

## OVER AND WILLINGHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Over and Willingham Internal Drainage Board  
held at the Over Community Centre, The Doles, Over on Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### PRESENT

B R Burling Esq (Chairman)	W Handley Esq
L M Cook Esq	T Henshaw Esq
S O Burling Esq	R D Holland Esq
M Church Esq	J Smith Esq

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance. Mr M Dorey attended the meeting in place of Mr M Page who had given his apology.

### Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from M Page Esq.

### B.176 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 Church declared an interest in minute no. B.193.

The Chairman declared an interest in minute no. B.189(ii).

Mr Cook declared an interest in flail mowing contractors and in matters relating to the pump attendant.

### B.177 Confirmation of Minutes

## RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

### B.178 Board Membership

#### a) Resignation of Mr Keith Bird

Miss McShane referred to an email from Mr Keith Bird dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018, resigning from the Board and suggesting that Mr Mark Page be appointed in his place.

Miss McShane reported that, unfortunately, Mr Page was unable to attend today's meeting as he had another engagement, but he had sent Mr Marcus Dorey, Principal Geologist at Hanson's, to attend in his place.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Dorey to the meeting.

b) Resignation of Mr James Thorp

Miss McShane reported that as Mr James Thorp was no longer employed by A G Wright & Son (Farms) Limited, Mr Jack Smith had been appointed as his replacement.

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The Chairman welcomed Mr Smith to his first meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED

That Messrs Page and Smith be formally co-opted to membership of the Board

B.179 Vacancies in Membership

Consideration was given to the filling of the two vacancies on the Board.

RESOLVED

That an approach be made to a potential board member and his details forwarded to the Clerk so that a formal letter of introduction can be sent.

B.180 Land Drainage Act 1991  
Board Membership – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Miss McShane reported that South Cambridgeshire District Council had appointed Councillor W Handley to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Miss McShane also reported that Councillor Christopher Cross was not re-appointed.

B.181 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.133, Miss McShane advised that discussions between ADA and the EA continue and that recently a meeting was held to try and achieve a ‘common sense’ workable approach as there was evidence from other IDBs that difficulties had been experienced when applying for a licence. There remains 9 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.

RESOLVED

That the Board have one inlet which takes water from the main river and in these circumstances it is likely that an application for a licence should be made.

B.182 Willows and Saplings alongside District Watercourse

Further to minute B.137, the District Officer reported that although Mr Hayward had removed some of the willows and saplings from the watercourse, access was still difficult for maintenance.

## RESOLVED

That a further letter be sent to Mr Hayward asking for the remaining willows and saplings to be removed from the watercourse.

### B.183 Dockerell Brook/Willingham Lode

Further to minute B.138, the Chairman outlined the problems with Dockerell Brook. As the Brook has not been cleared out it floods in high rain into the pound and then into the IDB drain and this results in extra pumping being required.

The Chairman reported that he had had a successful meeting in October 2018 with the Environment Agency which had been very positive. They had walked the length of the Brook and it was agreed by the Environment Agency that this work would be put into the work programme.

## RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Greg Murphy at the Environment Agency, Ely area, to enquire about the timescale for the works being carried out.

### B.184 Access to Over Pumping Station

Further to minute B.139, the District Officer reported on the continued problems with access to the pumping station because the gates that have been erected by residents were too close to the road and this causes problems for larger vehicles accessing the pumping station.

A meeting has taken place with Cambridgeshire County Council to discuss the problems.

## RESOLVED

That the Clerk write again to the Highways Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council requesting an update on any proposed works.

### B.185 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.151(e), the Board considered their updated Byelaws.

Miss McShane advised that, having noted the reason for the additional wording to Byelaw 9, if this wording was deleted there was potential for this Byelaw to be in conflict with the hedgerow regulations 1997.

## RESOLVED

That the updated Byelaws be adopted.

### B.186 Policy Statement

Further to minute B.151(f), 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.187 Proposed Residential Development – Station Road, Over – Discharge of Surface Water

Further to minute B.153, the Chairman reported on the previous concerns about this proposed residential development on the corner of Station Road and New Road, opposite the cemetery.

The planning application has now been refused by South Cambridgeshire District Council and to date has not yet been appealed.

## RESOLVED

That if an appeal is lodged, further comments are to be submitted by the Internal Drainage Board as the water from the development will discharge in to the Board's drain.

### B.188 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.158, the Board considered their Biosecurity Policy.

## RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

### B.189 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

That a third Chair's Meeting was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and that discussions at this centred around:-

- 1) The provision of increased support to IDBs on Health and Safety management and control.
- 2) The Future investment planning for the Lower River Great Ouse catchment.
- 3) Future planning for IDBs and DDCs administered by the Middle Level Commissioners.
- 4) Member training.

One option for future Board arrangements discussed at the second and third meetings was the subject of a briefing paper.

Members agreed to give further consideration to the option paper but at the current time it is unlikely that the Board would give consideration to an amalgamated board as Over and Willingham IDB is outside of the Middle Level area.

ii) Applications for byelaw consent

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

Hanson UK	Installation of two bridleway bridge crossings and a diversion of IDB controlled drains	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Hanson UK	Diversion of IDB controlled drains and installation of crossings and temporary access culverts	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Burling Bros Ltd	Installation of a culvert – Chain Ditch	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the application for Burling Bros Ltd.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

c) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association was held on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The meeting format was changed this year and included a morning workshop session led by the EA. Topics covered were water resources, PSCAs and future planning of FRM. Robert Caudwell spoke for ADA in the afternoon followed by talks from Brian Stewart, the FRCC Chair, Paul Burrows, the FRM Area Manager and Claire Jouvray, the Operations Delivery Manager.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

d) Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members

That, at the Annual Conference last November, ADA launched the publication of the Good Governance Guide for IDB Board Members. It provides Members with a comprehensive guide to their role as water managers servicing the local communities. The document has been produced with the financial support of Defra and will provide Members with knowledge to help expand their grasp of the role, and how best to execute their responsibilities on the Board.

That a copy of the Guide for each Member has been included with this agenda and can be downloaded from the ADA website.

That ADAs workshops were well attended and are helping to deal with the questions being raised by Defra following the Audit Commission Report which criticized aspects of IDB governance. At least one member of this Board attended one of the two local workshops in the area and hence the Board will be able to record in the IDB1 Defra return that training has been provided on Governance. In addition to governance Defra appear to expect over time that training will be given for the following; Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare and Communications and engagement. The Board may wish to consider an order of priority for future training and a timetable for delivery.

e) Workstreams

That ADA annually review their workstreams and an update is included.

iv) External Bodies Conservation Initiatives

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

a) 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.

b) 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. Most recently, the project received £1m for field scale alternative farming trial works in the Great Fen area and to assist with the Biosphere bid.

v) Catchment Strategy

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

vi) 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.

The Vice Chairman reported that water intake into the Middle Level system was via one point at Stanground and current flows were very low and, in his opinion, unless there is reasonable rainfall there could be the possibility of shortages. He reported that part of the work of the group was to model the intake for Anglian Water which could hopefully lead to a better overall allocation for agricultural use.

vii) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.170, Miss McShane advised that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract had been monitored and was pleased to report that the service provided had improved.

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.

A verbal report was presented to the Middle Level Commissioners at their last 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

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

Miss McShane reported that the Chairman had subsequently agreed for the Board to remain with Anglia Farmers.

#### RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved and the Board remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

#### viii) The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill

That this Bill has completed its Committee stage in the House of Commons and passed through its Third Reading. It has now started its progression through the House of Lords.

The Bill, which has been prepared by Defra, aims to put the Somerset Rivers Authority onto a statutory footing as a precepting body, but it would also enable the reform of IDB ratings annual value lists. It does this by recognising the need to ensure that the methodology through which IDBs calculate and collect drainage rates and special levy sits on a sound legal basis that can be periodically updated to contemporary values better reflecting current land and property valuation.

With the above in mind ADA has been working with Defra and a number of IDBs to test a new methodology using contemporary valuation and Council Tax lists that could be applied via this legislative change.

#### B.190 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.191 District Work Report

The District Officer reported that normal drain maintenance had been carried out this year including the watercourse to the pumping station. The removal of trees and willows had made a difference to the water flow although this meant that the drain maintenance had gone slightly over budget. Electricity prices have increased although the Board, where possible, use the pumps from midnight until 7.00am when electricity is cheaper and avoids whenever possible pumping in the summer months.



The new weedscreen cleaner was working well although the hydraulic hoses on the weedscreen may need some adjustment and Richard Lloyd, Middle Level Commissioners' Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, is advising on this matter.

The District Officer produced a photograph of the pump showing the corrosion on the bolts. Richard Lloyd had advised on this matter and the bolts are to be replaced with stainless steel bolts during the course of 2019.

When the pump is removed for the replacement of the bolts it will be necessary to create a clay bund whilst the works are being carried out. Hanson's indicated that they were willing to provide the clay for this operation if they were advised when the work was to be carried out.

The Board thanked the District Officer for all his hard work on behalf of the Board.

#### 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.192 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Conservation Officer's newsletter, dated December 2018, previously circulated to members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

Mr Dorey commented that Hanson's had carried out a lot of ecological work this year and water voles had been spotted in the area.

#### B.193 District Officer's Fee

The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2019/2020.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of £1,700.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2019/2020.

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest when this item was discussed.

#### B.194 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.195 Agreements between the Drainage Board, Hanson Aggregates and RSPB

Further to minute B.143, and in the absence of Mr Page, Mr Dorey reported on this matter. He was aware of the issues regarding the agreement and will take steps to move the agreements with Hanson's forward. Whilst Hanson's are extracting minerals, a contribution towards the Board's pumping is made by Hanson's. However, as the RSPB take on land there will need to be an agreement in existence for this work to be passed to the RSPB. Hanson's have been trying to negotiate with the RSPB to progress the agreements, however the RSPB have recently restructured. Now that their new structure is in place Hanson's consider that they will be able to move forward with the agreement.

#### RESOLVED

That the current arrangements between the Board and Hanson Aggregates continue for 2019/2020.

### B.196 Gravel Extraction programme for 2019/2020

Further to minute B.144, and in the absence of Mr Page, Mr Dorey produced a revised phasing of working for the Board to consider.

Currently working areas 15/16 on the plan and will then move to phase 17. A lot of ecological work had been carried out involving work with water voles and badgers. Ditches had been dug out and fencing erected to trap the voles. Currently 35 water voles had been relocated using this method.

It is likely that phase 17 will commence in 2019 and it was noted that the Board's drain flows through this phase hence will need to be relocated before the minerals are extracted at this location.

With regards to areas 7, 8 and 9, Hanson's will try and flood these areas this year to get reeds planted and the access road constructed.

A planning application had been made by the RSPB to the Cambridgeshire County Council Minerals Authority for the access road and car park for the visitors to the wetlands.

### B.197 Flail Mowing

Further to minute B.147, Miss McShane reported that the Board had resolved to engage L A Burton to undertake flail mowing operations until 2019/2020.

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

### B.198 Environment Agency – Precept

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2019/2020 in the sum of £15,774.31 (the precept for 2018/2019 being £15,023).

### B.199 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £220.13 (£1,860.07 less £1,635.94 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2017/2018 together with the sum of £1,356.17 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019.

(b) Further to minute B.150(b), Miss McShane 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.200 Association of Drainage Authorities

#### a) Subscriptions

Miss McShane reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2019, viz:- from £542 to £553.

#### RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2019.

#### b) Future ADA Communications

Miss McShane referred to a letter received from ADA dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and to the form included with the agenda.

In order to continue to receive communications from ADA in 2019, ADA required a completed form from each Member. The form could also be completed and returned electronically via the link at [www.ada.org.uk/communications](http://www.ada.org.uk/communications).

### B.201 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the determination 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 appeal against the determination.

## B.202 Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership Update

Further to minute B.154, Miss McShane referred to the most recent matters raised by the Partnership.

## B.203 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.156, the Chairman updated Members on the discussions regarding the provision of support for health and safety for the Internal Drainage Boards.

Miss McShane reported that at the autumn Middle Level and Associated Drainage Board's Chairs meeting, a request was made to seek to either take on an additional employee or employ a contractor to specifically support the Drainage Board's to help them meet their legal Health and Safety requirements and also deliver the specified requirements of the Board's insurers who are calling for evidence that appropriate measures are in place to manage Health and Safety.

Miss McShane reported on the appointment of Cope Safety Management on a 3 year contract at a cost of £27,000 to give advice and assistance to the Boards on health and safety matters, including assistance with the preparation of risk assessments.

This cost was to be divided between those Boards who wished to take up the services of Cope Safety Management and would be apportioned depending on the size of the Board, the number of pumping stations and employees of the Board.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter dated the 25<sup>th</sup> April stating that for Over and Willingham IDB the sum would be £200 per annum, plus £85 per hour for any additional work that the Board requested from the contractor.

## RESOLVED

That Cope Safety Management be appointed for a period of three years at a cost of £200 per annum, together with additional charges for any extra assistance requested.

## B.204 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

## B.205 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss McShane referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2017/2018.

### B.206 Budgeting

Miss McShane referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### B.207 Review of Internal Controls

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

### B.208 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.

The District Officer asked for confirmation of whether this sum was index linked.

### B.209 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.210 Annual Governance Statement – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### B.211 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £46,636.56 which had been made during the financial year 2018/2019.

(NB) – Mr Church declared an interest in the payments made to him and to Haddenham Level DC.

(NB) – Mr Cook declared an interest in the payments to L A Burton and B R Cook.

### B.212 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 as required in the Audit Regulations.

The District Officer referred to the three bank accounts held by the Board at Lloyds Bank. Prior to the Middle Level Commissioners taking over the clerking of the Board, the Board had used Lloyds Bank as their bankers and although the Board now banks with Barclays Bank, it was important that the current account at Lloyds Bank remained open as historically some ratepayers made payments into that account.

The Chairman reported that he felt that this account could be reduced to £2,000 for the current year and the remainder transferred to the Barclays Bank account. He recommended that the Board close the instant account and the 30 day account.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
- ii) That approval be given to the closure the Board's Instant Account and 30 day account held at Lloyds Bank plc.

#### B.213 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2019/2020

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2019/2020 and were informed by Miss McShane 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 48.55% and 51.45%.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £32,513 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 £15,785 and £16,728 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 26.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £16,728 be made and issued to South Cambridgeshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.214 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.215 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

B.216 Thanks

Mr Dorey from Hanson's thanked the District Officer for all his assistance and his work with Hanson's