

BLUNTISHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Bluntisham Internal Drainage Board
held at Hanson's, Needingworth Quarry on Friday the 12th January 2018

PRESENT

P D Burton OBE (Chairman)	H Burgess Esq
J R Anderson Esq (Vice Chairman)	M Francis Esq
K Bird Esq	A G R Holloway Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance.

The Chairman enquired whether ALL Board members were happy for the meeting to be recorded. All members were in agreement.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J M Green Esq and C Hudson Esq.

B.620 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.

The Chairman declared an interest in any matter in which Lattenbury Farms were involved. Mr Bird declared an interest in any matters concerning Hanson's. Councillor Francis declared an interest in planning matters as a member of Huntingdonshire District Council.

B.621 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 9th June 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.622 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That P D Burton OBE be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.623 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That J R Anderson Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.624 Election of Members of the Board

Miss Ablett reported that, as the number of candidates for membership of the Board did not exceed the number of persons to be elected (six), the following candidates were elected as Members of the Board for a period of three years from the 1st November 2017, viz:-

ANDERSON James
BIRD Keith
BURGESS Herbert

BURTON Peter
GREEN John
HOLLOWAY Alan

B.625 Land Drainage Act 1991

Board Membership – Huntingdonshire District Council

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

B.626 Maintenance Works in District

Further to minute B.596, the Chairman confirmed that most of the flail mowing had been completed and that dredging works on the main channel would commence shortly.

Mr Burgess enquired whether all the maintenance work being carried out this year would come within budget. The Chairman advised that the budget for maintenance works had been increased last year and therefore all works should be within budget and he would expect all work to have been completed within the next six weeks.

The Chairman pointed out that as the stretch of drain alongside the river, which was due to be maintained next year, had been made into a site of scientific interest within the last 12 months, it may not be possible to carry out all the work in one go.

RESOLVED

That the maintenance works be approved and that Lattenbury Farm Services be engaged to undertake them.

(NB) – The Chairman referred to his interest when this item of business was being discussed and took no part in the decision.

B.627 Hanson – Progress Report

Further to minute B.597, Mr Bird reported there had been an increase in output last year, a certain amount of which related to the A14 project. He advised that all extraction activity had been carried out on the other side of the river, which was also the plan for the current year.

Mr Bird reported that work had commenced with Cambridgeshire County Council on a planning application regarding the re-phasing of operations, which again would mainly affect the other side of the river.

Mr Bird advised that Hanson's had expected to extract gravel to extend the silting capacity, but as the company considered it already had ample stock, the extraction this side of the river has been deferred for between 4-5 years.

With regards to the restoration project, which in principle was the same, Mr Bird reported that it had been agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council that a small area would be left unworked to preserve the archaeology identified.

Mr Bird advised that there were another 13 years of reserves left in the area and there was allocation in the Cambridgeshire County Council mineral plan within the next 5-10 years for planning applications for further acquisitions.

Mr Bird confirmed that the Board would be consulted regarding any planning applications

B.628 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.598, Miss Ablett advised that there was nothing further to report at the present time.

B.629 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.599, Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from ADA dated the 27th October 2017 and to the Clerk's response to Defra.

Miss Ablett reported that Defra had now issued the Government response to the Consultation on Water Transfer Licences, which ended in January 2017, and it appears that, from the 1st January 2018, Defra will require Boards that transfer water from Main River to District Drains to obtain a licence. She advised that the licence fee will be £1,500 which would cover a period 12 year period, however no inter-district IDB transfers will be caught by the licencing regime. At the moment Defra have said the details to be contained in the licence will be flexible and that only if there is significant risk to water quality will a lot of detail be required in the licence. Only basic detail will be required where there is no risk to water quality and the environment.

ADA's position has been that they were reasonably happy with the licencing, but wanted an exemption for IDBs from paying the fee as the Boards get no income from Main River to IDB extractions.

On behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners and IDBs, the Clerk had written to Sarah Hendry, Policy Director for Floods and Water at DEFRA, requesting further information, expressing his disappointment with the lack of engagement with IDBs and with the implementation of the changes being made with virtually no notice.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to take any actions considered necessary in relation to this matter.

B.630 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Middle Level and South Level Barrier Bank works

Further to minute B.600, Miss Ablett referred to Briefing notes from the Environment Agency dated August, September and October 2017.

Miss Ablett reported that works on this Environment Agency scheme needed to meet the legal requirements of the Reservoirs Act commenced this year and were part of a three year programme.

She added that it was worth noting that these works, which due to the nature of the location have to fit in with ecological timing constraints, were slightly behind programme but that it should be possible to address this over the next two years.

B.631 Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Scheme

Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from Cambridgeshire Acre dated 1st May 2017.

She reported that an extensive biodiversity study had been commissioned by Cambridgeshire ACRE last year which included eight of the Bluntisham IDB watercourses. Information on this was given in the appendix and it was noted that the full survey results could be found online.

B.632 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

Bluntisham I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – December 2017

Pumping Station

Only routine maintenance has been carried out. The pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Pumping Hours

Total Hours Run Nov 16-Nov 17 = 549

Total Hours Run Nov 15 – Nov 16 = 560 (approximately)

Total Hours Run Nov 14 – Nov 15 = 520

Total Hours Run Nov 13 – Nov 14 = 932

Internal Consultation with the Board

The 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 is working well and will be continued and reviewed at a later date.

Planning Procedures Update

Informatives on Decision Notices

Despite positive steps being taken, a review of the decisions that have recently been made has identified that very few informatives are being added to Decision Notices advising the applicants of their separate legal obligation to comply with the requirements of the Board’s Byelaws and the Land Drainage Act.

Planning Agents Training Day

Having identified engagement issues between “Developers” and the Commissioners and Associated Boards a Training Day was held in late October. Invites were issued to Agents, Developers, Consultants and Council Officers who we regularly deal with. Despite the absence of Council Officers, the event was well attended and feedback suggests the event was well received. The format of the event was to inform those attending of the unique nature of the area, where the IDBs fit into the development process, what the issues are, and how the Middle Level Commissioners deal with them.

Unfortunately, there were no representatives from the Huntingdonshire District Council area.

Planning Applications

The following 3 applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
012	H/17/01077/FUL	Luminus Homes	Residential (14 dwellings)	Bluntisham Road, Needingworth
013	H/17/01687/FUL	Gladman Developments	Residential (up to 120 dwellings)	Bluntisham Road, Needingworth
014	H/17/01593/HHFUL	Mr T O'Shea	Residence (Extension)	Beldams, Needingworth

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water disposal to soakaways, or similar infiltration systems. It is likely that treated effluent emanating from these sites will be via Needingworth Water Recycling Centre (WRC). The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

Proposed development to the north of Fairview and west of Enterprise Farm - (Bluntisham Farm), off Bluntisham Road, Needingworth - Client of RSK Land & Development Engineering Ltd (MLC Ref No 011) & Gladman Developments (MLC Ref No 013)

Further to the last meeting report a planning application for up to 120 dwellings was submitted to the District Council in August and, according to the District Council's Public Access web page, a decision on this site still remains pending.

Discussion with the applicant's consultant, Utility Law Solutions Ltd, has confirmed that foul water will be treated at Needingworth WRC.

Residential development on land adjacent to Fair View, Bluntisham Road, Needingworth - Luminus Homes (MLC Ref No 012)

A planning application for fourteen dwellings was submitted to the District Council in May. The site is on the north western side of Bluntisham Road and thus, according to the Board's District Plan, just outside of the Board's catchment; the site may be in the catchment of Wadsbys Folly, an Environment Agency watercourse, a tributary of the River Great Ouse system.

However, it is understood the foul water will be treated at Needingworth WRC.

According to the District Council's Public Access web page, a decision on this site still remains pending.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA): October 2017 Consultation

The Council is required to produce a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) to identify a future supply of land which is suitable, available and achievable for housing and economic development uses.

The assessment of land availability is an important step in the preparation of the Local Plan to 2036 and forms part of the evidence base for the emerging plan. The HELAA includes the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment requirement as set out in the NPPF.

A public consultation to review the new sites which were submitted through the 'Call for Sites' that accompanied the consultation alongside the draft Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 was held between 4th October and 3rd November.

Our reply to this document, made on behalf of both the Middle Level Commissioners and Board, provided responses on the Assessment of Broad Locations including statements on the NPPF Floodplain extents in respect of Hazard Mapping and development within the floodplain; Watercourse maintenance access strips; Surface water disposal features; Capacity calculations and illustrations.

Specific responses were made to the sites at Bluntisham Farm, Bluntisham Road, Needingworth (104), North of Meeting Lane, Needingworth (014) (112) and West of 11 Church Street, Needingworth (074). All are outside of the Board's catchment but within the catchment of Needingworth WRC.

It is considered that when preparing Strategic Documents Development Management (Planning) Officers need to be held more accountable for their involvement in the surface water disposal and flood risk element of a development. The inappropriate raising of a developer's expectations and chasing LPA housing numbers is considered to be the first step towards potential poor surface water disposal solutions which, if not considered properly at this stage, can inevitably lead to increased flood risk.

As a result, the Risk Management Authorities (RMA) receiving the flows, such as the Commissioners and/or the IDBs, may not be prepared to resolve, at their expense, the problems created by others.

It is considered that other constraints, such as the space required for soakaway fields, SuDS devices, water recycling units, etc must be considered as part of the capacity assessment of individual sites.

Huntingdonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

Note. SFRA's are high level strategic documents and, as such, do not go into detail on an individual site-specific basis and are developed using the best available information at the time of preparation.

It is understood that despite not having been reviewed by the Commissioners the SFRA which fulfils both Level One and Level Two SFRA requirements has been adopted by the Council and can be found at the following link: <http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/environmental-issues/flooding/strategic-flood-risk-assessment/>.

However, it is noted that this web page includes the note below:

SFRA 2010 mapping for Middle Level Commissioner Areas

For those villages which are entirely within Flood Zone 3 as defined in the 2017 SFRA only, the 2010 SFRA, which took account of flood defences, will be used as the basis for decision-making, and general market housing will only be permitted in areas shown as being in Flood Zone 1 as defined in that document.

Note  tabled at the September 2017 Development Management Committee which sets out this information and the SFRA 2010 mapping for Middle Level Commissioner Areas.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

Rain Gauges Project

As members of the CFRMP, the Commissioners have been asked to comment on the proposed location of rain gauges that currently form a larger Anglian Region RFCC project.

The gauges will be located on Environment Agency or Anglian Water Services Ltd structures and it is intended that all sites will be available via a web interface, possibly with three levels – Administrator, Partners and the Public. The latter will only see “local” information.

The LLFA advises that the proposed new gauges, which include proposed gauges at Somersham and Over WRCs, have been chosen because they are adjacent to major areas of population and known “wet spots”.

Consulting Engineer

15 December 2017

Bluntisham(357)\Reports\December 2017

Miss Ablett referred to the proposed development to the north of Fairview and west of Enterprise Farm (MLC Ref Nos. 011 and 013), a map of which was tabled.

Miss Ablett advised that the applicant's consultant was of the opinion that the discharge would be into point 16 of the Boards District, but the Planning Engineer wondered whether, as the development was not within the highland water catchment area, the flow would actually be into the Environment Agency's drain, Wadsby Folly. She also referred to the residential development on land adjacent to Fair View, Bluntisham Road, Needingworth (MLC Ref No 012), and enquired whether this too would actually flow into the Environment Agency's drain.

Miss Ablett enquired whether any member was able to confirm the location and flow direction of the proposed discharge, before any further work was carried out on the Board's behalf.

The Vice Chairman advised that he thought the discharge went under the road into the Environment Agency's drain, but could not be certain.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the Chairman review the information regarding the planning applications (MLC Ref Nos. 011 - 013) and report back to the Planning Engineer.

B.633 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

Miss Ablett advised the Board that, should they go ahead with the installation of the automatic weedscreen cleaner in the year 2020/2021, consideration would need to be given to how the funds would be raised.

Members discussed the capital improvement programme and the availability of grant in aid. Mr Burgess advised that should the Board decide to proceed with the installation of the automatic weedscreen cleaner they could consider applying for a public works loan, as other IDBs had done recently.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle.

B.634 Environmental Officer's Newsletter

Miss Ablett referred to the Environmental Officer's Newsletter, which had previously been circulated to Members.

B.635 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.636 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the precept for the financial year 2018/2019 would include a 1.5% increase over the previous year's figure.

B.637 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £44.61 (£1,040.37 less £995.76 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 2016/2017 together with the sum of £1,001.44 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018.
- b) Further to minute B.577(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 kept under review.

B.638 Association of Drainage Authorities

Miss Ablett reported:-

a) Annual Conference

That the 80th anniversary Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Thursday the 16th November 2017 and had been well attended with speakers including Dr Therese Coffey MP, who spoke on future challenges, local accountability and the excellent work and the strength of IDBs amongst other things. Councillor Derek Antrobus spoke about his experiences in Salford where the Council had turned spatial planning on its head by considering environmental assets before looking at provision for housing need, which allowed for more sustainable growth. Sir James Bevan followed and stated that he was a fan of IDBs and supported the transfer of watercourse maintenance through de-maining where there was a local desire for this. He also confirmed that dredging was important and would remain within the EA's programme and that £22M had been spent on this in the last financial year. The Conference also marked the stepping down of Henry Cator as ADA's chairman. He has been replaced by Robert Caudwell who has a background in farming in Lincolnshire and who is keen to see partnership working across catchments develop to provide a holistic answer to flood risk and drought management.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association would be held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 6th March 2018.

c) Subscriptions

That it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 1% in 2018, viz:- from £536 to £542.

RESOLVED

That the increased ADA subscription be paid for 2018

d) Liability of Board Members

Miss Ablett referred to, and Members noted, a Guidance Note received from ADA dated the 28th September 2017 which summarised the issue of when Members of an Internal Drainage Board may be held personally liable for actions which they take in that capacity.

Miss Ablett advised that the Board had management liability insurance in place, which was in respect of claims made as a result of a wrongful act against members of the Board arising from the management and operations of the Board and that the cover attached was £5,000,000.

Councillor Francis enquired whether Councillors were also covered under the Board's management liability insurance. Miss Ablett advised that, as Members of the Board, she believed they were also covered, but that she would make enquiries and report back to him and the Chairman.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Councillor Francis be advised whether Councillors were covered under the Board's management liability insurance.

e) Updating IDB Byelaws

Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from ADA dated the 20th October 2017.

Miss Ablett reported that most of the IDBs in the area have a set of Byelaws which were made under Section 34 of the Land Drainage Act 1976 for the secure and efficient working of the drainage system in their area.

Defra have now suggested that the Byelaws which have been adopted by IDBs should be updated to include within their purpose the regulating of the effects of the environment. To do this it will be necessary to update the current Byelaws in line with the standard model byelaw published in October 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be requested to draft new Byelaws to include compliance with the environment regulations for consideration by the Board at their next meeting.

B.639 Capital Programme Strengthening and Delivery

Miss Ablett referred to, and the Board noted, the slides presented by the Environment Agency at the Great Ouse IDB and EA Strategic Group meeting on the 19th April 2017.

B.640 Member training and the appointment of a Health and Safety Officer

Miss Ablett reported that ADA has been encouraging member training for a number of years and Defra will, from 2018, require Boards to report upon any training that has been provided to members. This was to be reported by way of an entry on the IDB1 forms and the listed topics on this form are; Governance, Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare, Communications and engagement, amongst others. The Board may wish to pick an area where they consider specific tailored training is pertinent for it in a given year or alternatively might ask that the Middle Level Commissioners arrange some joint training with other Boards which they are happy to do.

On Health and Safety, after reviewing arrangements for a number of Boards, it has become clear that it would be helpful if Boards could appoint a member to be in charge of Health and Safety matters. This person would take overall responsibility for Health and Safety supported by Croner through the Middle Level Commissioners. This will help provide clarity going forward as ultimately it is the Boards' role to ensure that sites, equipment and working practices are as safe as can be reasonably expected. Whilst IDBs have an enviable record on safety and much that is needed is likely to already be in place, the HSE would probe the organisational structure should a reportable accident occur and would take a dim view if clarity on the lines of responsibility were unclear.

The Vice Chairman advised that training had been arranged with Croner relating to health and safety, but had been cancelled by Croner. He enquired whether this had been rescheduled and Miss Ablett advised that she would request the Clerk contact the Vice Chairman to make further arrangements.

Councillor Francis enquired whether there would be costs associated with any training requested. Miss Ablett advised that she would make enquiries and this would be reported at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Vice Chairman be appointed Health and Safety Officer.
- ii) That the Clerk contact the Vice Chairman to arrange a date for Health and Safety training with Croner.
- iii) That the costs of any training be advised to the Board at the next meeting.

B.641 Health and Safety Audits

Miss Ablett advised that, following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted the Chairman and Vice Chairman to advise of the services provided by Croner relating to Health and Safety and also that assistance with the completion of Risk Assessments could be provided, if required.

B.642 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett reported on the proposed changes to the Annual Defra IDB1 Returns.

She advised that the IDB1 form is completed each year in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and is submitted to Defra, the Environment Agency and to each Council which pays an IDB Special Levy. The form provides information on such items as income, expenditure, a policy delivery statement, the bio-diversity action plan, asset management and governance matters.

Miss Ablett reported that for the year ended 31st March 2017 the IDB1 return was amended and additional information requested, such as details of board membership, attendance at meetings, whether elections are held and confirmation that the complaints procedure is accessible from the home page on an IDB's website. This information will enable Defra to gather more data in relation to IDBs.

For 2018 the IDB1 form will be further expanded. The additions were developed in co-operation with the Environment Agency, ADA and invited IDB representatives including David Thomas on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners. The inclusion of items within the form which would either be difficult to report on or provide information which collectively would be of little value have been resisted and the new IDB1 form should, as a result, allow Defra to gain a much clearer insight into what IDBs deliver annually. It is hoped that this in turn will assist with raising further the profile of IDBs.

B.643 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Miss Ablett referred to the Guidance Note on the implementation of the GDPR and that all organisations must become fully compliant by the 25th May 2018.

RESOLVED

That Miss Lorna McShane, Solicitor and Assistant Clerk be appointed the Board's Data Protection Officer.

B.644 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2016/2017

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.

B.645 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.646 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

At the Board's last meeting, it had been reported that a smaller authority with income and expenditure below £25,000 could apply for exemption from an external audit for the year ended 31st March 2018.

Miss Ablett informed Members that, in place of routine audit, the smaller authority would be subject to requirements under the new transparency code. This meant that the Board would have to publish far more information and in greater detail than it did at present.

She advised that should the Board choose to apply for exemption it should note that if the accounting records were questioned or challenged, an auditor would then have to be appointed and an audit carried out, which would incur costs.

In view of the above, Miss Ablett confirmed that the Clerk recommended that for better transparency, clarity and to avoid any challenges, the Board continues with the current arrangements.

Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished to continue to have a limited assurance review carried out by their appointed auditor as had been done in the past. The charge for this would be £200 + VAT.

The Chairman reported that he had previously been advised that the Board were not required to go out to tender or obtain quotes for any works below a certain limit, however, as he had an interest in the maintenance works, as the Boards contractor, he wished to know what these were. As Miss Ablett was not sure of the exact limits, she advised that she would make enquiries and report back him. The Chairman requested that for transparency purposes this be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- i) To continue with external audit.
- ii) That the Chairman be advised of the limits applicable for both revenue and capital works before the Board is required to obtain further quotes and that this be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

B.647 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.648 Payments to 15th December 2017

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £6,464.70 which had been made from the 1st April to the 15th December 2017.

B.649 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2018/2019

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2018/2019 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 special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 40.24% and 59.76%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £17,839 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 £7,179 and £10,660 respectively.

- iv) That a rate of 11.50p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £10,660 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.650 Anglia Farmers

The Board considered their contractual arrangements with Anglia Farmers for the supply of electricity.

Miss Ablett reported that the contract with Anglia Farmers ceases on the 30th September 2018. Should the Board choose not to renew its contract, they would be required to give notice in December/January.

She advised that, in view of the problems encountered over the past 14 months with the operation of the contract, a report had been sent to all Chairmen.

Miss Ablett further advised that, although the Clerk was able to recommend to the Board that they remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period, usually 18 months to 2 years, during which time the service provided by them will be monitored, it was a Board decision and should they wish to be removed from the buying group then it would be the Board's responsibility to negotiate its own separate electricity contract with a supplier.

RESOLVED

That the current arrangements be continued for a further contract period, during which time the service provided by them, in relation to the running of the contract, be monitored.

B.651 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.652 Date of next Meeting

Miss Ablett reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board will be held on Friday the 8th June 2018.