

RAMSEY UPWOOD AND GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey Upwood and Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board
held at the White Lion, Ramsey St Marys on Thursday the 18th May 2017

PRESENT

A C Roberts Esq (Chairman)

R Blackhurst Esq (Vice Chairman)

S W F Bedford Esq

T F Bedford Esq

J R Clarke Esq

J I Edwards Esq

R B Howe Esq

R H Lambert Esq

C W Pickard Esq

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Leo Butler (District Officer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from P L E Bucknell Esq, P H Wagstaffe Esq and C P Wilkinson Esq.

B.1004 Inspection of the District

Prior to the meeting those Members present undertook an Inspection of the District which embraced (inter alia):-

1. Drain adjacent to Tesco's at point 28

Members noted the trees and bushes that required clearing.

Future development proposed was discussed.

2. New Fen Pumping Station

Members noted that the outfall was falling away from the pumping chambers and that there was twisted pipework on the arch.

There was concern that the brickwork and pipework through arch and twisting pipe could cause release of water back into the district watercourse.

It was agreed that the Consulting Engineers would need to carry out further work to monitor subsidence, which could be done by installing tell tales.

It was also agreed that that station would need to be de-watered to inspect the damage that has been caused.

3. Upwood Common Pumping Station and Inlet Slacker

Members noted that the new valve had been installed.

Members also noted the trees along the byelaw strip which needed to be cut back.

[Reference to points are to points on the Board's District Drain map]

B.1005 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.1006 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 5th January 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1007 Clerk to the Board

Further to minute B.980, Miss McShane reported that the Chairman had authorised a donation of £60 towards the gift to mark Iain Smith's retirement and that Iain Smith had asked that his thanks be passed on to the Board 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 Board and that he wished it all the best for the future.

RESOLVED

That the donation to mark the retirement of the Clerk to the Board, authorised by the Chairman, be approved.

B.1008 Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

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

B.1009 Clerk's fee

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

RESOLVED

That the fee of the Clerk be increased in line with inflation for the year 2017/2018

B.1010 Appointment of District Officer

RESOLVED

That L Butler Esq be appointed District Officer to the Board during the ensuing year.

B.1011 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.1012 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.950, 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.1013 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.984, Miss McShane 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. She advised that this would, however, have to be reviewed again once the Government decision is known.

Miss McShane 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.

Miss McShane 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.

Miss McShane 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.

B.1014 Mrs E V Johns

Further to minute B.985, Miss McShane advised that to recover the legal costs associated with the most recent issue would involve further expenditure on legal fees and the outstanding costs were unlikely to be recovered.

RESOLVED

That the Board take no further action to recover the legal costs.

B.1015 Polluting Discharges at Ramsey Heights

Further to minute B.986, the Chairman referred to the Environment Agency's letter advising that the risk of pollution was extremely low.

RESOLVED

That no further action was required.

B.1016 Trees on Catchwater Drain Banks

Further to minute B.987, the Chairman reported that he had met with UK Power Networks and they had agreed to raise the height of the cable.

RESOLVED

That UK Power Networks be requested to put a further pole between Spans 2-3 to lift the height of the cable.

B.1017 Use of Drove Claimed by the Board

Further to minute B.991, Miss McShane tabled a report detailing the Board's responsibilities regarding the road bumps and any liabilities arising from these unauthorised works on the roadway.

RESOLVED

That no further action be taken but if further complaints were received the complainants were to be referred to Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways Department for them to consider their Private Street Work Powers.

B.1018 Amendment to the Board's byelaws

Further to minute B.994, Miss McShane reported that having made an informal approach to DEFRA concerning amending the Board's Byelaws to extend the application of the Byelaws to include a small area outside the District to include the other bank side of the Ramsey Heights Catchment Drain, she had been advised to submit the draft amended Byelaws to Defra for approval.

RESOLVED

That the amended Byelaws be sent to DEFRA for approval.

B.1019 Contravention of Byelaws

Further to minute B.1003, the Chairman reported that he had met with the Occupier of the land and they had agreed to remove the fence.

RESOLVED

- i) That a letter be sent to the occupier of the field adjacent to Mr Tom Key's bungalow requesting her to remove the fence from the edge of the drain.

ii) That a further letter be sent to the occupiers of Uggmere Court Road concerning the removal of the fence.

B.1020 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

Ramsey, Upwood & Great Raveley I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2017

Health & Safety

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

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters reported at previous meetings or described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out.

New Fen Pumping Station

Settlement of the discharge surge chamber has recently been identified. It appears that the discharge chamber has moved away from the inlet sump by up to 75mm. This settlement has been reported to the Board's insurance company following which their Loss Adjuster visited the site and issued an interim report to the insurers. The insurers have now asked the Loss Adjuster to revisit the site with a structural engineer to assess the damage, this is planned for early May. Short term measures have been undertaken to prevent the discharge pipes from the two pumps becoming overstressed. Tell tales have been installed to confirm the extent of the movement. If no further movement is detected only minor remedial works will need to be undertaken. However, if movement continues major works will need to be considered, eg underpinning.

Grant-in-Aid

Work on the preliminary economic case for the new Pumping Station has been completed and used to demonstrate to the Environment Agency (EA) that the scheme is viable. Unfortunately, the scheme is currently outside the EA 6 year funding programme and as a result we are applying to have the scheme accelerated into the 6 year programme. At the time of report production we are awaiting the results of the request for the application to accelerate. Once given the business case will be produced and Grand-in-Aid (GiA) will be applied for.

Survey work at the Station has been completed using a GPS unit. Use of this device speeds up surveying, saving time and money.

Pumping Hours

Green Dyke Pumping Station

Hours Run – April 16 – March 17 = 36 (5459)

Hours Run – April 15 – April 16 = 76 (5423)
Hours Run – April 14 – April 15 = 140 (5347)
Hours Run - April 13 - April 14 = 158 (5207)
Hours Run - April 12 - April 13 = 289 (5049)

New Fen Pumping Station

Hours Run no 1 – April 16 – March 17 = 84 (1226)

Hours Run no 2 – April 16 – March 17 = 84 (3267)

Total Hours Run =168

Hours Run no 1 – April 15 – April 16 = 204 (1142)
Hours Run no 2 – April 15 – April 16 = 89 (3183)
Hours Run no 1 – April 14 – April 15 = 432 (938)
Hours Run no 2 – April 14 – April 15 = 525 (3094)

Total Hours Run = 293

Total Hours Run = 957

Hours Run no 1 - April 13-April 14 = 58 (506)
Hours Run no 2 - April 13-April 14 = 468 (2569)
Hours Run no 1 - April 12-April 13 = 131 (448)
Hours Run no 2 - April 12-April 13 = 788 (2569)

Total Hours Run = 526

Total Hours Run = 919

Upwood Common Pumping Station

Hours Run – April 16 – April 17 = 48 (3894)

Hours Run – April 15 – April 16 = 95 (3846)
Hours Run – April 14 - April 15 = 141 (3751)
Hours Run – April 13-April 14 = 172 (3610)
Hours Run – April 12-April 13 = 317 (3438)

The periodic retest of the fixed electrical installation has been completed at New Fen and Upwood Common.

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.

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.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 5 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, 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>
322	H/16/80289/COND	A G Dyer Ltd	Residential (2 dwellings)	Ugg Mere Court Road, Ramsey Heights
323	H/17/00080/HHFUL	Mr J Gaillard	Residence (Extension)	High Street, Upwood
324	H/17/80070/COND	Abbey Properties Cambs Ltd & The Trustees of the Lord De Ramsey's 1963 Settlement	Mixed Use	Stocking Fen Road/St Marys Road, Ramsey*
325	H/17/00562/FUL	Ms A Colbert	Residential (2 dwellings)	Ugg Mere Court Road, Ramsey Heights
326	H/17/80069/COND	Abbey Properties Cambs Ltd & The Trustees of the Lord De Ramsey's 1963 Settlement	Mixed Use	Stocking Fen Road/St Marys Road, Ramsey*

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

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water disposal to soakaways, or similar infiltration systems. The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

Erection of a food-store, petrol filling station, residential development, community facilities and associated highways and infrastructure works – Tesco Stores Ltd & Abbey Properties Cambridge Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 114, 133 & 168); Application to replace Planning Permission 0501658OUT for erection of foodstore, petrol filling station, residential development, community facilities and associated highways and infrastructure works at land at the corner of Stocking Fen Road and Ramsey St Marys Road, Ramsey - Lord De Ramsey's 1963 Settlement (MLC Ref No 244) and Reserved matters application for the residential phase consisting of 108 flats and houses, means of access (to eastern side of high lode), appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. Application made pursuant to outline permission 0501658OUT varied by permission 0900365S73 land at The Corner Of Stocking Fen Road and St Marys Road, Ramsey - Abbey Properties (Cambs) Ltd & Lord de Ramsey (MLC Ref No 248)

Following concerns raised by the Commissioners' Operations Engineer that works to clear the site were in advance of the site's development an Advisory Notice was sent to the applicants' agent advising him that, where appropriate, prior written consent is required. A verbal response advised that they were simply clearing the site and would contact the Commissioners when consent was required.

Since the last meeting two applications to discharge conditions have been submitted to the District Council, in March, in respect of the Ramsey Gateway sites.

MLC Ref No 324 - H/17/80070/COND – This application seeks to discharge the submission elements of conditions 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 of outline planning permission 09/00365S73. Of these, only condition 17 which relates to surface water disposal is of interest to the Board.

The submission document associated with this condition advises that:

“Outline Planning Permission 0900365S73

Condition 17 – Surface Water Drainage

Condition 17 requires the submission of a scheme for the provision and implementation of surface water drainage.

Condition 17 has previously been satisfied by virtue of a scheme which was submitted pursuant to the development of the Tesco store (also under taken under Outline Planning Permission 0900365S73). The applicant intends to repeat the principles of that scheme across the remainder of the site (excluding the Community Centre) and is in correspondence with the Middle Level Commissioners in this regard.

An initial assessment of the requirements for the land is included within the attached Geotechnical Site Investigation Report produced by Tellett Engineering Consultants Ltd. This is intended to provide the basis for ongoing discussions.”

In respect of the St Marys Road site, the report advises that, emphasis added by the Commissioners:

“4. RESULTS OF INTRUSIVE TESTING

- 4.1. All 12 boreholes showed a layer of topsoil typically between 300mm and 400mm. In one location on the low section of the site this layer was deeper – 800mm – containing brick and concrete fragments. This is indicative of made ground rather than simple topsoil.
- 4.2. The two samples on the bank showed that the bank was formed from made ground, with deep layers of topsoil with brick and concrete fragments.
- 4.3. There was wide variation in the superficial deposits below the topsoil. There was a mix of sands and gravels, clay and some peat.

4.4. The water table was encountered at a shallow level, between 600mm and 700mm below ground. This caused a number of the boreholes to collapse before they could be drilled through to the underlying clay. It is probable that there is a perched water table and the presence of significant deposits of sand and gravel provide storage for rainfall over a wide area.

4.5. It should be noted that rainfall in the preceding 6 months has been only 77% of normal, considered abnormally low by the Environment Agency. It is highly likely that the water table with normal rainfall will be higher.

4.6. Where the boreholes did not collapse, the level of the Oxford Clay was between 1.7m and 3m below ground level.”

“6. SURFACE WATER DISPOSAL

6.1. The site has a high water table and its normal resting level is likely to be significantly higher than the found level of 700mm below ground.

6.2. Typically, the Environment Agency require that any infiltration measures such as soakaways be at least 1000mm above ground water level. Clearly this can not be achieved on this site.

6.3. Therefore, taking into account the guidance in the draft National SUDS manual and nonstatutory guidance, the most appropriate method of disposal would be discharge into High Load [sic]. The rate of discharge will, in order to comply with non-statutory guidance would need to be no greater than the greenfield runoff rate, although the final rate of discharge would have to be agreed with the Internal Drainage Board.

6.4. It is likely that attenuation will be required. This can be provided either by a large tank sunk into the ground, which would require tanking or the use of waterproof concrete. A better option would be to use shallow storage tanks within the roadways in order to keep storm water above the water table, which in itself may lower the water table somewhat. A system such a Polystorm Permavoid, which requires minimum build up above the tanks, should be used.”

However, it is clear that neither the consultant nor the applicant appear to understand how drainage within the immediate area is provided. The applicant has been advised, on several occasions, that the disposal of surface water into High Lode would not be consented as it would increase flood risk in the area.

As yet no submission has been made to the Board and no discussions concerning surface water disposal have occurred for several years.

MLC Ref No 326 - H/17/80069/COND – This application seeks to discharge the submission elements of conditions 2, 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 of Reserved Matters planning permission 11/01849REM. None of these, are of direct interest to the Board.

According to the District Council’s Public Access web page, at the time of writing, decisions on these applications are pending.

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants’ agents concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board’s interests. It is understood that the installation of the piling required to allow development to take place has been delayed slightly and will now commence in the

autumn of 2017. It remains unclear whether all piling will be undertaken in one operation. If not then development of the site will continue to be held in abeyance.

Mixed use development comprising employment (including trade counter sales) (use classes, B1, B2 and B8) car sales, car breaking, combined heat and power uses and a children's day nursery (D1), means of access and road layout at land opposite Viscount Garage, St Marys Road, Ramsey – Client of ESP Ltd (MLC Ref No 210) & Abbey Properties (Cambs) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 225 & 278)

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

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

Proposed Wind Farm at The Bill, St Marys Road, Ramsey – (MLC Ref No 229) Abbey Properties Cambridgeshire Ltd (MLC Ref No 234) & Fivestone Ltd (MLC Ref No 249)

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

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

Erection of an open sided agricultural building at Colwyn, Upwood Road, Ramsey Heights - P Harper & Sons (MLC Ref No 264)

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

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

Construction of 52 dwellings and associated works on land adjacent to St Marys Road Industrial Estate (the former Ramsey North Railway Station) St Marys Road, Ramsey –

(Ramsey SPA Site RA2 Ramsey Gateway) - Client of Maple Solicitors (MLC Ref No 276) & Seagate Homes (MLC Ref Nos 284 & 308)

At the time of writing the status of the planning application on the District Council's Simple Search Public Access web page remains as "In progress".

An inquiry from the applicants' consultant, Wormald Burrows Partnership Limited (WBP), concerning the progression of water level and flood risk related issues has been processed on the Board's behalf. WBP was advised to continue with the post-application consultation procedure and was provided with an estimate of the associated costs. A formal instruction to proceed with this has yet to be received.

With the exception of this, no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

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

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Further to the last meeting, the MLC have been consulted on a Wind Energy Developments document that was the subject of a Public Consultation held between November and January. A response was made on behalf of the Commissioners and the Boards within the District Councils area for whom it provides a planning consultancy service.

The content of this strategic document 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.

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

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 applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests. The current status of this document is not known.

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>

Cambridge Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) Pre-Consultation

Note A WRMP is a document required by Government of every water company which describes how it proposes to maintain the balance of supply and demand over the next 25 years allowing for the influences upon its operation. These include an increasing population, economic growth, the changing climate and the need to protect the environment.

Further to the last meeting, the MLC received correspondence from Cambridge Water seeking our views on a briefing note associated with its next WRMP. A response made on behalf of the Commissioners and the Boards within the company's area for whom we provide a planning consultancy service advised that:

“The document rightly identifies key issues and the need for a long term vision and strategy; however, we note that no references are made to the whole life funding, maintenance of the relevant infrastructure and implementation/monitoring processes.”

In an effort to assist further the opportunity was taken to provide some standard text that may be relevant to the document's production and/or the company's operations. These included the impacts of potable water supply on the Commissioners and the Boards within its catchment; watercourses protected under the Land Drainage Act 1991 (LDA) and associated Byelaws; hazard mapping and development within the floodplain; Flood risk and water level management; wWater Resources and efficiency; river and waterside settings and corridors/Green Infrastructure; Biodiversity and protected habitats and species; Treated effluent disposal/Dry weather flows and Partnership Working.

General Advice

Assistance has been given, on the Board's behalf, in respect of the following:

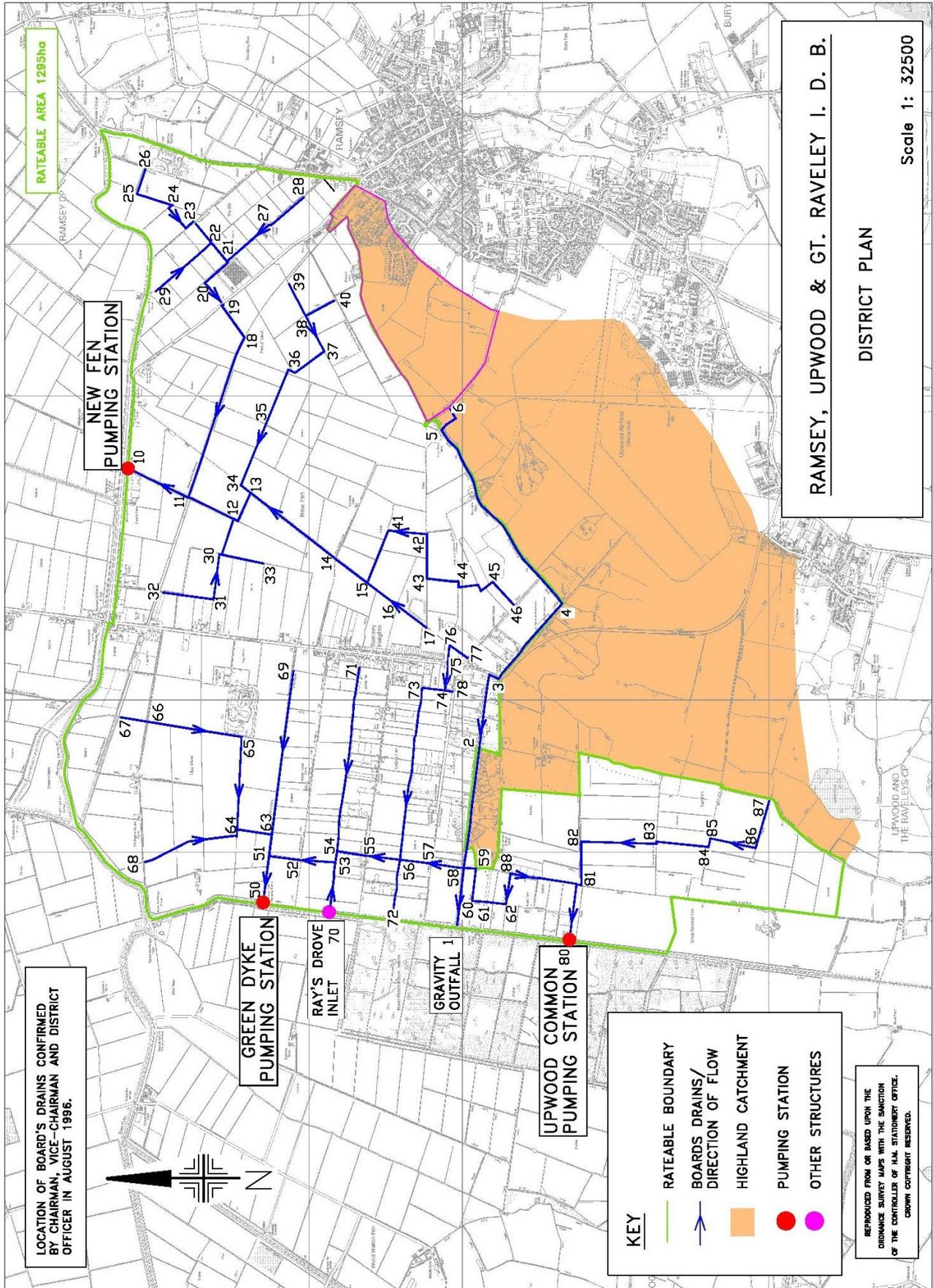
- a) Discussions have taken place with consultants working on behalf of National Grid to provide protection to a high pressure gas main that crosses the watercourse on the downstream side of Common Corner Road Bridge at the junction of Uggmere Court Road and Chapel Road (Point 3 on the Board's system). The reason for the required protection is that, due to its location on a bend in the road, it has been struck a number of times by vehicles. A provisional drawing was recently received that shows the installation of a 900mm pipe, from the upstream face of the brick arch culvert under the highway, through the culvert, extending downstream alongside the road to finish at a point approximately 5 metres past the point where the district drain turns away from the road. The drain will then be filled to a depth of 650mm over the pipe, slightly lower than the road and adjacent land level. Weedscreens and manholes will be installed to provide for future maintenance. This length of piping and filling of a district drain will not only protect the gas main, both across the drain but also where it runs underground for a distance alongside the drain, but also remove the need to undertake maintenance alongside a busy road. By extending the pipe through the existing brick arch under the road it removes any potential maintenance problems with an awkward junction between the brick arch and the new pipe. The proposal is awaiting comments from Cambs County Council Highways and the landowner John Lancaster.

- b) Site visits and correspondence have been required with the owners and their agents on a plot of land to the south of Harpers Drove where the access into the plot was being extended without the Board's consent. Work has stopped and an application for consent requested. The field is currently (April 2017) being considered for change of use for 4 gypsy/travellers plots, (MLC Ref No 318) including one day room by Huntingdonshire District Council.

Consulting Engineer

5 May 2017

RUGtR(328)\Reports\May 2017



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.

The Chairman referred to the trees and bushes at the Tesco site at point 28, viewed earlier on the inspection, and the large volume of water that had been observed being pumped from the site. The District Officer supplied a video of the water being discharged.

The Chairman reported that consent had not been granted for this discharge and that the Consulting Engineers should investigate and confirm that this discharge was in accordance with the approved plans.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to supply and install external display cabinets at each of the Board's pumping stations to include notices indicating the risks, providing contact details for the District Officer and Chairman in an emergency, together with the grid reference to identify each location.
- iii) Drain adjacent to Tesco's at point 28
 - a) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to investigate that the water being pumped from the Tesco site was in accordance with the approved plans.
 - b) If the Consulting Engineers confirm that the discharge is not in accordance with the approved plans, the Clerk be requested to write a letter to Tesco's or the matter be referred to the Local Planning Authority.

B.1021 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

The Board would like to be involved in future forecasting for the Capital Improvement Programme.

It was noted that calculations were still needed from the Consulting Engineers in order to prepare the grant application.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to progress the grant-in-aid application to replace Green Dyke Pumping Station.

B.1022 District Officer's Report

The District Officer detailed the works to be carried out for the forthcoming year and also referred to the trees and bushes at the Tesco site which would need to be removed.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.
- ii) That a quotation for the removal of trees and bushes from the watercourse adjacent to the Tesco site at point 28 be obtained from a tree surgeon and the vegetation be removed.
- iii) That Mr Ayers be requested to carry out works along the road and drain side.

B.1023 Environmental Officer's BAP Report

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1024 District Officer's Fee

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

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of £3,182.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2017/2018.

(NB) – The District Officer declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

B.1025 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 Defra.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.1026 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £4,786 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £4,716).

B.1027 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- (a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £4,994.73 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£5,326.42 representing 80% of the Board's estimated

expenditure for the financial year 2016/2017 less £331.69 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2015/2016).

(b) Further to minute B.961(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 noted and the situation kept under review.

B.1028 Contribution from Developers

With reference to minute B.181, Miss McShane reported that the following contribution 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>
A G Dyer Limited	£300.00 (g) £270.00 (n)

B.1029 Association of Drainage Authorities

Miss McShane reported:-

a) Annual Conference

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

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

B.1030 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.1031 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.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be given assistance and advice in the completion of Risk Assessments on behalf of the Board.

B.1032 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.997, Miss McShane 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).

B.1033 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.1034 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1035 Risk Management Assessment

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

B.1036 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.1037 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.1038 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £54,058.63 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

B.1039 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 Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2017.

B.1040 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 51.34% and 48.66%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £41,870 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 £21,497 and £20,373 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 13.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £20,373 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.1041 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.1042 Dates of next Meetings

RESOLVED

That the next Meetings of the Board be held as follows in 2018, viz:-

- i) Thursday the 4th January 2018
- ii) Thursday the 17th May 2018 (prior to which the District Inspection will be held).