

## **CURF AND WIMBLINGTON COMBINED INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

At a Meeting of the Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board  
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### **PRESENT**

M E Heading Esq (Chairman)	Mrs A J Langley
R Gowler Esq (Vice Chairman)	Donald S Morris Esq
R J Angood Esq	Duncan S Morris Esq
Mrs M Davis	L A Nicholas Esq
C Gowler Esq	D R Stokes Esq

Miss Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from S Edgley Esq, C E Martin Esq, R E Mason Esq and D G Nicholas Esq.

### **B.316 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **B.317 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

### **B.318 Clerk to the Board**

- a) Further to minute B.284, Miss Ablett reported that Mr David Thomas had been appointed as Clerk to the Board and that Miss Lorna McShane had been appointed Solicitor/Assistant Clerk.

Miss Ablett reported that the Chairman had authorised a donation of £125 towards the gift to mark Iain Smith's retirement and that Mr Smith had asked that his thanks be passed on to the Board for their generous contribution towards his retirement gift and would like it recorded that it had been a pleasure for him to serve the Board and that he wished it all the best for the future.

- b) Changes to bank mandate

Further to minute B.302, Miss Ablett reported that, as most of the invoices raised came through the engineering department, the Internal Auditor had advised that David

Thomas should not be named on the bank account and that the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Middle Level Commissioners should be the officers authorised to make payments of authorised accounts and that in pursuance of minute B.302, the Chairman had authorised the appropriate changes to the mandate.

RESOLVED

- i) That the action taken be approved.
- ii) That the donation to mark the retirement of the Clerk to the Board, authorised by the Chairman, be approved.

B.319 Election of Board Members

Miss Ablett reported that the term of Office of the elected Members of the Board would expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and submitted the proposed Register of Electors applicable to the 2017 election.

RESOLVED

That the Register be approved.

B.320 Land Drainage Act 1991  
Board Membership - Fenland District Council

Miss Ablett reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillor Mrs M Davis to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.321 Inspection of District

Consideration was given to whether the Board should undertake an inspection of the District in 2018.

RESOLVED

That an inspection of the District was not required in 2018.

B.322 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.288, Miss Ablett reported that there had been no further developments, apart from Mr Paul Sharman being appointed as the IDB representative following the retirement of Mr Iain Smith, but advised that, due to the Environment Agency no longer being able to support it, the River Basin Liaison Panel had since been disbanded. She also reported that the Clerk was satisfied that there were other partnerships in place and would continue to update Members when required.

### B.323 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.289, Miss Ablett reported that ADA had met with Defra officials, including Sarah Hendry, on the 11<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the Water Transfer Licences and it appeared that the Minister was keen to avoid over regulation. ADA had proposed certain points to Defra, including that ADA would hold one licence for the industry or that the opportunity should first be given for the information which the Environment Agency allege that they do not have to be provided other by regulation but perhaps through a form similar to the present IDB1. Defra officials had, it was understood, agreed to consider these proposals.

Miss Ablett gave a brief update on the current position in relation to proposed licensing changes and made it clear that unnecessary bureaucracy and unfair charging would be resisted.

### B.324 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

## Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B.

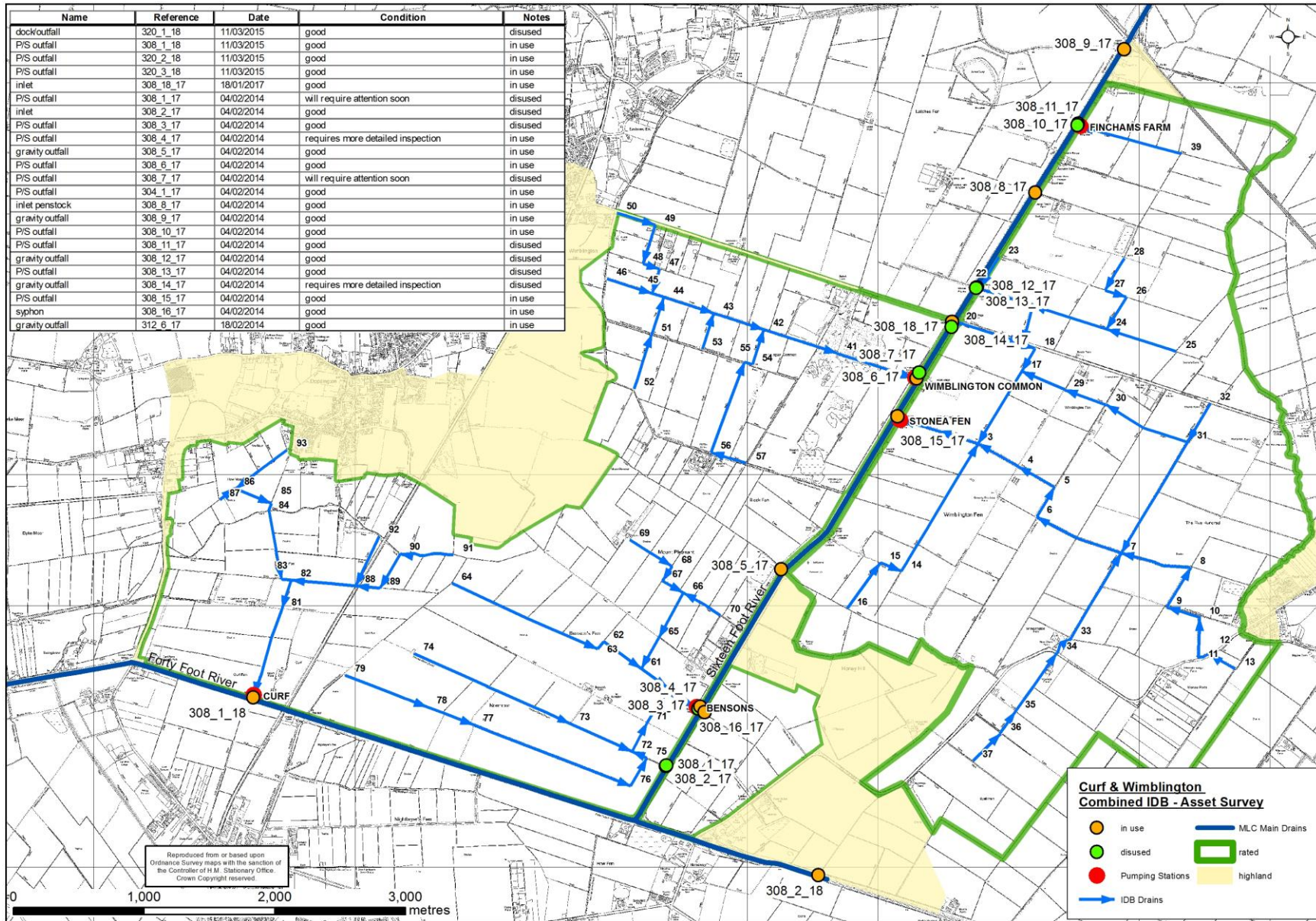
### Consulting Engineers Report – May 2017

#### Health & Safety

A neighbouring IDB has recently had an occurrence in which a dog ended up trapped between a weedscreen and a pump. This happened at an unmanned pumping station. The dog's owner entered the pump intake area to secure the rescue of the dog and it was fortuitous that an automated pump start did not occur. However, this is perhaps an opportune reminder that members of the general public and even the emergency services are not necessarily aware of the risks posed at such installations. It is recommended that all such sites have reasonable protection from entry and also have signage indicating the risks and who should be contacted in an emergency. It is therefore recommended that the Board reviews its sites and the Middle Level Commissioners' engineers will be happy to assist if required, for example by supplying a sample draft signage template or by giving specific advice on what can be done at a particular site.

#### Asset Survey

As an essential part of our work in seeking to reduce flood risk, the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) have surveyed all MLC and third party owned penetrations through MLC river banks and embankments and recorded and uploaded these to our GIS (Geographical Information System). The condition and likely continuing use or otherwise of these penetrations (generally pipes or culverts) has been assessed. Below is a table of those recorded as being owned by or the responsibility of the Board. Where an asset's condition is recorded as requiring attention, an increased flood risk is likely to exist and the Board is asked to consider carrying out suitable remedial works. Where an asset is redundant but currently in a reasonable condition it is recommended that the Board consider putting plans into its future programme to remove it or otherwise carry out works that will ensure that there can be no future risk of a leak through the bank. **As part of the Board's system is also embanked, the Board should consider a like assessment of its own embankments to assure itself of their integrity and ascertain the need for any work, whether by the Board or a third party, which may be similarly required.** Should the Board wish for a similar exercise to be carried out on their own district assets this can also be arranged. Such a survey would assist the Board with future budgeting in ensuring that smaller but strategically/locally important assets such as culverts, slackers and adjustable and fixed weirs are not overlooked.





## **Weed Control and Drain Maintenance**

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

A Roundup herbicide application was applied to the Board's drains included within last year's phased machine cleansing programme, and also to other District drains where it was required to control sporadic growths of emergent aquatic vegetation.

A recent inspection of the Board's District drains has revealed that the majority are in a generally satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection indicates that many of the District drains that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.

However, the inspection highlighted that the Normoor drain, reach 75-72-73-74 contained stands of sporadic reed and dense submerged aquatic vegetation. Board members will be aware that drains in the Normoor area of the Benson's catchment had, at the inception of the Board's annual phased machine cleansing programme, been omitted and have been cleansed as required. It is recommended that this affected reach be included in this year's machine cleansing programme in order to return it to a satisfactory condition.



**Normoor Drain, reach 73-74**



**Curf Pump Drain, reach 80-81**

It was also noted during the inspection, the main Curf Pump drain, reach 80-81-82, contained substantial accumulations of *Filamentous algae* (cott) and submerged aquatic vegetation. It is recommended that the affected reaches are also included in this year's annual machine cleansing programme.



Bank Subsidence, reach 42-54

The inspection highlighted evidence of bank subsidence in the Wimblington Common Pump catchment area, along the Eastern bank of reach 42-54. Board members will be aware that this area of the district has been prone to bank stability issues for a number of years. It is recommended that approximately 30m of timber

piling and toe board revetment be installed to prevent the channel bed along the worst affected length from being completely closed by the subsidence. A provisional sum has been included in the estimated costs for this item.

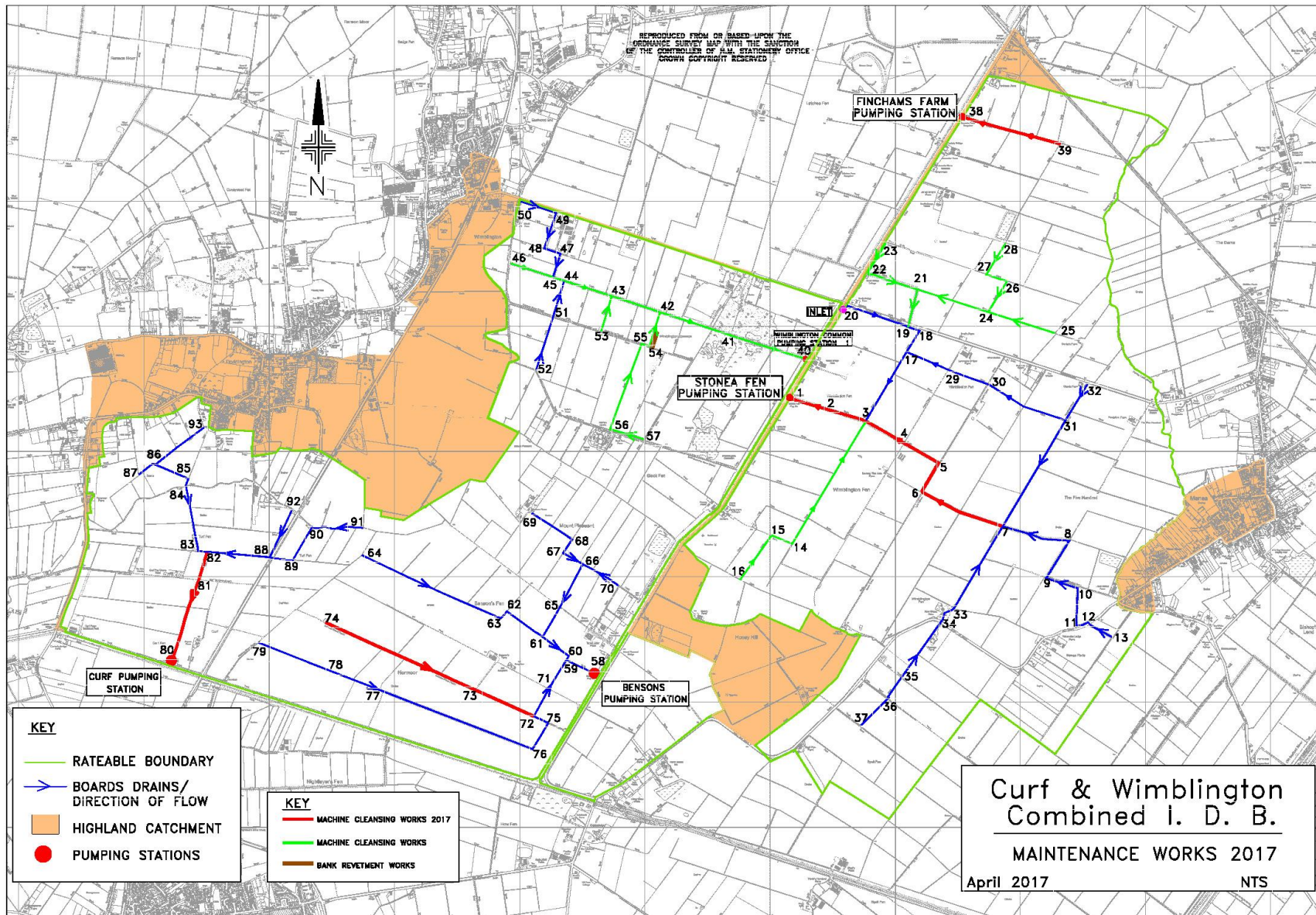
Following the Board's agreement at its last annual meeting, Finchams Farm Pump drain, reach 38-39 will be included in the phased programme of machine cleansing on an annual basis. Board members will be aware of the reactive emergency machine cleansing that has been required for several seasons. A sum to allow for the cleansing work to be undertaken has been included within the Board's estimated costs.

A sum has also been included within the estimate to allow for drains that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, and any others that require a Roundup application to control aquatic weed growth to be treated later in the growing season.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs G Ashman, have indicated that they are available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum for the completion of flail mowing of the Board's drains for the ensuing year has been included in the estimated costs.

A provisional sum has also been included within the Board's estimate to allow for any emergency cott clearance, culvert cleansing or bank slip reinstatement works that may be required later in the year.







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

1. Machine cleanse reaches within this year's Phased Cleansing Programme:

**Bensons Pumping Catchment**

• North Normoor Drain Reach 75-72-73-74	2000 m	@	1.20	2400.00
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**Curf Pumping Catchment**

• Reach 80-81-82	1000 m	@	2.00	2000.00
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**Stonea Fen Pumping Catchment**

• Stonea Fen Pump Drain Reach 1-2-3-4-5-6-7	2300 m	@	1.40	3220.00
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**Finchams Farm Catchment**

• Reach 38-39	800 m	@	1.00	800.00
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2. **Provisional Item**

Bank revetment and toe board  
and piling works  
Reach 42-54

Item	Sum	1500.00
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3. Allow sum for Roundup  
application to District Drains

Item	Sum	1250.00
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4. Flail mowing of District  
drains

Item	Sum	8000.00
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5. **Provisional Item**

Allow sum for emergency cott  
clearance, culvert clearance or  
bank slip repair works

Item	Sum	1500.00
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6. Fees for inspection, preparation  
and submission of report to the  
Board, arrangement and  
supervision of herbicide  
application and maintenance  
works

Item	Sum	2200.00
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**TOTAL**

**£ 22,870.00**

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

## **Pumping Stations**

Other than the matters previously reported or 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

### ***Bensons***

The submersible pump motor insulation resistance, previously reported as low, dropped to an unacceptable level. The unit was therefore taken out of service and the Chairman made aware of the situation. The pump requires removal for inspection/overhaul however, as was reported in the 2009 Asset Survey, the pumps are now over 40 years old and are obsolete and it is therefore likely that it will be more economical to replace the pumpset rather than repair it. It should be noted that due to the proximity of the overhead high voltage line arrangements will have to be made with UK Power Networks for a power shutdown. Also, the Environment Agency (EA) may well require the Board to consider a fish and eel friendly pump arrangement if the additional costs are not disproportionate as compared to a non-fish friendly option.

### ***Stonea Fen***

The corroded inlet penstock was replaced with a stainless steel unit during summer 2016.

## **Curf & Bensons Automatic Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment**

Commissioning of the new Bensons' weedscreen cleaner was completed during May 2016, following which the security fencing installation was completed at both stations.

### **Wimblington Common - Weedscreen Cleaner**

The overhaul of the cleaner's telescope ram/cylinder and valve block, (together with a change of oil, filter, and the arm pivot bearings replacement) was completed last summer.

## **Pumping Hours**

### ***Bensons***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Pump No 1 (current hours counter reading)</b>	<b>Pump No 2 (current hours counter reading)</b>	<b>Total Hours Run</b>
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	16 (7861)	205 (7444)	221
21/4/15 -14/4/16	417 (7861)	513 (7444)	930
5/4/14 – 21/4/15	299 (7586)	55 (6931)	354
5/4/13 – 14/4/14	80 (7287)	361 (6876)	441
27/3/12 – 5/4/13	59	763	822
28/4/11 – 27/3/12	4	34	38
23/4/10 – 28/4/11	9	218	227

**Curf**

Year	Pump No 1 (current hours counter reading)	Pump No 2 (current hours counter reading)	Total Hours Run
14/4/16 - 24/4/17	67 (6623)	115 (6532)	182
21/4/15 -14/4/16	201 (6556)	83 (6417)	284
5/4/14 – 21/4/15	240 (6355)	199 (6334)	439
5/4/13 – 14/4/14	129 (6115)	281 (6135)	410
14/3/12 – 5/4/13	378	339	717
28/4/11 – 14/3/12	2	4	6
23/4/10 – 28/4/11	193	2	195

**Finchams Farm**

Year	current hours counter reading since installation of replacement controls in 1986	Total Hours Run
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	10110	208
21/4/15 -14/4/16	9902	314
5/4/14 – 21/4/15	9588	322
14/3/13 – 5/4/14	9266	284
17/2/12 – 24/4/13	-	567
28/4/11 – 17/2/12	-	10
23/4/10 – 28/4/11	-	273

**Stonea Fen**

Year	Pump No 1 (current hours counter reading)	Pump No 2 (current hours counter reading)	Total Hours Run
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	52 (3960)	278 (8881)	
21/4/15 -14/4/16	426 (3908)	130 (8603)	556
14/4/14 – 21/4/15	488 (3482)	152 (8473)	640
24/4/13 – 14/4/14	523 (2994)	191 (8321)	714
20/2/12 – 24/4/13	632	645	1277
28/4/11 – 20/2/12	24	38	62
26/4/10 – 28/4/11	288	83	371

**Wimblington Common**

Year	current hours counter reading since installation of replacement controls in 1986	Total Hours Run
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	12890	173
21/4/15 -14/4/16	12717	751
14/4/14 – 21/4/15	11966	693
24/4/13 – 14/4/14	11273	299
8/2/12 – 24/4/13	-	550
21/4/11 – 8/2/12	-	26
26/4/10 – 21/4/11	-	200

At its last meeting, the Board requested that a record of the dates of the last pump overhauls be included in this year's report, they are as follows:

Curf Pumping Station	Pump No 2 overhauled 2005, Pump No1 overhauled 2006.
Finchams Farm	Overhauled 1980.
Stonea Fen	Pump No1 overhauled 2009, Pump No 2 overhauled in 2013.
Wimblington Common	Overhauled 2015.
Bensons	No 1 overhauled 1993, No 2 overhauled 1994.

### **Eel Regulations**

The latest guidance suggests that spending of FCRM money on schemes just to facilitate eel movements will not be required. However, plans for improvements, modifications or replacement of structures which have been identified as a barrier to movement should be seen as a trigger for considering such works. There is a further test to be included and that is one of proportionately, ie the additional cost of eel passage should not be disproportionate to the overall scheme cost.

The IDBs and ADA have been pushing for further research to better understand eel movement and explore all options in relation to providing methods which would allow the mature (silver) eels to escape closed systems and hence travel to their breeding sites in the most cost effective manner. ADA has asked if IDBs would join with the EA in funding this project and so far the response has been positive. The Board is therefore asked if it would wish to offer some financial support over one or two years. Other Boards have committed between £50 and £1000 for either one or two years.

### **Development within the Floodplain**

The floodplain, its definition, derivation and extents have been an issue not only for the Commissioners and associated Boards but other IDBs since its introduction. This has become of more concern since the elevated importance of the Sequential Test in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).



The matter of development within the floodplain has been discussed at several sites within our areas of interest, and the Clerk to the Commissioners/Boards has advised that the definition and extents of a “floodplain” are matters for the planning authority to resolve with the relevant authority who prepared the hazard map, be it the EA for its various flood maps, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), for its SFRA, and/or the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its SWMP. It is acknowledged that whilst there may be specific issues relating to future proposed aspects of development within our catchment we will not oppose it simply because it is within the floodplain. The Commissioners/Boards have policy statements, available on the Middle Level website, which set out the Standard of Protection (SoP) that they will seek to provide, floodplain or not.

In short, the Commissioners and associated Boards do not agree with the generic content of the NPPF and argue that “The Fens” is a special case and should be considered as such.

The main purpose of an IDB is to aim to manage flood risk up to an appropriate SoP. Above this SoP there will be a residual flood risk which must be accounted for.

### **Internal Consultation with the Board**

To ensure that our limited resources are maximised and to enable more timely responses to pre-/post-application consultation and applications for byelaw consent, and occasionally discharge consent, we have introduced a defined process of “internal consultation” between the Commissioners and the Board, usually, but not always, with the Chairman and/or District Officer to seek the Board’s comments and thus aid the decision-making process.

Members are reminded that if a response, ideally in writing by post or email, has not been received within fourteen days from the request being issued then it is considered that the Board does not wish to comment and is content for the Commissioners’ staff to process and make a recommendation on the respective consent application/discussion procedure based upon information to hand.

### **Changes to Planning Procedures Update**

The responses from these procedures have been positive and will continue for the foreseeable future, to be reviewed at a later date.

### **Pre- and Post-Application Consultation**

Despite an increase in the number of planning applications being processed and planning enquiries received it appears that the number of Pre- and Post- Application Consultation discussion requests has reduced over previous years. The reason for this is unknown but as detailed later in this report “developers” are failing to maximise the benefits of this procedure and

Boards are failing to encourage its use and thus are incurring unnecessary additional costs which could be paid by the developer.

#### Notes/Informatives on planning decision notices

Following a concern raised by one of the Boards administered by the Commissioners, a brief review of a random, yet representative, sample of planning application Decision Notices made by the Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) that have primarily been granted in the last two years has been undertaken.

Many of the relevant decisions within HDC's area made during 2016, and to a lesser degree during 2015, relate to the Prior Approval of agricultural building to dwellings or Prior Notification applications which, on the whole, do not include conditions or refer to notes/informatives possibly because of the nature of the application. In a similar manner most of the other decision notices found did not, with a few exceptions, include notes/informatives either.

As a result a letter was sent during December to all the planning authorities that the Commissioners deal with, both directly and on behalf of its administered Boards, requesting that the use of informatives could be (re-) introduced on future notices "in order to make applicants aware of other consents which may be required in addition to Planning Consent and prevent them being in breach of the Boards' Byelaws"

It is understood that the principle of using notes/informatives on Planning Decision Notices is based on the Court of Appeal which remarked following the case of Slough Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Oury [1995] "The general rule is that, in construing a planning permission, regard may only be had to the permission itself, including the reasons stated for it."

The decision and its reason(s) is the primary document, with the informatives no more than non-binding additional information which lack a statutory basis. Planning Conditions, on the other hand, may impose mandatory requirements for the carrying out of development and have statutory authority.

The purpose of a note in respect of a condition is to provide the applicant with further information and an informative is to provide relevant guidance to the applicant without having to impose relevant conditions. The Planning Circular 11/95: use of conditions in planning permission advises how these can be used to bring the applicants' attention to certain matters, such as, reminding an applicant to obtain further planning approvals and other consents but should not establish mandatory requirements with which an authorised development must comply.

However, it is further understood that there are a limited number of exceptions to this rule which could lead to a challenge to the permission which may result in a decision being “quashed” but this is outside of our interest on this occasion.

#### Local Land Charges Register (LLCR)

As previously advised requests are made to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), when relevant, to make an entry on the LLCR to highlight that the requirements of the relevant authority have not been met. This process is providing results, particularly within the Fenland District Council (FDC) area, but enquiries from other LPAs are low, however, these areas of interest are smaller than that of FDC and feature smaller urban areas.

Previously enquiries were only received from local Solicitors but more recently enquiries are also being sought from independent search providers who offer specialist conveyancing services, such as Index Property Information, who undertake local authority searches, drainage and water reports, environmental reports etc.

Whilst researching and processing such enquiries have cost and time implications it protects the parties involved and is believed to have been a significant contributing factor in moving forward a long-standing issue associated with the Cardea development at Stanground to the west of the Commissioners’ catchment.

#### Treated effluent discharges from Anglian Water Services (AWS) Water Recycling Centres (WRC) or from the Public Sewerage System

Developers are becoming increasingly aware of the Supreme Court’s decision that any connection to a public sewer under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 or agreement to construct a public sewer under Section 104 of that Act also requires our consent where our systems would be affected. Therefore, in addition to any permission from the LPA, the EA and AWS, the consent of the Board/Commissioners is also required for the acceptance of any increased flows or volumes to our system. Such consent will not be given unless we consider that the discharge can be properly dealt with within our system and the costs of accommodating that discharge are met.

#### **Planning Applications**

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 34 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<b>MLC Ref.</b>	<b>Council Ref.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Type of Development</b>	<b>Location</b>
410	F/YR16/0006/F	Miss N Wilkes	Residence (Extension, detached garage & shed/workshop)	Benwick Road, Doddington
411	F/YR16/0042/F	Mrs S Norton	Equestrian (Mobile home and side extension)	Primrose Hill, Doddington
412	F/YR16/0091/F	Mr P Baxter	Leisure (3 holiday lets)	Horseway Farm, Chatteris
413	F/YR16/0107/O	Mr K Jordan & M Judd	Residential (29 dwellings)	Fallow Corner Drove, Manea*
414	F/YR14/1017/F	Mr A Ripley	Residence	Westfield Road, Manea*
415	F/YR16/0172/F	Mr R Purser	Residence	Orchard Way, Manea
416	F/YR16/0228/F	Mr Gary Shorter	Residence (Extension)	Newgate Street, Doddington
417	F/YR16/0342/F	Postland Developments Ltd	Residence	Newgate Street, Doddington*
418	F/YR16/0372/F	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residential (57 dwellings)	Teachers Close, Manea*
419	F/YR16/0385/F	Mr R Morris	Storage building	Westfield Road, Manea*
420	F/YR16/0585/F	Mr Geoffrey Wilde	Residence (Garage)	Turf Fen Lane Doddington
421	F/YR16/0600/F	Mr & Mrs Norman	Residence (Garage/outbuilding)	Wimblington Rd, Manea
422	F/YR16/0655/O	Mr & Mrs Harmer	Residence	Newgate Street, Doddington
423	F/YR16/0684/F	Delfland Nurseries Ltd	Horticulture	Benwick Road, Doddington
424	F/YR16/0693/F	Ms S Norton	Equestrian (Mobile home and erection of side extension)	Primrose Hill, Doddington
425	F/YR16/0740/F	Mr S Redhead	Kennels (retrospective)	Manea Rd, Wimblington
426	F/YR16/0730/FDL	Whetstone Developments Ltd	Residential (62 dwellings)	Bevills Close/Eastmoor Lane, Doddington*
427	F/2004/14/CM/C2	Nicholas Farms	Irrigation Reservoir	Byall Fen Drove, Manea
428	F/2004/14/CM/C1	Nicholas Farms	Irrigation Reservoir	Byall Fen Drove, Manea
429	F/YR16/0939/F	Mr B Savage & Miss C Green	Residence	Westfield Road, Manea
430	F/YR16/0930/F	Mr C Webb	Residential (3 dwellings)	Newgate Street, Doddington
431	F/YR16/0916/F	Mr M Jones	Residential (2 dwellings)	Williams Way, Manea
432	F/YR16/1067/F	Mr J Mackenzie	Residence	Chestnut Close, Doddington
433	Enquiry	Client of Woods Hardwick	Residential	Teachers Close/Scholars Close, Manea
434	F/YR16/1162/RM	Mr B Savage & Mrs C Green	Residence	Westfield Road, Manea
435	F/YR16/1167/F	Skylark Garden Centre	Retail	Manea Rd, Wimblington*
436	F/YR17/0048/F	Mr M Wilson	Residence	Turf Fen Lane, Doddington
437	F/YR16/1099/F	Mr & Mrs Newell	Residence (Car port)	Glebe Close, Manea
438	F/YR17/0111/O	Mr M Grainger	Residential (2 dwellings)	Westfield Road, Manea
439	F/YR17/0152/F	Ms J Rich	Residence (Extension)	Bevills Close, Doddington
440	F/YR17/0202/F	BGS Developments Ltd	Residential (4 dwellings)	Williams Way, Manea*
441	F/YR17/3033/COND	Matthew Homes	Residential (57 dwellings)	Teachers Close, Manea*



442	F/YR17/3035/COND	Mr R Glowacki	Residential (4 dwellings)	Turf Fen Lane Doddington*
443	F/YR17/0226/F	Mr & Mrs Weare	Residence (Extension)	Manor Estate Doddington

*Planning applications ending 'FDL' relate to land owned by FDC  
 Planning applications ending 'CM' relate to County Matters  
 Planning applications ending 'RM' relate to Reserved Matters  
 Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions*

Developments that propose direct discharge to the Board 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.

For the residence at Williams Way (MLC Ref No 439), Ms J Rich chose to use the soakaway self-certification process and, in doing so, agreed that if the soakaway was to fail in the future she would be liable for discharge consent.

*Developments at Delfland Nurseries, Benwick Road, Doddington – Delfland Nurseries Ltd (MLC Ref No 101, 186 & 423)*

Further to previous reports, a planning application for the replacement of existing glasshouses was submitted to the District Council in late July and subsequently granted planning permission in early November subject to the imposition of planning conditions including surface water disposal.

Brand Associates Drainage Strategy ref DEL-16 dated July 2016 advises that:

“1. Justification of method of surface water (sw) drainage.

1.1 These are replacement glasshouses with no increase in surface water runoff.

The sw system is soakaway within the site as existing with additional attenuation on site, to allow for increased run-off due to climate change. See drawing DEL.16/1. The system has an overflow into the dyke on the southern boundary but we understand this is seldom, if ever, discharged. Rainwater recycling was considered but was dismissed due to the risk of pollution in the water, as even small amounts can adversely affect seedling germination.

1.2 This proposed system is considered to be acceptable for the following reasons:

1.2.1 There is no increased sw run-off from roofs and no run-off from the site.

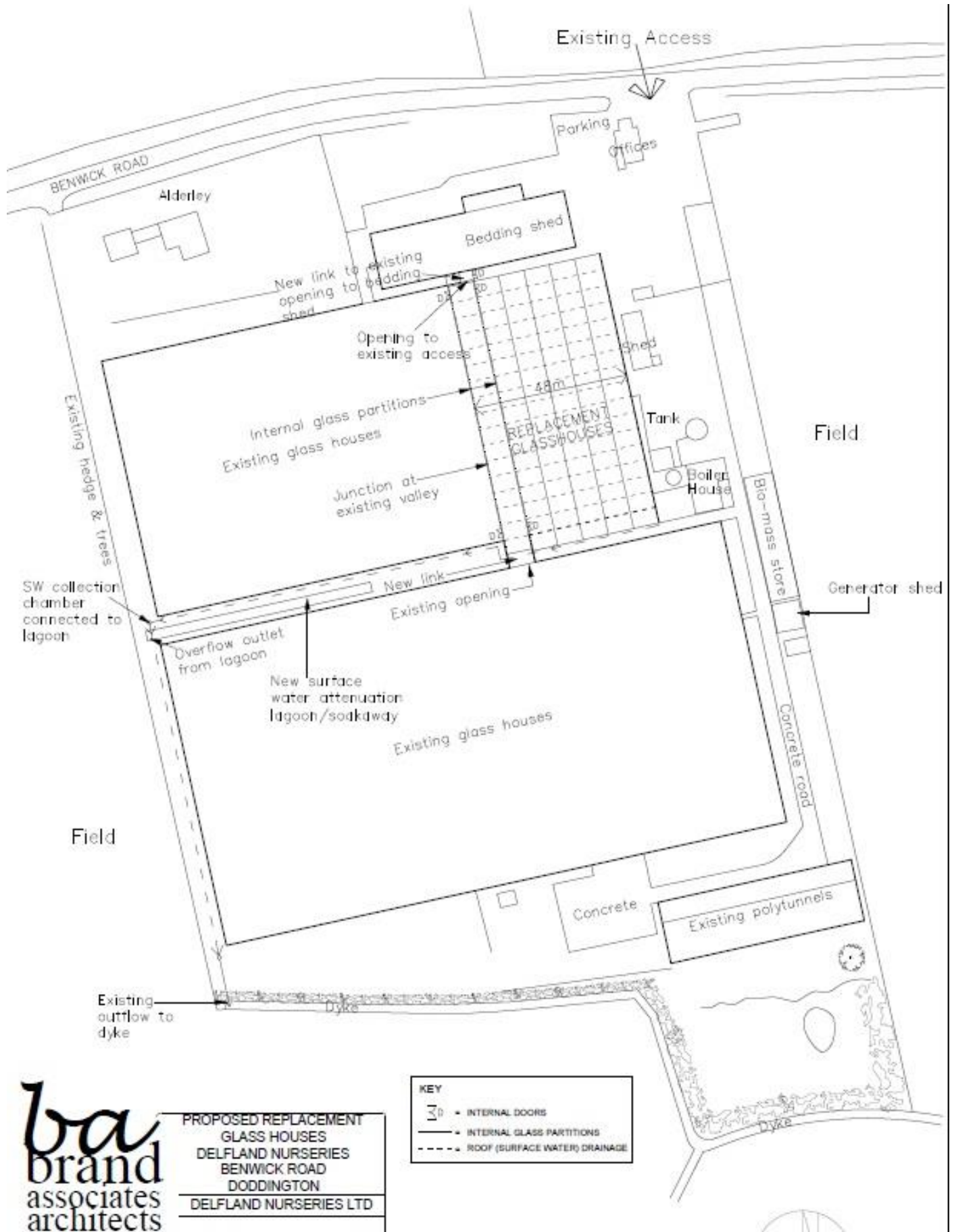
1.2.2 The owner applicant, who runs the nurseries, reports that the existing system, of soakaway into the ground on-site, has worked satisfactorily, for many years, with no on-site flooding or run-off to adjoining land.

1.2.3 The applicant reports that the ground is silt, sand and gravel. This is free draining and accounts for the satisfactory working of the existing system.

1.2.4 If any future increase in roof sw run-off was not dealt with by the existing system, any surplus would be held in the new attenuation soakaway on site. If this had insufficient capacity it would overflow via the existing system to the rear dyke.

1.2.5 In the very unlikely event of sw drainage discharge problems in the future, this could be addressed by additional attenuation on site and/or additional overflow to the dyke on the south boundary. The latter being subject to Internal Drainage Board Consent. This is not proposed at present.

2. Assessment of change in surface water run-off: No change, see above.
3. Consideration of sub-catchments: There are no sub-catchment areas on site.
4. Permitted discharge rates: As this is previously developed land and replacement with the same area of roof, the discharge will be at the original rate.
5. Soakaways and percolation tests will be to BRE Digest 365.
6. Assessment of on-site attenuation stored volume: As there is no increase in volume and the existing system is satisfactory, calculation of this is considered to be unnecessary.
7. Assessment of long term storage: Not required as no additional run-off.
8. Conclusion:  
The sw drainage system is satisfactory and no surface water planning condition is necessary.”



Extract from Brand Associates Drawing No DEL.16:1:

In its letter to Fenland District Council of 31 August Cambridgeshire County Council, in its role as the LLFA, advised:

“Thank you for your consultation. We have reviewed the submitted documents and can confirm as Lead Local Authority (LLFA) we **have no objection in principle** to the proposed development. The applicant has demonstrated that there will be no increase in impermeable area and therefore no increase in surface water run-off as a result of the development. A new soakaway will be constructed to allow for increased run-off due to climate change. We recommend the following condition is imposed requiring the following details.

**Condition**

The surface water drainage scheme shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the Surface Water Drainage Strategy prepared by Brand Associates Architects as submitted (ref Del.16) dated July 2016

**Reason**

To prevent an increased risk of flooding and protect water quality.”

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board’s interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants’ agents.

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

*Residential development, off-site road improvements and associated works involving demolition of existing agricultural building on land east of Bevills Close and north of Eastmoor Lane, Doddington – Client of Woods Hardwick (MLC Ref Nos 177 & 182), Ashley King Developments (MLC Ref No 294) & Stafford Infrastructure Engineering (SIE) [Client of Lee Bevans] (MLC Ref No 314) & Whetstone Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 360 & 426)*

Further to the last meeting another planning application was submitted to the District Council in early August.

During the planning process the District Council received 202 objections from statutory consultees and neighbours including some relevant to water level and flood risk management. However, it is understood that the LLFA was content with the proposed SuDS scheme following the submission of further information.



The Planning application was refused permission by the District Council in November. There were four primary reasons for refusal including this one:

“2. Policy LP14 Part B requires all development proposals to fully consider drainage within and from the site. The development involves a connection to the main foul sewerage system which does not have capacity to accept and treat wastewater from the Doddington Water Recycling Centre. The development therefore poses an unacceptable risk of causing a detrimental impact to surface water quality because the development will increase the discharge loading from the receiving wastewater treatment works and the altered discharge will cause contravention of the discharge consent if an increase in discharge loading is permitted. The proposal therefore fails to satisfy the requirements of Policy LP14 of the Fenland Local Plan 2014.”

An initial enquiry was dealt with, on the Board's behalf, in November from the applicants' engineering consultant but to date no instruction to undertake any of these processes has been received.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents.

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

*Grain storage facility at the former Dalgety Arable Limited site, Manea Road, Wimblington - Executors of F Knowles Will Trust (A Knowles) (MLC Ref No 194) & Mr T Knowles (MLC Ref Nos 245, 254, 264, 379 & 400)*

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.

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

*Residential development on land south of 21 and 27 School Lane, Manea - Leigh Property Investments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 195 & 300) & – SSL (Fund) General*

*Partnership* (MLC Ref No 318), *Leigh Property Investments Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 361 & 368) & *BGS Developments Ltd* (MLC Ref No 440)

Further to previous reports a planning application seeking a modification of application F/YR14/0754/F was submitted to the District Council in March. However, following advice from the Case Officer the application was withdrawn in April with any amendments being dealt with as Non Material amendment applications.

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents.

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

*The construction of 2 agricultural irrigation reservoirs, by the extraction and export off-site of approximately 685,000 tonnes of unprocessed sand and gravel at Lyons Farm, Wimblington Fen, Wimblington – Nicholas Farms* (MLC Ref Nos 211, 244, 269, 427 & 428)

Further to previous reports, two planning applications were submitted to the County Council, in its role as the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) in September.

Neither planning application was of direct interest to the Board and this is confirmed by the content of an email received from the Site Operator, Mick George Ltd, who state:

“Regarding your letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016, we would like to confirm that the application referred to above at Lyons Farm, Wimblington, is simply for an extension of time and to that end, this will have no effect on flood risk or drainage.”

However, whilst this is not untrue it fails to acknowledge that no correspondence has been received since works commenced on site and that several issues remain outstanding and may contravene the Board's Byelaws and the Land Drainage Act.

In the absence of any correspondence from either the applicant, the applicant's agents or the mineral operator concerned the current status of this project and any adverse impacts on the Board's system cannot be determined.

The Board may like to take the opportunity to discuss the issues and advise how it would like to resolve this matter. **The Board's instruction is therefore requested in this respect.**

*Erection of 6 dwellings involving demolition of existing dwelling at 18 Westfield Road, Manea – Mr L Skinner (MLC Ref Nos 231, 235 & 321)*

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.

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

*Developments at Skylark Garden Centre and Country Store, Manea Road, Wimblington - Skylark Garden Centre (MLC Ref No 234 & 435) (Previously Wimblington Common MLC Ref No 046 & 048 – Mr R Gowler)*

Further to previous reports a planning application was submitted to the District Council in September for alterations to the existing garden centre. Planning permission was subsequently granted subject to the imposition of conditions, including surface water, at the end of April.

During the planning process the LLFA advised that, subject to the imposition of its suggested condition, it was content with the proposed use of a SuDS system.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals, and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows will be in agreement.









However, it was pleasing to note that the following informative has been included on the Council's Decision Notice:

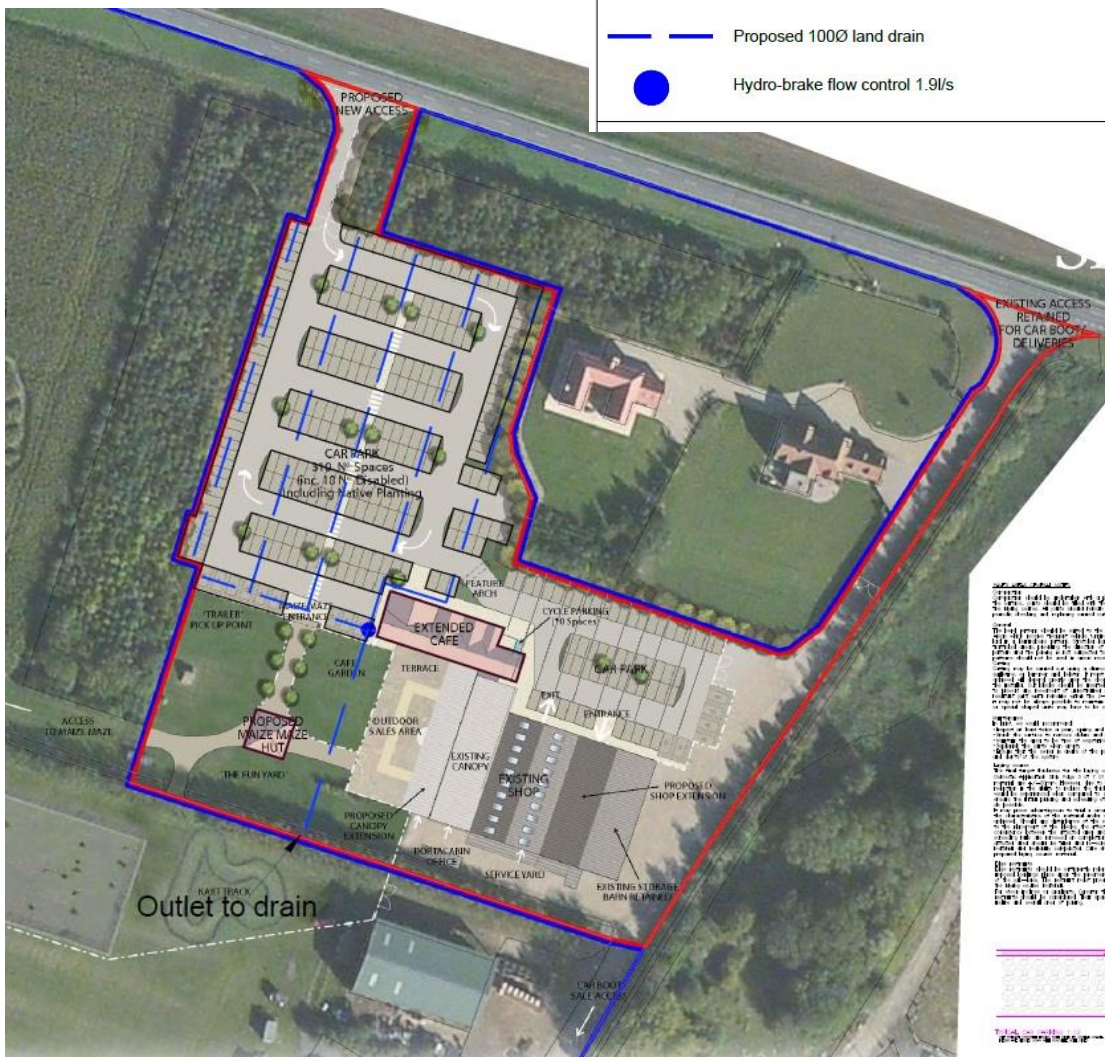
“3 The applicant is reminded that they have a separate legal obligation to comply with the requirements of the Middle Level Commissioners and Internal Drainage Boards in the area.

Granting or refusal of consent under the Internal Drainage Boards Byelaws or the Land Drainage Act 1991 is a matter for the Board itself and will require a formal application and prior written consent from the Board or Commissioners for discharge of water or development within close proximity to any watercourse.

The applicant is advised to contact Middle Level Commissioners at their earliest opportunity to establish their requirements.

Middle Level Commissioners contact details:  
Tel: 01354 653232  
Email [planning@middlelevel.gov.uk](mailto:planning@middlelevel.gov.uk)  
Website [www.middlelevel.gov.uk](http://www.middlelevel.gov.uk)

Key	
	Gravel parking access area
	Proposed Gravel parking bays
	Proposed roof areas
	Green areas
	Planning Application Boundary
	Land under ownership of the applicant
	Proposed 1000 land drain
	Hydro-brake flow control 1.9l/s



Extract from MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltds Drawing No 1919-03 Rev -

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents.

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

*Erection of residential development on land west of Teachers Close, Manea – Mr P Jolley (MLC Ref No 285), Portman Developments (MLC Ref No 308), Matthew Homes (MLC Ref No 404, 418 & 441) & Client of Woods Hardwick (MLC Ref No 433)*

Further to the withdrawal of a previous planning application a revised application was submitted to the District Council in April 2016 for the erection of 57 dwellings with garages and public open space, incorporating a balancing pond and pumping station.

The planning application was subsequently granted permission in January subject to the imposition of planning conditions including those related to surface water disposal.

The LLFAs letter dated 12 July advises that, subject to the imposition of its suggested condition, it was content with the proposed use of a SuDS system.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

An application to discharge conditions including surface water disposal was submitted to the District Council in March and according to the District Council's Public Access web page, at the time of writing, a decision is pending.

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents.

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

*Erection of 38 x 2-storey dwellings comprising; 2 x 4-bed, 16 x 3-bed and 20 x 2-bed, with garden sheds and erection of 2.1 metre high fencing at land south west of Williams Way, Manea - Crestel Partnership Ltd (MLC Ref No 309)*

No further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agents and, therefore, the current status of this project is unknown. No further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

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

*Erection of 32 dwellings at land north of 28-30 High Street, Manea – Primepower Properties Ltd (MLC Ref No 374)*

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

According to the District Council's Public Access web page a decision on this site remains pending. However, it is noted that further discussions are being undertaken and the LLFA has recently withdrawn its objection to the proposed SuDS scheme which utilises permeable paving and underground cellular storage.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

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

*Erection of 4no dwellings at land north of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington – Brand Associates (MLC Ref No 392), Mr & Mrs G Glowacki (MLC Ref No 398), Mr M Wilson (MLC Ref No 436) & Mr R Glowacki (MLC Ref No 442)*

Further to the last meeting a planning application has been submitted to the District Council for the development of Plot 4. This was granted planning permission in late April.

An application to discharge conditions was submitted to the District Council in March and according to the District Council's Public Access web page, at the time of writing, a decision is pending.

The conditions for which discharge is being sought include foul and surface water disposal and the formation of a new footpath to the eastern side of Turf Fen Lane which may increase run-off to the Board's system.

In its response to the District Council the EA has advised that:

“We have reviewed the submitted information and have no objection to the discharge of condition 8 as it relates to foul drainage but wish to make the following comments.

The proposed foul drainage scheme must comply with the general binding rules for small sewage discharges. In that:-

- The applicant gains permission from the local Internal Drainage Board for permission to discharge;
- That the water course is one that is a year round flowing water course;
- The combined total daily discharge from the premises, as defined under the British Water's guidance document Flows and Loads 4, is less than 5m<sup>3</sup>.”

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents.

Further involvement will be required as development of the proposal is progressed and the Board's consent may be required. An application for discharge consent has yet to be submitted.

*Proposed anaerobic digestion plant at Lavenham Fen Farms to the south-west of the B1093 Manea Road/A141 Isle of Ely Way junction, Wimblington – Client of RMA Environmental (MLC Ref No 406) and Aardvark Environment Matters (MLC Ref No 408)*

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

*Erection of 29 dwellings involving demolition of existing buildings at Lavender Mill, Fallow Corner Drove, Manea– Mr K Jordan & M Judd (MLC Ref No 413)*

A planning application for the re-development of the Lavender Mill site was submitted to the District Council in early 2016. Planning permission was subsequently granted in November subject to the imposition of planning conditions including surface water disposal.



Members will be aware that under previous usage the site was largely impermeable and its re-development may reduce the impacts of surface water disposal on the Board's system but may be further reduced by the use of a stone blanket storage SuDS. Reference is made on the Council's Decision Notice to the LLFA.



Extract from Andrew Fleet's Drawing No 14:097-2 Rev B

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests concerning these sites and no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents.

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

*Erection of a storage building at land north of Two Hoots, 100 Westfield Road, Manea - Mr R Morris (MLC Ref No 419)*

A post application discussion was received to demonstrate that the proposed system fully attenuated the surface water and did not cause an adverse impact on the Board's system.

On 14 October 2016 approval to proceed was given as the applicant's agent had been able to prove the system was fully attenuated.

### **Fenland District Council (FDC) Neighbourhood Strategy**

No further correspondence has been received from FDC concerning the Neighbourhood Strategy and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

### **Fenland District Council (FDC) District Wide Level 2 SFRA**

In the absence of funding no further progress has occurred with this project.

### **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 SPD was endorsed by the County Council and the completed document was circulated to the relevant planning authorities and risk management authorities (RMAs) for adoption where appropriate. The SPD was adopted by FDC's Full Council on 15 December 2016.

### **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal**

All councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as well as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), have now signed up to the devolution deal with government. The deal will secure an additional £770 million of investment for the area, including a £600 million transport fund and money for affordable housing.

Consulting Engineer

4 May 2017

Curf & Wimblington Combined (308)\Reports\May 2017

Mr Lakey referred to the Consulting Engineer's report and to their recommendation that the Board should have appropriate signage in place for Health and Safety purposes. Members discussed the type and form of signage required and Mr Lakey reported that some Boards were using external lockable cabinets to display Health & Safety notices and others were choosing to use laminated notice boards indicating the risks; providing contact details in an emergency, together with the grid reference to identify each location.

The Chairman considered and Members agreed that the Middle Level Commissioners should be requested to arrange for the appropriate signage with the relevant information to be installed at all pumping stations.

It was mentioned that Finchams pump drain when cleansed annually resulted in clay amongst the spoil being deposited on the bank, which was difficult to incorporate into the land.

Members enquired whether it could be spread on the 6 metre environmental margin to which both Mr Lakey and Miss Langley advised that it was not possible.

Mr Lakey advised that the Board must ensure that the digger driver was made aware that only the weed was to be removed.

The Chairman felt that it would be useful to let the landowner know when the machine would be on site as they could then decide where the spoil should be deposited.

Mr Lakey reported that in view of the number of landowners involved and the number of contractors working at the same time this would be difficult.

Mr Gowler suggested that the spoil be left to dry before being removed. The Chairman commented that cleansing the drain more often would result in there being less spoil to dispose of.

Mr Lakey reported that this was the third year at Finchams Farm and no slubbing works were due to be carried out; only weed control would take place this year.

Miss Ablett referred to the pump at Bensons pumping station which had been taken out of service and reported that the Consulting Engineer had advised that, in his opinion, made from the information available, it was unlikely to be economically viable to overhaul the pump at Bensons pumping station, although this could not be confirmed until the pump was removed.

Members reviewed the dates of the last pump overhauls at each pumping station as provided by the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer; which showed that the pumps at Bensons pumping station had not been overhauled for over 23 years and those at Finchams Farm had not been overhauled for more than 37 years. The Chairman stated that detailed estimates were required before a decision could be made on the pump overhauls.

Mr Gowler advised that in his opinion the Board should only consider replacing the pump that required attention at Bensons pumping station.

Mr Angood suggested and Members agreed that a quote be obtained for the pump at Bensons pumping station and if it was less than £50,000 then the Board should proceed.

Mr Gowler reported that Richard Lloyd, the Middle Level Commissioners' Deputy Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, had advised that the sensor on the weedscreen cleaner at Stonea Fen Pumping Station needed replacing and would cost in the region of £800. Members agreed the sensor should be replaced.

Miss Ablett referred to the construction of two agricultural irrigation reservoirs at Lyons Farm, Wimblington for Nicholas Farms (MLC Ref Nos 211, 244, 269, 427 and 428) and reported that despite having sent a letter to the applicants' agent, no further information had been received regarding the application, to enable the Planning Engineer to determine whether it would have any adverse impact on the Board's system.

Mr Nicholas advised that the application was purely for an extension of time and that unfortunately the works were not being carried out as quickly as anticipated. The Chairman advised that at this moment in time the action taken was not detrimental to the Board but enquired of a proposed completion date.

Mr Nicolas advised of an 18 month extension until the end of 2018 and confirmed that no further works had been carried out. He requested that a copy of the letter sent to his agent is forwarded to him so that he can respond to the questions raised by the Planning Engineer on the Board's behalf.

### RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance  
That the recommended works be undertaken.
- iii) That Messrs Ashman be instructed to carry out the Boards flail mowing operations.
- iv) That the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to supply and install external display cabinets at each of the Board's pumping stations to include notices indicating the risks, providing contact details in an emergency, together with the grid reference to identify each location.
- v) That the Consulting Engineer be requested to obtain a quotation for the replacement of the pump at Bensons Pumping Station and that if the quote is less than £50,000 the Middle Level Commissioners be instructed to arrange the necessary works.
- vi) That the sensor on the weedscreen cleaner at Stonea Fen Pumping Station be replaced.
- vi) That a copy of the letter sent to Mr Nicholas' agent be forwarded to him so that he can respond to the questions raised by the Planning Engineer.

### B.325 Capital Improvement Programme

Members reviewed the Board's future capital improvement programme which included anticipated expenditure within the next 4 years at £45,000, excluding the pump overhaul agreed as above at Bensons pumping station.

Members discussed the financing of the pump overhaul, together with the expenditure shown in the programme. Miss Ablett advised that although the Board had £120,000 of total funds their average annual expenditure was in the region of £75,000 and that this did not allow for any unforeseen expenses that may arise. Members discussed the possibility of making a loan application to the Public Works Loan Board and Miss Ablett advised that this would have to be sanctioned by Defra after being approved by the Environment Agency. She also outlined the

repayments required for borrowing various sums at the current interest rates and advised that the interest rate would only be fixed at the time the loan was granted.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.
- ii) That the Chairman contact the Consulting Engineer to discuss the Capital Programme in more detail.
- vi) That an amount not exceeding £100,000 be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board over a period of 10 years, for the replacement of the pump at Bensons Pumping Station and future pump overhaul/replacement programme.

#### B.326 National Flood Resilience Review

Miss Ablett referred to the publication of the above review by the Government in September 2016 and to the response from ADA and drew attention to the lack of reference to the SUDS issue, which still remained unsatisfactory.

#### B.327 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Environmental Officer's newsletter dated December 2016, previously circulated to members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

#### B.328 Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2017/2018.

The Chairman referred to the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award indicator which was 1.68%.

- b) The Board gave consideration to the fuel allowances payable to Messrs Watson and Carson.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £4,637.00 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2017/2018.
- ii) That the Board agree that a £285.00 and £105.00 fuel allowance be allowed to Messrs Watson and Carson respectively.

### B.329 Change of attendant at Finchams Farm Pumping Station

Further to minute B.295(i), the Chairman reported that Mr Neil Cook retired from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and was replaced by Neil Clark.

### B.330 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.331 Environment Agency – Precepts

- a) Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £9,625 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £9,128).
- b) Local Choices Precept

Further to minute B.296, Miss Ablett referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated October 2016.

### B.332 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £1,129.06 (£7,358.24 less £6,229.18 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 2015/2016 together with the sum of £5,566.13 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2016/2017.
- (b) Further to minute B.297(b), Miss Ablett referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies available to fund highland water claims.

#### RESOLVED

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

### B.333 Contributions from Developers

Miss Ablett reported that the following contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent had been received, viz:-

<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mr Albert Ripley	£300.00 (g)
	£270.00 (n)

Mr Smith and Miss Scoffin

£2,031.91 (g)

£1,828.72 (n)

B.334 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

Miss Ablett reported that the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

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

Miss Ablett reported on the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

c) Subscriptions

Miss Ablett referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and reported that the Clerk had been advised that subscriptions for 2017 will remain unchanged at £609.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2017 be paid.

d) Floodex 2017

Miss Ablett reported that Floodex 2017 will be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and referred to the free Health and Safety Seminars that will also be taking place.

e) Further Research on Eels

Miss Ablett referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and the research specification from the Environment Agency regarding the eel research proposed over the next 2 years.

Members discussed the ongoing eel research and the request from ADA seeking contributions.

RESOLVED

That the Board contribute £100 for the first year towards further research on eels and review in 2018.



### B.335 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Miss Ablett referred to the publication of the National Audit Office's (NAO) Report on Internal Drainage Boards, available on their website, [www.nao.org.uk/report/internal-drainage-boards](http://www.nao.org.uk/report/internal-drainage-boards); to the Report Summary and to the response from ADA.

### B.336 Health and Safety Audits

Miss Ablett 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 and that if the Board had any issues they could seek advice from Croner via the Middle Level Commissioners.

Miss Ablett reported that the Middle Level Commissioners had put together a pack consisting of a practical guide, templates and examples relating to health and safety requirements, which they hoped would assist Boards with their health and safety responsibilities.

### B.337 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.300, Miss Ablett reported that the main issues considered by the Partnership were:-

1. The proposal to extend the provision of rain gauges in catchment.
2. Discussions over the maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS).
3. The provision of Community flood kits. The LLFA are sourcing funds to provide kits to certain groups, i.e. March town council, but certain criteria are having to be met.
4. Work on the A14 project has now commenced.
5. The Supplementary Planning Document on flood risk has now been endorsed by Cambridgeshire County Council.
6. An update on the surface water management plan. Requesting quotes for surveys to be undertaken for property level protection (PLP).
7. Partner projects were discussed including Embankment raising in the Middle Level (MLC) and in the Ouse Washes (EA).

### B.338 Authorisation to appear in court to obtain distress warrants

#### RESOLVED

That under the provisions of section 54 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, in addition to Mr R Hill and Miss S Ablett, Miss Lorna McShane be authorised generally to institute or defend on behalf of the Board proceedings in relation to a drainage rate or to appear on their behalf in any proceedings before a Magistrates' Court for the issue of a warrant of distress for failure to pay a drainage rate.

### B.339 Potential Changes in Rating Valuation

Miss Ablett reported the consideration presently being given by ADA and Defra to possible changes in the way in which drainage rates and special levies may be calculated in future. He advised that the present system, under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Internal Drainage Board

(Finance) Regulations, provides for agricultural property to be valued at a notional rental value for that property as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 1988 with non-agricultural hereditaments being valued at the "average acre" rate, calculated by reference to pre-1988 development within the District of the individual Board. The current legislation does however require that properties that existed before 1<sup>st</sup> April 1988 are valued according to their old rateable values, records for which may no longer exist and this causes problems for IDBs which are looking to extend their boundaries and particularly where there are proposals to create new IDBs. Miss Ablett understood however, that, at present, Defra are unlikely to progress the issue urgently and that some further consideration will have to take place before any change is proposed. In addition, as a change to primary legislation would be required, Parliamentary time would have to be found for this. At this stage Miss Ablett wished therefore to simply alert the Board to these discussions and further reports will no doubt be made to the Board in the future should legislative amendment be proposed.

#### B.340 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2015/2016

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

#### B.341 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Miss Ablett 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

#### B.342 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### B.343 Review of Internal Controls

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

#### B.344 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Board considered and approved the insured value of their buildings.

#### B.345 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss Ablett 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.346 Annual Governance Statement – 2016/2017

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### B.347 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £190,007.68 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to R & J A Gowler.

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

#### B.348 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2016/2017

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 as required in the Audit Regulations.

#### RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### B.349 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2017/2018

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2017/2018 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by contributions would be 90.50% and by special levy on local billing authorities and by contribution would be 9.50%.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £82,076 be raised by drainage rates and special levy and by way of contribution from the Middle Level Commissioners under the Wimblington 2<sup>nd</sup> District Drainage Order 1922.

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 and contribution from the Middle Level Commissioners are £70,926, £7,219 and £3,931 respectively.

iv) That a rate of 20.00p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

v) That a Special levy of £7,219 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That a contribution of £3,931 be made by the Middle Level Commissioners in respect of Byall Fen in accordance with Wimblington 2<sup>nd</sup> District Drainage Order 1922.

vii) 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).

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

#### B.350 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.351 Date of next Meeting

#### RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

#### B.352 Ralstonia Solanacearum – Brown Rot

Members discussed the issues with potato brown rot and woody nightshade within the Middle Level catchment and the Board's District.