

## **MANEA AND WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS**

At a Meeting of the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners  
held at the Classics Restaurant, Manea on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### **PRESENT**

|                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| J E Heading Esq (Chairman)       | N Cook Esq      |
| N V M Walker Esq (Vice Chairman) | C J Crofts Esq  |
| C M Barnes Esq                   | M D R Fairey    |
| M Buckton Esq                    | C F Hartley Esq |
| W Sutton Esq                     |                 |

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Commissioners) was in attendance. Mrs Alison Langley attended for part of the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the Commissioners to the meeting and introduced Nicola Oldfield, (Project Manager Environment Agency), who, at the conclusion of the meeting, would be giving a presentation on the Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Inspection works.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from P D Hawes Esq, M E Heading Esq, P Jolley Esq, C W Sears Esq and R M C Sears Esq.

### **C.697 Declarations of Interest**

Mr Hill reminded the Commissioners of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any of them.

Mr Hill referred to the Register of Member's Interests and to the importance of keeping the Register updated. The Commissioners confirmed the Register.

The Chairman and Messrs Hartley and Sutton declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

Mr Sutton declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council.

### **C.698 Confirmation of Minutes**

With reference to minute C.680, Environment Agency – Precept, Mr Hill stated that the precept figure was incorrect and should be £67,910.

### **RESOLVED**

That, subject to the amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

#### C.699 Clerk to the Commissioners

Further to minute C.662, Mr Hill reported that Iain Smith had asked that his thanks be passed on to the Commissioners for their generous contribution towards his retirement gift and he would like it recorded that it had been a pleasure for him to serve the Commissioners and that he wished them all the best for the future.

#### C.700 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute C.637, Mr Hill 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. He also reported that the Clerk was satisfied that there were other partnerships in place and would continue to update Members when required.

#### C.701 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute C.666, Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had previously published, and were now revising, draft handbooks showing examples of where they considered that a transfer licence will and will not be required. He advised that this would, however, have to be reviewed again once the Government decision is known.

Mr Hill advised that the consultation ran from April 2016 and that, since its closure, discussions had continued to be held seeking to ensure that sensible and workable proposals were produced and confirmed that ADA and the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities have further planned meetings with Defra and the Environment Agency in the coming weeks.

Mr Hill reported that Defra have now published the responses to the consultation exercise, but as yet have made no announcement on policy although this was anticipated in early 2017.

Mr Hill reported that ADA's Chief Executive, Innes Thompson, has asked to meet with the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive and Defra's Director of Floods and Water, Sarah Hendry to discuss Defra's thinking on Water Abstraction and Transfer licencing and that a meeting was to be arranged shortly.

The Chairman reported that he agreed that there was a need for a database of the location of water transfer points but did not consider there should be any charges in relation to this.

#### C.702 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Inspection

Further to minute C.667, Mr Hill referred to a newsletter from the Environment Agency dated March 2017 and that Nicola Oldfield would report further at the conclusion of the meeting.

#### C.703 Knyverton House, Wisbech Road, Manea

Further to minute C.684, the Chairman updated the Commissioners on the current position and advised that both he and the District Superintendent were monitoring the site.

C.704 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

## **Manea & Welney D.D.C.**

### **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 Commissioners review their 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.

#### **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.

#### **Glenhouse - Future Electrification**

At their last meeting the Commissioners requested that MLC contact UK Power Networks (UKPN) to ascertain that network capacity could be secured and to obtain a quote for the cost of electrifying two pumps

However, the Commissioners' attention is drawn to ongoing issues in relation to the Eel Regulations. Guidance on this matter is currently being updated and it is hoped that this will provide clarification on the requirements at Flood Risk Management structures. In the past, we have been advised that refurbishment or renewal of assets will trigger consideration of what might be required.

As any electrification would be classed as an asset renewal it is likely that this will trigger the Eel Regulations requiring fish friendly pumps to be installed, possibly 4 number rather than simply replacing 2 pump drives. Variable speed drives are most likely to be necessary in this case which will require the approval of UKPN who will also require details of the number and sizes of the motors.

It is therefore recommended that any electrification of the Station is postponed until further clarification is obtained from the Environment Agency.

The Chairman has been advised of the above and his/the Commissioners' comments are awaited.

### **Pumping Hours**

#### **Glenhouse**

**Total Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 433**

No1 Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 119

No2 Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 117

No3 Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 92

No4 Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 105

No1 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 7 May 2016 = 211

No2 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 7 May 2016 = 247

No3 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 7 May 2016 = 231

No4 Hours Run 7 May 2015 – 7 May 2016 = 223

**Total Hours Run 7 May 2015 - 7 May 2016 = 912**

No1 Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 243

No2 Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 244

No3 Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 266

No4 Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 255

**Total Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 1008**

#### **PurIs Bridge**

**Total Hours Run 7 May 2016 – 23 May 2017 = 175**

No1 Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 91

No2 Hours Run 7 May 2016 - 23 May 2017 = 84

No1 Hours Run 7 May 2015 - 7 May 2016 = 123

No2 Hours Run 7 May 2015 - 7 May 2016 = 429

**Total Hours Run 7 May 2015 - 7 May 2016 = 552**

No1 Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 210

No2 Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 198

**Total Hours Run 30 May 2014 - 7 May 2015 = 408**

### **Internal Consultation with the Commissioners**

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 Middle Level Commissioners and the Commissioners, usually, but not always, with the Chairman and/or District Officer to seek the Commissioners' 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 Commissioners do not wish to comment and are content for the Middle Level Commissioners' staff to process and make a recommendation on the respective consent application/discussion procedure based upon information to hand.

## **Planning Applications**

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 6 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, 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>             |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 541             | F/YR16/1191/F       | Mr & Mrs D Cole   | Residence (Extension)      | Fallow Corner Drove, Manea* |
| 542             | 16/01913/F          | Auto Miraj UK Ltd | Care Home (Extension)      | Wisbech Road, Welney*       |
| 543             | F/YR17/0194/F       | Mr S Connolly     | Residence (Plot 3)         | Station Road, Manea*        |
| 544             | F/YR17/0040/F       | Mr R Smith        | Residence (Extension)      | Station Road, Manea         |
| 545             | F/YR17/3033/COND    | Matthew Homes     | Residential (57 dwellings) | Teachers Close, Manea*      |
| 546             | F/YR17/0300/F       | Mr T Keene        | Residence                  | Straight Road, Manea*       |

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

Developments that are known to propose direct discharge to the Commissioners' system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder are understood to propose surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems, where applicable.

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated effluent into the Commissioners' system either via private treatment plants or Manea Water Recycling Centre (WRC).

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning the following developments and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

- *Erection of 5 dwellings involving of existing dwelling and outbuildings at 35 Westfield Road, Manea – Mr S Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 474 & 479)*
- *Erection of 15 dwellings on land east of 11 - 21 Park Road, Manea - Mr E Barnes (MLC Ref No 525)*

*Residential development involving demolition of existing buildings at International House, Station Road, Manea - Mr J Daniels (MLC Ref No 365) & Homestead Development Company Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 386 & 436)*

Some issues relating to both Byelaw and Discharge Consent applications remain outstanding but it is hoped that these will be successfully resolved soon.

*Erection of 26 dwellings at land west of 49-49A High Street, Manea - Cole Properties (Manea) Ltd (MLC Ref No 415 & 471)*

Further to the last meeting an application for discharge consent was received from the applicant's consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd [MTC] for Phase 1 of this development (Plots 1-5 St Nicholas Close). However, given the circumstances, it was considered unnecessary to issue an "advisory" notice as requested at the Board's February meeting.

An application for both surface water and treated effluent was submitted but unfortunately, when undertaking a validation process it was noted that the submission did not meet the Board's minimum requirements.

Some additional information was provided several weeks later, but certain aspects remained unclear and further clarification had to be sought on several occasions during the procession of the application.

Criticism has been received over the time taken to make a recommendation and it is accepted that there has been some delay due to the Middle Level Commissioners' workload during this period. However, it is noted that it is the applicant's responsibility, not the Commissioners, to provide an application upon which a decision can be made.

It must be appreciated that significant costs can be incurred when the applicant fails to provide adequate or accurate information. This development was not the subject of a post-application consultation therefore all general liaison between the parties involved is at the Commissioners' expense.

*Erection of 4 dwellings with attached garages at land north east of 9 Park Road, Manea Road, Manea – Mr E Barnes (MLC Ref Nos 431, 438 & 485)*

Further to the last meeting the application for the disposal of treated effluent was recommended for approval in February.

In respect of surface water disposal, the applicant's consultant, MTC, was reminded of the developer's responsibilities and this aspect is currently being processed as a post-application consultation.

*Erection of 14 dwellings; comprising; 2 x 3 storey 5/6 bed, 1 x 3 storey 5 bed, 5 x 2 storey 4 bed and 6 x 2 storey 3 bed with associated garaging at Station Road, Manea – Mr Short and Mr Fox (MLC Ref Nos 446, 449 & 482)*

Further to the last report a planning application for alterations to the design of the dwelling at Plot 3 (MLC Ref No 543) has been submitted to and subsequently approved by the District Council.

*Residential development, garages, associated parking, the formation of allotments, public open space, and a new access on land west of Teachers Close, Manea - Portman Developments (MLC Ref No 453), Client of Woods Hardwick (MLC Ref Nos 514 & 538) & Matthew Homes (MLC Ref No 545)*

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 Commissioners are reminded that whilst the Borough/District Council, Environment Agency, Anglian Water Service Ltd (AWSL) and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Commissioners, 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 related issues was submitted to the District Council in March and was discharged in early May.

With the exception of responding to this planning application, no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' 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 Commissioners' consent may be required.



*Erection of a 3 storey 5 bed dwelling involving partial demolition of existing shed at land north of 55 Station Road, Manea – Mr G Wallis (MLC Ref Nos 481 & 486)*

Further to the last meeting report, the discharge consent application was recommended for approval in late January.

Beyond this, no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Commissioners' interests.

### ***Development Contributions***

Contributions received in respect of discharge consent will be reported under the Agenda Item – '*Contributions from Developers.*'

### **King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan**

Further to the last meeting the MLC, on the Commissioners' behalf, have been consulted on the Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation – Local Plan and planning applications document which was open to Public Consultation during February/March.

A response made on behalf of the MLC and the Boards within the Borough Council's area for whom it provides a planning consultancy service advised that the consultation document explains the local planning system, the parties and processes involved, the method in which planning applications are made and considered and the means of consultation in a clear and succinct manner.

The opportunity was taken to remind the Council on some generic matters related to early consultation with the MLC and associated Boards on Biodiversity, Flood Risk and Water Level Management issues.

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

No further correspondence has been received from FDC concerning the Neighbourhood Strategy and no progress has occurred with its District Wide Level 2 SFRA.

### **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 adopted by FDC's Full Council on 15 December 2016.

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

Members will be aware that all councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, as well as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), have signed up to the devolution deal with government.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (the Combined Authority), is a corporate legal body that is intended to facilitate collective decision-making on a Cambridgeshire & Peterborough basis, particularly in relation to large-scale strategic projects. This means a greater number of important decisions can be made by local communities rather than by central government.

Each of the seven Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Councils has one seat on the Combined Authority, which is held by the respective Council Leader. The Mayor will join as its chair and eighth member.

The district councils will not lose any of their existing functions and will continue to be directly responsible for day-to-day services, like housing, rubbish collection and street cleaning. The Mayor and the Combined Authority do not replace nor can they overrule Cambridgeshire & Peterborough councils when they are exercising their own functions although the Combined Authority will be able to exercise certain functions concurrently with the district councils.

The devolution deal includes significant benefits for the communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, such as:

- A new £600million fund (£20 million annually for the next 30 years) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs.
- Potential transport infrastructure improvements such as the A14/A142 junction and upgrades to the A10 and the A47 as well as the Ely North Railway Junction.
- A new £100million housing fund to build more homes including affordable, rent and shared ownership
- Deciding how a budget is spent to maintain roads

Central government will continue to lead on welfare, most forms of taxation and many other areas.

Consulting Engineer

31 May 2017

Manea & Welney (317)\Reports\May 2017

Mr Hill referred to the Consulting Engineer's report and to their recommendation that the Commissioners should have appropriate signage in place for Health and Safety purposes.

The Commissioners gave consideration to the provision of emergency signage at their two main pumping stations.

The Chairman updated the Commissioners on the potential electrification of two of the pumping units at Glenhouse Pumping station. He reported that the Consulting Engineers had advised that, in order to provide a quotation, UK Power Networks required detailed proposals of the equipment to be installed and that, if the power supply was to be secured, the Commissioners might be required to pay availability charges on the supply even though the connection would not be made. As the Chairman considered that it could be five years before the Commissioners carried out these works, he had instructed the Consulting Engineers not to progress the matter at this stage.

The Chairman further reported that the Consulting Engineers had also advised that it was likely the works would trigger eel regulations, which would alter both the requirements and cost of the works.

Mr Sutton queried how just changing the power units could trigger eel regulations. The Chairman's understanding was that the proposals would be considered major works which would require the regulations to be taken into account.

Mr Barnes queried the policy of running all four pumps equally, and if it was proposed to replace two of them, should two be selected as regular duty pumps which would be the two units to be replaced later. The Chairman agreed to discuss this further with the Consulting Engineers and the District Superintendent.

The Vice Chairman queried the availability of replacement diesel engines if the Commissioners were to decide to replace the old engines with new and Mr Fairey considered that running diesel engines could be more economical than paying electricity charges with an attached availability charge.

Mr Hill referred to the Consulting Engineer's comments in relation to the development at High Street, Manea for Cole Properties (Manea) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 415 & 417) and confirmed that the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive had recently held meetings with relevant staff members and agreed new procedures for dealing with consent applications which should speed up the process of responding to applicants.

Mr Sutton referred to the application and the resulting complaint, which he considered was valid, and was pleased that a new validation process had been put in place which should assist in the responses to applicants.

Mr Crofts considered that it was not acceptable that drainage authorities are not statutory consultees on planning matters.

Mr Hill referred to an additional application recently received by the Consulting Engineers to increase the discharge from a property on the Charlemont Estate and the Chairman referred to previous issues with the drainage system on the estate.

## RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to arrange for health and safety signage to be supplied and installed at Glenhouse and Purls Bridge Pumping Stations.

- iii) That the Chairman's action in instructing the Consulting Engineers not to proceed with obtaining a quotation for an electricity supply to Glenhouse Pumping Station be approved.
- iv) That no further action be taken concerning the electrification at Glenhouse Pumping Station and the matter be kept under review.

#### C.705 Public Sector Co-operation Agreements

Further to minute C.670, the Chairman reported that there were few opportunities for the Commissioners to carry out works under a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement but that as the Commissioners supported the Agreements he would look to work as closely as possible with the Environment Agency when opportunities were presented.

#### C.706 District Superintendent's Report

The Commissioners considered the Report of the District Superintendent.

#### RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Superintendent be thanked for his services over the preceding year.

#### C.707 Environmental Officer's BAP Report

The Commissioners considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

The Chairman reported that there had been several inspections of the District watercourses concerning wildlife and he was pleased to learn that the Commissioners' policy of regular routine drain maintenance showed an abundant and healthy range of plant and wildlife within the District. He further reported on a range of works carried out on watercourses to trial different heights of berms and to further works to attract kingfishers into the area.

#### C.708 Maintenance Works in the District

Further to minute C.777, the Chairman referred to water levels in the District and that during this period of low rainfall he was trying to retain levels as it was easier to evacuate water from the system than it was to let it back in. He asked that Commissioners contact him if they considered there were problems with water levels in the District.

He reported that the Commissioners' policy of regular maintenance works on all watercourses within the District would be followed this year, with works due to commence post harvest and that Commissioners should contact him if they had any concerns over sections that they considered needed addressing.

#### C.709 Environment Agency – Precept

Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £68,928 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £67,910).

### C.710 Contributions from Developers

Mr Hill 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>                         |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| C Barnes Esq                              | £388.00 (gross)<br>£351.34 (nett)     |
| G Wallis Esq                              | £300.00 (gross)<br>£270.00 (nett)     |
| D. Cole Esq - Cole Properties (Manea) Ltd | £6,575.48 (gross)<br>£5,917.93 (nett) |

### C.711 Association of Drainage Authorities

Mr Hill reported:-

#### a) Annual Conference

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 Commissioner wishes to attend.

#### b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

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

The Chairman encouraged Commissioners to attend both Conferences.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest as a Director of ADA.

### C.712 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Mr Hill 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.

### C.713 Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute C.686, Mr Hill reported the main issues considered and discussed by the Partnership were:-

1. Work on the A14 project has now commenced.
2. The Supplementary Planning Document on flood risk has now been endorsed by Cambridgeshire County Council.
3. That there was an update on the surface water management plan and surveys have been undertaken for property level protection (PLP).

#### C.714 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Mr Hill 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.

#### C.715 Budgeting

Mr Hill 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.

#### C.716 Risk Management Assessment

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

#### C.717 Exercise of Public Rights

Mr Hill 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.

#### C.718 Annual Governance Statement – 2016/2017

The Commissioners 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 Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### C.719 Payments

The Commissioners considered and approved payments amounting to £166,464.60 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

(NB) – The Chairman and Messrs Hartley and Sutton declared an interest (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest (as a member of the ADA Board) in the payment made to the Association of Drainage Authorities.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to Anglia Farmers Ltd.

#### C.720 Annual Accounts of the Commissioners – 2016/2017

The Commissioners 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 Annual Return, on behalf of the Commissioners, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

#### C.721 Date of next Meeting

#### RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Commissioners be held on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

#### C.722 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Inspection

After the conclusion of the meeting, Nicola Oldfield, (Project Manager Environment Agency) gave a presentation on the major works to the Middle Level Barrier Bank containing flooding within the Ouse Washes, following which the Commissioners travelled to Welches Dam Pumping Station and surrounding areas to view the impact of these works.