

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 22nd November 2018

PRESENT

J German Esq (Chairman)	C Leadbetter Esq
M P England Esq (Vice Chairman)	Miss L C A Munns
D D Brown Esq	T E A Noble Esq
D W Cornwell Esq	C E Robinson Esq
The Lord De Ramsey	J M Short Esq
A Edgley Esq	D R Stokes Esq
D W England Esq	Mrs J E Tavener
I Johnson Esq	H W Whittome Esq
C W King Esq	S W Whittome Esq

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board), Mr Malcolm Downes (Mechanical & Electrical Engineer) and Mr Robert Wilmer (District Officer) were in attendance. Mr K German attended as a member of the public.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from G J Bull Esq, M E Heading Esq, G R Munns Esq, P Murphy Esq and O Owen Esq.

B.1591 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.

The Chairman declared an interest in any matters involving drain maintenance works.

The Lord De Ramsey and Messrs H and S Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in any matters relating to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1592 Inspection of District

Prior to the Meeting those Members present, with the exception of Messrs Stokes and H and S Whittome, undertook an Inspection of the District which embraced (inter alia):-

i) Point 116

The Chairman referred to the drain maintenance works recently completed in the area, which were close to the southern-most point of the District.

ii) Close to Point 14

The Chairman referred to previous discussions by the Board concerning illegal access across the District and to the proposal to install a gate around Point 14 where the drove

way narrows. Members considered the proposal and that, if a gate was to be installed, it should be substantially constructed.

iii) High Fen pumping station

The Chairman referred to the drain maintenance works on the pump drain undertaken two years ago when the sides of the drain were taken back. Although new plant growth had re-established on the banks and margins, it was important to continue with the routine programme to retain the capacity of the channel.

The District Officer informed Members that due to the space available it was not possible to get an excavator on the weedscreen deck and the weedscreen had to be cleaned by hand.

Mr Downes informed Members that the weedscreen would require replacing in the near future and that the control panel was the original installed in the 1970's. He referred to previous discussions held by the Board on installing automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment at the station and updated Members on the possibility of the refurbishment scheme attracting grant-in-aid together with the likely costs of making a grant-in-aid application.

The Chairman referred to the recent sale of Puddock buildings and previous discussions on the use of the proceeds of the sale to re-invest in infrastructure.

The Vice Chairman joined the Inspection at this point and enquired whether, if a weed-screen cleaner was installed, would it require fencing. Mr Downes confirmed it would and estimated the cost of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment, new weedscreen, control panel and fencing to be in the region of £100,000.

Concerning the cleaning of the weedscreen Lord De Ramsey enquired, if the Board purchased a smaller machine to allow cleaning the weedscreen, would this eliminate the need for automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment. The District Officer felt a smaller machine could work for cleaning the screen. The Chairman considered that, if a small machine was purchased, future automation of the station would still need to be taken in to account when replacing the weedscreen and enquired whether the machine would replace the Board's existing excavator or be a second one. The District Officer considered that it would have to be a second machine.

Mr Downes advised that automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment worked when the pump switched on, so it was not necessary to be on site each time pumping took place.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Board would need to replace the weedscreen and control panel in the near future. Mr Edgley considered that the Board should look at the benefits provided by automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment and should look to install the equipment at this station.

In response to Mr Cornwell, Mr Downes informed Members that there were pumping stations within the Middle Level that had had automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment installed during the 1990's and that the weedscreen was the original installed in the 1970's.

The Chairman referred to the footbridge and the quotation recently received to refurbish and re-set it in the sum of £8,720.

Members discussed whether the Board needed to retain the footbridge or if it could be removed.

The District Officer considered it would be useful to retain as at certain times when it was difficult to gain vehicular access to Pidley pumping station as it allowed alternative access by foot.

iv) Point 190

The Vice Chairman referred to the old water control structure at Point 157 which had collapsed two years ago and that, as a temporary measure, an earth dam had been put in place which had led to water backing up in field drains earlier in the year. In view of this he considered the temporary earth dam should be removed and the old structure replaced with a new one.

The District Officer considered that the Board were required to manage the water levels and if the structure was simply removed the levels in this section of drains would be lowered.

In response to the Chairman, Mr Downes confirmed that levels had been taken earlier in the year and that they were approximately ½m higher this side of the earth dam.

(Mr England left the Inspection at this point)

v) Fenton Lode New Cut (Tesco site)

Mr K German referred to the recent drain maintenance works along this section of watercourse and that the dredged material had been taken out, placed on the berm, and had then been moved to the top of the bank.

He referred to the section south of where they were, towards Honeysome Bridge, where the dredged material, from previous maintenance dredging, had been left on the berm, and that prior to the next maintenance works on this section, this material would need to be removed.

He referred to problems with this year's works where it was not possible to gain machine access from the east side of the drain. Notices had been sent to owners/occupiers on the west side and, after discussions, access was obtained to continue with the works whilst the machine was on-site.

vi) Puddock pumping station

The Chairman informed Members that the old pumping station buildings had recently been sold at auction for £120,000; that the boundary line had been established and that there was an agreement with the new owner to remove the conifer trees within three months. He referred to a small issue with the storage of equipment, currently in the switchgear house, and that the Board should consider the purchase of a small building or container for storage. Members considered a container would be suitable.

Mr K German referred to the machine cleansing of the pump basin, which had previously required carting the spoil for disposal and that, when the basin was next due to be cleansed, the Board could consider if it was possible to spread the spoil on the opposite side of Puddock Road.

vii) Proposed conservation area – Point 144

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Mr Steve Parnwell concerning the erection of a Wildlife Conservation feature and enquired if the Board would support this with the installation of a kingfisher hole and an otter holt.

After discussing with Cliff Carson, he estimated the cost of materials to be in the region of £500 and he would provide the machine to do the installation work. Members queried if the site would make future maintenance of the Boards drains difficult. The Chairman reported that he had made Mr Parnwell aware of the Board's byelaws together with their requirements concerning works in relation to the site.

B.1593 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 7th June 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1594 Appointments for the year commencing 1st November 2018

a) Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That J German Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

b) Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That M P England Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

c) Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

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

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

d) Appointment of Finance Committee

Mr S Whittome reported that he would be willing to stand down if a younger Member wished to join the Committee. Mr Brown confirmed he would be happy to join the Finance Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Finance Committee be constituted as follows, viz:-

The Lord De Ramsey
D D Brown Esq
D W England Esq
H W Whittome Esq

M P England Esq
J German Esq
D R Stokes Esq

B.1595 Land Drainage Act 1991
Huntingdonshire District Council

- a) Mr Hill reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillor P Murphy to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.
- b) Mr Hill reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had re-appointed Councillors Mrs J Tavener and G J Bull to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1596 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1538(e), Mr Hill reported that as this matter affects all Boards, and to ensure efficiency and to minimise costs, work on revising the Byelaws has been held until all Boards administered by the Middle Level Commissioners have determined their wishes. Now that this objective has been achieved work is commencing and a bulk submission of revised Byelaws will be submitted for consideration by Defra accordingly, probably in the New Year.

B.1597 Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.1542, Mr Hill confirmed that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract has been monitored and he was pleased to report that the service provided has improved.

He added that in view of the significant increase in prices observed a utility specialist was approached and like for like prices at the time of tender, for a sample of meters, were requested in order that a comparison could be made with the prices obtained by Anglia Farmers. Although some savings may have been made, overall the prices obtained from Anglia Farmers were found to be generally competitive.

Mr Hill advised that a verbal report was presented to the Middle Level Commissioners at their recent Board meeting and, based on the results of the pricing comparison exercise and in view of the service provided by Anglia Farmers having improved, the Middle Level Commissioners resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

The Clerk had recommended that the Board also remain with Anglia Farmers. However, should the Board choose to give notice to Anglia Farmers in late January/early February 2019 to end the current contract, they would then be responsible for negotiating their own separate electricity contract thereafter.

RESOLVED

That the Board remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30th September 2019.

B.1598 Outbuildings at Puddock Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1550, the Chairman referred to the recent sale by auction of the outbuildings for £120,000 and confirmed that the boundary line between the outbuildings and the Board's pumping station site had been agreed. He reported that an agreement had been drawn up for the new owner to remove the conifer trees at the rear of the property.

Following this sale, he advised that there was now a small problem with the storage of the Board's small tools and equipment and that, earlier on the inspection, Members had discussed the purchase of a storage container for the site.

Mr H Whittome enquired of welfare facilities for the District Officer. The Chairman reported that, prior to the sale, this matter had been looked into and the advice received was that, due to the nature of the work, no specific facilities were required to be provided. Mr Robinson felt the Board should look into the possibility of enhancing the facilities available when considering the purchase of a storage container. Mr D England referred to the cost to hire a portaloos.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to investigate the purchase of a storage unit and the provision of welfare facilities at Puddock pumping station and take any further actions they consider necessary.

B.1599 Fenton Lode - Point 14

The Chairman referred to the discussions earlier on the Inspection and the proposal to install a gate at the narrowest point on the Drove.

Mr Leadbetter considered that if the Board were to erect a gate at this point they should also give consideration to putting a second gate further along the Drove.

Mr Cornwell suggested contacting A & E G Heading Ltd to see if there was a suitable position available.

Mr King enquired if this work would be for the general benefit of the ratepayers.

Lord De Ramsey considered these were acts of trespass and making attempts to reduce this type of activity helps protect the District of the Board's property.

Mr S Whittome queried if it would be possible to seek a contribution from affected landowners.

Mr Brown considered that if a gate was erected it should be a minimum of 4m wide.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to establish land ownership and to take any further action they consider necessary to erect a suitable gate at this location.

B.1600 Replacement Excavator Machine

The Chairman reported that he had been unable to locate a suitable machine within the price range budgeted and the District Officer confirmed that there were no compatible machines available.

In response to Mr Johnson, the District Officer reported that when purchased a new clock had been put in and since this point the machine had done approximately 3,000 hours.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to replace the Board's excavator for up to £30,000 trade-in-value. Should the possible trade-in be in excess of this, the Finance Committee are authorised to approve any further actions.

B.1601 Policy Statement

Further to minute B.1570(c), the Board reviewed and approved their Policy Statement which had been updated following the publication of the National Audit Office (NAO) report on IDBs in March 2017.

RESOLVED

That the revised Policy Statement be adopted.

B.1602 Flooding Incident – Red Tile Farm, Puddock Road

Further to minute B.1571, the Chairman reported on the background to this matter and advised that he had heard nothing further. The Middle Level Commissioners' Assistant Clerk/Solicitor had confirmed that nothing further had been heard from the complainant, although there had been a Freedom of Information request which was responded to with all information requested.

B.1603 Clerk's Report

Mr Hill advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a second Chair's meeting was held on the 17th October 2018 and that discussions centred around meeting Health and Safety legislative requirements and the possible options for increased efficiency in delivery of IDB/DDC services. Outline detailed proposals on the latter are to be brought before the next Chair's meeting for consideration.

ii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 81st Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 14th November 2018 and had been well attended with the main speakers being Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Robert Hössen crisis management expert from the Netherlands, John Curtin, Executive

Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency and David Cooper Deputy, Director for Flood and Coastal Erosion Management at Defra.

Sue Hayman spoke about her first-hand experience of flooding in Cumbria, the impact of flooding on mental health, building on flood plains and river management without environmental change and funding.

Robert Hössen gave a presentation on how incident management is organised and dealt with in the Netherlands.

John Curtin gave a presentation on the effects of Climate change and referred to the government's discussions regarding the likelihood, impact and severity of climate change.

David Cooper referred to the 25 year environment plan and to various Government publications made in 2018, which can be viewed online.

That the Officers had been re-elected, subscriptions would be increasing by 2% for the following year and the Conference marked the launch of the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members.

That the Conference also marked the first presentation of the Chairman's award which were presented to Ian Russell from the Environment Agency for his work on Public Sector Co-operation Agreements and to Cliff Carson, former Environmental Officer of the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards, for his work which was instrumental in changing views concerning conservation.

b) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association will be held on Tuesday the 12th March 2019.

c) Floodex 2019

That Floodex 2019 will be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 27th and 28th February 2019.

(NB) - Lord De Ramsey (as ADA President) declared an interest when this item was discussed.

iii) Environment Agency Precept

That the RFCC have set the increase for precept payment for 2019/2020 at 5%.

iv) External Bodies Conservation Initiatives

That there are two projects which may have an impact on the Board:-

i) The New Life on the Old West project being led by Cambs ACRE which aims to improve public understanding of the unique nature of biodiversity in the Fens and to deliver improvements on community green spaces and the ditch network. At the time of report the project has received a £100k grant to develop the project to the point at which a further £3/4 million grant bid will be made to support delivery.

ii) The Cambridgeshire Fens Biosphere, Heritage Lottery have provided £10,000 of funding to research what would be necessary to bring Biosphere Reserve status to the Fens. This project is being led by the Wildlife Trust with support from Cambs ACRE. If successful, this would lead to a new UNESCO designation. This would be a non-statutory designation which records the unique nature of the area.

v) Catchment Strategy

That the EA, LLFA, IDBs and other partners are co-operating in a piece of work which is looking at the pressures on the catchment from a development and climate change perspective. The aim will be to develop proposals which will guide and inform discussion makers.

B.1604 Health and Safety Report

Further to minute B.1574, the Chairman referred to the recent Chairman's meeting held at the Middle Level offices at which health and safety was discussed in detail. He reminded Members that he had been appointed Health and Safety Officer at the last meeting and that training was to be organised through the Middle Level Commissioners.

Mr S Whittome advised that the appointment of a Health and Safety Officer had been queried by a number of Boards and following this, the Middle Level Commissioners had given the matter further consideration.

Mr Hill reported on the investigations by the Middle Level Commissioners to either employ a Health and Safety Officer to provide support and carry out routine inspections to assist the Commissioners and administered Boards in delivery of their health and safety obligations or to use consultants to do this.

Mr H Whittome reported on the Middle Level Commissioners Executive Committee's discussions concerning this and that they were looking to hopefully provide a service to the administered Boards similar to that already provided with regards to conservation.

B.1605 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.1575, the Board considered their Biosecurity Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

B.1606 Abandoned Sluice Structure – Point 157

Further to minute B.1589, the Chairman referred to the discussions earlier on the Inspection and that a decision needed to be made on the location of the new structure, should the Board decide to install one.

Mr Downes confirmed that the levels in the Puddock catchment area were approximately ½m higher than in the High Fen catchment when they were taken earlier in the year and if the dam was moved closed to the roadway, then this could result in water resources problems if the level was reduced by approximately ½m.

The Vice Chairman considered that there had been no problems with the original structure but since it collapsed and a temporary earth dam put in there had been problems.

Mr D England queried if a control mechanism could be put in place at the culvert at the High Fen end of the watercourse.

Lord De Ramsey considered that the advice of the Consulting Engineers should be followed, taking into account local knowledge.

Mr Downes confirmed that the recommendation was for an adjustable structure, the price quoted was a budget estimate only and, if the Board were to proceed, firm quotes would be required.

The District Officer considered the difference in levels was too large to then be able to backfill the system from High Fen.

The Vice Chairman referred to the problem during the spring when water levels were above the land drains.

Mr H Whittome suggested that the Chairman, District Officer and those affected should meet in an attempt to arrive at a solution and the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and District Officer meet with those affected and for the matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.

B.1607 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report November 2018

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.

Puddock

Pump No 2 continues to operate with the Moisture Ingress Sensor (MSI) unit defeated and a recent test of the motor windings showed some further deterioration in its insulation resistance. It will therefore continue to be monitored, but consideration should be given to removing the pump for inspection and overhaul in spring 2019.

Following the sale of the old pump house some of the equipment from that building is now being stored in the electric pump house. It should be noted that combustible materials should not be stored in switchgear rooms (especially gas bottles) and the working space around electrical equipment must be kept clear of obstructions; be arranged so as to give authorised persons ready access to all parts requiring attention, and not be used for storage.

It is therefore recommended that the Board consider providing a separate GRP building for the District Officer's storage and welfare facilities etc.

High Fen

The No 2 pump's drive motor winding insulation resistance to earth deteriorated over last summer but a recent test showed it to have remained around the same value and it will continue to be monitored.

Pump overhaul, replacement controls, weedscreen cleaner and replacement weedscreen have been identified in the Medium Term Plan for a Grant in Aid bid for the next funding cycle, ie 2021 or beyond. The Board may wish to consider setting a target date for submission of a bid after this date.

As previously reported the footbridge across Fenton Lode is in a poor condition and dangerous. A quotation for the budget cost to install concrete pads, remount the existing bridge, replace corroded steel sections, paint, fit GRP decking and additional hand railing is in the region of £8-10k. It is anticipated that a quotation for the works will be provided to the meeting.

Westmoor

The No 2 pump's drive motor winding insulation resistance to earth deteriorated over the summer, this could be due to inactivity during the recent dry weather, it will be checked again after it has seen some further service.

Washways

At the last meeting members requested that the electricity meter reading at Washways be checked. Whilst we have actual readings available, which are shown on the quarterly Pump Inspection & Maintenance Records, these are of little use as the supply is half hourly metered and the consumption data is provided monthly, see sample below:

MPAN	Date	Daily Consumption	Maximum Demand	00:00	00:30	01:00	01:30	02:00	02:30	03:00	03:30	04:00	04:30	05:00
1014572418668	01/07/2018	23.8	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	02/07/2018	23.8	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	03/07/2018	24	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	04/07/2018	24	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	05/07/2018	24	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	06/07/2018	23.8	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	07/07/2018	23.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	08/07/2018	23.3	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	09/07/2018	23.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	10/07/2018	24.2	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	11/07/2018	24.7	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	12/07/2018	24.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
1014572418668	13/07/2018	25	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
1014572418668	14/07/2018	24.6	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
1014572418668	15/07/2018	24	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	16/07/2018	23.7	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	17/07/2018	23.8	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	18/07/2018	24	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	19/07/2018	24.4	1.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	20/07/2018	24.2	1.2	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	21/07/2018	23.7	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	22/07/2018	23.9	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	23/07/2018	23.7	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	24/07/2018	23.4	1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	25/07/2018	26.2	3.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	26/07/2018	23.1	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	27/07/2018	21.8	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	28/07/2018	25.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	29/07/2018	26.2	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
1014572418668	30/07/2018	48.1	37.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5
1014572418668	31/07/2018	27.7	4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5

Proposed Division Dam-Cross Drove

The budget cost to fabricate and install steel work to form a division dam adjacent to Point 190 together with the installation of steps and a fabrication access gantry with hand rails would be in the order of £10k.

Should the Board wish to proceed firm quotations can be obtained.

Pumping Hours

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

Planning Matters

In addition to matters concerning previous planning matters, the following 26 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
962	H/18/00344/HHFUL	Mr S Clarke	Residence (Garage)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
963	H/18/00342/HHFUL	Mr S Clarke	Residence (Garage)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
964	H/18/01034/AGDET	Mrs C Purse	Agricultural (Storage barn)	First Turf Fen Drove, Warboys
965	H/18/00913/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Renwick	Residence (Extension)	Fen Road Pidley
966	Environmental Permit Application	Mr D Bird	Residence	High Street, Pidley*
967	H/18/01054/FUL	Mr S Clark	Residence (Garage)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
968	H/18/01055/FUL	Mr S Clark	Residence (Garage)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
969	Post -App Enquiry	Miltons Ltd	Business (Garden Centre)	London Road, Chatteris
970	H/18/80165/COND	Mr J Taylor	Travellers site (2 plots)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
971	H/18/01221/FUL	Mr D Hopkins	Residential (2 plots)	Somersham Road, Pidley
972	F/YR18/0597/F	Mr Pilgrim	Office	Doddington Road, Chatteris
973	F/YR18/3076/COND	HB Developments Ltd	Residential (18 plots)	Huntingdon Road, Chatteris
974	H/18/01418/FUL	Mr D Newman	Business (Wedding venue)	Fen Road, Pidley*
975	F/YR18/0611/F	Mr B Barner	Residence (Garage)	Kingsland Close, Doddington
976	H/18/01312/FUL	Ms P Coates	Travellers site (3 plots)	Parkhall Road Somersham
977	F/YR18/3091/COND	HB Villages Developments Ltd	Residential (18 plots)	Huntingdon Road, Chatteris
978	H/18/01521/HHFUL	Mr B Clarke	Residence (Garage)	Puddock Road, Warboys
979	H/18/01569/REM	Mr & Mrs Twigg	Residence	Fen Road, Pidley
980	H/18/01701/FUL	Mr Hopkins	Residential (2 plots)	Fen Road, Pidley
981	F2013/17/CW/C1	Mandley Brothers	Minerals & Waste	First Furlong Drove, Chatteris
982	H/18/01602/FUL	K R German & Son	Leisure (4 plots)	Fen Road, Pidley
983	H/18/01858/PMBPA	Mrs A Clarke	Residence	Heath Road, Warboys
984	H/18/01743/FUL	Mr D Hopkins	Residential (2 plots)	Warboys Road, Pidley
985	H/18/01684/FUL	Mr D Hopkins	Residence	Fen Road, Pidley
986	H/18/80237/COND	Mr M Wadsworth	Residence	High Street, Pidley
987	H/18/01847/AGDET	Mr D Hopkins	Agricultural (Track)	High Street, Pidley

Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder Full

Planning applications ending 'AGDE T' relate to Agricultural Determination

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

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

Planning applications ending 'CW' relate to County Waste

Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwellings

A development that proposes direct discharge is indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, disposal to soakaways, infiltration devices and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

The following applicant has chosen to use the soakaway self-certifying process and, in doing so, agreed that if the device was to fail in the future he would be liable for discharge consent:

- *Demolition of outbuildings to rear of existing dwelling and the erection of a dwelling at Magnolia, High Street, Pidley - Mr M Wadsworth (MLC Ref Nos 896 & 986)*

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 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)*
- *Industrial/Haulage Yard at Fenton Way, Chatteris (MLC Ref No 529) & 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); & Erection of warehouse with offices and business units on land west of Fenton Way, Chatteris - R W Simpson Ltd (MLC Ref No 644)*
- *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)*
- *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), Land Planning Partnership Ltd (MLC Ref No 826) & WS Sandbach Ltd (MLC Ref No 928)*
- *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)*
- *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)*

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

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)

Discussions between the District Council and the applicant's agent, Bidwells LLP, continue but, according to Fenland District Council's (FDC) Public Access web page, a decision on this site still remains pending.

The Board has yet to be formally contacted.

Residential development on land east of Llanca, Huntingdon Road, Chatteris – Mr B Biggs & Mr J Biggs (MLC Ref No 468), Bexwell Tractors (MLC Ref Nos 607 & 739) and HB Villages Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 943, 973 & 977)

Two discharge of conditions planning applications have been submitted since the last meeting.

It is confirmed that surface water will be attenuated and discharged into an adjacent combined sewer which will discharge to Nightlayers IDB via Chatteris WRC.

In its role as the LLFA, the County Council has advised that it is content with this arrangement and has approved the very basic drainage maintenance plan.

Haulage yard; aggregates storage area & sales use; inert waste & soil recycling operations; and a lean-to extension to existing buildings accommodating an ancillary office, welfare facilities & storage uses at Furlong Farm, First Furlong Drove, Chatteris – Mandley Brothers (MLC Ref Nos 718, 944 & 981)

Further to the last meeting, a discharge of conditions planning application was submitted during the summer. Despite the extension to the facility being under-drained and being constructed of clean hardcore on a geotextile membrane the County Council, in its role as the LLFA, has advised that it is unable to discharge the relevant condition because no details of the required attenuation pond have been provided.

Environmental Permit Application EPR/KB3199AV/A001 for treated effluent discharge at Hayden House, High Street, Pidley - Mr D Bird (MLC Ref No 966)

During June the Commissioners, on the Board's behalf, responded to an enquiry received from the Environment Agency (EA) for an Environmental Permit Regulation application at the above location which is just within the Board's highland catchment.

The permit was required because the property had a septic tank discharging to the Board's system via a private pipeline. The applicant upgraded the foul system through the installation of a Mantair conversion unit and installed a perforated pipe 10m in length before the discharge point.

Efforts were made to require the applicant to connect into Anglian Water's adopted sewer system that serves Warboys but the Agency "deemed the cost of connecting to the foul sewer to be unreasonable on this occasion". However, the Agency did state that it would advise the applicant of the potential need to seek the Board's consent under its Byelaws.

It is presumed that this is one of several potential discharges into the adjacent watercourse system in the immediate area of the application site. As yet an application for consent has not been sought. A minimum fee of £300.00 would be forthcoming. It is left to the Board's discretion whether it wishes to pursue the matter further.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Further to the last meeting, no additional consultation documents in respect of on-going matters have been received.

Fenland District Council (FDC)

FDC Liaison Meeting

The follow up meeting has not yet been held.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

The Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards since the last Board meeting.

The main matters that may be of interest to the Board are as follows:

The Future Fenland Project

The next meeting is to be held in November when a consultant for this project, which involves the Anglian Fens including Lincolnshire, will be appointed. The Commissioners' Chief Engineer sits on the stakeholder group.

Flood risk activities: environmental permits (formerly flood defence consents)

The EA new Environmental Permitting Charging Scheme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme>. Early engagement with the EA is recommended as a slight redesign of the proposal may reduce the fees required.

Riparian Responsibilities

There has been discussion about issues concerning land owner's responsibilities on riparian "private" watercourses and the amount of time and resources that are taken up by various RMAs, including the Board, in dealing with riparian issues.

It was suggested that a recommendation be made to the RFCC. The options being considered are to do nothing; seek Government Support; or undertake an awareness campaign in the Public Domain with The Law Society, Local Government members etc. It is accepted by the partner members that some initial investment in time and resources may be required to progress these items further.

Discussions included the "Owning a watercourse" webpage which replaced the Living on the Edge booklet which is considered to be a backward step as the information that can be presented on the .gov.uk website is very limited.

The webpage can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Hedge and Ditch Rule

Following a problem in the area covered by the Ely Group of IDBs this "common law" ruling that is mainly used to determine boundaries disputes and the requirements of the Land Drainage Act, notably Section 25, is currently being discussed with various parties including the former Commissioners' and Boards' Clerk, Iain Smith.

The latest ruling dates to 2015 and can be downloaded from the Mills and Reeve website, which can be found at <https://www.mills-reeve.com/boundaries-and-the-hedge-and-ditch-rule-12-07-2015/>

Bank Instability - Environment Agency (EA)/IDB approach

The EA and IDBs advised on their respective position in respect of reinstating channels that have failed. These are largely the same but due to cost constraints the EA now only stabilises channels where there are raised embankments.

For Award Drains the wording of the Award needs to be considered. Some refer to the landowner and not the Authority concerned.

IDB & LLFA Planning Process

An update was given on the LLFA's discussions with North Level and District IDB, the Ely Group and the Middle Level Commissioners in order to attain a collective approach where possible.

However, it was explained that all three authorities have different approaches to some items and that any discussions with the planning authorities and agents may be iterative.

The recent inaugural LLFA/AWSL/MLC Liaison meeting was briefly discussed. The EA expressed an interest in joining this group.

Emerging Planning & Response

A draft flooding newspaper article and a flood call questions template, for completion by reception staff when receiving a flooding related call, is currently being prepared by a member of the Flood & Water team.

Skills & Apprenticeships

The Government is promoting the use of Apprenticeships and it is noted that many authorities are using these in preference to other forms of training.

It is understood that the EA, together with other partners, is developing a new Apprenticeship Standard for Water Environment Workers in England. This aims to support the training and development of workers who carry out operational activities in organisations where there is a responsibility to manage the impact of water environments, natural or manmade, on the land and surrounding businesses and homes. The water environment includes rivers, coasts (the sea), lakes, wetlands, canals and reservoirs.

IDB Good Governance Guide/East Ridings of Yorkshire Council Guide

Matters raised by the East Ridings of Yorkshire Council, who had governance concerns over IDBs within its area of jurisdiction, were briefly discussed.

It is understood that correspondence was copied to all LLFAs and that Cllr Steve Count (Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council) provided a response which advised that the County Council had good partnerships with IDBs in the County.

County Council Public Sector Services

In addition to undertaking its role the group was advised that the Flood & Water Team may be extending its service to another County Council.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

The meeting due to be held in early October was unfortunately postponed until the end of the month. There are currently no issues within the Board's catchment.

Flood Risk Management Trainees

As part of closer partnership working, training has been given to junior members of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council staff and an undergraduate studying for a FRM degree under the EA foundation scheme. The main purpose of the training was to give the candidates a better and broader understanding of water level and flood risk management and also how the Commissioners and IDBs operate.

Feedback from both the candidates and internally has been positive and it is hoped that this opportunity can be offered again when the occasion arises.

General Advice

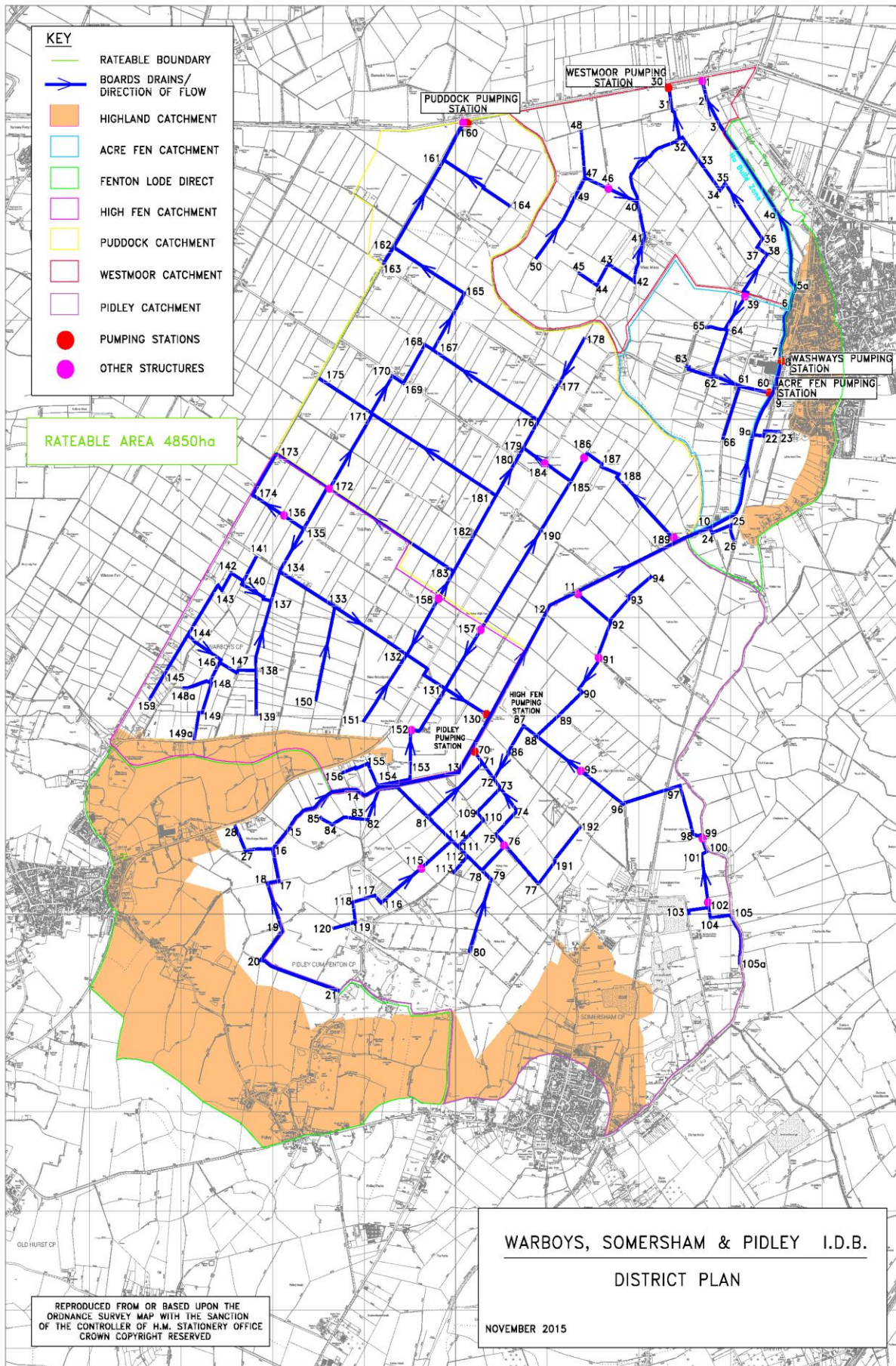
Assistance has been given, on the Board's behalf, in respect of the following:

- (a) Biomass CHP and Waste Water Treatment Plant, Puddock Road, Warboys – An application for discharge was made for treated foul water from the office facilities. This was recommended for approval. Also surface water from the site will be stored in underground tanks and discharged into the Board's drainage system via existing watercourses. Various monitoring equipment and shutoff valves will be provided to ensure no polluted water will enter the Board's system. It is recognised that Board members remain concerned generally in relation to this site and accordingly the Assistant Clerk has written to the EA in its capacity as regulator to state that suitable checks and control measures must be incorporated into any permit granted for this facility, details of which should be provided to the Board prior to issue.

Consulting Engineer

7 November 2018

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley (333)\Reports\October 18



Mr Downes reported that the MIS position on pump No. 2 at Puddock pumping station has improved but it was still recommended to remove the unit for inspection and possible overhaul during spring 2019.

Members discussed the proposal to replace the weedscreen and control panel at High Fen pumping station together with the installation of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment. With regards to the replacement of the footbridge at High Fen pumping station, Lord De Ramsey considered it very useful and essential to allow access to both pumping stations.

Concerning the possible major refurbishment works at High Fen pumping station, the Chairman referred to the sale of Puddock outbuildings and the Board's previous consideration to use the proceeds of the sale to re-invest in the Board's infrastructure.

Mr H Whittome considered the proceeds of the sale should be ring-fenced for future capital investment in the Board infrastructure.

Mr S Whittome referred to the current position concerning engineering insurance and Mr Hill reported that, following further discussions with the insurers over their requirements to remove all pumps every 10 years for inspection, it was not considered viable to continue with this insurance at the moment. He reminded Members that they do have a policy to 'self-insure' by raising money annually within the rate budget towards the ongoing pump overhaul programme and the costs for the No 2 pump overhaul at Puddock pumping station would come from this fund.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That Pump No 2 at Puddock pumping station be removed for inspection and possible overhaul during spring 2019.
- iii) That additional quotations be obtained for the refurbishment/replacement of High Fen footbridge and the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to take any further action they consider necessary on receipt of the quotations.
- iv) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to obtain quotations for the installation of automatic weedscreen cleaning equipment, the replacement of the weedscreen, control panel and fencing at High Fen pumping station for consideration at the next meeting of the Board.
- v) That the receipt from the sale of outbuildings at Puddock pumping station be ring-fenced for future capital investment.

B.1608 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported that this year's programmed machine cleansing works were for the Puddock and Pidley catchments together with part of Fenton Lode which he anticipating completing next week.

He reported that the programmed works next year were High Fen catchment and part of Fenton Lode.

RESOLVED

That the Report be approved and that the District Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.

B.1609 Financial Statement

Mr Hill reported that the Board's revenue cash balances on the 2nd November 2018 were:-

Clients Premium Account	-	£1,088,681.60
Clients Premium Account (Labour)	-	£996.78

He also reported that drainage rates and special levies amounting to £83,037.91 were outstanding on the 2nd November 2018.

B.1610 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2017/2018

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

B.1611 Defra IDB1 Returns

Mr Hill referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2017/2018, which the Board noted and approved.

B.1612 Expenditure/Estimate Update

The Board considered the Estimate Update.

RESOLVED

That the update be approved.

B.1613 Dates of next Meetings

RESOLVED

That the next Meetings of the Board be held as follows in 2019, viz:-

- i) Thursday the 6th June 2019
- ii) Thursday the 21st November 2019 (prior to which the District Inspection will be held).

B.1614 Possible conservation area - Point 144

The Chairman referred to the possible conservation area at Point 144, viewed earlier on the Inspection, and the request from Mr Parnwell for the support of the Board in installing a kingfisher hole and an otter holt. He confirmed he had discussed the matter with Cliff Carson who had estimated the cost of the materials to be approximately £500 and that he had made Mr Parnwell aware of the Board's byelaw requirements.

Mr Johnson referred to issues concerning drain maintenance at the rear of Mr Parnwell's property in relation to the trees restricting access to the drain.

Lord De Ramsey considered that the Board should be supporting such projects which provide conservation/environmental benefits but queried if this was the correct site.

Mr King raised concerns if the creation of a conservation area might cause future problems for the Board in relation to maintenance works.

Mr D England queried if the Board could support the project, as requested, but that the installations be erected within the conservation area rather than in the District drain.

Lord De Ramsey considered that the Board needed to ensure that the proposed works do not create future problems and that the applicant needed to demonstrate that the works will not be detrimental to the Board. He suggested that the Chairman and Vice Chairman discuss the matter further with the Middle Level Commissioners' Conservation Officer to get his advice on the most suitable location.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Conservation Officer discuss the matter further with the applicant and, if an acceptable proposal is put forward, this should be put to the Board for further consideration.

B.1615 Culvert to the rear of former Lafarge site

Mr Cornwell referred to a culvert to the rear of the former Lafarge site which appeared to be leaking. The District Officer confirmed there was an issue with water leaking around the culvert which could be addressed by utilising suitable material from the works to Fenton Lode.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and District Officer be authorised to take action they consider appropriate.

B.1616 Irrigation non-compliance

Mr S Whittome referred to problems during the summer concerning irrigation where contractors were moving onto rented land and irrigating, even though they did not hold the necessary permits. This caused water resources issues as the Middle Level Commissioners had no jurisdiction to police this problem and whilst the Environment Agency had the powers to do so they did not have enough staff.

Mr H Whittome reported on discussions held by the Middle Level Commissioners' Executive Committee and confirmed that the Environment Agency had received 40x more complaints concerning irrigation non-compliance this year.

Mr S Whittome referred to the associated environmental damage that could be caused by the unrestricted draining of District systems and asked members be vigilant and report issues to the Environment Agency.