

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Warboys Somersham and Pidley Internal Drainage Board
held at the Lakeside Lodge, Pidley on Thursday the 8th June 2017

PRESENT

J German Esq (Chairman)	G R Munns Esq
M P England Esq (Vice Chairman)	T E A Noble Esq
G J Bull Esq	J M Short Esq
D W England Esq	D R Stokes Esq
K R German Esq	H W Whittome Esq
C W King Esq	S W Whittome Esq

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Robert Wilmer (District Officer) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J E Tavener, D W Cornwell Esq, The Lord De Ramsey, A Edgley Esq, D J Edwards Esq, C Leadbetter Esq and B R Watts Esq.

B.1478 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hill 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.

Members also reviewed and approved the current Register of Member's Interests.

B.1479 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 24th November 2016 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1480 Clerk to the Board

Further to minute B.1443, Mr Hill reported that the Chairman had authorised a donation of £200 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.

RESOLVED

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

B.1481 Death of Mr James Heading

Mr Hill referred to the death of Mr James Heading on Sunday the 12th February 2017.

The Chairman reminded Members that Mr Heading had been a member of the Board since November 1980 and had been Chairman from November 1996 to November 2016.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Mr Heading.

RESOLVED

That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered by Mr Heading be recorded in the minutes.

B.1482 Filling of vacancy

Consideration was given to the filling of the vacancy in the membership of the Board caused by the death of Mr Heading.

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by three individuals who had expressed a wish to fill the current vacancy. He also considered whether, in the circumstances, Members felt it would be appropriate to contact A & E G Heading Ltd, to see if they wished to nominate a representative to fill the vacancy.

Mr D England considered it was important for the Board to have representatives from the whole of the District.

The Chairman referred to this meeting only just being at quorum, yet there was now a list of candidates wishing to become members of the Board.

Mr Hill confirmed the procedure for the filling of vacancies on the Board.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Clerk write to all Members of the Board to explain the current position regarding the filling of the vacancy and to enquire if any members may wish to stand down from the Board given the obvious interest expressed by potential new members.
- ii) That the Clerk write to A & E G Heading Ltd to see if they wished to nominate a representative for membership of the Board.
- iii) That, upon receipt of the information referred to in i) and ii), the Board make election to fill the vacancy at the next meeting of the Board.

B.1483 Water Framework Directive

Further to minute B.1395, Mr Hill reported that there had been no further developments, apart from Mr Paul Sharman being appointed as the IDB representative following the retirement of Mr Iain Smith, but advised that, due to the Environment Agency no longer being able to support it, the River Basin Liaison Panel had since been disbanded. He also reported that the Clerk was satisfied that there were other partnerships in place and would continue to update Members when required.

B.1484 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.1448, Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had previously published, and were now revising, draft handbooks showing examples of where they considered that a transfer licence will and will not be required. He advised that this would, however, have to be reviewed again once the Government decision is known.

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

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

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

B.1485 Outbuildings at Puddock Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1449, the Chairman referred to the discussions of the Finance Committee concerning the planning permission now approved on the Puddock pumping station outbuildings. He confirmed that the permission was valid for three years but if development did not commence within two years an updated ecological survey would be required.

The Vice Chairman tabled an indicative forecast from Maxey Grounds for the sale price for the site which was between £100,000 and £120,000.

Mr King enquired if there was any reason why the Board would need those funds immediately and raised possible byelaw and access concerns if the property was sold.

The Chairman informed Members that the Board does currently store equipment at the site, which also acted as the District Officer's base of operations, as it had facilities for the employees welfare.

The District Officer confirmed that this was the only Board's site which had toilet and washing facilities.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Clerk be asked to advise on the Board's responsibilities concerning the employees welfare facilities.
- ii) That the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Board.

B.1486 Solar Energy Farm

Further to minute B.1452, the Chairman confirmed that the fence was now acceptable and reported that the access culvert would be installed as part of this year's maintenance works. The District Officer confirmed that the Board had not been provided with a key to access the gates.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Honeysome Solar Farm to request that they provide a key to access the gates on the site.

B.1487 Fenton Lode New Cut (Tesco site)

Further to minute B.1453, Mr Hill reported that the Consulting Engineers had confirmed that mitigation was acceptable and that there were no additional flows, which has been confirmed by Peter Brett Associates. He further reported that Nightlayers IDB were pursuing contributions arising from a discharge being made via a foul water main.

B.1488 Bank Slip to the rear of Tesco site, Honeysome Road

Further to minute B.1454, the District Officer reported that he was unsure if he should attend to the slip at Honeysome Road. Mr Hill referred to minute B.1454 and that Cambridge Property Group's liability was now limited to bank stability. The Chairman considered that before the Board undertook works on this section it would be appropriate to know the expiry date of the liability period.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk advise the Chairman when Cambridge Property Group's liability period ends.

B.1489 Finance Committee

Members considered the minutes of the Meetings of the Finance Committee held on the 25th May 2017.

RESOLVED

- i) That the minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 25th May 2017 be approved.
- ii) That the actions taken by the Finance Committee be approved.
- iii) That the Board approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee save as to the rate as this would be considered later on the agenda.

B.1490 Charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work

Consideration was given to whether any revisions were necessary in the Board's charges for hiring of plant for private work (last reviewed – November June 2016).

(i) Doosan DX 140W Excavator

Present charge - £30 per hour in the District) (inclusive of operator's wages)
£35 per hour outside the District)

(ii) Flail Mower

Present charge - £40 per hour inside the District) (inclusive of operator's wages)
£45 per hour outside the District)

The Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the hire charges remain as at present.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted

B.1491 Consulting Engineer's Report

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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley I.D.B.

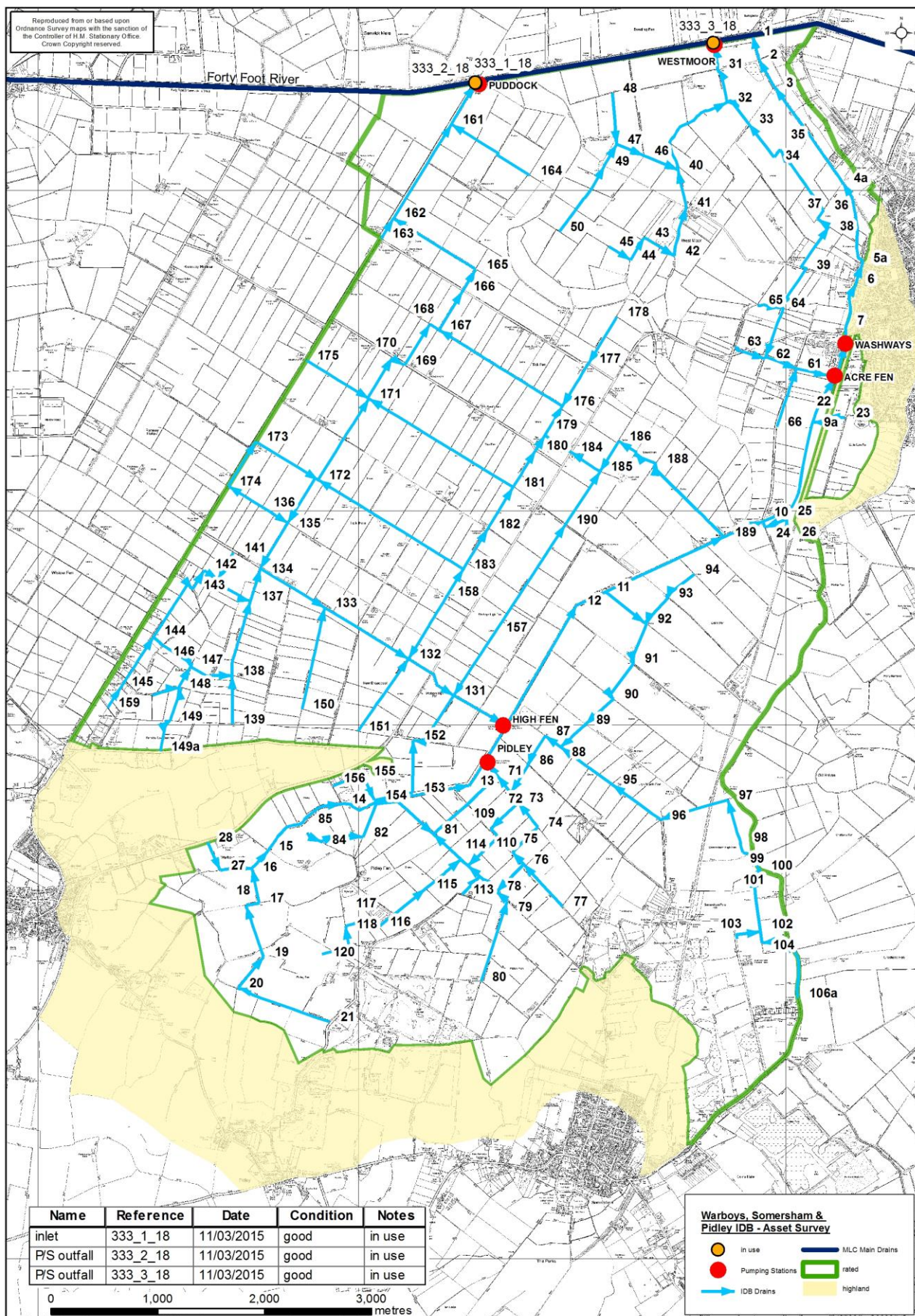
Consulting Engineers Report May 2017

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.

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.



Pumping Stations

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

Acre Fen

The District Officer has made significant improvements to realigning the displaced weedscreen bars and it is now considered satisfactory. Should the drain level be lowered next winter further improvements will be attempted.

It has been noticed that water is leaking from the pump stool, this is thought to be due to a blocked suspension tube drain and is to be investigated.

Puddock

Pump No 2 continues to operate with the Moisture Ingress Sensor (MSI) unit defeated and a recent test of the motor windings showed the improvement in its insulation resistance has remained at a satisfactory level.

Washways

Pumping Plant - Refurbishment and Improvements

Installation of the mains failure generator with a larger unit was carried out by E Rands at no additional cost together with minor snagging works.

Westmoor

An issue with the automatic weedscreen cleaner's travel motor brake was rectified under warranty.

The following quotation was obtained from B J Plant Hire for a concrete hardstanding under the machine's dump area and was forwarded to the Chairman. This work, if required, needs to be completed before the security fencing works can be carried out.



**B J Plant Hire LTD
Rose Cottage
Rands Drove
Marshland St James
Wisbech
Cambs
PE148HA**

Mr Morgan Lakey
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

Date: 22nd March 2017

Quotation BJP1051

Carters Bridge Farm Pumping Station Chatteris

To carry out a cat scan survey, identify and record any buried underground services, excavate an area measuring approximately 4.0m x 4.0m to a reduced level.
Level and compact suitable hard core, set up shuttering to levels and lay ready mixed concrete, apply a brush finish to the concrete, drill and fix steel dowels horizontally into the existing concrete foundation base beneath the building across door side. setup shuttering and cast a new concrete retaining upstand across the door side of the building using ready mixed concrete.
Form a single step in front of the existing entrance door to the building.
Return to site and remove all shutting leaving the site clean and tidy on completion.

Total £3,480.00 Plus Vat

The quotation above includes labour and materials.

Pumping Hours

This will be covered in the District Officer's report.

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.

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 Matters

In addition to matters concerning previous planning matters, the following 28 new development related matters shown below have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
891	F/YR16/0885/F	Mr J Chambers	Residence	West Street, Chatteris
892	H/16/02249/FUL	Mr & Mrs Moore	Residence	Somersham Road, Pidley
893	F/YR16/0942/F	Mr & Mrs Behagg	Residence (Annexe)	London Road, Chatteris
894	F/YR16/1000/F	Mr B White DBM Landscapes	Residence	Blackmill Road, Chatteris
895	F/YR16/0985	Mr P Hanley	Residence (Extension)	Rosemary Lane, Chatteris
896	H/16/02355/FUL	Mr R Perry	Residence	High Street, Pidley
897	H/16/02039/FUL	Mr I Sahall	Poultry Farm	Heath Road, Warboys*
898	F/YR16/1089/F	Prime UK Property Ltd	Residential (3 dwellings)	Fen View, Chatteris
899	H/16/02522/HHFUL	Mr M Cholerton	Residence (Extension)	Fen Road, Pidley
900	H/16/02716/FUL	Mr S Clark	Residential (2 dwellings)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
901	H/16/02701/P3PPA	Mr Grange	Residence	Parkhall Road, Somersham
902	H/16/02709/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Cherkas	Residence (Extension)	Round House Drove, Warboys
903	F/YR17/0014/F	Prime UK Property Ltd	Residential (2 dwellings)	Fen View, Chatteris
904	H/17/00142/HHFUL	Mr P Clowery	Residence (Extension)	Warboys Road, Pidley
905	F/YR17/0075/F	Mr & Mrs Spencer	Residence	London Rd, Chatters
906	F/YR17/0079/RM	Mr D Taylor	Residential (2 dwellings)	Linden Drive, Chatteris
907	H/17/00249/FUL	Mr Hopkins	Residential (2 dwellings)	Fen Road, Pidley
908	H/17/00202/FUL	C A Agricultural Ltd	Agricultural	Puddock Road, Warboys*
909	F/YR17/0128/F	Mr B Nairn	Residence (Extension)	London Road, Chatteris
910	F/YR17/0134/O	Mr G Collett	Residential (3 dwellings)	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
911	F/YR17/0153/F	Mrs S Andrews	Residence (Extension)	Fairway, Chatteris
912	F/YR17/0165/F	Mr G Pettitt	Residence (Extension)	London Road. Chatteris
913	H/17/00358/OUT	Mrs E Huggins	Residential (3 dwellings)	Fen Road, Pidley
914	H/17/00386/CLED	Mr Morgan	Residence	Parkhall Road, Somersham
915	H/17/00401/HHFUL	Mr S Bond	Residence (Extensions)	Queens Road, Somersham
916	F/YR17/0303/F	N & M Hobbs	Garden centre	Doddington Road, Chatteris
917	H/17/00646/FUL	England Marketing	Office	Fenside Road Warboys*
918	H/17/00636/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Oakes	Residence (Extension)	Locksgate, Somersham

Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder Full

Planning applications ending 'P3PPA' relate to Prior Approval - Storage to dwelling

Planning applications ending 'RM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters

Planning applications ending 'CLED' relate to certificate of existing lawful use

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

Mr & Mrs Behagg (MLC Ref No 893) chose to use the soakaway self-certification process for the annexe to their residence at London Road, Chatteris and, in doing so, agreed that if the soakaway was to fail in the future they would be liable for discharge consent.

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

- *Erection of foodstore (A1), petrol filling station (pfs), car parking and associated highway works on land north of Honeysome Industrial Estate fronting Fenland Way, Chatteris - Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 567, 584, 585 & 663) & Erection of Builders Merchants at Fenland Way, Chatteris - Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 584)*
- *Construction of a solar energy farm and associated works including underground cables at land east of Honeysome Farm Bungalow, Honeysome Road, Chatteris – Honeysome Road Solar Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 805, 818, 837, 855 & 887)*
- *Erection of a single-storey extension to rear of existing building and creation of earth bund/increase height of existing bund at 16 Albert Way, Chatteris – A E Sutton Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 834 & 859)*

Mixed Use Development on land at Tithe Barn Farm and south east of London Road, Chatteris - Hallam Land Management Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 160, 184, 606 & 630)

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

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 workplace homes - Mr G Collett (MLC Ref Nos 437 & 613) & Midland Ventures Ltd (MLC Ref No 548) and Erection of up to 3no dwellings at land south west

of (Womb Farm) Doddington Road [George Way], Chatteris - Mr G Collett (MLC Ref No 910)

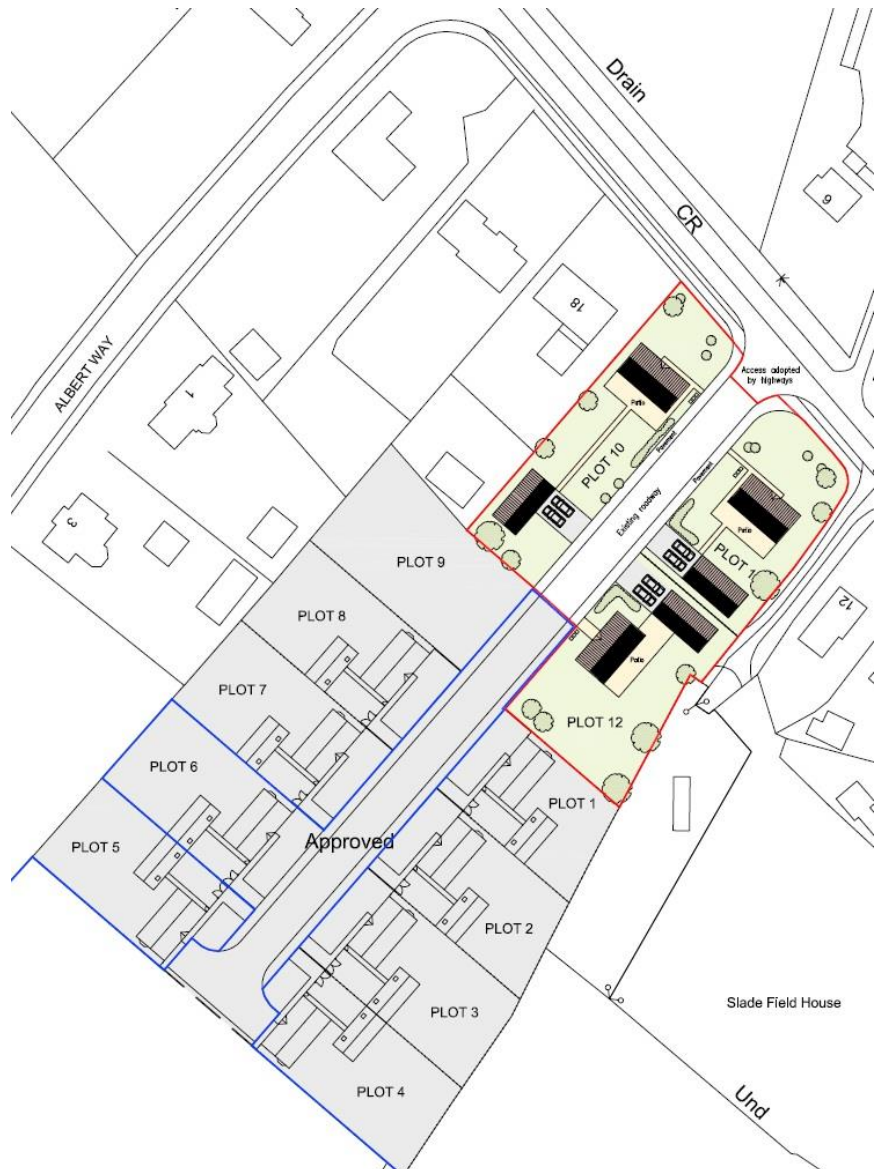
MLC Ref Nos 437, 548 & 613 – Plots 1-9

Planning applications for the individual plots have been submitted to FDC and construction of some dwellings has commenced.

An application for discharge consent for the disposal of treated effluent has been sought and is being processed.

MLC Ref No 910 – Plots 10-12

A further planning application was submitted to FDC in February for an additional three workplace homes at the Doddington Road end of this development. Planning permission was subsequently granted in April subject to the imposition of conditions, with none of relevance to the Board.



Extract from Peter Humphrey Associates Ltds Drawing No 5646/01B

With the exception of providing a response to the planning application no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests and no further correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development.

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

Erection of a vegetable processing building and formation of balancing pond – Client of Grounds & Co (MLC Ref No 627); Allpress Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 638); Produce World Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 776 & 777); Industrial/Haulage Yard at Fenton Way, Chatteris (MLC Ref No 529) & Erection of warehouse with offices and business units on land west of Fenton Way, Chatteris - R W Simpson Ltd (MLC Ref No 644)

Phase 1 - Proposed Onion Store - Greenshoots Ltd

Landowner's Charge

The landowner's contribution of £12,000, required by the Board as landowners of the now redundant downstream reach of Fenton Lode, has been paid in full.

With the exception of the above, 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.

Residential Development involving demolition of existing storage building on land west and south of 74 West Street, Chatteris – Client of LK Consult Ltd (MLC Ref No 742) and Land Planning Partnership Ltd (MLC Ref No 826)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agent(s) concerning the provision of the original site infrastructure 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.

Installation of a Biomethane Injection pipeline (to inject into the National Grid) involving the erection of an associated plant compound with 2.4m high boundary security fence and gates at Gas Pipeline for Anaerobic Digester Plant, Iretons Way, Chatteris – Little Green Consulting Ltd (MLC Ref No 783) and Pretoria Energy (MLC Ref No 785)

No byelaw consents have been sought and the Board may wish to consider taking appropriate action to rectify this position.

The Board's instruction is therefore requested in respect of this site.

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

Erection of a garden centre (with restaurant area) with 2.2M (max height) fence and gates involving the demolition of existing sheds, greenhouses, and single-storey elements to 134 London Road, Chatteris – Miltons (Wallpapers) Ltd (MLC Ref No 888)

Further to the last meeting planning permission was granted by FDC in February, subject to the imposition of planning conditions including those related to surface and foul water disposal.

During the planning process the LLFA advised that, subject to the imposition of its suggested condition, it was content with the proposed use of a SuDS system.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

However, it was pleasing to note that the following informative has been included on the Council's Decision Notice:

“3 Although the site itself is not located within an Internal Drainage Board (IDB) district, the watercourse into which it is proposed to discharge surface water is immediately upstream of the Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB district. It is therefore recommended that the IDB is contacted to discuss whether Land Drainage Consent will be required for the proposed outfalls.”

This text is taken directly from the LLFA's response and whilst it is not the detailed informative that has been added to other Decision Notices it does at least highlight the Board's existence and involvement in the process.

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

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

Erection of 26 no dwellings (max) at land west of 15 Fairbairn Way, Chatteris – Alan Bartlett & Sons Ltd (MLC Ref No 890)

According to the District Council's Public Access web page a decision on this site remains pending. However, it is noted that further discussions are being undertaken and the LLFA has recently withdrawn its objection to the proposed SuDS scheme which utilises permeable paving and underground cellular storage.

The Board is reminded that whilst the District Council and the LLFA may be content with the proposal it does not necessarily mean that the Board, who as a non-statutory consultee has yet to consider the proposals and is the authority which receives and processes any resultant flows, will be in agreement.

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

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.

Fenland District Council (FDC)

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

No further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

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 FDC's Full Council on 15 December 2016.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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:

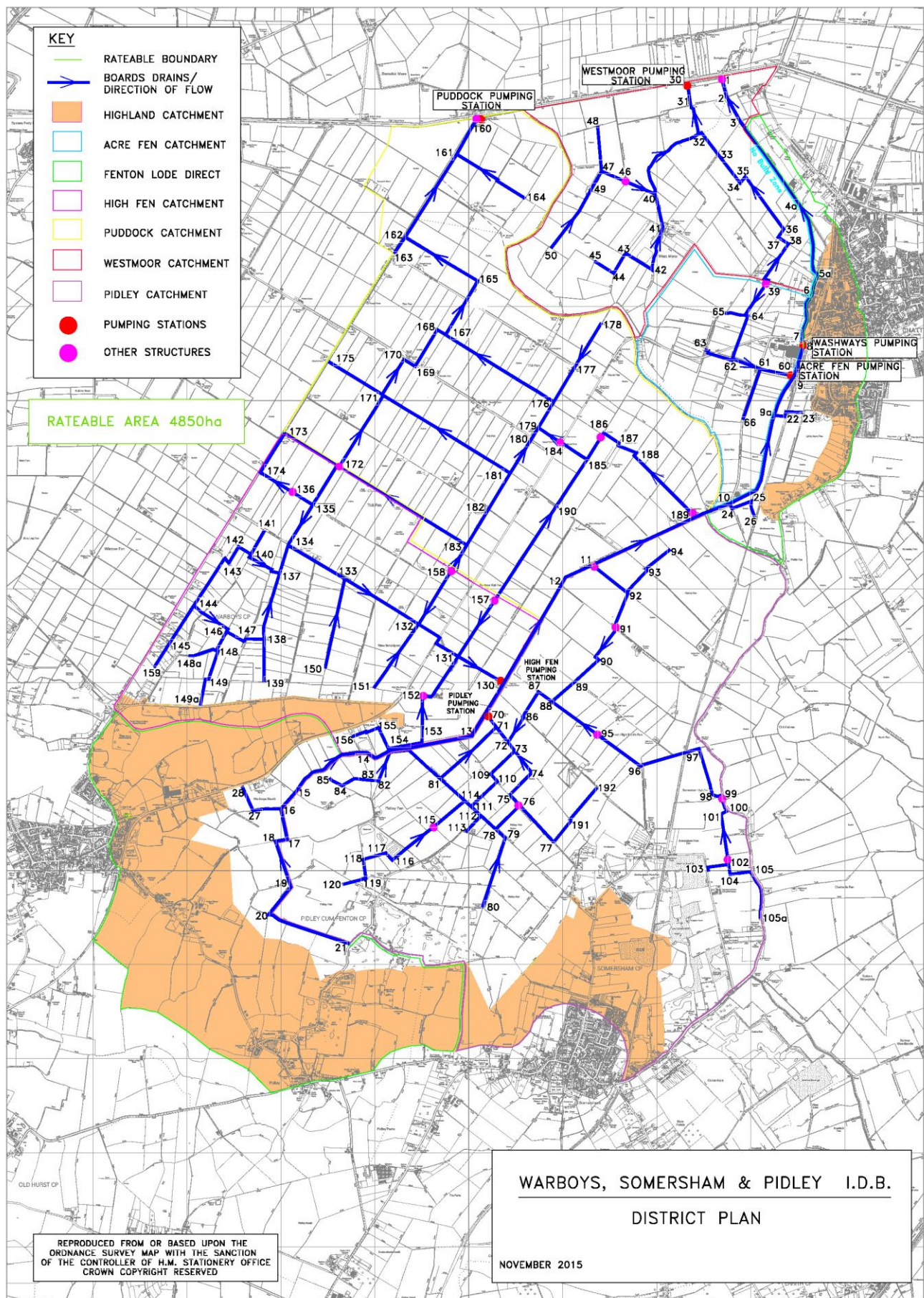
“The document rightly identifies key issues and the need for a long term vision and strategy; however, we note that no references are made to the whole life funding, maintenance of the relevant infrastructure and implementation/monitoring processes.”

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; Water 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.

Consulting Engineer

25 May 2017

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Mr Hill 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 Mr Hill 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 Hill reported that the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to provide, for approval, a sample signage template for pumping stations and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to take any further action.

Mr Hill referred to the quotation in the sum of £3,480 + VAT for the installation of a concrete weed deposit area and building repairs at Westmoor Pumping Station and that the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that these works be carried out and be paid for from the Capital Reserve Fund.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the recommendations of the Finance Committee be adopted.
- iii) That the Consulting Engineers be authorised to regularise any matters raised by development applications as may be required through the normal consenting process.

B.1492 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

The Chairman informed Members of the review carried out by the Finance Committee and that he had received an indicative price (net) of approximately £14,000 to replace the works truck. He further reported on the position of the weedscreen, future provision of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment and replacement control panel at High Fen Pumping Station. The District Officer referred to the current difficulties in clearing the weedscreen at High Fen Pumping Station.

Mr Hill reported that the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the works truck be replaced in 2017/2018 and the excavator be monitored during the year with a decision on its replacement to be considered further at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.
- ii) That the recommendations of the Finance Committee be adopted.
- iii) That the Chairman be authorised to replace the works truck following further discussions with the District Officer.

B.1493 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported further on the slips at Honeysome Road and that the coir rolls used for bank stability on the Tesco side of the drain now had willow trees growing in them, which, without immediate attention would cause major problems in the future. He also referred to the trees at the rear of the Stainless Metalcraft site which were again overhanging the watercourse and would cause a problem when scheduled maintenance works were carried out in 2018.

The District Officer confirmed that the slip at Carters Bridge end had been attended to and had now stabilised.

He reported that, when drain maintenance works had been carried out on the Washways discharge channel, water levels had been lowered by removing the dam boards on the control structure at the Forty Foot end of the watercourse and, now that works had been completed, he requested that the dam boards be replaced and water levels raised to their original levels, which he considered would not have any adverse effect on the channel. He did advise however, that he thought it likely that water was being extracted by A Bartlett & Sons from a point immediately downstream of Washways Pumping Station but had been unable to confirm this.

The District Officer reported that as this year's maintenance works to the Fenton Lode would require a long reach machine, they would need to be carried out by a contractor.

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the possibility of top mowing bank tops and that he would only be able to hire a suitable machine for a 10 week period. He had also considered using a contractor to carry out these works.

In response to Mr K German, the District Officer considered it may be possible to use the Board's machine to carry out these works but it would not be straight forward to affect the change to the machinery.

The Vice Chairman considered that the problem was only in relation to the Fenton Lode and Mr Munns queried why this appears to be an issue now, as it had not been in previous years. He considered the Board's watercourses were now in a better condition that they had been for a long while.

The District Officer considered that by keeping on top of work and keeping the grass manageable, it made it easier to carry out the drain maintenance works.

Mr Stokes queried if there were any access problems caused by the grass being uncut and Mr H Whittome referred to possible health and safety implications.

The District Officer reported that he had concerns over access to Westmoor Pumping Station following the installation of security fencing as part of the automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment installation.

He reported that the inlet at Puddock Pumping Station had seized and that, as he was unsure that if he opened the valve to let water into the District he would be able to close it again, he had been letting water in through Westmoor Pumping Station.

With regards to this year's drain maintenance works he was unsure if all notices had been sent out to affected landowners, particularly section 10-130 on the District map (north side of drain).

The Vice Chairman drew attention to the established willow tree and fencing at the property close to point 189 to which the District Officer confirmed that both access and carrying out maintenance works were difficult at this point.

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 the District Officer be authorised to purchase and replace the dam boards to the water control structure at the Forty Foot end of the Washways Pumping Station discharge channel.
- iii) That K R German & Son be engaged to carry out the long reach maintenance works for 2017.
- iv) That the Chairman and District Officer further review top mowing the banks on the Board's drains and the Chairman be authorised to take any further action he considers appropriate.
- v) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to approve any action that may be required by the Board in relation to the possible water abstraction downstream of Washways Pumping Station.
- vi) That the District Officer be authorised to discuss access requirements to Westmoor Pumping Station prior to the installation of security fencing.
- vii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to inspect the inlet at Puddock Pumping Station, report on its condition and carry out any repairs required, following approval of the Chairman.
- viii) That the Clerk write to the owner of the property at Point 189 on the District map to explain the position concerning the Board's byelaws, that consent is required for fencing/gate and any other structures and that a minimum 12' wide gateway is required for access of the Board's plant and equipment.

(NB) – The Chairman and Mr K German declared interests when this item was discussed.

B.1494 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

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

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1495 Clerk's fee

Consideration was given to the fee of the Clerk.

Mr Hill reported that there were no proposals to increase the fee of the Clerk for 2017/2018.

RESOLVED

That the fee of the Clerk remain as at present

(NB) – Messrs H and S Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) when this item was discussed.

B.1496 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.1497 District Labour
District Officer's Salary

The Board considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the salary of the District Officer be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award, as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted.

B.1498 Environment Agency – Precept

Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2017/2018 in the sum of £20,027 (the precept for 2016/2017 being £19,731).

B.1499 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Mr Hill reported that the sum of £558.97 (£12,246.43 less £11,687.46 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2015/2016 together with the sum of £11,693.16 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2016/2017.

(b) Further to minute B.1417(b), Mr Hill 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.1500 Determination of annual values for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendations for the determination of annual values for rating purposes, viz:-

Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB

Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes

2017-2018

<u>2017-2018</u>			Transfer value to Special Levy - £65.95 per hectare	<u>Area</u> (Hectares)	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Land</u>	<u>Special Levies</u>		
						<u>Fenland</u>	<u>Hunts.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
			Opening Values (£)	4431.068	753,166	22,152	67,752	843,070
			Opening %		89.34%	2.63%	8.04%	100.00%
<u>Location</u>			<u>Reason for change.</u>					
William Gosney	Long Drove Somersham - Ex Lafarge	Revaluation of land grades - Brown & Co		21.182	2,501		-1,397	0
								0
								1,104
Graves Bros	Honeysome Road Chatteris	Installation of solar farm		-8.398	-1,272	554		0
								-718
								0
								0
								0
								0
								0
Total determinations			4443.852	1,229	554	-1,397	386	
			Closing Values (£)	754,395		22,706	66,355	843,456
			Closing %	89.44%		2.69%	7.87%	100.00%

RESOLVED

- i) That the determinations 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 appeals against the determinations.

B.1501 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off, and making adjustments following determinations, rate arrears amounting to £743.16.

Mr Hill reported that the Finance Committee recommended to the Board that the arrears be written off and adjusted.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted.

B.1502 Association of Drainage Authorities

Mr Hill reported:-

a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Thursday the 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 7^h March 2017.

c) Subscriptions

Mr Hill referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 16th December 2016.

d) Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.1468(d), Mr Hill referred to an e-mail received from ADA dated the 6th December 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 £100 over the next 2 years towards further research on eels.

e) General Election

Mr Hill referred to a copy letter sent by ADA to the Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in regard to policy on flood and water level management, and the General Election.

B.1503 Governance of Water Level Management in England

Mr Hill referred to the publication of the National Audit Office's (NAO) Report on Internal Drainage Boards, available on their website, www.nao.org.uk/report/internal-drainage-boards; to the Report Summary and to the response from ADA.

B.1504 Health and Safety Audits

Mr Hill 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.

Mr Hill 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.

B.1505 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.1469, Mr Hill reported the main issues considered and discussed 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.1506 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Mr Hill referred to the recently issued Practitioners' guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory Annual Accounts and Governance Statements which will apply to Annual Returns commencing on or after 1st April 2017.

B.1507 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1508 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.1509 Exercise of Public Rights

Mr Hill referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

B.1510 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.1511 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £307,396.49 which had been made during the financial year 2016/2017.

(NB) - The Chairman and Mr K German declared interestd in the payments made to K R German and Sons.

(NB) – Messrs H and S Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1512 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.1513 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 Mr Hill 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 89.44% and 10.56%.

Mr Hill reported that the Finance Committee had recommended a rate of 20.0p in the £ should be set with a Special levy of £4,541 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £13,271 on Huntingdonshire District Council.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £168,691 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 £150,879 and £17,812 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 20.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v)
 - a) That a Special levy of £13,271 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
 - b) That a Special levy of £4,541 be made and issued to Fenland 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 levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1514 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.1515 Date of next Meeting

Mr Hill reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday the 23rd November 2017 at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley which would include an inspection of the District commencing at 9.30am.

B.1516 Board's Bungalow - Puddock Pumping Station

The Chairman reported that having been advised that the son of the tenant in the Board's bungalow had been riding a motorcycle along the bank of the Forty Foot River, he had initially discussed the matter with the tenant and it had stopped. However, when it had started again, he had instructed the Clerk to write a letter to the Board's tenant explaining his obligations under the Tenancy Agreement with the Board, which appeared to have now resolved the matter.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman's actions in instructing the Clerk to write to the tenant of the Board's bungalow be approved.