

## **UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board  
held at the Lamb and Flag Public House, Welney on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### **PRESENT**

K Goodger Esq (Chairman)	J E Hartley Esq
P Clabon Esq (Vice Chairman)	S Hartley Esq
H G Bliss Esq	D J Pope Esq
R D Gladwin Esq	A Quail Esq
J Quail Esq	

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Carl Nunn (District Officer) were in attendance. Mr G Gowler attended for part of the meeting.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from C J Crofts Esq, and B Scott Esq.

### **B.1823 Inspection of District**

With reference to minute B.1821(iii), the Inspection of the District embraced (inter alia):-

#### **1) Cock Fen Pumping Station**

Members viewed the installation of safety rails around the weed screen decks.

The Chairman reported that there were some works required to the pumping station and pointed out to Members the roof repairs that would be required and the corroded chequer floor plates around the pipe work that required replacing.

The Vice Chairman highlighted the broken extractor fans, which were allowing birds into the station and considered these should be covered with wire meshing.

### **RESOLVED**

- i) That Turner Contractors be requested to re-felt the roof and to contact the District Foreman to make arrangements.
  - ii) That the Consulting Engineers be instructed to replace both chequer floor plates around the pipework.
  - iii) That the District Foreman arrange for both extractor fans to be covered with wire meshing.
- 2) **Flint House Structure, Flint House Road – Point 129**

Members viewed the water control structure that had recently been installed.

The Chairman reported that it had been necessary to install a Penstock to control the levels of the free flowing system from Pophams Eau to Cock Fen pumping station to prevent unnecessary pumping.

3) Squires Drove – Point 153

Members inspected the Penstock, that had been installed to control the flow of water from Popham Eau to Nordelph pumping station.

4) Upwell Fen Pumping Station

Members viewed the security fencing that had been erected at the pumping station.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the double gates had been erected against the Environment Agency's bank instead of facing the pumping station access road as this would hinder the District Foreman getting the trailer into the compound in order to remove the weed. He also pointed out that the caps on the door hinges did not appear to have been welded, which was essential to prevent any potential theft.

Members inspected the safety rail and flooring around the pump discharge.

The Chairman requested that the operation of the automatic weedscreen cleaner be demonstrated to Members.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineers contact Fen Fencing to request that the double gates be re-positioned to allow access to the compound from the pumping station access road and that the caps on the door hinges be welded.

5) Culvert at Tunnel Farm, Silt Road – Point 56

The Chairman advised that it was anticipated that four more water control structures would be installed within the District and as the Penstock was considered better and easier to operate this would be installed as and when required and with the Boards approval.

The Chairman reported that a water control structure was to be installed a small distance from the culvert to assist with holding the water on the south side of Silt Road, if required.

RESOLVED

That Members approved the recommendation of the Chairman and Vice Chairman to install a new overspill structure.

6) Nordelph Pumping Station

Members inspected the water levels at Nordelph pumping station and considered these to be appropriate.

The Chairman brought the current condition of the screen to Members' attention and reported that part of the weedscreen had broken and this would need either repairing or replacing.

The Vice Chairman advised that a quotation, amounting to £25,000, had been obtained to replace the existing weedscreen and in view of the cost it may be better to install a smaller weedscreen on the pump side of the bridge at the pump intake. He recommended that, in the meantime, the existing weedscreen be repaired by using flat metal plates to fill the gap to prevent weed getting through.

Mr J Quail advised that the Board would have to ensure that whatever type of weedscreen was installed it would be able to operate in conjunction with an automatic weedscreen cleaner should the Board decide to install one in the future.

Members raised concerns over the tidiness and amount of equipment stored within the pumping station.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the Vice Chairman contact Stainless Metalcraft to discuss a weedscreen design that would be suitable and to obtain a quotation.
- ii) That Stainless Metalcraft be requested to repair the existing weedscreen by blocking the gap with flat metal plates.
- iii) That the Board's employee tidy and clear the sundry equipment currently stored within the building at Nordelph pumping station.

#### B.1824 Hales Drove, Old Croft River

Further to minute B.1792, Miss Ablett reported that, following the last meeting, a quotation had been received from Morton & Hall Consulting for a structural report on the condition of the two properties in the sum of £750.

The Chairman requested the quotation be retained by the Clerk and presented for consideration by the Board at their next meeting.

Miss Ablett further reported that, following the last meeting, the Clerk had contacted Simon Darch of Peter Brett Associates to request a quotation for a survey and the offering of advice in relation to the options and mitigation measures required to enable the Board to carry out any drain maintenance on that section of the Old Croft River.

#### B.1825 Accounting Statement

Further to minute B.1818, Miss Ablett reported that the loan balance outstanding as shown on the Annual Return previously approved by the Board was slightly incorrect. She advised that the amount of loan repayments remained the same and the error occurred due to an incorrect allocation to the capital and interest elements of the payments.

#### RESOLVED

That the Annual Return be amended and the Chairman be authorised to sign it.

B.1826 Structure under the road at the Sixteen Foot River

Further to minute B.1822, Miss Ablett advised that the Middle Level Commissioners' Operations Engineer, Jonathan Fenn, had requested to meet with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman to discuss further the filling of the tunnel under the road at the old Bedlam pump house.