

RAMSEY FIRST (HOLLOW) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey First (Hollow) Internal Drainage Board
held at Ramsey Golf Club on Thursday the 29th June 2017

PRESENT

P A Drinkwater Esq (Chairman)	J M Palmer Esq
D J Caton Esq (Vice Chairman)	B Rignall Esq
C C Armstrong Esq	A C Roberts Esq
J C Armstrong Esq	D C Roberts Esq
T Caton Esq	R E Stacey Esq
D E Stokes Esq	

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Christopher Convine (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from T E A Noble Esq.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tom Caton who was attending his first meeting of the Board.

B.754 Declarations of Interest

Miss McShane 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.755 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 30th June 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.756 Clerk to the Board

- a) Further to minute B.713, Miss McShane reported that Mr David Thomas had been appointed as Clerk to the Board and she had been appointed Solicitor/Assistant Clerk.

Miss McShane reported that the Chairman had authorised a donation of £100 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 them all the best for the future.

- b) Changes to bank mandate

Further to minute B.740, Miss McShane 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.740, 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.757 Appointment of Chairman

Mr Drinkwater informed the Board that he wished to stand down as Chairman.

The Vice Chairman thanked the Chairman for all the work he had done as Chairman and that he had enjoyed being his Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered to the District by Mr Drinkwater be recorded in the Minutes.
- b) That Mr D J Caton be appointed Chairman.

B.758 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That A C Roberts Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.759 Bank mandate

RESOLVED

That, in addition to Mr D J Caton, Mr A C Roberts be authorised to sign cheques and authorise payments on behalf of the Board.

B.760 Land Drainage Act 1991
Huntingdonshire District Council

Miss McShane reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had appointed Councillor J M Palmer to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Miss McShane also reported that Mr Lummis was not re-appointed.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Palmer.

B.761 Election of Board Members

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

RESOLVED

That the Register be approved.

B.762 Filling of vacancy

Further to minute B.717, consideration was given to the filling of the vacancy in the membership on the Board.

RESOLVED

That Mr Sam Johnson be invited to become a Member of the Board, if he is prepared to do so.

B.763 Appointment of District Officer

RESOLVED

That C C Armstrong Esq be appointed District Officer to the Board during the ensuing year.

B.764 Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

That the Middle Level Commissioners be appointed Clerk to the Board for the ensuing year.

B.765 Clerk's fee

The Board gave consideration to the Clerk's fee for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED

That there be no increase in the fee paid to the Clerk for the year 2017/2018

B.766 Warboys Landfill Site

Further to minute B.722, the Mr Drinkwater gave an update on the Landfill Site

B.767 Contravention of byelaws

Further to minute B.723, the District Officer reported the fly-tipping at Megs Corner and that there were trees in close proximity to the drain at Froghall Farm which needed to be trimmed back.

RESOLVED

- i) That the District Officer be authorised to install a fence and gate at Megs Corner.
- ii) That a letter be sent to the Occupier at Froghall Farm advising that the trees needed to be trimmed as they were overhanging the drain.

B.768 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.724, Miss McShane 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.769 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.725, Miss McShane reported that ADA had met with Defra officials, including Sarah Hendry, on the 11th 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 McShane 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.770 Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station Control Equipment

Further to minute B.726(iii), Miss McShane reported that the Consulting Engineer had advised that the estimated cost for moving the electrical control gear from the old building would be in the region of £55,000.

RESOLVED

That no action be taken at the present time.

B.771 Property

Further to minute B.735, Miss McShane reported that the Consulting Engineer had carried out a Legionnaires Disease Risk Assessment in the Board's property and no further action was required.

B.772 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

Ramsey First (Hollow) I.D.B.

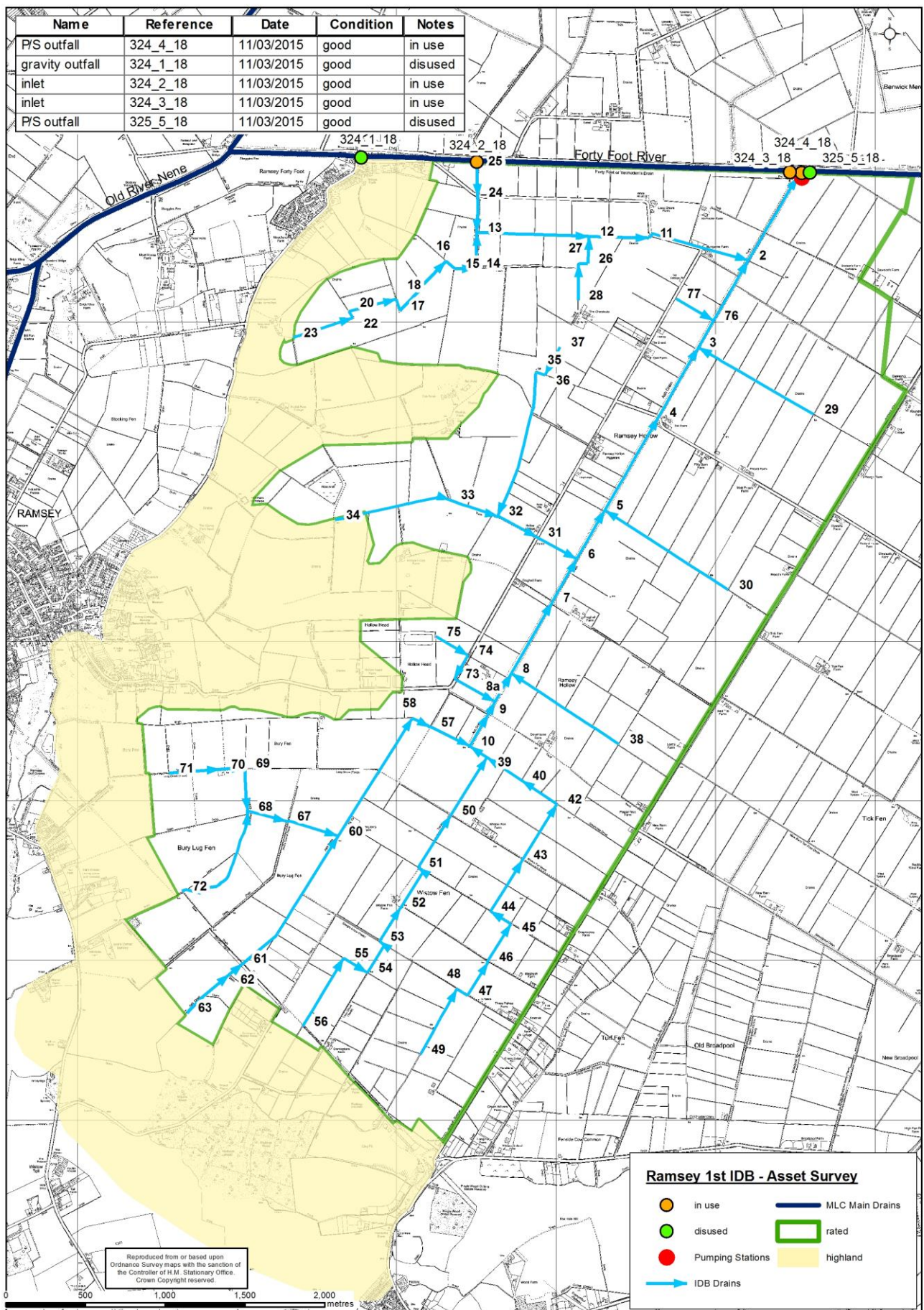
Consulting Engineers Report – June 2017

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 recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

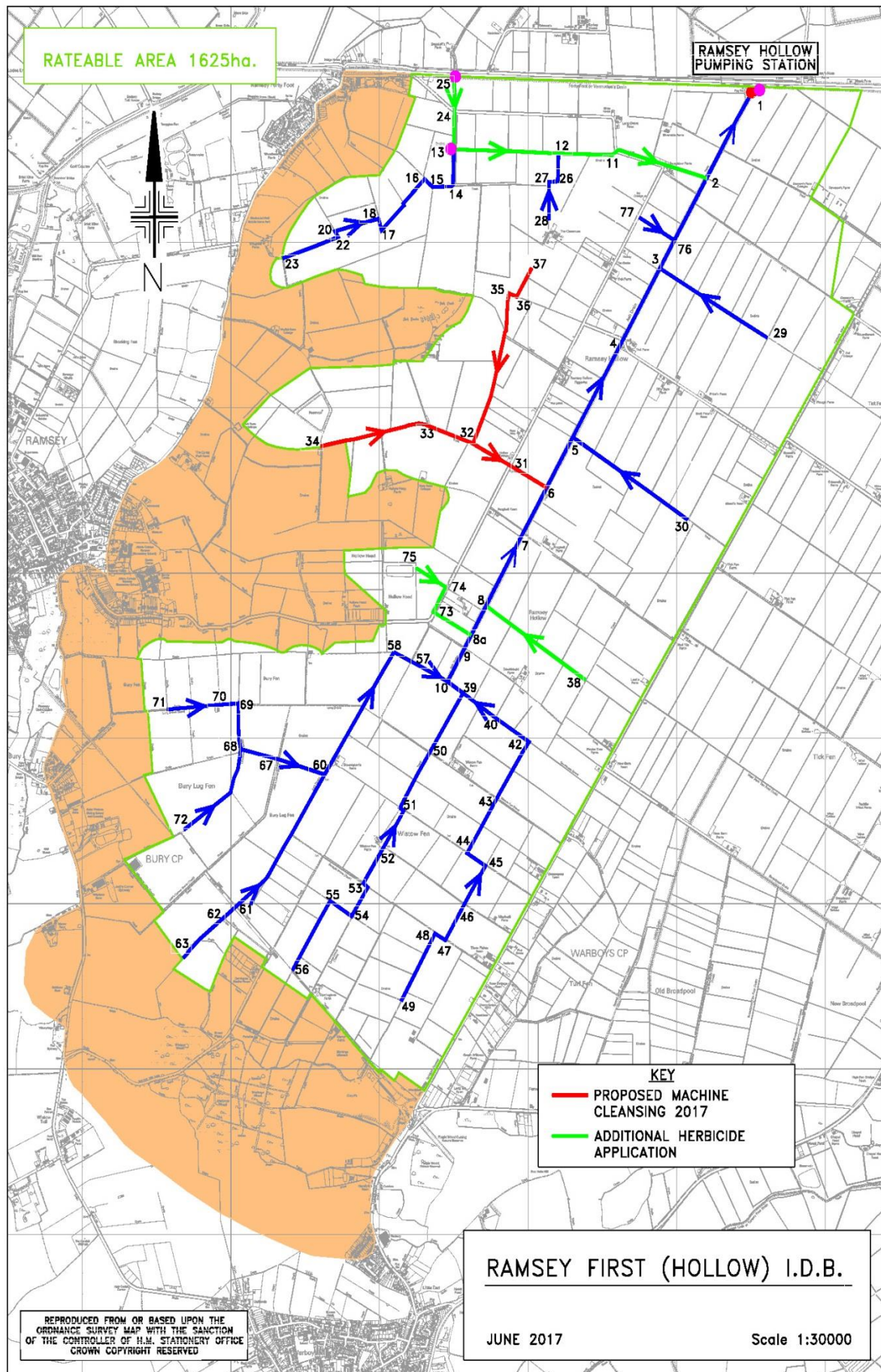
A recent joint inspection of the Board's district drains has been undertaken with the District Officer. The inspection revealed that the majority of district drains are being retained in a satisfactory condition, and are being maintained to a good standard. However, the inspection highlighted stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation throughout the Board's drains, predominantly within the Highland spur drains, reaches 6-31-32-33-34 and 32-35-36-37. It is recommended that these drains are treated with a roundup application and lightly machine cleansed following this year's harvest.

Stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation are also evident throughout Meggs Drove drain, reaches 2-11-12-13 and Hollow Drain Corner Drain, reaches 73-74-75. It is recommended that an application of Roundup herbicide is applied to the affected reaches to prevent any further infestation.

It is also recommended that an application of Roundup herbicide is applied to any other District drain where it is required to control stands of reed, typha (Bullrush) and emergent aquatic vegetation. Provision has been made within the estimated costs to allow for such herbicide applications to be undertaken.

It was also noted during the inspection that flail mowing along the eastern side of Meggs Drove drain, reach 24-25, is severely restricted due to the accumulation of fly tipped waste and horse manure. In order to improve maintenance access and in attempt to reduce the fly tipping at the site, it is recommended that the Eastern bank top of reach 24-25 is levelled and any waste material collected. Once levelled a locked barrier with post and rail fencing at the entrance to the drove should be installed which would restrict any unauthorised access to the Board's drain. In anticipation that the Board would wish to proceed with the works, a provisional sum has been included in the Board's estimated costs.

Messrs R & C Ashman have indicated that they are available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements again this year. Flail mowing in advance of the machine cleansing works will be required to afford the machine operator optimum visibility to undertake the cleansing work. As with the previous year, it is recommended that the Meggs Drove drain, reach 24-25 and reach 2-11 are mown on an annual basis to promote the colonisation of grass species and reduce the presence of broadleaved weeds, encouraging a tight grass sward to establish. A sum for flail mowing both the aforementioned reaches has been included within the Board's estimated costs.



A provisional sum has been included within the estimated costs for any emergency machine cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works that may be required later in the year.

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

1 Machine cleanse the following Highland Spur Drains

i)	Reach 6-31-32-33-34	1650 m	@	1.00	1650.00
ii)	Reach 32-35-36-37	1200 m	@	1.00	1200.00

2	Allow sum for Roundup herbicide application Where required throughout the district	Item	Sum	850.00
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3	Allow for flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing	Item	Sum	2500.00
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4	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow for bank levelling and gate and fence installation along Reach 24-25	Item	Sum	1600.00
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5	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow for emergency machine cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum	2000.00
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6	Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement of herbicide treatments and machine cleansing works	Item	Sum	900.00
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TOTAL				£10,700.00
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Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they are weather dependent, and they will not be held responsible for the efficacy or failure of any treatment.

Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station

Other than matters described below only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Diesel Pump

During February the engine battery charger/power supply unit failed and was replaced.

Electric Pumping Station Control Equipment

At the Board's last meeting members requested an estimate be produced for moving the electric pumps control equipment from the old diesel building into the new stations GRP enclosure. The

Board is reminded that an estimate for this relocation was included in the June 2013 report, but not taken up at that time and was as follows:

The existing control equipment is over 40 years old and well past its design life new equipment would be required.

Relocation of the electricity supply and metering would also be required to be carried out by UK Power Networks and Siemens.

A specification was drawn up for the new equipment and the **budget** price for its replacement and relocation is as follows:

UK Power Networks/Siemens Metering (budget guide price only)	£12,000.00
New pump motor control panel	£14,000.00
Ultra-sonic level monitor	£ 1,000.00
Removal of old panel	£ 700.00
Panel delivery and installation	£ 1,500.00
Power factor correction	£ 800.00
Site installation and cabling	£ 5,500.00
Telemetry outstation interconnection & modifications	£ 2,000.00
Civil Works (excavation & ducting etc).	£ 2,500.00
Contingency item	£ 4,000.00
Consulting fees	£ 4,400.00
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£48,400.00</u>

It is likely that the above budget estimated cost will have increased in the last four years and is likely to now be around £55k.

Pumping Hours

Ramsey Hollow Pumping Station	Total hours run Jun 14 - Jun15	Total hours run Jun 15 - Jun16	Total hours run Jun 16 - Jun17
No 1 Electric	15413-15840 = 427	15840-15951 = 101	15951-16040 = 89
No 2 Electric	9692-9760 = 68	9760-9927 = 167	9927-10084 = 157
No 3 Diesel	329-339 = 10	339-351 = 12	351-354 = 3
Total Hours Run	505	280	249

	Total hours run Jun 11 - Jun 12	Total hours run Jun 12- Jun13	Total hours run Jun 13 - Jun14
No 1 Electric	14431-14449 = 18	14449-15413 = 964	15413 -15413 = 0
No 2 Electric	8795 – 8818 = 23	8818 – 8967 = 149	8967 – 9692 = 725
No 3 Diesel	40 – 58 = 18	58 – 261 = 203	261 – 329 = 68
Total Hours Run	59	1316	793

It is not known if Grant-in-Aid (GiA) might be an option, but this could be investigated if the Board wished it to be.

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 Environment Agency (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 5 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
158	H/16/01224/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Lockwood	Residence (Extension)	The Hollow, Ramsey
159	H/16/80218/COND	Shire Homes & Building Services	Residential (9 dwellings)	Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot
160	H/16/01681/REM	Shire Homes & Building Services	Residential (9 dwellings)	Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot
161	H/17/00016/FUL	Sphynix Projects Ltd	Residence	Warboys Road, Bury
162	H/00972/PBMPA	Mr & Mrs Kempster	Residential (2 dwellings)	Hollow Lane, Ramsey

***Planning applications ending 'COND' or 'DISC' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwellings***

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water disposal to soakaways, or similar infiltration systems.

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

- *Replacement building to provide accommodation for seasonal farm employees; removal of redundant farm structures at Three Fishes Farm, Puddock Road, Warboys – Three Fishes Farm Ltd (MLC Ref No 130)*

Residential development for 9 houses following demolition of industrial building at Altanet Technology Ltd, Hollow Road, Ramsey Forty Foot - Mr H Dawson (MLC Ref Nos 141 & 146) & Shire Homes & Building Services (MLC Ref Nos 159 & 160)

Further to the last Board report, subsequent discussions have taken place with Shire Homes & Building Services as part of an on-going pre-application consultation. As a result, it has been determined that surface water from the development is to be discharged into the neighbouring lake (as the former industrial building did), with treated effluent discharging into the Forty Foot River. Therefore, the re-development of the site is unlikely to require the Board's consent.

Demolition of 43 Station Road and residential development of site to provide approximately 150 dwellings with associated infrastructure at Old Mill Avenue, Station Road and 43 Warboys Road, Warboys - Gladman Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No142)

Further pre-application discussions have occurred with the developer, David Wilson Homes, and it is confirmed that surface water is discharging into the Bury Brook catchment and the Board's consent will not be required.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Further to the last meeting, the MLC have been consulted on the following documents that were the subject of Public Consultations. Responses were made on behalf of the Commissioners and the Boards within the District Councils area for whom it provides a planning consultancy service.

(a) **Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA): Additional Sites Consultation**

A public consultation on the Council's HELAA, formerly known as the Environmental Capacity Study, was held between September and November.

Our reply to this document, made on behalf of both the MLC and Board, provided responses on the Assessment of Broad Locations including statements on the NPPF Floodplain extents; treated effluent disposal; nature designations and our position concerning the provision of FRAs; Capacity calculations and illustrations; together with specific responses on 94 Great Whyte, Newtown Road and Biggin Lane. None of the specific sites are within the Board's area.

(b) **Wind Energy Development**

The content of this strategic document which was the subject of a Public Consultation between November and January went into extensive detail concerning the provision of wind turbines and their associated sensitivity and cumulative impacts within the landscape but did not consider the adverse impacts that this type of development and other related issues created, such as whether the infrastructure has the capacity to serve proposed turbines and wind farms or whether the uprating of existing or provision of new export cable routes, transport routes and associated remedial works is required. Any resultant

adverse impacts on water level and flood risk management systems etc. did not appear to have been considered.

Comments were also made by the Commissioners in respect of adverse impacts on navigable watercourses and The Great Fen Project.

The opportunity was taken to remind the Council that whilst a planning application may be acceptable to the Council it also needs to be appropriate to other parties if the development is to be viable and buildable with the minimum of delay yet maximising our respective limited resources.

(c) **Huntingdonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Update**

Note. *SFRAs 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.*

A review of the draft document was commenced but the unrealistic timescale for providing a response, presumably imposed by the District Council, and the need to respond to other time related matters meant that a formal response was not possible.

No further correspondence has been received from the District Council's consultant concerning the Update and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests. The current status of this document is not known.

(d) **Huntingdonshire Design Guide 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.*

This SPD has been adopted by the District Council.

Copies of the respective Consultation Statement and Adoption Statements are available on the Council's website and at the Council's main office in Huntingdon.

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 ECDC on 16 November 2016, FDC's Full Council on 15

December 2016 and HDC on 17 April 2017. The document can be found at <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2609/cambridgeshire-flood-and-water-spd.pdf>.

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

Miss McShane 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 Miss McShane 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.

Mr Palmer advised that Huntingdonshire District Council were including a condition on each Planning Consent that plans needed to be signed off and approved by the Middle Level Commissioners before Development commenced.

RESOLVED

(i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

(ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.

iii) That the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to supply and install an external display cabinets at the Board's pumping station to include notices indicating the risks, providing contact details in an emergency, together with the grid reference.

iv) That the Planning Engineer be made aware of Huntingdonshire District Council's condition regarding Planning Consent.

B.773 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.774 National Flood Resilience Review

Miss McShane 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.775 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported on the maintenance works carried out during the year.

RESOLVED

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

B.776 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Environmental Officer's Newsletter dated December 2016, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.777 District Officer's Fee and Pumping Station Attendant's Wages

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2017/2018.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the Pumping Station Attendant's wages for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £3,039 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2017/2018.
- ii) That the wages of the Pumping Station attendant be increased by 2.0% as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule.

(NB) – Mr C Armstrong declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

B.778 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.779 Environment Agency – Precepts

- a) Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £5,880 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £5,793).
- b) Local Choices Precept

Further to minute B.732), Miss McShane referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated October 2016.

B.780 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- (a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £7,616.74 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£7,747.60 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2016/2017 less £130.86 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2015/2016).

(b) Further to minute B.733(b), Miss McShane 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.781 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes, viz:-

RAMSEY FIRST IDB**Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes****June 2017****2017-2018**

<u>2017-2018</u>		Transfer value to Special Levy - £382.594 per hectare	Area (Hectares)	Agricultural Land	Special Levies	
					Hunts DC	TOTAL
				-	-	-
Opening Values (£)			1578.049	241,969	16,835	258,804
Opening %				93.50%	6.50%	100.00%
Mr Lockwood	<u>Location</u>	<u>Reason for change.</u>	0.772	-135	295	0
	Froghall Farm The Hollow Ramsey	Change of use to garden				160
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
						0
	Total determinations		1578.821	-135	295	160
	Closing Values (£)				241,834	17,130
Closing %				93.39%	6.61%	100.00%

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

B.782 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £35.10.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.783 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

Miss McShane reported that the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Thursday the 16th November 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Member who wishes to attend.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

Miss McShane reported on the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 7th March 2017.

c) Subscriptions

Miss McShane referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 16th December 2016 and reported that the Clerk had been advised that subscriptions for 2017 will remain unchanged at £536.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2017 be paid.

d) Further Research on Eels

Miss McShane referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 15th 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 £50 per year over the next two years towards further research on eels.

B.784 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Miss McShane 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; to the Report Summary and to the response from ADA.

B.785 Health and Safety Audits

Miss McShane 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 McShane 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.

It was noted in completing the Risk Assessment, that the Board should pay particular attention to activities carried out by the District Officer.

RESOLVED

That the Croner representative be requested to visit the pumping station.

B.786 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.738, Miss McShane 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.787 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.788 Potential Changes in Rating Valuation

Miss McShane 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. She 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 1st 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 1st 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 McShane 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 McShane 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.789 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 31st March 2016.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2016.

B.790 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Miss McShane 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 1st April 2017.

B.791 Budgeting

Miss McShane referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2017.

B.792 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.793 Risk Management Assessment

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

B.794 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss McShane 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.795 Annual Governance Statement – 2016/2017

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

RESOLVED

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

B.796 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £83,059.78 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to him.

B.797 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2016/2017

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

RESOLVED

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

B.798 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 McShane 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 93.39% and 6.61%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £67,289 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 £62,912 and £4,377 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 26p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £4,377 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.799 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.800 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 28th June 2018 (prior to which the District Inspection will be held).