

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March East Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 7th June 2018

PRESENT

C W Albutt Esq (Vice Chairman)	P G Hayes Esq
J F Clark Esq	J E Heading Esq
M Cornwell Esq	D J Henson Esq
S R Court Esq	R E Mason Esq
A Dunham Esq	D S Morris Esq
G C Dunham Esq	P M Tegerdine Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs M Davis, W Aveling Esq, A W Coulson Esq, P A Fisher Esq, A J N Gee Esq, R D Gladwin Esq and C E Martin Esq.

B.1221 Declarations of Interest

Miss Ablett 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.

Councillor Court declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council's Planning Committee.

B.1222 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 1st June 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1223 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership – Fenland District Council

Miss Ablett reported that Fenland District Council had appointed Councillor S R Court and re-appointed Councillors Mrs M Davis, J F Clark, M Cornwell and A Pugh to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Vice Chairman welcomed Mr Court.

B.1224 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.1189, Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from ADA dated the 27th October 2017 and to the Clerk's response to Defra and also to the fact that licencing of water transfers came into force on the 1st January 2018. She advised that, as a licence is only required for transfers from EA main river and no inter-IDB transfers require licencing, this new arrangement will not directly impact the Board.

B.1225 Amalgamation

Further to minute B.1190, the Vice Chairman referred to the summary of information concerning the possible amalgamation of March East and Euximoor IDBs. He reported that there would only be savings in the region of £1,000 to which Mr Heading stated that he thought this was on the low side and expected there would be greater savings.

The Vice Chairman commented that he was surprised that upon amalgamation the Board's rate would not increase as much as he thought it might. Miss Ablett advised that, based on the 2017/2018 budgets, calculations showed that the amalgamated rate to meet that expenditure would have been 11.48p instead of the 9.5p and that the Board had the option of using differential rating for a period of 5 years, should they wish.

The Vice Chairman reported that the members of Euximoor IDB had requested that he advise the Board that they would be in favour of amalgamating.

Miss Ablett advised the Board that the Chairman had stated that he was in favour of an amalgamation.

The matter was discussed by Members and it was agreed that the Boards should amalgamate.

Mr Heading proposed that differential rating should be used for a three year period over which the time the Boards should look at bringing the rate in line with each other and that the process should commence immediately and be concluded within the next 12 months as far as the Board were concerned.

Members authorised the Chairman and Vice Chairman to arrange another meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Euximoor IDB to move forward with the amalgamation.

RESOLVED

- i) That the amalgamation of March East and Euximoor IDBs be approved with a differential rating being used for a three year period over which the time the Boards should look at bringing the rate in line with each other.
- ii) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to arrange a further meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Euximoor IDB to move the matter forward.

B.1226 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

March East I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2018

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the phased maintenance programme approved by the Board in 2008.

Programmed machine cleansing works along reach 80-81 were required to remove numerous self-sown saplings in order to gain access to the Board's drain. The vegetation was too dense for a standard tractor mounted flail mower to successfully operate and, with the Chairman's approval, a forestry flail mounted onto a contractor's excavator was utilised prior to the machine cleansing commencing.



Self-sown saplings on Reach 80-81



Reach 80-81 following the cutting with a forestry flail & machine cleansing works

Provisional notices for the 2017 phased programmed machine cleansing works were issued last year. The extent of this year's works is shown on the following site plan.

A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has revealed that the majority of the drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection also indicates there are several drains in the district where stands of reed and emergent weed are now showing signs of active regrowth. It will be pertinent to apply treatments of Roundup herbicide to these drains when conditions and field access allow.



Reed and emergent aquatic weed
Reach 11-12

Dense stands of reeds and bull rush were also identified in the Bridge Lane and Priory Golf Centre drains, reach 71-70-78. Board members will be aware that this section is omitted from the approved 2008 rotational drain maintenance plan, and works are carried out as required. It is recommended that the affected drains are treated with an application of Roundup herbicide, followed by machine cleansing to remove the emergent vegetation from the water channel.

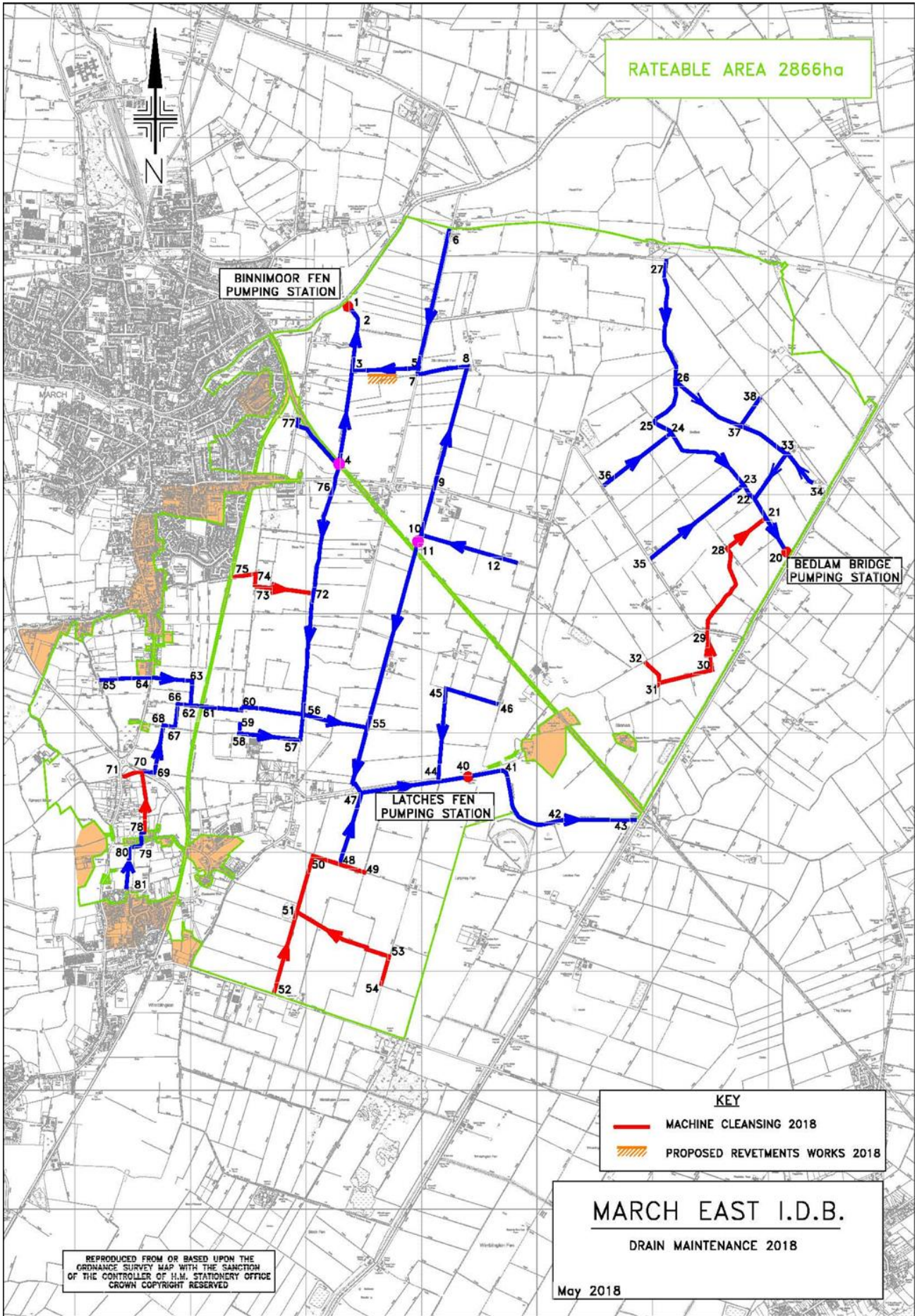
It was also noted during the inspection there is evidence of an early season bloom of *filamentous algae* (cott) growth along reaches 9-10 and 22-33. Further inspections will be carried out later in the year to monitor the cott growth and identify any other areas that may need to be included in the machine cleansing programme. Late occurring algal blooms can also be problematic within the Board's drains and require machine cleansing to clear the weed mass later in the season. A provisional sum has been included within the estimated costs to allow for any emergency cott cleansing work that may be required.



Cott in Reach 9-10



Cott in Reach 22-23



The inspection also highlighted two areas of bank subsidence along the Binnimoor Fen Pump Drain, reach 3-5. These have been previously noted and monitored, but the subsided areas have since deteriorated further. It is recommended that the affected areas are piled with two rows of timber fir piles and toe board revetment to reinstate the original bank profile. A provisional sum has been included within the estimated costs to allow for these works to take place.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for flail mowing of the district drains.

A provisional sum has been included within the Board's estimates for any bank slip repair, emergency cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance that may be required later in the year.

The estimated costs of this year's Weed Control and Drain maintenance works are as follows:

1.	Machine cleanse the following drains:			£	£
	<u>Bedlam Bridge Pumping Area</u>				
	(i) Reach 21-28-29-30-31-32	2300	m @	1.10	2530.00
	<u>Latches Fen Pumping Area</u>				
	(i) Reach 49-48-50-51-52	1700	m @	1.10	1870.00
	(ii) Reach 51-53-54	1200	m @	1.10	1320.00
	(iii) Reach 72-73-74-75	800	m @	1.10	880.00
	(iv) Reach 71-70-78	750	m @	2.00	1500.00
2.	Roundup application to control reed water cress and other emergent weed growth in district drains	Item	Sum		1500.00
3.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Revetment works, reach 3-5	Item	Sum		2000.00
4.	Allow sum for flail mowing.	Item	Sum		7500.00
5.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for bank revetment, emergency Cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum		2000.00
6.	Fees for inspection, preparation, and submission of report to the Board, arrangement, and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum		2000.00
	TOTAL				£23,100.00

Please refer to the site plan on the previous page for locations.

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that the application is weather dependant, and they will not be held responsible for the failure or efficacy of any treatment.

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.

Binnimoor

Following written approval of Grant in Aid in early June 2017 an order for a replacement pumpset was placed during June 2017 with Bedford Pumps, who provided the lowest quotation, for its SAF.45.05.06 submersible fish friendly unit, complete with new column pipe and sole plate. Manufacture was completed in November 2017 and its installation has been arranged on several occasions but the unfortunately had to be suspended pending suitable access conditions being available.

Bedford Pumps eventually attempted to install the new pump on 11 April 2018, although light vehicle access was satisfactory the crane was unable to get all the way to the pumping station and the installation had to be aborted.

Installation was next planned for 24 April but due to wet and windy conditions it was decided not to proceed.

Due to other site commitments it is unlikely that Bedford Pumps will be able to re-visit before the second week of June 2018.

Weedscreen

The weedscreen is badly corroded and distorted and recently caused damage to the weedscreen cleaner collecting basket which has now been repaired. It is recommended that the weedscreen is replaced during late summer/autumn.

Pumping Hours

Bedlam Pumping Station

	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (11114) – May 13 (11322) = 208	May 13 (11322) - May 14 (11536) = 214	May 14 (11536) – May 15 (11731) = 195	May 15 (11731) – May 16 (12082) = 351	May 16 (12082) - May 17 (12303) = 221	May 17 (12303) - May 18 (12501) =198

No 2	May12 (9052) – May 13 (9778) = 726	May 13 (9778) – May 14 (10136) = 358	May 14 (10136) – May 15 (10877) = 741	May 15 (10877) - May 16 (10936) = 59	May 16 (10936) - May 17 (10949) = 13	May 17 (10949) - May 18 (11486) = 537
Total	934	572	936	410	234	735

Binnimoor Pumping Station

	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (99) – May 13 (421) = 322	May 13 (421) – May 14 (646) = 225	May 14 (646) – May 15 (1020) = 374	May 15 (1020) – May 16 (1194) = 174	May 16 (1194) – May 17 (1300) = 106	May 17 (1300) - May 18 (1532) = 232
Total	322	225	374	174	106	232

Latches Fen Pumping Station

	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run	hours run
No 1	May12 (18380) – May 13 (19915) = 1535	May 13 (19915) – May 14 (20744) = 829	May 14 (20744) – May 15 (21621) = 877	May 15 (21621) – May 16 (22134) = 513	May 16 (22134) - May 17 (22528) = 394	May 17 (22528) - May 18 (23375) = 847
No 2	May12 (466) – May 13 (524) = 58	May 13 (524) – May 14 (552) = 28	May 14 (552) – May 15 (589) = 37	May 15 (589) – May 16 (640) = 51	May 16 (640) - May 17 (643) = 3	May 17 (643) - May 18 (652) = 9
Total	1593	857	914	564	397	856

Insurance

The Board’s new insurer AXA/HSB does include Engineering Insurance cover for sudden and unforeseen breakdown of pumping plant; however two recent claims made by local IDBs were rejected as AXA/HSB considered that the pumps should have been removed for service on a 5 yearly frequency. This was contested by the MLC and the frequency extended to 10 years; however even this is considered unacceptable in most instances, hence an alternative insurer is being sought. In the interim there is no cover in place.

Eel Regulations

Following sustained pressure from the IDB sector, notification has been received that a paper was presented to the EA Executive Directors’ Team proposing some changes to their current regulatory process. It is understood that Executive Directors supported the recommendations in the paper and that work is now underway to establish how the EA will transition the changes and what this means in the interim for operators such as IDBs.

In line with what IDBs have been calling for, there is to be a new approach identifying the best achievable eel protection (BAEP), in terms of what is technically feasible and generally affordable. The EA also proposes to change when and where it applies its eel cost benefit analysis tool; how it

considers affordability of eel protection at individual sites; and how it balances costs with risk to eel at individual sites. The EA will also investigate where there are opportunities to revise its current programming approach to optimise outcomes for eel. Finally, it will work with sector leads in developing new guidance and processes.

However, it is important to note that the EA will not be in a position to introduce its new regulatory approach until it has developed all of the new, interdependent, components of the process which the EA advise will take up to 12 months.

Internal Consultation with the Board

The 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, is generally working well and will be continued and reviewed at a later date.

Planning Procedures Update

Informatives on Decision Notices

From the planning applications listed below, only four have informatives advising the applicants of their separate legal obligation to comply with the requirements of the Board’s Byelaws and the Land Drainage Act (LDA).

It is left to the Board’s discretion whether it wishes the Commissioners to make a formal response to the Councils concerned directly on its behalf, or whether it requests that its Council representatives ensure that such informatives are requested.

Planning Agents Training Day

Having identified engagement issues between “Developers” and the Commissioners and Associated Boards, a Training Day was held in late October. Approximately 50 invitations were sent out to a cross section of interested parties representing developers, agents and consultants and including all the LPA areas that we deal regularly with. Council Officers were also invited. The event was oversubscribed with twenty-five people attending but several others are on a ‘short list’ if another similar event is held. The feedback suggests the event was well received.

The format of the event was to inform those attending of the unique nature of the area; where the IDBs fit into the development process; what the issues are; and how the Middle Level Commissioners deal with them.

Analysing the figures very crudely 46% of attendees were agents; 34% consultants; 18% developers and less than 1% Council Officers. The areas covered were 37%, predominantly consultants, all the LPAs; 45% Fenland and 18% West Norfolk. There was no specific representation from Huntingdonshire District, East Cambs District, South Cambs District or Peterborough City Councils.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 52 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
779	F/YR17/0363/F	Mr J Elener	Residence (Extension)	Bittern Way, March
780	F/YR17/0468/F	Fengrain Ltd	Agricultural	Hook Lane, Wimblington
781	F/YR17/0446/F	JMC Construction	Residence (Garage)	Hook Road, Wimblington,
782	F/YR17/0512/F	Mr & Mrs Lofting	Residence (Extension)	The Avenue, March
783	F/YR17/0500/F	Mr S Frost	Residence (Extension)	King Street, Wimblinton
784	F/YR17/0522/F	Mr & Mrs A Carty	Residence	Addison Road, Wimblington
785	F/YR17/0541/F	Mr T Hussey	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
786	F/YR17/0594/O	Mr D Stewart	Residence	March Road, Wimblington
787	F/YR17/0584/O	Mr P Jones	Residence	March Road, Wimblington
788	F/YR17/0563/O	The Executors of the late W Feary	Residential (up to 4 plots)	Upwell Road, March
789	F/YR17/0560/F	Mr & Mrs Williamson	Residence (Extension)	Dragoon Drive, March
790	F/YR17/0592/F	Mr A Smith & Ms S M Allgood	Residential (2 plots)	Jobs Lane, March
791	F/YR17/2007/CCC & F/2007/17/CW	Data Shredders	Waste (part-retrospective)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
792	F/YR17/0629/O	Mr M L Watkins	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
793	F/YR17/0671/F	Mr & Mrs D Green	Residence (Garage)	Hook Drove, Wimblington
794	F/YR17/0655/F	Mr & Mrs R Jones	Residence (Extension)	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
795	Pre-application Consultation Procedure	Client of Craig Brand	Residential (2 plots)	Mill Hill Lane, March
796	F/YR17/0720/O	Mr & Mrs Hicks	Residential (up to 4 plots)	The Avenue, March
797	F/YR17/0682/F	Construct Reason Ltd	Residential (37 plots)	King Street, Wimblington
798	F/YR17/3107/COND	Fengrain Ltd	Anaerobic Digester plant	Hook Lane, Wimblington
799	F/YR17/0819/O	Mr & Mrs Pocklington	Residential (2 plots)	Mill Hill Lane, March
800	F/YR17/0815/O	Mr G Hopkin	Residence	Apple Tree Close, March
801	F/YR17/0818/F	Mr P Purse	Residence (Garage/Barn)	Silt Road, March
802	F/YR17/0852/PNC02	Mrs R Humphrey	Residence	Coleseed Road, March
803	F/YR17/0877/AG1	Mr TAC Love	Agricultural	Linwood Lane, March
804	F/YR17/0955/PNH	Mr & Mrs R Livett	Residence (Extension)	Percheron Drive, March
805	F/YR17/0977/F	Mr T Bedford	Residence	Jobs Lane, March
806	F/YR17/1036/F	Mr A Smith & Ms S M Allgood	Residential (2 plots)	Jobs Lane, March
807	F/YR17/1034/F	Mr T Brook & Ms L Thomas	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March

808	F/YR17/1023/F	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residence (Garages/Drives – 2 plots)	March Road, Wimblington
809	F/YR17/1048/F	Mr TAC Love	Agricultural	Linwood Lane, March
810	F/YR17/1066/O	Mr P Salter	Recreation/Leisure (up to 4 plots)	March Road, Wimblington
811	F/YR17/1090/F	Mr & Mrs T Godfrey	Residence (Extension)	St Wendredas Drive, March
812	F/YR17/1095/O	Mr P Jolley	Residential (up to 3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
813	F/YR17/1181/F	Mr & Mrs King	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
814	F/YR17/1129/F	Mr & Mrs Saulle	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
815	F/YR17/1165/O	Mr M L Watkins	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
816	F/YR17/1168/F	Data Shredders	Storage & distribution	Eastwood End, Wimblington
817	F/YR17/3158/COND	Matthew Homes	Residential (up to 80 plots)	March Road, Wimblington
818	F/YR17/1201/F	Ms K Grange	Residential (3 plots)	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
819	F/YR18/0071/F	Mr T Brook & Ms L Thomas	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
820	F/YR18/0043/F	Mr & Mrs J Smith	Residence	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
821	F/YR18/0114/F	Mr & Mrs Boyden	Residence (Extension)	Orchard Road, March
822	F/YR18/0154/F	Mr & Mrs B James	Residence (Extension)	Wimblington Road, March
823	F/YR18/3015/COND	Mr J Wilson	Residential (4 plots)	King Street, Wimblington
824	F/YR18/0145/F	D S Morris & Son Ltd	Agricultural	Sixteen Foot Bank, Stonea
825	Enquiry	Client of WSP UK	Residential (Not known)	Upwell Road, March
826	F/YR18/0156/F	Mr & Mrs T Johnson	Residence	Mill Hill Lane, March
827	Enquiry	Client of AAH Planning Consultants	Residential (Not known)	Bridge Lane, Wimblington
828	F/YR18/0233/F	Ms S Fink	Residential (3 plots)	Mill Lane, March
829	F/YR18/0210/O	Mr & Mrs Pocklington	Residential (up to 2 plots)	Mill Hill Lane, March
830	F/YR18/0313/O	Mr & Mrs Beech	Residence	Bridge Lane fronting March Road, Wimblington

***Planning Applications ending 'CW' relate to County Waste
Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'PNCO' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Planning applications ending 'AG' relate to Agricultural Buildings
Planning applications ending 'PNH' relate to household permitted regulations notification***

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge surface water to soakaways, infiltration devices and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

The following applicants have chosen to use the soakaway self-certification process and, in doing so, agreed that if the soakaway was to fail in the future they would be liable for discharge consent.

- a. *Mr S Frost - Residence (Extension) at King Street, Wimblington (MLC Ref No 783)*
- b. *Mr T Hussey - Residence (Extension) at Upwell Road, March (MLC Ref No 785)*
- c. *Mr T Bedford - Residence at Jobs Lane , March (MLC Ref No 805)*
- d. *Mr TAC Love - Agricultural building at Linwood Lane, March (MLC Ref No 809)*

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

- *Proposed development to the southeast of Barkers Lane – Cannon Kirk Developments (MLC Ref 385) & Cannon Kirk Homes (MLC Ref No 509), Mr & Mrs Hopkins & Mrs Mitcham (MLC Ref No 585) & Cannon Kirk (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 742)*
- *Erection of 3 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings with detached single garages, 6 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached double garages and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached double garage at land south east of Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane, March – Mr H Fisher (MLC Ref Nos 558 & 587) & James Development Co Ltd (MLC Ref No 703 & 767)*
- *Redevelopment of and extension to poultry farm at Hooks Drove, Wimblington – Client of the Derek Salisbury Practice (MLC Ref No 545) & St Lawrence Hall Farms (MLC Ref Nos 563, 594, 595, 600, 603, 606 & 720)*
- *Erection of three properties on land to the south and west of 4-5 Mill Hill Lane, March – Mrs S Duncan (MLC Ref Nos 574, 592 & 640), Mr & Mrs Topping (MLC Ref No 704) & Mr S Simon (MLC Ref No 704)*
- *Development at land east of 20 Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington – Law Fertilisers (MLC Ref Nos 588, 608 & 739)*
- *Erection of 10 no single storey affordable dwellings comprising of 5 x 1-bed and 5 x 2-bed and 2.1 metre high fencing with associated parking involving demolition of 27 no garages – Roddons Housing Association (MLC Ref No 618) & Details reserved by conditions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, of planning permission F/YR13/0010/F (Erection of 5 x single-storey 1-bed dwellings with associated parking involving demolition of 30 garages) at land south-east of 13 Smiths Drive, March – Foster Property Maintenance Ltd (MLC Ref No 651)*
- *Proposed extension to Cavalry Primary School, Cavalry Drive, March - Client of Pick Everard (MLC Ref No 659) & Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 673)*
- *Residential development involving the demolition of 5 Bridge Lane and existing commercial buildings at land north of 3A-9 Bridge Lane, Wimblington – Messrs K & D Clark (MLC Ref Nos 705 & 723)*
- *Two storey office building and associated parking including packaged sewage treatment plant at land north of Mill Hill Garage, Wimblington Road, March – Whiting & Partners (MLC Re No 717, 721 & 726)*

In view of the absence of recent correspondence and any subsequent instruction from the Board it will be presumed, unless otherwise recorded, that the Board is content with any development that has occurred and that no further action is required at this time.

Erection of 22 dwellings involving demolition of 2 no existing dwellings on land south east of 93-113 Grounds Avenue(Cygnets Crescent), March - Fenland District Council (MLC Ref No 552), Client of URS Scott Wilson (MLC Ref No 576) & Lovell Partnership (MLC Ref Nos 579 & 629)

Further discussion has been undertaken with the Housing Association following enquiries relating to the notes on the Local Land Charges Register.

Erection of 7 dwellings involving demolition of existing stables and outbuildings on land east of 54-62 March Road, Wimblington – Mr & Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref Nos 655, 677 & 810)

Further to the Board's 2016 report, a subsequent planning application for four holiday homes, reduced from the previous seven, was submitted to the District Council in August.

As with previous submissions the application was refused planning permission.

Residential development at 2A Bridge Lane, Wimblington - Ms K Grange (MLC Ref Nos 663, 691 & 818)

Further to the Board's 2016 report, a subsequent planning application for three dwellings was submitted to the District Council in August. Members will recall that this site is adjacent to the Board's Drain between Points 79-80.

As with previous submissions the application was refused planning permission, primarily because the proposed development is located outside the existing developed footprint of Wimblington village and would result in a ribbon style development, into an area that is currently open agricultural land and has a strong relationship with the adjoining countryside.

Erection of 80 dwellings (max) at land east of 38 March Road, Wimblington – G Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 665) & Matthew Homes Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 743, 775, 776, 808 & 817)

Subsequent to the last meeting two further planning applications have been submitted to the District Council. The first, submitted in October, was for the erection of 2 single garages and associated driveways. The planning application covers land that was not covered by previous permissions but is now owned by the applicant. This was granted in December.

The second was a Discharge of Condition application including some relevant to the Board's interests. According to the District Council's Public Access web page a decision is currently pending.

Following reports expressing concern that work had commenced on site an "Advisory" Notice was issued to the applicant's agent in December. A letter was also written to the District Council requesting the imposition of a note on the Local Land Charges Register (LLCR).

Further pre-application discussion has been undertaken with the applicant's consultant, Conisbee, in respect of surface water disposal; an analysis of the figures provided infers that discharges from the developed site are less than the undeveloped site, for the events supplied, but this has yet to be confirmed.

An application for consent for the formation of the access road off March Road has been received but at the time of writing this does not meet the Board's minimum validation requirements. Further information has been requested but has yet to be received.

Developments at Fengrain, Hook Lane, Wimblington

- (a) *Anaerobic Digestion Facility on land east of Fengrain, Hook Lane, Wimblington – G P Planning Ltd (MLC Ref No 676) & Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 681, 684, 686 & 711)*

A Discharge of Conditions application was submitted to the District Council in August. The conditions being discharged included surface water.

In a response to the applicant's agent, G P Planning Ltd, the applicant's consultant, JPP Consulting, advised that:

"Rainwater from the development will be collected via filter drains and pipes and outfall via a dirty water lagoon because of the possibility of contamination. No outfall to the surrounding drainage systems will be provided. In accordance with the NVZ regulations the lagoon has been sized to take 4 month's [sic] worth of rainwater"

before adding

"A pump will be provided at the bottom of the lagoon to enable the water to be re-used (if suitable, if not tankered away) or the lagoon to be drained down. An alarm shall be provided to alert users when the water level rises to within 750mm of the maximum water level."

(b) *Erection of a 2-storey extension to existing building and additional parking area including temporary portacabin during works (MLC Ref No 780)*

A planning application for the extension of the existing offices and associated car park was submitted to the District Council in May 2017 and was granted permission in August.

It is understood that surface water disposal will be to a soakaway.

Proposed residential development at Kings Street, Wimblington – Construct Reason Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 716 & 797)

Further to previous reports a planning application for thirty seven dwellings was submitted to the District Council in June and subsequently granted permission in March subject to the imposition of conditions, including one relating to surface water requested by the County Council in its role as the LLFA.

The submission documents are unclear but the applicant's engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd, infers that an attenuated surface water discharge will be made into the Board's system as follows:

“... the existing depression running along the northern boundary of the site which upon inspection has no current inlets or outlets is present at the site running in a south westerly direction and will be utilised to provide approximately 570m³ of attenuation”.

It is not known how this will affect the larger catchment; who owns the 'depression'; or how it will be maintained. With the exception of some discussion at the feasibility stage no contact has been received by the Board and no reference was made to it in the Decision Notice.

Erection of 4no dwellings comprising of 2 x 2-storey 4-bed with integral double garages; 1 x 2-storey 4-bed with 1-bed annexe and detached double garage and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed with detached garage and workshop involving demolition of outbuildings at land north and south of 35 King Street, Wimblington – Mr J Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 766 & 823)

Further to previous reports, a Discharge of Conditions application was submitted to the District Council in February. The conditions being discharged include surface water disposal.

It is understood that surface water disposal is being discharged at greenfield rates of run-off and assuming that this is correct does not require discharge consent from the Board. However, the applicant does have a duty to prove the discharge rate to the Board and has agreed that this is undertaken as part of a detailed post-application consultation.

A review of the supporting information is currently being undertaken.

Erection of up to 2no dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at land south of The Barn, Mill Hill Lane, March – Mr & Mrs Pocklington (MLC Ref Nos 795 & 799) and Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached garage, formation of access including alteration to the dry dyke at Plot 1 - Mr & Mrs T Johnson (MLC Ref No 826)

Following successful pre-application discussions with the applicants' agent, Craig Brand, concerning new and existing access culverts and other works a byelaw application has been received and is currently being processed.

Potential issues were discussed and then "designed out" during the pre-application stage. A recommendation to approve the application is therefore expected to be the outcome.

Development Contributions

Contributions received in respect of discharge consent will be reported under the Agenda Item – *'Contributions from Developers.'*

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.

FDC Liaison Meeting

A meeting attended by representatives from the Commissioners and FDC was held in November to improve working relations between the two authorities.

The actions arising from the meeting included:

- Development of a joint protocol/leaflet to clarify the inter-relationship between FDC, CCC (in its role as the LLFA), the Commissioners & associated IDBs and the EA in relation to flooding and surface water drainage for developers.
- The Commissioners to offer a seminar for “planners”.
- The Commissioners to review their approach to responding to planning applications with a focus on major schemes/Broad Concept Plans (BCP’s).
- Meeting to discuss the potential tourism opportunities on our waterways perhaps initially focusing on March.
- Communication opportunities for FDC to promote/signpost the Commissioners’ information and pre-application process or to join this up with its own processes.
- Investigate whether the FDC Local Validation List review can include requirements to benefit the Commissioners or drainage in general.

Another meeting is to be held in May this year.

March Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030

The March Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by the District Council on 2 November 2017 following a successful examination, subject to some modifications, and referendum.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

The Commissioners’ Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards since the Board’s last meeting. The main matters that may be of interest to the Board are as follows:

The Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline report

This EA document is complete and available in PDF format. The report sets out the status of flood risk management on the tidal River Ouse. One of the most critical/important maps highlights cost benefits in terms of GiA and other funding sources. The report also sets out issues going forward with regard to long term funding of managing the catchment.

The Future Fenland Project

Phase 1 of this EA project, which concerns all of the Fens, has commenced. This will take a couple of years to complete and will include Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire. Workshops for

stakeholders were held in January and March 2018. One of the aims of this phase is to outline the total cost benefit analysis of maintaining the Fens.

Phase 2 will assess how the Fens may change in the future based on information from phase 1. This may include considering changes in land use and funding streams.

There are varying views on the future of the Fens and the development of the project. One of the concerns raised was the source of future funding for the management of the Fens and the conflicting views on how it should be managed.

Programme Development Unit (PDU)

This EA team will focus on helping partners deliver projects more efficiently. There are a number of large EA projects that the PDU will be involved with, therefore a hierarchy of projects will need to be established to ensure clarity of their involvement.

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

There is currently a proposal by the EA to raise the costs of permitting in stages from the current £170 minimum potentially up to £1441.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has advised that the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has also been involved in a similar process with ADA. A response has been prepared by ADA and for more detail see item 27 on the Agenda.

Members will be aware that the statutory fee for obtaining consent stated within the Land Drainage Act has, for many years, been only £50.00 which does not cover the real costs of processing such a consent.

Cambridgeshire County Council – Flood and Water Team – Ordinary watercourse consents have been considered and issued when required.

The Bedford Group of IDBs has advised that Ordinary watercourse consents in its area were not originally considered with protected provisions in the Development Control Order (DCO), a planning document. A legal agreement was subsequently agreed that reflects IDBs' byelaws and protected provisions.

It is understood that the EA had a similar situation at Peterborough on a Main River, even though it was a stakeholder in the project.

IDBs are reminded that they are not Statutory Consultees in such consultations but do need to be aware of forthcoming schemes in order to protect their interests.

Rain Gauges Project

Note. *The Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU - previously called OJEC, the Official Journal of the European Community) is the publication in which all tenders from the public sector which are valued above a certain financial threshold according to EU legislation, must be published. The legislation covers organisations and projects that receive public money, such as Local Authorities, NHS Trusts, MOD, Central Government Departments and Educational Establishments.*

The Eastern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) area (largely Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex) will be joining this Central RFCC project which is likely to be Project Managed by the EA.

The gauges will be located on secure and accessible EA or Anglian Water Services Ltd (AWSL) structures, such as water recycling centres (WRCs), and the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge.

It is intended that information from the rain gauges will be for the use of all partners for flood investigations etc with all sites available via telemetry using a web interface, possibly with three levels of membership – Administrator, Partners and the Public - and associated viewing rights within the web interface with the latter only seeing “local” information. This interface will be based on the software that AWSL already uses for its existing rain gauges and combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The data will not be directly compatible with EA data however a widget will be developed for this purpose. Discussions/negotiations are ongoing with the Met Office regarding a data swap.

The size of the project is causing delays but draft OJEU tender documents, a business case and inter LLFA and AWSL legal agreements are currently being drafted.

As members of the CFRMP, the Middle Level Commissioners have been asked to comment on the proposed location of rain gauges. The LLFA advises that the proposed new gauges have been chosen because they are adjacent to major areas of population and known “wet spots”. The nearest rain gauges to the Commissioners’ area are at March WRC (EA gauge) and the Middle Level Commissioners’ Office. In respect of the Board’s interests the District Council suggested a rain gauge within the town itself, on Anglian Water’s facility off Creek Road (MRCCSM), near River Down.

Strategic Flood Risk Planning Advisor

Funded by the Local Levy the EA has employed a Strategic Flood Risk Planning Advisor on a two year contract. The role will include providing input to LPA’s Local Plans (most of which, within Cambridgeshire, are approaching completion) and highlighting flood mitigation opportunities within strategic development proposals.

Integrated FRM PhD research project

A PhD researcher at the Flood Hazard Research Centre (FHRC) Middlesex University is working on integrated flood risk management within Cambridgeshire with the aim of understanding the

connectivity between different networks (such as the RFCC, CFRMP, catchment partnerships, local resilience forums, enterprise partnerships) and to see how these influence the integration of different FRM objectives (preventing new risk, reducing existing risk and managing residual risk) and other wider sustainable development objectives. An interview attended by the Chief Executive and Planning Engineer was held with the researcher on 5 January to discuss their roles and the role of IDBs and partnership working, amongst other things.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-Group

Following the extreme rainfall event experienced within March during August 2014, a March Flood Investigation Sub-Group was formed. The meetings associated with this investigation have proven beneficial to all the stakeholders involved and may lead to the resolution of many historical issues and, as a result, the responsibilities of the Sub-Group were extended to cover any local flooding issues within the District Council's area.

The following are currently being investigated/progressed:

- (a) Morton Avenue
- (b) Cavalry Drive/Percheron Drive
- (c) Grounds Avenue – Silt Road outfall

Both sites (a) and (b) involve property within the Board's rateable area, neither discharge surface water into its system.

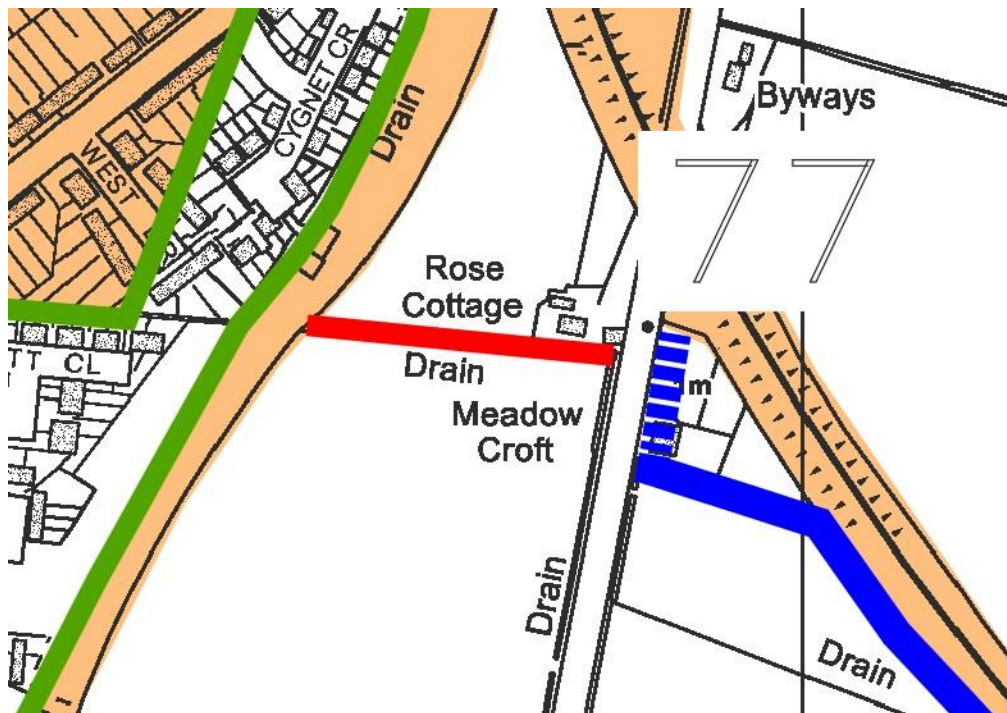
In respect of site (c), members will be aware that the private watercourse between the extent of the Board's system at Point 77 and the surface water sewer serving the Grounds Avenue area is in very poor condition and other stakeholders consider that appropriate works to this channel would resolve the flooding issues experienced in the urban area. As a result, the CFRMP has asked whether the Board would use its powers under the LDA to issue suitable correspondence to the persons concerned requesting that they undertake "improvement" works to the channel concerned.

The Board's opinion, further instruction and approval is requested in order to progress this matter.

Board's Drain adjacent to Meadowcroft, Silt Road, March

During discussions in respect of proposals adjacent to the above property it appears that the Board's Drain shown on the Board's District Plan is incorrect.

Please note that the red line, shown on the plan below, is the channel upon which a request for improvement works has been received from the CFRMP, as discussed in the preceding item. It is understood that the Board's Drain terminates at Silt Road and that the dotted section, currently shown as a Board's Drain, is incorrect.



As the plan was approved at a previous meeting **the Board's approval to amend this plan is required.**

General Advice

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

- (a) Colin Gray – An application for byelaw consent to pipe and fill approximately 30 metres of private watercourse along the road frontage of 137 Upwell Road, March was recommended for approval.

Consulting Engineer

23 May 2018

Mr Lakey reported that, due to the wet and windy conditions, Bedford Pumps had had to postpone the installation of the new pump at Binnimoor Pumping Station and this had now been re-scheduled for the second week in June.

He advised that the weedscreen at Binnimoor Pumping Station was badly corroded and distorted and, having caused damage to the weedscreen cleaner, he recommended that the weedscreen be replaced during the late summer/autumn. Miss Ablett advised that £9,000 had been allowed in the estimates for this.

Mr Lakey referred to the Planning Engineer's enquiry as to whether the Board wished for the Middle Level Commissioners to make a formal response to the Local Councils regarding the lack of informatives attached to decision notices advising applicants of their legal obligation to comply with the requirements of the Board's Byelaws and the Land Drainage Act.

Mr Lakey advised the Board that the plan showing the Board's drain adjacent to Meadowcroft, Silt Road, March was incorrect and enquired whether they wished for this to be amended.

He referred Members to the Consulting Engineer's report and the concerns raised by the CFRMP regarding the very poor condition of the private watercourse between the extent of the Board's system at Point 77 and the surface water sewer serving Grounds Avenue area. CFRMP had enquired whether the Board would use its powers under the Land Drainage Act to contact the persons involved requesting that they undertake improvement works to the channel concerned. Mr Mason advised that it was both the landowners and the Board's responsibility to keep the watercourse flowing.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed control and drain maintenance
That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.
- iii) That the weedscreen at Binnimoor Pumping Station be replaced.
- iv) That the Planning Engineer be requested to write to the Local Councils regarding informatives on decision notices.
- v) That the plan showing the Board's drain adjacent to Meadowcroft, Silt Road, March be amended.
- vi) That the Clerk write to the persons concerned with the maintenance of the drainage channel between the extent of the Board's system at Point 77 and the surface water sewer serving Grounds Avenue area advising that, under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the landowner is responsible for the maintenance of any private watercourse. That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to take any action if correspondence is subsequently received from the landowners.

B.1227 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.1228 District Officer's Report

In the absence of the District Officer, the Vice Chairman reported that the District appeared to be in good order and most of the proposed maintenance works had been covered in the Consulting Engineer's report.

RESOLVED

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

B.1229 Environmental Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Environmental Officer's Newsletter, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report together with the information sheets about floating pennywort.

Mr Heading advised that Cliff Carson was due to retire at the end of June. Miss Ablett reported that Cliff Carson had recently filmed a piece on otters which was due to be shown on the BBC Spring Watch programme on Monday the 11th June.

RESOLVED

That the Board make a £50 contribution towards a gift for Cliff Carson's retirement.

B.1230 Change of attendant at Binnimoor Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1196, the Chairman reported that during the year Mr Clark had relinquished his role as pump attendant and was replaced by David Brooks.

RESOLVED

That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Clark.

B.1231 District Officer's Fee and Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2018/2019.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2018/2019.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £892 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2018/2019.
- ii) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,956 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2018/2019.
- iii) That, in future years, an increase in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners award be made to the District Officer and Pump Attendant.

B.1232 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.1233 Application for byelaw consent

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

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Mr C Gray	Piping and filling of approx. 30 metres of private watercourse – road frontage of 137 Upwell Road, March	16 th March 2018

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

B.1234 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2018/2019 in the sum of £11,195 (the precept for 2017/2018 being £11,029).

B.1235 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £751.00 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£793.37 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018 less £42.37 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2016/2017).

b) Further to minute B.1201(b), Miss Ablett 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.1236 Property

Further to minute B.1202(i), the Vice Chairman reported that the Chairman had authorised N J Fox Plumbing to install a new tank base, a new bunded 1,000 litre oil tank, a terminal guard on the boiler and a new oil line to Latches Fen bungalow at a cost of £2,400 net of VAT.

Further to minute B.1202(ii), Miss Ablett reported that the Consulting Engineer had carried out a Legionnaires Disease Risk Assessment in the Board's property.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman in authorising the repairs at Latches Fen bungalow be approved.

B.1237 Contributions from Developers

With reference to minute B.294(ii), Miss Ablett reported that contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume have been received.

B.1238 Association of Drainage Authorities

Miss Ablett reported:-

a) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities would be held in London on Wednesday the 14th November 2018.

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 6th March 2018 and the fact that the administration of this branch has now been passed to the Middle Level Commissioners.

Miss Ablett advised that the new members elected to the Branch's Executive Committee included the Middle Level Commissioners' Operations Engineer, Jonathan Fenn and the Chairman, Marc Heading who was appointed Vice Chairman (with Harry Raby of the Bedford Group being appointed Chairman). She added that the agreed aim of this reworked

branch will be to be more pro-active and accordingly it was expected that the Executive Committee will meet periodically to discuss catchment wide issues and will then report back to the Branch at its Annual Conference on what it has achieved over the year.

c) Subscriptions

That it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 1% in 2018, viz:- from £679 to £686.

RESOLVED

That the increased ADA subscription for 2018 be paid.

d) Liability of Board Members

Miss Ablett referred to, and the Board noted, a Guidance Note received from ADA dated the 28th September 2017 which summarised the issue of when Members of an Internal Drainage Board may be held personally liable for actions which they take in that capacity.

Miss Ablett advised that the Board had management liability insurance in place, which was in respect of claims made as a result of a wrongful act against members of the Board arising from the management and operations of the Board and that the cover attached was £5,000,000.

e) Updating IDB Byelaws

Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from ADA dated the 20th October 2017.

Miss Ablett reported that most of the IDBs in the area have a set of Byelaws which were made under Section 34 of the Land Drainage Act 1976 for the secure and efficient working of the drainage system in their area.

Defra have now suggested that the Byelaws which have been adopted by IDBs should be updated to include within their purpose powers in relation to environment matters. To do this it will be necessary to update the current Byelaws in line with the standard model byelaw published in October 2012.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be requested to draft new Byelaws for consideration by the Board at their next meeting.

f) New Model Policy Statement

Miss Ablett referred to the publication of the new model Policy Statement issued in late April 2018 by ADA.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be requested to draft a new Policy Statement for consideration by the Board at their next meeting.

f) Floodex 2019

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

B.1239 Capital Programme Strengthening and Delivery

Miss Ablett referred to, and the Board noted, the slides presented by the Environment Agency at the Great Ouse IDB and EA Strategic Group meeting on the 19th April 2017.

B.1240 Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

Miss Ablett reported that a meeting of the Chairmen of all of the Middle Level Commissioners' administered Boards met on the 8th March 2018 to discuss the challenges facing Boards. Innes Thomson, Chief Executive of ADA, spoke on the arrangements adopted by other Boards around the country.

Matters raised included:-

- 1) Advantages, disadvantages and barriers to amalgamation.
- 2) Future meetings and the opportunity for Boards to request items be added to the agenda.
- 3) Reviewing Board membership numbers.
- 4) Frequency of Board meetings.

B.1241 Member training and the appointment of a Health and Safety Officer

Miss Ablett reported that ADA has been encouraging member training for a number of years and Defra will, from 2018, require Boards to report upon any training that has been provided to members. This was to be reported by way of an entry on the IDB1 forms and the listed topics on this form are; Governance, Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare, Communications and engagement, amongst others. The Board may wish to pick an area where they consider specific tailored training is pertinent for it in a given year or alternatively might ask that the Middle Level Commissioners arrange some joint training with other Boards which they are happy to do.

On Health and Safety, after reviewing arrangements for a number of Boards, it has become clear that it would be helpful if Boards could appoint a member to be in charge of Health and Safety matters. This person would take overall responsibility for Health and Safety supported by Croner through the Middle Level Commissioners. This will help provide clarity going forward as ultimately it is the Boards' role to ensure that sites, equipment and working practices are as safe as can be reasonably expected. Whilst IDBs have an enviable record on safety and much that is needed is likely to already be in place, the HSE would probe the organisational structure should a reportable accident occur and would take a dim view if clarity on the lines of responsibility were unclear.

The Vice Chairman felt that each member sat on the Board on a voluntary basis and had their own businesses to which they dedicated their time. Although he acknowledged the importance of Health and Safety, he considered the position of a Health & Safety Officer was a specialised field and would be too onerous and time consuming for any Board member and should be carried out by a professional. He suggested that the Middle Level Commissioners should be the Board's Health

and Safety Officer and Councillor Court suggested that the Board could afford to appoint a Health and Safety consultant.

Miss Ablett advised that health & safety matters was an area for which the Board was responsible and it would only be possible for Jon Fenn, the Commissioners' Health & Safety Officer, to assist.

Mr Mason enquired whether other Boards had appointed an Officer and Miss Ablett advised that some Boards had appointed either the Chairman, Vice Chairman or District Officer, some had chosen not to appoint anyone at their meeting and some had appointed an individual, with the assistance of Jon Fenn from the Middle Level Commissioners.

Mr Heading expressed his disappointment with the views expressed by the Board as the Board must have a health and safety policy and appoint an officer.

The Vice Chairman was of the opinion that the Chairman/District Officer should be involved in the discussions.

Members agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman should meet with the Clerk to discuss the matter further and that they be authorised to take any action regarding the appointment of Health and Safety Officer.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman meet with the Clerk and be authorised to take any action regarding the appointment of a Health & Safety Officer.
- ii) That the Board participate in any training organised through the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1242 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from Defra dated the 24th April 2018 and reported on the proposed changes to the Annual Defra IDB1 Returns.

She advised that the IDB1 form is completed each year in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 and is submitted to Defra, the Environment Agency and to each Council which pays an IDB Special Levy. The form provides information on such items as income, expenditure, a policy delivery statement, the bio-diversity action plan, asset management and governance matters.

Miss Ablett reported that for the year ended 31st March 2017 the IDB1 return was amended and additional information requested, such as details of board membership, attendance at meetings, whether elections are held and confirmation that the complaints procedure is accessible from the home page on an IDB's website. This information will enable Defra to gather more data in relation to IDBs.

For 2018 the IDB1 form will be further expanded. The additions were developed in co-operation with the Environment Agency, ADA and invited IDB representatives including David Thomas on behalf of the Middle Level Commissioners. The inclusion of items within the form which would either be difficult to report on or provide information which collectively would be of little value have been resisted and the new IDB1 form should, as a result, allow Defra to gain a much clearer insight into what IDBs deliver annually. It is hoped that this in turn will assist with raising further the profile of IDBs.

B.1243 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Miss Ablett reported that, from 2018, Board's will be required to advise (through the IDB1 returns) whether they have in place a Biosecurity Policy. This is considered necessary following increased concern over the spread of alien invasive weeds from one waterbody to another, possibly through the use of contracted or shared plant which can carry elements of such plants if not properly cleaned after being moved from contaminated locations. ADA have stated that they support the principle of having a policy in place and, conscious that for most boards the policy requirements will be identical, they are producing a model document. The Board were asked to confirm that they were content to adopt a policy as long as it is suitable and will not include overly onerous steps which might restrict their activities.

RESOLVED

That the draft policy be reviewed by the Board at their next meeting.

B.1244 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Miss Ablett referred to the Guidance Note on the implementation of the GDPR and that all organisations must become fully compliant by the 25th May 2018.

RESOLVED

That Miss Lorna McShane, Solicitor and Assistant Clerk be appointed the Board's Data Protection Officer.

B.1245 Charging for Environmental Permits

Miss Ablett reported on the consultation on charging for Environmental Permits which closed on the 26th January 2018. It is suggested within the consultation that charging should be designed to recover costs and as such there may be significant increases in the charges for obtaining Environment Agency permits for some IDB activities which require such consents. ADA have responded on behalf of the industry and their response is available on their website, www.ada.org.uk/2018/01/ada-responds-environment-agency-charge-proposals-2018.

B.1246 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2016/2017

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2017.

B.1247 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Miss Ablett 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 2018.

B.1248 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

B.1249 Review of Internal Controls

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of Internal Controls.
- b) The Board considered and approved the appointment of Whiting & Partners as Internal Auditor for the three period 2018/2019 to 2020/2021.
- c) The Board approved the Audit Strategy and Audit Plan.

B.1250 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 and considered having a revaluation of the Board's real estate assets, as required for audit purposes.

RESOLVED

That no changes be made to the valuation at this time and for the matter to be reviewed again at the next annual meeting.

B.1251 Appointment of External Auditor

Further to minute B.1174, Miss Ablett referred to the decision by the Board to join the Sector Led Auditor Appointment Body for the appointment of the External Auditor and that the Smaller Authorities' Auditor Appointments (SAAA Ltd) had formed for this purpose. She reported that they had now confirmed the appointment of PKF Littlejohn to carry out the external audit of the Board for a five year period commencing with the financial year 2017/2018.

B.1252 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss Ablett 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.1253 Annual Governance Statement

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

B.1254 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £68,830.11 which had been made during the financial year 2017/2018.

(NB) – Mr Heading declared an interest (as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1255 Anglia Farmers

The Board considered their contractual arrangements with Anglia Farmers for the supply of electricity.

Miss Ablett reported that the contract with Anglia Farmers ceases on the 30th September 2018 and advised that, in view of the problems encountered over the past 15 months with the operation of the contract, a report had been sent to all Chairmen.

Miss Ablett further advised that, although the Clerk was able to recommend to the Board that they remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period, usually 18 months to 2 years, during which time the service provided by them will be monitored, it was the Board's decision and should they wish to be removed from the buying group then it would be the Board's responsibility to negotiate its own separate electricity contract with a supplier.

Miss Ablett reported that the Chairman had agreed for the Commissioners to remain with Anglia Farmers.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved and the current arrangements be continued for a further contract period, during which time the service provided by them, in relation to the running of the contract, be monitored.

(NB) - The Vice Chairman and Mr Heading declared interests as members of Anglia Farmers

B.1256 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2017/2018

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2018 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 2018.

B.1257 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements
2018/2019

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2018/2019 and were informed by Miss Ablett 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 52.66% and 47.34%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £80,073 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 £42,168 and £37,905 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 9.50p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £37,905 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 levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1258 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.1259 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 6th June 2019.