

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board
held at the Lamb and Flag Public House, Welney on Monday 19th June 2017

PRESENT

K Goodger Esq (Chairman)	G W Gowler Esq
P Clabon Esq (Vice Chairman)	J E Hartley Esq
H G Bliss Esq	S Hartley Esq
R Gott Esq	A Quail Esq
D Scott Esq	

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Carl Nunn (District Officer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs V M Spikings, R D Gladwin Esq, C F Hartley Esq, R Means Esq and D J Pope Esq.

B.1675 Inspection of District

With reference to minute B.1657, the Inspection of the District embraced (inter alia):-

1. Holes Drove, Old Croft River Drain

Members viewed a section of the Old Croft River in front of two houses on the opposite bank from Mr Morgan's land at Holes Drove.

The Chairman advised that due to the properties, access for an excavator to carry out maintenance works was impossible, and, as there was only a small distance between the properties and the watercourse, there were additional problems concerning bank stability.

He further advised that he and the Vice Chairman proposed to sheet pile the section along the frontage of the properties and carry out maintenance works to the channel at the same time.

The District Officer advised that the Board already had 13 steel piles of 3 metre lengths in stock.

The Chairman added that the Board's contractor had confirmed that he would be able to complete these works from the opposite bank (Mr Morgan's side) however, access was an issue due to the trees being close to the watercourse.

The Chairman advised that in order to create the required working space within the byelaw width to carry out the works, it would be necessary for Mr Morgan to cut down a row of trees to ground level. He informed Members that he would contact the Chairman of the Manea & Welney District Drainage Commissioners to make him aware of the Board's proposals and to seek the Commissioners' approval to progress with these required works as it would be necessary for the Commissioners to serve notice to Mr Morgan. He advised that he

would also remind the Chairman of the Commissioners of the joint maintenance agreement relating to any works carried out on the Old Croft River.

RESOLVED

i) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman calculate the cost of the works and contact the Chairman of the Manea & Welney District Drainage Commissioners to obtain their approval to progress the necessary works.

ii) That, should approval be received from Manea & Welney District Drainage Commissioners, a letter be sent to all Board members to seek their authorisation for the works to be carried out.

2) Nordelph Pumping Station

Members inspected the water levels at Nordelph Pumping Station.

The Chairman reported that further to the Board's meeting last month he had received a further email from Mr Partridge complaining that the water levels were once again too high.

He reminded Members that in April 2016, following a complaint from Mr Partridge, the water levels had been lowered to Winter levels, however as the Summer level was usually 8 inches higher than that inspected the levels would not be lowered in 2017 and the Board would keep levels as they were.

The District Officer stated that, in view of the hot weather experienced recently the water levels would evaporate and as a consequence would drop by a few centimetres anyhow, and added that the water levels had dropped over the last few weeks.

3) Cock Fen Pumping Station

Members visited the pumping station and discussed the installation of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment, as resolved at the last meeting.

The Chairman reported that the automatic weedscreen cleaner would be similar to that at Bedlam Bridge Pumping Station and that a new weedscreen would also be required. He added that the area from the fencing to the proposed cleaner would be concreted and cameras would be fitted which would allow remote access.

4) Redundant Structure

Members inspected the tunnel under the road at the old Bedlam pump house.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and District Officer measured the tunnel and confirmed the depth as being approximately 4 feet on the Sixteen Foot River side and the width as being 5 feet.

5) Bedlam Bridge PS

Members inspected the original 1948 pump that was being transferred, at no cost to the Board, to Witham 3rd Board.

Whilst on site, Mr & Mrs Matthews, the residents of Blackbird Cottage, adjacent to the pumping station, made several complaints to Members regarding various matters including the access roadway to the pumping station. Following discussions between Mr & Mrs Matthews and the Chairman and Vice Chairman, it was agreed that Mr & Mrs Matthews should formally write to the Board advising of their concerns so that these could be recorded and discussed by the Board at their next meeting.