provisional sum</u> Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing, culvert clearance and bank reinstatement works	Item	Sum		750.00
5.	Flailmowing of drains in Northern Area	Item	Sum		1750.00
6.	Allow sum for Roundup herbicide application	Item	Sum		250.00

Southern Area

7.	Machine cleanse drain Graysmoor Drove drain reach 53-78-79-80-81-82	1700 m	@	1.10	1870.00
8.	Machine cleanse Rings End Pump drain reach 50-51-52-53	1800 m	@	1.20	2160.00
9.	<u>Provisional sum</u> Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing culvert clearance or debris removal works	Item	Sum		750.00
10.	Allow sum for Roundup application to control emergent weed and reed	Item	Sum		250.00
11.	Flail mowing of Southern Area District Drains	Item	Sum		2000.00
12.	Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance	Item	Sum		1300.00

TOTAL	£	14,168.00
--------------	----------	------------------

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

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.

South Brink

The insulation resistance of the electronic soft starts and the no 2 motor windings remains quite low, this is not of immediate concern and it will continue to be monitored.

Weedscreen Cleaners

During last autumn the programme in PLC that controls the South Brink weedscreen cleaner functions became corrupted and required reprogramming by the control equipment's original manufacturer.

Taking advantage of the manufacturer's site visit the PLC programme in the Rings End machine was adjusted to prevent the trolley overruns that had intermittently been occurring.

Pumping Hours

South Brink Pumping Station	Total hours run May 11-May 12	Total hours run May 12-May 13	Total hours run May 13-May 14	Total hours run May 14-May 15
No 1	6	315	181	370
No 2	2	195	100	193
No 3	65	701	340	447

Rings End Pumping Station	Total hours run April 11-May12	Total hours run May 12-May13	Total hours run May 13-May 14	Total hours run May 14-May 15
No 1	157	928	421	738
No 2	18	82	68	70

EEL Regulations – South Brink Pumping Station

To comply with the requirements of the Regulations an Eel Passability Form for the South Brink Pumping Station, which was classified as a high risk site, was completed and forwarded to the Environment Agency's consultants Capita and their draft report is awaited. Based on reports already received for other various IDB pumping stations it is likely that the report will suggest that the three pumps at this station should be replaced with fish and eel friendly ones, at substantial cost, and that the target for this should be for works to be carried out by 2021.

Following the issue of initial draft reports for various other IDB pumping stations extreme concern was expressed locally and nationally. This has resulted in a meeting being held between ADA and

the EA. A draft internal holding position has been drawn up by the EA an extract of which is detailed as follows:

National approach

The Environment Agency is still considering the challenges presented by the need to implement measures to protect eels at pumping stations across the country. We will provide an update as soon as we are able to.

The Environment Agency position at this stage is as follows:

“The Environment Agency is required by law to take action to halt and reverse the decline in the European eel stock. We are working with Internal Drainage Boards to assess what is required at priority sites in order to take the most cost-effective action to protect this endangered species. While the costs of the work will vary from place to place, many of the measures that site owners can make are simple to implement and are relatively low. Where the agreed projects will involve higher costs, sites will be given a longer period to complete the work.”

It is encouraging that the EA is reviewing the situation and is working with ADA and IDBs to find the best way forward to progress matters. It remains the case however that none of the big questions raised by the IDBs have yet been addressed, namely;

- What is the evidence base supporting the proposals linked with meeting the requirements of the EU Directive and regulations?
- What, if any financial support is being offered to assist with delivery of works required to meet the regulations?
- How flexible is the timeframe?
- Why are untested solutions being proposed?
- Why is eel fishing and commercial selling of eels still being allowed?
- Are any works really now required, given the huge increase in eel numbers in the last two years?

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 5 applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
94	F/YR14/0319/F	Mr D Crockford	Agricultural	March Road, Rings End
95	F/YR14/0423/O	Mr & Mrs A Cole	Residence	March Road, Coldham
96	F/YR14/0435/F	Mr M Pilling	Equestrian	Bramley Court, Coldham
97	F/YR14/0550/F	Cambian Group Ltd	Care home	March Road, Friday Bridge
98	F/YR14/0801/F	Mr P Lankfer	Wind turbines	Nettle Bank, Elm

It is proposed that all developments 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.

Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling involving demolition of existing garage at land north of The Overstone, March Road, Coldham - Mr & Mrs P Bray (MLC Ref Nos 051, 062 & 092)

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

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.

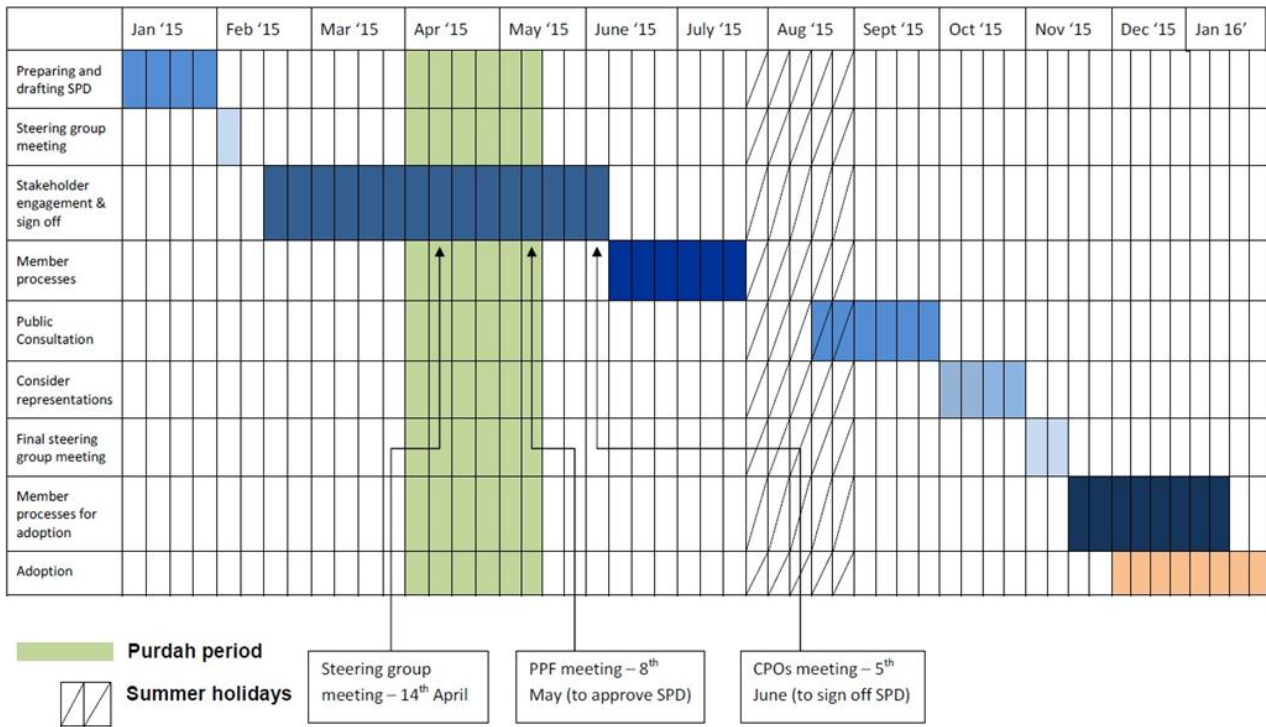
Cambridgeshire County Council volunteered to organise the production of this document via a steering group that involved all the LPAs within the County together with other relevant stakeholders including the Middle Level Commissioners.

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.

General Advice

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

- (a) Farm Care Trading Ltd – An application to install a 125 metre long discharge pipe including inspection chambers, at Graysmoor Pit, Waldersey was recommended for approval.


 Consulting Engineer

1 June 2015

Waldersey(332)\Reports\June 2015

In response to Mr Darlow, Mr Lakey advised on how tree stumps were dealt with.

In response to Mr Sutton, Mr Lakey confirmed that the red spots on the District plan were division dams.

Mr Mottram queried if dams could be removed, if necessary, in an emergency. Mr Clarke confirmed that they could and the area drained to one pump, although it would not completely drain the area. Mr Clarke confirmed that there were in fact 2 dams at point 71.

With regard to the exemption from Eel Regulations, the Clerk referred to the Consulting Engineer's e-mail dated the 16th December 2014 and reported the current position. He drew attention to the lack of action by ADA and to the Working Group now established which was to be chaired by David Thomas, the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Engineer. The Board noted the position and that they would receive further reports as the matter developed.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the recommendations contained in the Report be adopted.

B.971 Pumping Station Insurance Valuation

The Clerk reported that the pumping stations were currently valued, for insurance purposes, at £600,000 with a premium of £398, 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 £2,500,000.

The Clerk advised that to insure at £2,500,000 would involve an additional premium of approximately £1,292.

RESOLVED

That the insurance valuation be increased to £2,500,000 which the Members felt provided adequate cover for those items at high/medium risk.

B.972 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle.

B.973 District Officer's Report

The Board considered the Report of Mr Clarke on works undertaken and contemplated at the southern end of the District.

Mr Clarke reported that all work had been completed last year and referred to the Consulting Engineer's report. He reported the failure of the weedscreen cleaner at South Brink pumping station which appeared now to be sorted and which he would continue to monitor. He referred to a letter from National Grid referring to the lack of cover over the gas main and advised that they were marking the pipe and were considering their options. He wondered how compensation would be dealt with.

The Clerk felt that whether the Board or the occupier was involved really depended on the precise proposals of National Grid and whether it would be easier for Mr J P Smith to deal with the matter as it also affected his own land.

The Board considered the Report of Mr B Wales on works undertaken and contemplated at the northern end of the District.

Mr Wales reported that he felt that the outfall pipes at South Brink pumping station need painting which the Chairman agreed to attend to.

The Clerk reported that several members of Hundred of Wisbech IDB had expressed an interest in being trained to operate the weedscreen cleaner. Mr Wales felt that this would be a good idea.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Reports and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officers be thanked for their services over the preceding year.
- ii) That the Clerk write to National Grid concerning the gas main works.
- iii) That the Hundred of Wisbech members be permitted to be trained up to operate the weedscreen cleaner.

B.974 Proposed works to South Barrier Bank – Nene Washes

Further to minute B.941, the Clerk referred to the latest Environment Agency newsletter dated April 2015.

B.975 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.

RESOLVED

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

B.976 District Officers' Fees

- i) Further to minute B.943(i), the Board gave consideration to the District Officers' fees for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED

That the payment made to the District Officers be increased by 2.5% for 2015/2016, as detailed in the Supplementary Schedule, and that this be reviewed annually at the meeting.

- ii) Agreement relating to pumping station duties

Further to minute B.943(iii), Members considered the proposed agreement relating to pumping station duties.

RESOLVED

That the agreement be accepted and approved.

(NB) – Messrs Clarke and Wales declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

B.977 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.978 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>
Farmcare Trading Ltd	The excavation of a narrow cut trench to install a 600mm diameter twin-wall plastic drainage bypass discharge pipe approx. 125m in length, outfalling to the Watercourse, including the installation of 3 no inspection chambers positioned at intervals along the piped length – Waldersey Main Drain at Graysmoor Pits, Waldersey	19th December 2014

RESOLVED

That the action taken be approved.

(NB) – Mr Matthews declared an interest (as an employee of Farmcare Trading Ltd) when this item was discussed.

B.979 Environment Agency – Precepts

The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2015/2016 in the sum of £2,633 (the precept for 2014/2015 being £2,633).

B.980 Agricultural Rentals

The Board considered whether any change was appropriate in the level of rental being obtained for the Board's land, viz:-

4 acres of arable land at Green Drove (OS 796) – Let to Mr J P Smith
Present rent - £40 per acre plus drainage rate.

5.794 acres of land at Crooked Bank – Let to Mr G W Lankfer
Present rent - £40 per acre plus drainage rate.

RESOLVED

That no change in the level of rental be made.

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

B.981 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) Meeting of the Welland and Nene Branch

On the Meeting of the Welland and Nene branch of the Association held in Thorney on Tuesday the 18th November 2014.

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 and that the situation be kept under review.

B.982 Health and Safety Audits

The Clerk reminded the Board of their need to ensure that working practices were safe, particularly around the pumping stations and reminded the Board of the arrangements with Croner.

B.983 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.984 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £80,772.90 which had been made during the financial year 2014/2015.

In response to Mr Sutton, the Clerk confirmed the legal changes on advertising elections which would be likely to take effect from the next election.

(NB) - Mr Clarke declared an interest in the payments made to J T Clarke (March) Ltd.

(NB) – Mr Wales declared an interest in the payment made to B J & C Wales.

(NB) – Messrs Harrison, Sutton and Tegerdine declared an interest (as Members of the Hundred of Wisbech IDB) in the payments made to Hundred of Wisbech IDB.

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

B.985 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.986 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.987 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.988 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.989 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 85.25% and 14.75%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved, subject to the amount allowed for insurances being increased by £1,300.
- ii) That a total sum of £55,907 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 £47,661 and £8,246 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 17.00p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £8,246 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.990 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.991 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Wednesday the 15th June 2016.