

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board
held at the Lamb & Flag Public House, Welney on Monday the 21st January 2019

PRESENT

K Goodger Esq (Chairman)
P Clabon Esq (Vice Chairman)
H G Bliss Esq
R Gott Esq
G W Gowler Esq
C F Hartley Esq
J E Hartley Esq
S Hartley Esq
R S Means Esq

D J Pope Esq
A Quail Esq
J Quail Esq
N R Russell Esq
P Russell Esq
B Scott Esq
D Scott Esq
W Sutton Esq
P M Tegerdine Esq

N V M Walker Esq

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Carl Nunn (District Foreman) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs V M Spikings, C J Crofts Esq and R D Gladwin Esq..

B.1760 Declarations of Interest

Miss McShane reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

Mr Means declared an interest in agenda item 10.

Messrs N and P Russell declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No. 472) for D Russell.

B.1761 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 11th June 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1762 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership - Fenland District Council

Miss McShane reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillor W Sutton to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1763 Amendments to the Constitution

Further to minute B.1715, Miss McShane outlined the procedure to reduce the number of members on the Board and following the consultation with the Local Authorities this matter would now be implemented and forwarded for approval to Defra.

B.1764 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.1716, Miss McShane reported that discussions between ADA and the EA continue and the Ely Group have been piloting delivery of efficient licencing. There remains 11 months until the end of the application deadline, but unless there is a change in approach, licences for transfer of water from main river to IDB Districts will be required (where needed) at a cost of £1,500 per river length affected.

B.1765 Public Sector Co-operation Agreements

Further to minute B.1718, Miss McShane reported that a PSCA will be entered into as and when and if works are identified which could be carried out by the Board for the Environment Agency on a cost recovery basis.

B.1766 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Middle Level and South Level Barrier Bank works

Further to minute B.1720, Miss McShane referred to Newsletters from the Environment Agency dated August, October and December 2018.

B.1767 Worlds End Farm, Nordelph

Further to minute B.1721, Miss McShane advised that due to the confidential nature of the issues concerning this item, it was necessary to pass a formal resolution to exclude the public.

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting when the above matters are being considered by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

B.1768 Hales Drove, Old Croft River

Further to minute B.1722, the Chairman reported that it may be necessary to carry out some piling work because of subsidence on the bank in the location of Hampstead Cottages. Miss McShane would discuss with an Engineer prior to any works being carried out. If this work is approved by the Engineer then the necessary Notices under the Land Drainage Act 1991 would be served on the owners of the properties.

B.1769 Site of former Shrub House, 46 Church Road, Christchurch – Planning Application F/YR15/0104F)

Further to minute B.1727, Miss McShane advised that this site had been subject to a Byelaw and Discharge consent application by the previous Developer. However, this had not met the Board's minimum requirements and although a further period had been allowed to provide the outstanding information this had not been provided and it had been recommended that the Board refuse the application.

Since then a new Developer was progressing this scheme and a site meeting had been arranged with Chris Barnes, the new Developer, the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Planning Engineer together with Mr Barnes' agent, MTC, in order to progress the application.

B.1770 Roadway to Nordelph Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1728, the Chairman reported that previously maintenance of the Nordelph Pumping Station roadway had been carried out and undertaken under a joint agreement between the Board and Norfolk County Council.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Duncan Slaid of Norfolk County Council, County Farms Division to ask that the roadway be repaired under the joint maintenance arrangements.

B.1771 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1729, Miss McShane 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, and that the updated Byelaws for the Board would be submitted for formal approval at the next meeting.

B.1772 Collection of Fly Tipped Rubbish

Further to minute B.1732(iv), the Chairman referred to previous arrangements with the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk concerning arrangements for the collection of fly tipped rubbish from the District drains.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and get their confirmation that they will pick up fly tipped material that the Board remove and place on the public highway.

B.1773 Policy Statement

Further to minute B.1744(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.1774 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.1746, the Board considered their Biosecurity Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

B.1775 Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.1709, Miss McShane confirmed that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract has been monitored and she was pleased to report that the service provided has improved.

She 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.

Miss McShane 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.1776 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane 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) Application for byelaw consent

That the following application for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses has been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Mr M Fairey	Installation of 4 No field underdrain outfalls in the District Drain between Points 153 and 154 – Squires Drove, Three Holes	26 th July 2018

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consent be approved.

ii) Association of Drainage Authorities

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 Affairs 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.

a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 13th November 2019.

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

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

c) Subscriptions

That it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% for 2019, viz:- from £832 to £849.

RESOLVED

That the increase ADA subscription be paid for 2019.

d) Floodex 2019

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

iv) Environment Agency Precept

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

v) 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.

vi) 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.

vii) Water Resources East Group Meeting

That the Middle Level Commissioners are setting up a Committee to discuss how they can work more closely with Anglian Water and other partners to ensure that the management of water and the quantity taken from the River Nene can be maximized in stressed years.

B.1777 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Upwell I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – January 2019

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting.

Pumping Station Inspections

The following items were reported as requiring action at the last inspection visits in September 2018:

Cock Fen

1. No 1 flap valve was broken and sticking open.
2. Rev counter fault noted on Pump No 2.
3. Oil pressure gauge on Pump No 2 reading over pressure (Items 1-3 as previously reported).
4. Alternator on engine appears to be faulty, District Officer to investigate.

New battery chargers have been fitted to both engines together with battery isolators and terminal covers.

Nordelph

Weedscreen

The Board is reminded of the poor condition of the intake weedscreen which was previously reported at the January 2017 meeting as follows:

‘The existing screen is some 9 metres wide its replacement cost would be at least £25k, however as it now only serves the electric pump consideration could be given to backfilling the redundant diesel intake and installing a new smaller width screen to cover just the electric intake’.

The screen’s condition has now deteriorated further with several bars having collapsed and its replacement is urgently required to prevent damage to the pump.



Metering

The metering issue previously reported remains outstanding and we have recently received the following update from Anglia Farmers:

“This is just to advise that despite this supply now moving to another supplier we have requested SSE treat the ongoing issue as a complaint and that we hold them accountable for the non-resolution of the situation.

We have not received, but are expecting it shortly, a complaint reference.

Meantime we will be in contact with Haven Power new supplier about plans to rectify the metering with a view to SSE covering this cost.

It is hoped with an official complaint we can end with an acceptable solution and proper explanation which has been so difficult to extract to date.”

Bedlam

Repairs to the weedscreen cleaner were completed during October.

Padgetts Corner

The pump guide rails are corroded and it is recommended that they are replaced.

Upwell Fen

As previously reported the flap valve is badly corroded and jammed open and therefore non-operational.

Automatic Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment

Cock Fen & Upwell Fen

The new weedscreen cleaner and weedscreen installations were completed in April/May together with the electric control equipment replacement at Upwell Fen and commissioning was carried out in June.

Quotations were obtained for concrete hardstandings at both sites and an order subsequently placed with B J Plant, this is programmed to be completed by early January.

At the last meeting we were asked to confirm to the Chairman the boundary at Upwell Fen Pumping Station before the security fencing was erected. The Clerk's Department checked the deeds held but found none for this site. Discussions then took place with the Environment Agency (EA) and it would appear that the Board does not own the land within the fenced area and it is thought the fencing was originally erected to exclude livestock from the pumping station site.

The EA was also asked whether replacement fencing in a similar position would require its consent; the EA confirmed that a flood risk activity permit for the works described would not be required.

An order was then placed with Fen Fencing for the new palisade fencing which, together with new handrailing at both sites and flooring around the Upwell Fen pump discharge, will be fitted following completion of the hardstanding works.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 8 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
471	18/00718/PACU3	Norfolk County Council	Residence	Wisbech Road, Tipps End
472	18/00618/F	Mr D Russell	Residential (2 plots)	Silt Road, Nordelph
473	F/YR18/0428/RM	Mr W Stanley	Residence	Upwell Road, Christchurch
474	F/YR18/0485/F	Mrs J Brazil	Residential Barn (Retrospective)	Church Road, Christchurch
475	18/00934/O	Elgood & Sons Ltd	Residential (4 plots)	Main Street/Bedford Bank (East), Welney*
476	F/YR18/0591/F	Mr B Dawson	Residential (6 plots)	Upwell Road, Christchurch
477	F/YR18/0801/F	Miss K Priestley & Mr P Bunton	Residence (Annexe)	Upwell Road, Christchurch
478	F/YR18/0880/F	Mr G Brown	Residence	Church Road, Christchurch *

***Planning applications ending 'PNH' and 'PACOU' relate to household permitted regulations notification
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters***

A development that is known to propose a direct discharge of surface and/or treated foul water effluent into the Board's system is indicated with an asterisk. The remainder are understood to propose surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems and/or sustainable drainage systems, where applicable.

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated foul water effluent into the Board's system either via private treatment plants or Christchurch Water Recycling Centre (WRC).

Erection of 4 dwellings with detached garages, comprising of 2 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and 2 x 3-storey 5-bed dwellings at the site of the former Shrub House, 46 Church Road, Christchurch – P J Farms Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 409, 412 & 414)

An "Advisory" letter was issued to the planning permission applicant; however, it is understood that the land has been sold and is being developed by another party. The party has been advised of the position but to date no further action, consent applications or payment of associated fees have been received. Therefore, at the time of writing, the works contravene the Board's Byelaws.

The Board may wish to consider what further action it would like to take against the developer.

Erection of 6 dwellings at land south west of Syringa House, Upwell Road, Christchurch - Mr J Stittle & Miss R Watson (MLC Ref No 437) & Mr B Dawson (MLC Ref No 437)

Further to the Board's January 2018 meeting a full planning application was submitted to the District Council in June and subsequently granted permission in August.

According to the planning application form foul water disposal is to the foul sewer, presumably to the Board's system via a WRC, and surface water disposal is to soakaways. It is considered that the use of soakaways or similar infiltration devices would not provide a long-term efficient means of disposal and historically the Board has raised concerns about their use in the Christchurch area. It should also be noted that due to the density of the proposal it is unlikely that they will meet the spatial requirements of BRE 365.

A Drainage Advisory note was included on the Decision Notice.

Proposed residential development of 17 units to the north west of The Grange and south east of North Road, Welney – Loyd Homes (Client of JPP Consulting) (MLC Ref No 462)

According to the Borough Council's Public Access webpage planning permission was granted, subject to conditions, on 7th December. Unfortunately, a copy of the Decision Notice has not yet been published "on line".

A copy of the Officer's Report to the Planning Committee can be found at:

https://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/files/55C7CCB298C92C16F495A379A0B2C858/pdf/18_00195_FM-COMMITTEE_REPORT-4292663.pdf.

and the Section 106 agreement can be viewed at:

https://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/files/7594A06FE27EBA298736158AC98DED47/pdf/18_00195_FM-S106_AGREEMENT-4356480.pdf

Further pre-application consultation discussions involving both the Board's Chairman and Manea and Welney DDC have continued with JPP Consulting, the landowners' engineering consultant and Loyd Homes, concerning the development. Three Byelaw applications, for the replacement access crossing, surface water discharge headwall and encroachment within the 9.0m wide maintenance access strips, have been submitted and are currently the subject of discussions.

Proposed residential development (4 dwellings) at former Three Tunns Public House, Main Street/Bedford Bank (East) Welney – Elgood & Sons Ltd (MLC Ref No 475)

Further to the April 2015 meeting report, a planning application for the erection of four dwellings on the former Three Tuns Public House site has been submitted and is currently being considered by the Borough Council.



Extract from Anglia Building Consultant's Drawing Number 16-1475- 3

Correspondence submitted by the EA includes the following request;

“There should be no reduction to the existing access arrangements along the track to Welney Sluice, approximately 200m downstream.”

As part of the planning application submission the applicant's water management consultant, the Geoff Beel Consultancy, advised that:

“Surface Water Drainage

The access road to the development site off Main Street would be to Norfolk County Council specification but remaining the responsibility of the landowner (Elgoods Ltd) for future maintenance. The access road would connect with the existing access road of 1-6 Old Bedford Row.

The associated parking, turning and private amenity space would be a self-draining gravel surface.

The surface water run-off from the surfaces would be to soakaways subject to percolation tests and if not feasible then attenuated below ground before discharging to the riparian drain immediately north east of the development site boundary which flows in a north easterly direction to the Upwell IDB main drain and Cock Fen Pumping Station.

A planning condition would be able to be included at outline planning approval stage.”

A decision by the Borough Council remains pending.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan

No further correspondence has been received from the Borough Council concerning the Local Plan.

Joint Norfolk Authorities Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

Note. *SFRAs are high level strategic documents and, as such, do not go into detail on an individual site-specific basis and are developed using the best available information at the time of preparation.*

It is understood that the Borough Council adopted its latest Level 1 SFRA during November. It can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/downloads/download/82/flood_risk_assessment

Neither the Commissioners nor the relevant Boards within Norfolk were involved in the production of the document and, therefore, may not support its contents or conclusions.

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:

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

The Environment Agency's (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.

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group

Further to the entry on the Future Fenland Project in the Main Report the EA has recently commenced the FRM for the Fens Project to determine the best way of managing future flood risk.

As a result a technical group has been formed, including representation from the Middle Level Commissioners.

The project was discussed at the EAs Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) meeting in November. The LPRG stated that all partners who do not share its data for the Baseline Report are likely to be denied, or capped to 45%, for future Flood Risk Management GiA funding, as they will not be able to demonstrate a strategic approach.

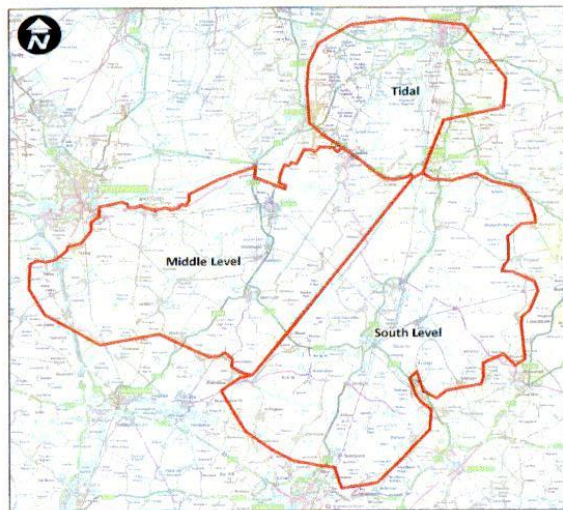
The project is currently at the data collection stage and details of the Board's system and any hydraulic models are being collated to inform the successful consultant, who will be appointed in February, to progress Phase 1 of the project.

In order to provide some background to the project a copy of the "elevator pitch" used by the Agency follows overleaf. Please note that the extent of the geographical area shown has recently been amended.

Flood risk management for the Fens – planning together for a sustainable flood risk future

'Flood risk management for the Fens' is a project that has been set up to plan the best way of managing future flood risk in the Great Ouse Fen Area. We are currently in the **first phase** of this project which is developing a shared understanding of the situation and challenges for managing flood risk (from all sources) in the Fens.

A Technical Group (TG) has been formed of organisations (see below) who have **flood risk assets**, or represent those with assets, in the geographical area that has been defined as the Great Ouse Fens.



We are **working together** to set out all the data about flood risk in the area outlined – defining who is managing flood risk, asset maintenance costs and potential available Flood Risk Management Grant in Aid (Government funding). This will identify any difference in **investment needs versus available funding**.

The most important outcome for the first phase of work is for the TG to have a **shared understanding** of the issues and challenges for managing flood risk in the Fens, and to have a **shared ownership** for taking action to overcome these issues.

Pressures on the Fens will come from many sources including, for example, climate change causing sea level rise affecting the Tidal River and the systems discharging into it, and catchment pressures from housing and infrastructure growth.

Following this initial data gathering phase, which we hope to complete in the next 18-24 months, we will produce a **joint project plan** for the next phase of work. The outcome of Phase 2 will be to produce a jointly owned strategic plan reviewing all options that could manage flood risk in the Fens, taking in to account climate change and sea level rise and recommending actions that will be the best/ most appropriate way of managing flood risk in the Fens over the next 50-100 years.

The TG will work closely with the Environment Agency's Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Partnerships and Strategic Overview Team who are progressing a similar project for the Lincolnshire Fens, but at different timescales.

The TG understands that there are **many different areas of interest** within the Fens, and a lot of groups and individuals will be interested in the work of the project.

At this stage in the project, there is a very **strong focus on the flood risk management challenges** – specifically focusing on current flood risk management assets. We will keep interested stakeholders updated with the progress of this stage of the project and **our work will be overseen by the Anglian Central Regional Flood and Coastal Committee**.

The TG is aware of the importance of linking Phase 1 outputs to other projects shaping the future of the Fens landscape.

Flood risk management for the Fens Project

Phase 1
Data gathering
and collective
ownership

Phase 2
High level
action plan /
strategy

Phase 3
onwards
Phased action
plans



Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards



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 held in November. There are currently no reported issues within the Board's area.

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) Mr Michael Fairey – An application for byelaw consent to install 4 No field underdrain outfalls in the district drain between Points 153 and 154 at Squires Drove, Three Holes was recommended for approval.
- (b) Redundant Inlet at Old Bedlam Pump Station – Recent correspondence has taken place between the Board and MLC engineers to ascertain the best way forward to provide a permanent water tight seal.

Consulting Engineer

2 January 2019

Upwell (331)\Reports\January 2019

The Chairman updated Members on the points raised in relation to the pumping stations.

With regard to the condition of the screen at Nordelph pumping station, it was requested that a price be obtained to block off half of the screen so that works could be carried out to prevent any damage to the pump.

With regard to the development now on the site of former shrub house, 46 Church Road, Christchurch (MLC Ref Nos. 409, 412 & 414), a site meeting to be arranged with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Planning Engineer, the new Developer and his agent to progress the applications for Byelaw consent.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That a site meeting be set up with the Developer of former Shrub House, 46 Church Road, Christchurch, to progress the Byelaw application and to obtain the further information needed to progress these applications.

B.1778 District Foreman's Report

The Board considered the Report of the District Foreman.

RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.

B.1779 Conservation Officer's Newsletter

Miss McShane referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2018, which had previously been circulated to members.

B.1780 District Labour Board's Employee Wages

The Board gave consideration to the Board's employees' wages.

RESOLVED

That the wages of the Board's employee be increased by the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award formula for 2018/2019 from 1st April 2019, as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule, until further notice.

(NB) – The District Foreman left the room when this item was discussed.

B.1781 Determination of annual values for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendations for the determination of annual values for rating purposes.

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.

(NB) – Mr C Hartley declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.1782 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £9.20.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1783 Health and Safety Report

Further to minute B.1730, the Chairman referred to the current position and discussions between the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk was currently looking at additional support that could be provided to Boards in relation to health and safety and this was currently being considered and costed. The Chairman also referred to the additional conditions being imposed by the insurers.

B.1784 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.1785 Defra IDB1 Returns

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

B.1786 Expenditure/ Estimate Update

The Board considered the Estimate Update for 2018/2019.

RESOLVED

That the update be approved.

B.1787 Date of next Meeting

Miss McShane reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday the 20th May 2019.