

RAMSEY UPWOOD AND GREAT RAVELEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey Upwood and Great Raveley Internal Drainage Board
held at The Lion, Ramsey St Marys on Thursday the 5th January 2017

PRESENT

A C Roberts Esq (Chairman)	J I Edwards Esq
R Blackhurst Esq (Vice Chairman)	R B Howe Esq
S W F Bedford Esq	R H Lambert Esq
P L E Bucknell Esq	C W Pickard Esq
J R Clarke Esq	C P Wilkinson Esq

The newly appointed Clerk to the Board, Mr David Thomas, and Mr Leo Butler (District Officer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from T F Bedford Esq and P H Wagstaffe Esq.

B.977 Declarations of Interest

The Clerk 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.

Mr Bucknell declared an interest in relation to planning matters due to his role within the Council.

B.978 Confirmation of Minutes

Further to minute B.954(ii), it was noted that it had been necessary to install a 150mm pipe, rather than a 200mm pipe, at Upwood Common pumping station

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 19th May 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.979 Mr G S Halden

The Chairman reported that he had met with Mr Halden who had agreed to remain on the Board.

B.980 Clerk to the Board

- a) Further to minute B.944, it was reported that Mr David Thomas had been appointed as Clerk to the Board and that Miss Lorna McShane had been appointed Solicitor/Assistant Clerk.

b) Changes to bank mandate

Further to minute B.965, the Clerk reported that, as most of the invoices raised came through the engineering department, the Internal Auditor had advised that he 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.965, the Chairman had authorised the appropriate changes to the mandate.

RESOLVED

That the action taken be approved.

B.981 Land Drainage Act 1991
Board Membership – Huntingdonshire District Council

The Clerk reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had appointed Councillor R B Howe and re-appointed Councillor P L E Bucknell to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Clerk also reported that Mr Lummis was not re-appointed.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Howe and extended an offer for him to meet with both himself and the District Officer to discuss the work of the Board and to show him around the District.

B.982 Green Dyke Pumping Station

Further to minute B.948, the Chairman advised that, there was nothing further to report on this item and it could be removed from future agendas as it will be covered under the Consulting Engineer's Report .

B.983 Mr Lancaster

Further to minute B.949, the Chairman reported that he had met with Mr Lancaster which had led to some very positive steps. He advised that the drain had been cleared and flailed and that it was hoped that an application would be made to culvert a section of drain which should address the issues with the gas main.

B.984 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.1951, the Clerk 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.

The Clerk 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.985 Mrs E V Johns

Further to minute B.952, the Clerk reported that Mrs Johns had once again obstructed the Board's planned maintenance works.

He reported that he had instructed Taylor Vinters solicitors to contact Mrs Johns and she did subsequently agree to let the Board's machine onto her land.

RESOLVED

That the Board recover its legal costs associated with this most recent issue where access was temporarily denied.

B.986 Polluting Discharges at Ramsey Heights

Further to minute B.954(iii), the Clerk referred to a letter from the Environment Agency dated the 1st August 2016.

RESOLVED

That the Board continue to monitor the situation.

B.987 Trees on Catchwater Drain banks

Further to minute B.976, the Chairman reported that the trees that had been impeding flow had now been cut back and advised that he would be making arrangements to meet with UK Power Networks to discuss the electricity cables.

B.988 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

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

Consulting Engineers Report – December 2016

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. On the following page there is a map showing 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 considers 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.

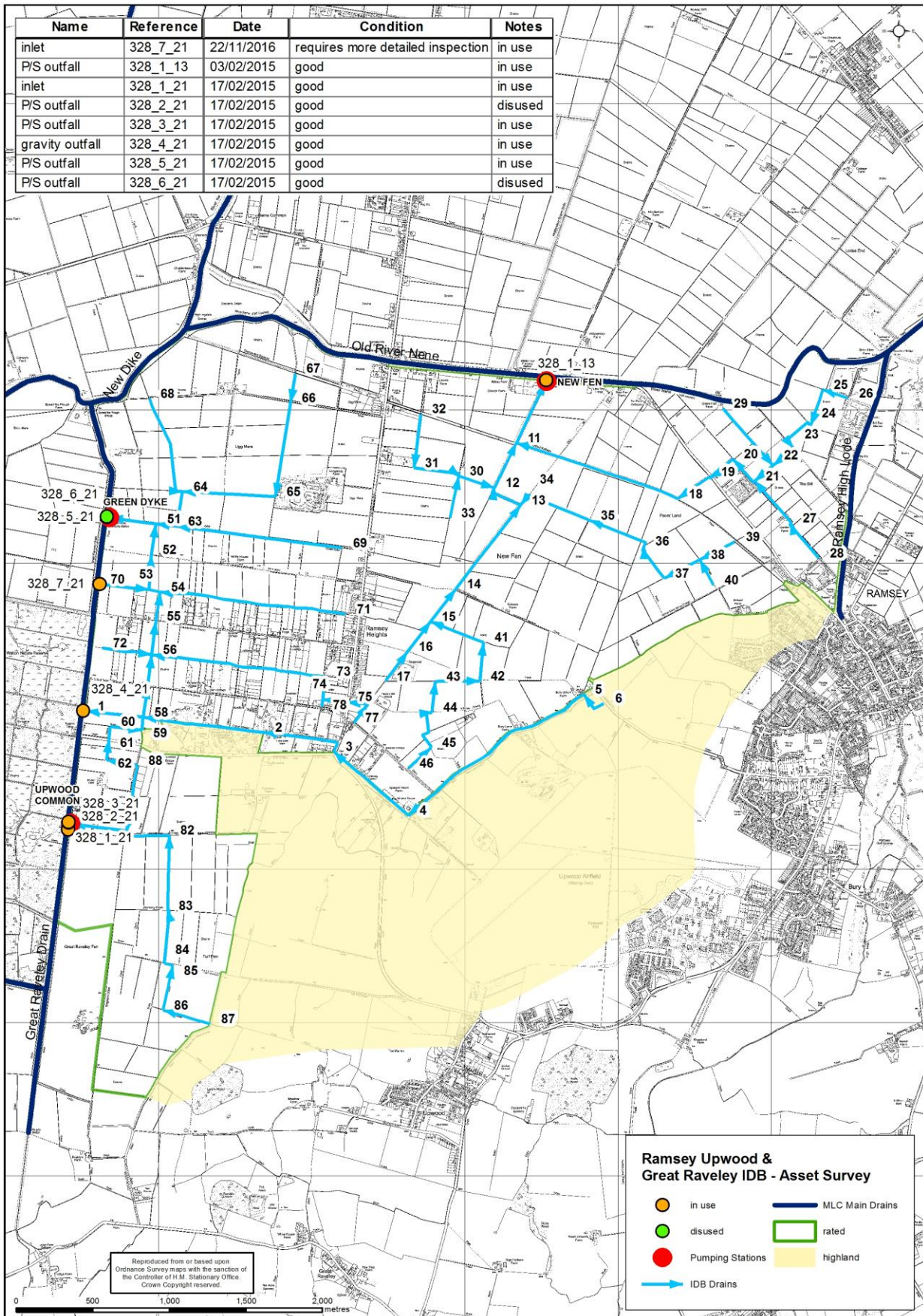
As part of the Board's system is also embanked, the Board should consider a like assessment of its own embankments to assure itself of their integrity and ascertain the need for any work, whether by the Board or a third party, which may be similarly required.

Should the Board wish for a similar exercise to be carried out on its 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.

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.



Pumping Stations

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

Green Dyke Pumping Station

The following is an extract from a report by Bureau Veritas who carry out the “Thorough In Service Examination of Lifting Equipment as required by the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations” on behalf of the Board’s insurers.

- A. Defects which are or which could become a danger to persons, the remedial actions, and the dates by which defects are to be remedied.

None.

B. Other Defects

The long travel end stops should be repositioned to stop the crane from colliding with the water tank.

C. Observations

A copy of the report of thorough examination after installation should be made available for our records.

Grant-in-Aid

Discussions and meetings have been held with the Environment Agency and it is currently anticipated that grant-in-aid would be obtainable for the pumping station replacement scheme. At the time of writing it is not possible to exactly define the level of grant which would be offered. This is in part due to the complex nature of assessing scheme benefits which cannot be double counted and must for grant application purposes be apportioned to reflect all anticipated schemes that protect land and property within the area under consideration, ie what schemes are the EA, local councils and MLC likely to progress that might also help protect the area from flood risk. It is hoped that this will be better clarified by the time the Board meets and the Clerk will report further at that meeting on this. In anticipation that a grant-in-aid scheme will be progressed the EA has been asked to include funds within its forward allocation plan.

Upwood Common Inlet Penstock

In accordance with the Board’s instructions the leaking inlet penstock has been replaced. Difficulties were encountered damming off the structure and the use of a 360 excavator was required. The new penstock, which is constructed in stainless steel and HDPE, is 150mm in diameter to match the diameter of the delivery pipeline through the Great Raveley Drain embankment.

Pumping Hours

Green Dyke Pumping Station

Total Hours Run – Dec 15 – Dec 16	= 73 (5429)
Total Hours Run – Dec 14 – Dec 15	= 93 (5356)
Total Hours Run – Dec13 - Dec14	= 182 (5263)

New Fen Pumping Station

Total Hours Run – Dec 15 – Dec 16	= 306 (1482)
Total Hours Run no 1 – Dec 15 – Dec 16	= 211 (1176)
Total Hours Run no 2 – Dec 15 – Dec 16	= 95 (3193)
Total Hours Run – Dec 14 – Dec 15	= 339 Pump 1 (965) Pump 2 (3098)
Total Hours Run - Dec13 - Dec14	= 671

Upwood Common Pumping Station

Total Hours Run – Dec15 - Dec16	= 83 (3854)
Total Hours Run – Dec 14 – Dec 15	= 105 (3771)
Total Hours Run – Dec13 - Dec14	= 130 (3666)

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 a policy statement available on the Middle Level website, which sets out the Standard of Protection (SoP) that it 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.

Changes to Planning Procedures Update

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-/post-application consultation discussion requests has reduced over previous years. The reason for this is unknown but “developers” are failing to maximise the benefits of this procedure.

Local Land Charges Register (LLCR)

As previously advised, requests are made to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), when appropriate, 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. Shortly after the introduction of this procedure Huntingdonshire District Council’s (HDC) representative on the CFRMP expressed concerns and advised that the authority was unsure under what powers these were being requested. As a result there is concern that the Board’s requests are being ignored and it may be appropriate for the position to be clarified. However it is appreciated that the areas of interest are generally smaller than that of FDC, feature smaller urban areas and that the solicitors concerned may not be undertaking a thorough search.

Previously enquiries were only received from local solicitors but more recently enquiries are also being sought from independent search providers who provide 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 on the officers concerned it protects the parties involved, including the Board, 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 systems. Such consent will not be given unless it is considered that the discharge can be properly dealt with within the receiving system and the costs of accommodating that discharge are met.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 13 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>
309	H/16/00586/FUL	M & A Harris	Travellers' Site	Middle Drove, Ramsey Heights
310	H/16/00933/PMBPA	Mr D Parish	Residential (2 units)	Ugg Mere Court Road, Ramsey St Marys
311	H/16/00581/HHFUL	Mr S Train	Residential (Access)	St Marys Road, Ramsey
312	H/16/00307/FUL	Mr M Wilson	Travellers' Site	Ugg Mere Court, Ramsey Heights
313	H/16/01151/FUL	Mrs G Berner	Residential (2 plots)	Uggmere Court Road, Ramsey Heights
314	H/16/80186/COND	Mr P Smith	Travellers' Site	Middle Drove, Ramsey Heights
315	H/16/01502/HHFUL	Mr M Newman	Garage/Outbuilding	Allen Rd, Ramsey
316	H/16/01165/PMBPA	Ms C Hedges	Residential	Harpers Drove, Ramsey Heights
317	H/16/01686/HHFUL	New Build Renovations	Residential (Replacement garage)	Ugg Mere Road, Ramsey Heights
318	H/16/00683/FUL	Mrs M Smith	Travellers' site	Harpers Drove, Ramsey Heights
319	H/16/01124/FUL	Mrs A Shepherd	Travellers' site	Middle Drove, Ramsey Heights
320	H/16/02196/FUL	Mrs S Harrod	Travellers' site	Middle Drove, Ramsey Heights
321	H/16/02204/FUL	Mr N Smith	Travellers' site	Middle Drove, Ramsey Heights

***Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval Agricultural to Dwellings
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.

All of the planning applications for a travellers' site at Middle Drove are for the same site between Goodlife Cottage and Barn Forge.

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)

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 will commence in the spring of 2017. It is not, however, clear 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 erection of 5 no 125m high Wind Turbines at Greenhall Farm, to the north east of St Marys Road, Ramsey (Ramsey Gateway) (MLC Ref No 229) & Proposed Wind Farm at The Bill, St Marys Road, Ramsey – Abbey Properties Cambridgeshire Ltd (MLC Ref No 234) & Fivestone Ltd (MLC Ref No 249)

The outstanding byelaw application for the works to the access culverts has now been processed and retrospectively recommended for approval. This development is now complete.

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 is given as "In progress".

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.

Potential development on land to the north & south of Biggin Lane, Ramsey including: (a) Parcel 1 – to the west of 1 to 21 Park Road, 5 to 11 Oliver Close, 8-11 Cromwells Close and 47 Biggin Lane, (b) Parcel 2 – to the west of 2a to 26 The Malting, 1-6 Milton Close, south of 7 to 8 Milton close, 34 to the Water Tower, The Malting, and north west of 22-36 Malthouse Lane (MLC Ref No 305)

Upon the receipt of further information it was identified that this proposal is not within the Board's natural catchment but within that of 'The Slade' which discharges into High Lode via adopted surface water sewers.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Further to the last meeting, the MLC on the Board's behalf have been consulted on the following documents:

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 26 September and 7 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.

Huntingdonshire SFRA Update

The draft 2015 Huntingdonshire SFRA has recently been provided by the District Council's Flood & Water Management consultant, JBA Consulting and this document is currently being reviewed.

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.*

Further to the last meeting, the SPD has now been endorsed by the County Council and the completed document has been circulated to the relevant planning authorities and risk management authorities (RMAs). Each District will then present the SPD to its next appropriate committee meeting for adoption. The County Council envisages that most authorities will adopt the SPD within the next 12 months. Members will recall that it was originally intended for this document to be adopted in 2014.

General Advice

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

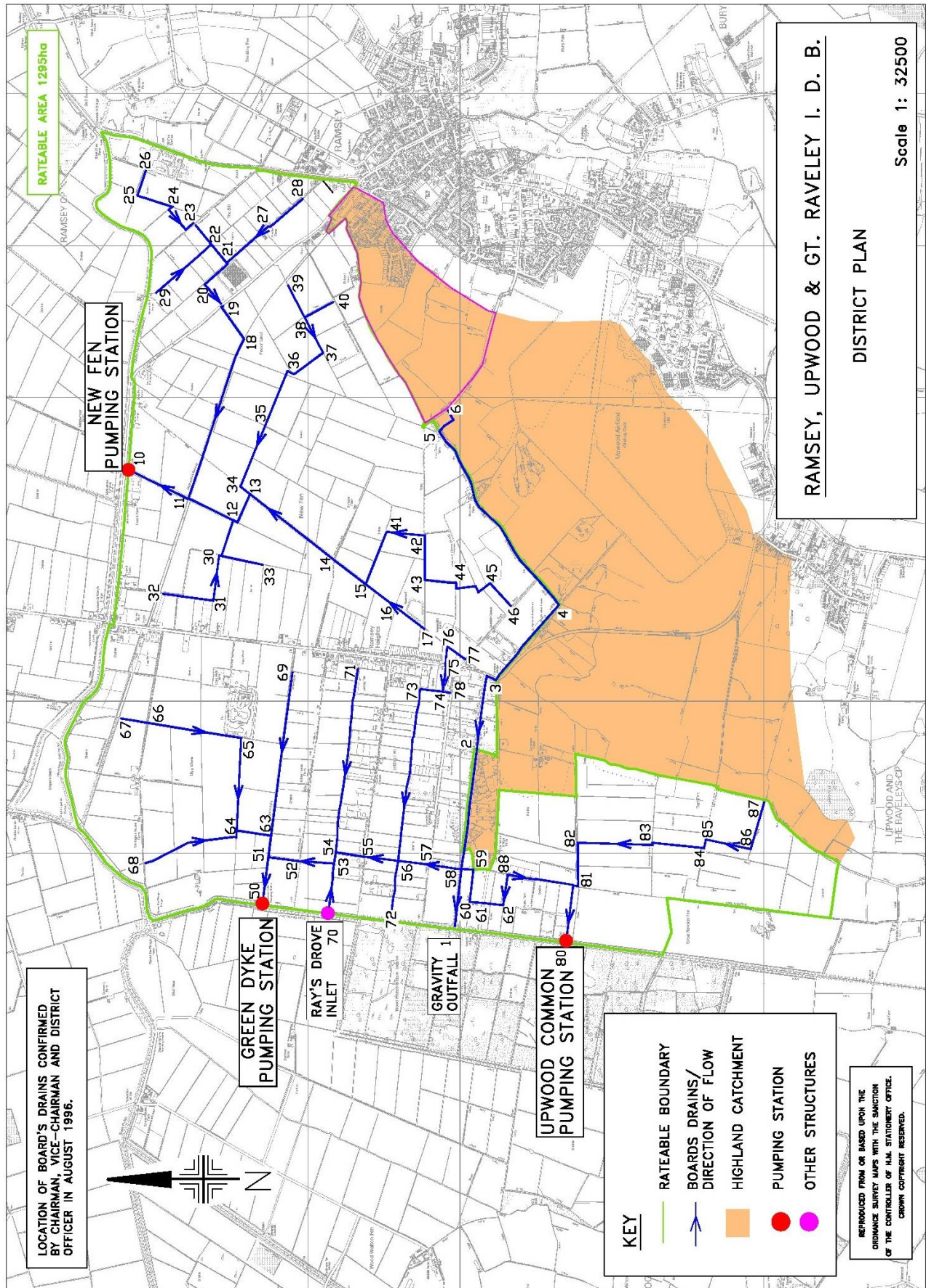
- a) Matthew and Sarah Tack – An application for consent for the piping and filling of a 40 metre length of private watercourse to the rear of 288 Uggmere Court Road, Ramsey Heights was recommended for approval.
- b) National Grid – An application for consent for the piping and filling of a 6 metre length of private watercourse in New Fen, close to Bury Green Farm, to provide protection to a high pressure gas pipeline was recommended for approval.

- c) Discussions have taken place with National Grid to extend the road culvert downstream, at the junction of Uggmere Court Road and Chapel Road (Point 3 on the Board's system). The reason for extending the culvert is to provide protection to a high pressure gas main that crosses the watercourse on the downstream side and, due to its location on a bend in the road, has been struck by vehicles. An application was received from National Grid but did not meet the requirements of the Board or the adjacent landowner and was returned for amending. To date no further correspondence has been received.

Consulting Engineer

16 December 2016

RUGtR(328)\Reports\December 16



The Board noted the report on assets and discussed the redundant slacker located at the site of Green Dyke pumping station. It was also noted that there was the remains of an old windmill close to point 67 and a question was raised over whether there was any redundant pipework, sumps or other voids linked with this. The Clerk agreed to get this checked.

The Board discussed the replacement of Green Dyke pumping station. The Clerk advised that, whilst he was now confident that a scheme would attract grant-in-aid, he could not yet advise what percentage of the cost would be covered.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Green Dyke pumping station
 - a) That the redundant slacker be removed as part of the new Green Dyke pumping station scheme.
 - b) That the Consulting Engineers be instructed to go ahead with a grant-in-aid application with a view to constructing the new station in 2018 should this be possible.

B.989 National Flood Resilience Review

The Clerk referred to the publication of the above review by the Government in September 2016 and to the response from ADA.

The Clerk referred to the ADA response and drew attention to the lack of reference to the SUDS issue, which still remained unsatisfactory.

B.990 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported that in general maintenance work had gone well, in accordance with the planned maintenance programme and that the pumps had operated satisfactorily. He noted that there were several culverts that needed clearing and that the next job would be to tidy up around the pumping station.

It was pointed out to the District Officer that the District map needed amendment as there was an error around points 38-40.

RESOLVED

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

B.991 Use of Drovers Claimed by the Board

The Chairman reported that speed bumps had been installed by others on Middle Drove and that several complaints had been received. Whilst the Board accepted ownership of this and other Drovers it was not clear as to what its' legal obligations were. Concern was also expressed that

horses were damaging the bank at Middle Drove. It was agreed that both these issues should be investigated further for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and District Officer be authorised to install gates on Drovers where they deemed them necessary in order to control vehicles.

B.992 Environmental Officer's Newsletter

The Clerk referred to the Environmental Officer's Newsletter dated December 2016, which had previously been circulated to members.

RESOLVED

That Cliff Carson be thanked for the good work that he has done for the Board.

B.993 Applications for byelaw consent

The Clerk reported that the following applications for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses had been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board, viz:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Mr M & Ms S Tack	The piping and filling of a 40 metre length of the Watercourse – to the rear of 288 Uggmere Court Road, Ramsey Heights	2 nd June 2016
National Grid	Installation of a culvert to provide protection to a high pressure gas pipeline	20 th September 2016
REG Ramsey II Ltd	Installation of underground cables and works to culverts, together with access upgrades	5 th December 2016

RESOLVED

That the action taken be approved.

B.994 Amendment to the Board's byelaws

RESOLVED

That the Middle Level Commissioners' Assistant Clerk/Solicitor be requested to approach Defra to progress amendment to the Board's byelaws.

B.995 Environment Agency – Precept

a) The Clerk reported that at the IDB/EA Strategic Group meeting, it had generally been agreed for the precept to rise by 1.5% for 2017/2018 and that this recommendation would be put to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting in February 2017.

b) Local Choices Update

Further to minute B.960(b), the Clerk referred to the Environment Agency's newsletter dated October 2016.

B.996 Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

The Clerk reported on the Annual Conference of the Association held in London on Thursday the 17th November 2016 and to the address given by the Minister Therese Coffey in which she expressed support for IDBs and ADA, recognised the importance of maintenance and confirmed that special levy funding from Local Authorities would continue. The Environment Agency Chairman, Emma Howard Boyd, explained that the Environment Agency had spent £40 million on 660 repair projects to restore and improve defences of flood hit areas impacted in 2015-2016 and cited a number of ongoing projects.

Minette Batters the Deputy President of the National Farmers Union, advised that the NFU Flood Manifesto would be published in early 2017 in which the NFU would set out the clear policy tasks and actions it would like to see the Government take to mitigate flood risk in the future. She commented that in setting its flood management policy the Government must not overlook the importance and contribution of our food and farming sectors to the economy.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

The Clerk reported that the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association would be held in Prickwillow, Ely on Tuesday the 7th March 2017.

c) Subscriptions

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

d) Floodex 2017

The Clerk reported that Floodex 2017 would be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 17th and 18th May 2017.

e) Further Research on Eels

The Clerk referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 15th November 2016 and to the research specification from the Environment Agency regarding the eel research proposed over the next 2 years.

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

RESOLVED

- i) That the requested ADA subscription for 2017 be paid.
- ii) That the Board contribute £100 per year over the next two years towards further research on eels.

B.997 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.964, the Clerk reported that the main issues considered by the Partnership were:-

1. The proposal to extend the provision of rain gauges in that a feasibility study was being carried out.
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
7. Partner projects were discussed. The Embankment raising in the Middle Level with the Environment Agency was currently in the feasibility stage and firm costs are expected later in the year when funding sources would be looked into.

B.998 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.999 Potential Changes in Rating Valuation

The Clerk reported the consideration presently being given by ADA and Defra to possible changes in the way in which drainage rates and special levies may be calculated in future. He advised that the present system, under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Internal Drainage Board (Finance) Regulations, provides for agricultural property to be valued at a notional rental value for that property as at 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. The Clerk 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 the Clerk 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.1000 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.1001 Financial Position

- a) The Board considered the Estimate Update for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED

That the update be approved.

- b) The Clerk reported that the Board's cash balance on the 30th November 2016 were:-

Clients Premium Account - £174,987.04

B.1002 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

The Clerk reminded Members that the next meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday the 18th May 2017, prior to which the District Inspection will be held.

B.1003 Contravention of Byelaws

The Chairman reported that an unconsented fence had been erected adjacent to Mr Tom Key's bungalow and that when he had met with the occupier she had stated that she would be happy to install gates and to remove the fence whenever the Board required access.

It was agreed that the Chairman should meet with the occupier again to agree what was required and that the Clerk would then this confirm in writing.

It had been observed that a security fence had been installed around the edge of a plot of land at the top of Rays Drove and it was expected that a permanent fence would also be put in place although the exact location of this was unclear.

The Chairman agreed to approach the builder to discuss the location of the permanent fence.