

## SAWTRY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Sawtry Internal Drainage Board  
held at the Old School Hall, Green End Road, Sawtry on Wednesday the 6th June 2018

### PRESENT

S J Custance Esq (Chairman)	S R Juggins Esq
A G Darby Esq	A Lensen Esq
D R Elmore Esq	S T Raby Esq
C Evans Esq	R G Tuplin Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr R Laxton (District Officer) were in attendance.

The Chairman enquired whether ALL Board members were happy for the meeting to be recorded. All members were in agreement.

### Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from Mrs D Riddle.

### B.1105 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.

Mr Raby declared an interest in agenda item 38.

Mr Darby declared an interest in agenda items 17 and 38.

### B.1106 Confirmation of Minutes

### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

### B.1107 Board Membership

Further to minute B.1070, Miss Ablett reported that the Chairman of Sawtry Parish Council, Mrs Delia Riddle, had accepted the invitation to join the Board.

B.1108 Land Drainage Act 1991  
Board Membership

a) Huntingdonshire District Council

Miss Ablett reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had re-appointed Councillors R G Tuplin and D M Tysoe to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Chairman advised that Mr Tysoe was no longer a Councillor in the Board's area and Huntingdonshire District Council would be appointing a replacement.

b) Miss Ablett reported that Andrew Lensen, Director of Farming, had replaced Malcolm Broughton as AgReserves' representative.

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The Chairman welcomed Mr Lensen.

B.1109 Great Fen Project

Further to minute B.1071, the Chairman reported that three members of the Board, together with the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk, had visited the Great Fen on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Mr Evans reported that, over the last year, the amount of rainfall had been really beneficial for the Great Fen and in some of the fields they had been able to control the water levels, in order to get water into some of the scrapes and dykes that had been dug and also into the drains under their control. There was still water on site, which the Great Fen were happy with and they had sprayed off all the thistles on the drier fields.

Mr Evans advised that they were working with the Middle Level Commissioners and AgReserves on various ideas regarding water storage. He stated that Woodwalton Fen could not continue in the long term to be a water storage area unless the water quality improved because when it flooded, there is a lot of silt and nutrients carried by the flood water, which is very detrimental to the site. There was evidence to show that the quality of flora had suffered and a number of species had been lost.

Mr Raby stated that it was very important to have another water storage area, in view of the development taking place in the area.

Mr Evans added that, over the years, a lot of finance for the Great Fen project had come from the Heritage Lottery Funds and that reports of the work carried out to date and the financial position for the Great Fen were available online at [www.greatfen.org.uk](http://www.greatfen.org.uk) and [www.greatfen.org.uk/news/hlf-evaluation-report](http://www.greatfen.org.uk/news/hlf-evaluation-report).

B.1110 Water Transfer Licences

Further to minute B.1073, Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from ADA dated the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.1111 Development at The Mulberries

Further to minute B.1074(iv), Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had contacted Huntingdonshire District Council's Planning Officer regarding formal enforcement action, but this was put on hold due to the impending meeting with Persimmon Homes.

The Clerk, Assistant Clerk and the Chairman met on site with Persimmon Homes on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and found that no maintenance had been carried out on the site since its construction; the balancing ponds had become overgrown.

The Chairman reported that, although there were two lifebuoys, there was no signage advising of deep water which was a major health and safety issue.

Miss Ablett advised that, following this meeting, Persimmon Homes had agreed to carry out the necessary work and had recently contacted the Board to confirm that they had instructed a contractor to go on site within the next few weeks.

### B.1112 Development to the east of Glebe Road Farm, Gidding Road, Sawtry – Linden Homes North

Miss Ablett referred to the Consulting Engineer's Supplementary Report, which had been prepared by the Planning Engineer following his meeting on site with Linden Homes, the previous week, viz:-

## **Sawtry Internal Drainage Board**

### **Consulting Engineer's Supplementary Report – June 2018**

#### **Residential development (Bowlands Place)**

#### **to the east of Glebe Road Farm, Gidding Road, Sawtry – Linden Homes North**

#### **(MLC Ref Nos 463, 476, 507 & 508)**

Following a period of heavy rainfall at the beginning of April a report was received from a neighbouring resident whose garden had been flooded. It is alleged that the developer's activities exacerbated the flooding experienced. Unfortunately, as a result of the flooding, the purchaser of the resident's property withdrew just as the contracts were due to be exchanged.

Following an instruction from the Board's Chairman, emails were sent to both the developer, Linden Homes, and later copied to the District Council. The email reminded the developer of the Board's concerns and requirements and requested that:

- (i) It re-assess its method of surface water management during the construction phase to ensure that flood risk is not increased as a result of the development.
- (ii) It stops any unregulated flows occurring into Sawtry Brook until the proposed drainage scheme is completed and is operational in accordance with the Board's requirements.
- (iii) Any unconsented structures within the Board's Drain and associated maintenance access strips are removed as a matter of urgency.

and was advised that:

“The Board looks forward to your company's co-operation on this matter but if these matters are not dealt with to the Board's requirements there will be no option but to advise the Clerk to the Board to take appropriate action against your company.”

With the exception of various additional messages from the concerned resident no other responses were initially received.

However, following another period of rain over the Whitsun weekend and further discussions between the resident and the District Council an inspection attended by a member of the District Council's Planning Enforcement Team, a representative from the LLFA, the Commissioners' Planning Engineer and representatives from Linden Homes took place on site last week.

Despite reassurances made by the developer during pre-development discussions the inspection revealed that site surface water was not being managed and that work on the attenuation pond and outfall had not been commenced as previously agreed.

Members will be aware that during discussions the developer and the original engineering consultant have been made more than aware of the Board's concerns and requirements. However, it was explained that the site is subject to other constraints associated with it. These include:

- An Environmental Exclusion Zone beside the hedge forming the eastern boundary of the site.
- A newt fence, to prevent newts entering the works, surrounds the site.

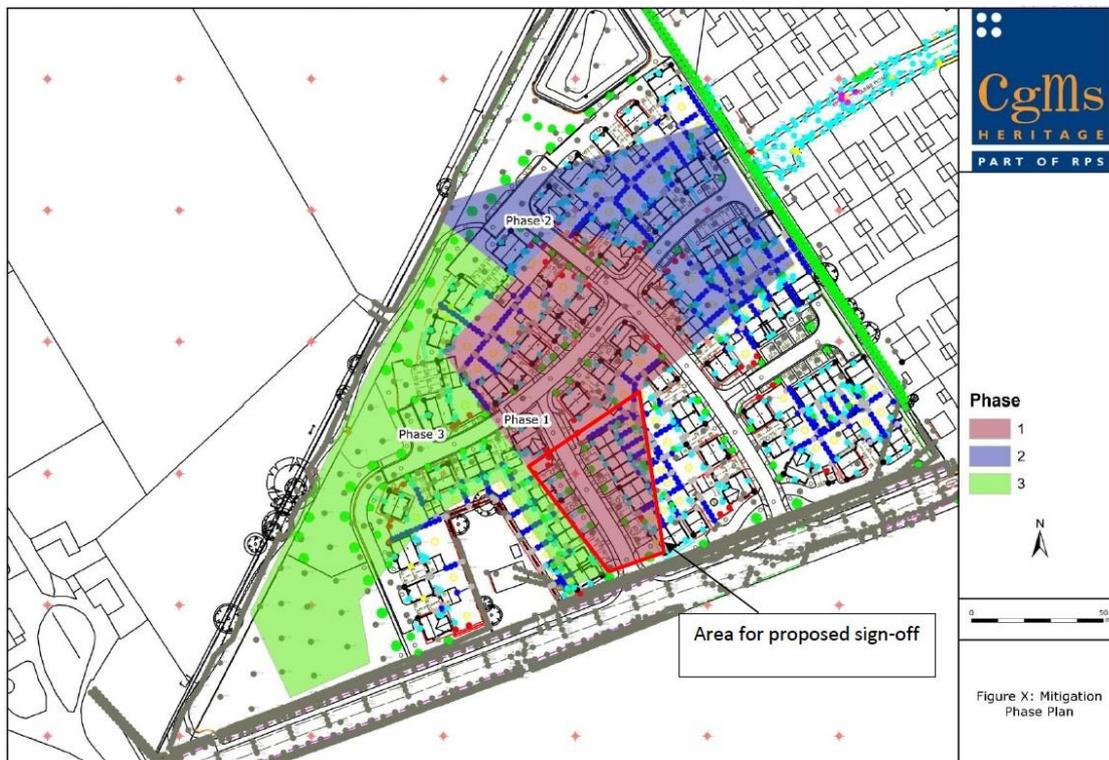
A newt fence is approximately 0.5m high and consists of an impermeable membrane approximately 1mm thick the bottom edge of which is entrenched to form an impenetrable barrier.



**A typical Newt Fence**

- Parts, but not all, of the site are the subject of an archaeological investigation. It is alleged that this investigation was delayed whilst the archaeologists completed an investigation on another project of national, regional and local importance.

The archaeological investigation has placed severe constraints on the development including the drainage infrastructure. Surface water sewers and the Overflow Drain along part of the north eastern boundary for the current phase of development have been installed but, due to the constraints presented by the presence of the archaeological dig, these do not currently have a positive outfall.



**The archaeological mitigation plan showing the areas to be investigated**

It is alleged that during the high rainfall events the water within the piped system and associated excavations was collected by a series of trenches and pumped into Sawtry Brook at the lowest corner at the northern end of the site. This, together with the impounding nature of the newt fence in this corner, led to the collection of a volume of water which on at least one occasion was “breached” discharging into the Brook. No direct evidence of the pump and trench was found during the investigation but it was evident that some linear works had been undertaken in the area.

It was reasonably evident from the inspection that no groundwater was being discharged and, therefore, any water previously flowing into the Brook was rain falling on the site, therefore, no additional volumes of flow had been received in the Brook. However, it is likely that any discharge could have been concentrated into a shorter time period.

### The Way Forward

Phase One of the archaeological dig has been completed and it is hoped that Phase Two can be signed off imminently and thus facilitate the further construction of the on-site infrastructure.

Linden Homes confirmed during the inspection that surface water had not been tankered off site as previously advised but will now do so until the on-site surface water system has been completed. Evidence of this was requested by the District Council.

In respect of the overland flows and impounding nature of the newt fence it was suggested that temporary overflow discharge pipes are provided through the newt fencing to allow any water which builds up in the lowest part of the site to discharge into Sawtry Brook and could stay in place

until the new drainage system is functioning. The pipes will have a wire mesh and land drainage fabric insert to prevent newts re-entering the site and should deal with the risk of flooding in the event of more heavy rain. These inserts are to be checked regularly to ensure they have not silted up.

A "Timeline" has been requested but has yet to be received. It is hoped that the drainage infrastructure will be installed as soon as possible.

#### Contravention of Byelaws

In addition to the aforementioned newt fence, a section of Heras fencing and various spoil heaps have been deposited in close proximity to the Board's Drain. Theoretically these items require consent but the Board may consider that due to their temporary nature and the presence of the tree/hedge on the brink along this section of the watercourse these do not materially restrict access to the Brook.

**In order to guide further discussions, should they be required, it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and/or further instruction concerning this site.**

Miss Ablett drew the Board's attention to the contravention of Byelaws in relation to the erection of the newt fence, a section of Heras fencing and various spoil heaps, which had been deposited close to the Board's drain. She advised that these items would usually require the Board's consent, however, due to their temporary nature and the presence of the tree/hedge on the brink along this section of watercourse, she enquired whether the Board considered that these did not materially restrict access to the Brook.

The Chairman stated that the Developer was taking no notice of the Board, did not appear concerned that they were contravening the Byelaws and enquired whether the Board would face any action if they were to remove/move the newt fence.

Miss Ablett advised that as consent for the fence to be within the maintenance strip should have been obtained by the Developer before it was erected the Board would face no action.

Mr Evans stated that in view of the Developers total disregard of the Board's Byelaws the Board should use its powers and take whatever action it can.

Mr Juggins stated that previously he had been advised that the Board did not have a responsibility for Sawtry Village or anything west of the A1 and does not get any support from the Local Councils. In his opinion, the Chairman, members of the Board and the Middle Level Commissioners were wasting their time dealing with all these issues and the Board should abdicate any responsibility for the west area of the A1 as it is only responsible for east of the A1 and should let a bigger authority than the Board deal with it.

Mr Elmore advised that if the Board were to give up responsibility for Sawtry village and another body took control and subsequently a drainage system that gave rise to increased water coming under the A1 was installed, which the Board had to deal with, it could still give rise to further problems.

The Chairman reported that the land on which the Linden Homes development had taken place did have a tendency to flood and in this respect the Developer should not build any more houses until the attenuation pond is functioning.

Mr Darby advised that if no development contribution had been paid to the Board they were able to put a charge on the development with the Land Registry which may prevent the properties from being sold.

Mr Lensen enquired whether a discharge application was necessary for this site and whether any contributions had been received from the developer. Miss Ablett advised that she did not have this information to hand, but would make it available for the next meeting.

## RESOLVED

i) That the Clerk advise the Developers that a byelaw consent application must be made for the newt fence, a section of Heras fencing and various spoil heaps within 4 weeks and the attenuation pond must be completed and functioning properly within 2 months or the Board will arrange for a charge to be lodged at the Land Registry on the development.

ii) That the Clerk investigate whether it would be in the Board's best interests to abdicate responsibility for the area between points 90-96, together with the spurs off it. If this was possible, the details of how it can be done, how long it will take and the costs involved to be sent to all Board members before November, so that the Chairman can call a special meeting in early January 2019 to discuss the matter further and include an inspection of the area concerned.

iii) That the Clerk ascertain whether any discharge contributions have been paid by the Developer.

#### B.1113 Structures in Sawtry Brook

Further to minute B.1075, Miss Ablett reported that letters enclosing a copy of the Board's Byelaws and District map had been sent in June last year to those householders who had erected illegal structures in Sawtry Brook. She added that the responses received from residents to date were positive with their only concerns being the removal of trees at the bottom of their gardens.

She advised that contractors were to carry out the works which will take place after harvest this year and that tenders will be requested once it was clear exactly what work will be required as this was dependent on the residents' action in the removal of structures, sheds, posts etc. Miss Ablett confirmed that a formal notice of the Board's right of entry will be sent to residents once a start date is known.

She further advised that if the structures have been removed the machine cleansing, removal of trees and shrubs from the bankside could cost in the region of £10,000-£15,000, but if they have not been removed this could be £20,000-£25,000, assuming there were no legal issues arising. Miss Ablett confirmed that a cost of £20,000 has been allowed for in the estimates.

#### RESOLVED

That the costs arising from the removal of structures, machine cleansing, removal of trees and shrubs from the bankside at Sawtry Brook be paid from the Discharge Consent Contribution Fund – A1M.

#### B.1114 Association of Drainage Authorities – Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.1087(d), the Board considered making a further contribution towards the research on eels.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board contribute an additional £100 towards further research on eels for 2018/2019.

#### B.1115 Consulting Engineers' Report

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

## Sawtry I.D.B.

### Consulting Engineers Report – May 2018

#### Pumping Stations

Other than matters reported 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.

#### Moat Farm

The combination drive gearbox located between the drive motor and the pump, which was leaking lubricant, has been removed and a replacement seal fitted.

During recent storms the station's felt roof was blown off. This is being attended to by the Board members.

#### Castlehill

The siphon breaker pit cover was found to have broken again creating a safety hazard, a new steel cover was therefore fitted.

#### Pumping Hours

Pumping Station	Total hours run Apr 14-Mar 15	Total hours run Mar 15-Mar 16	Total hours run Mar 16-Apr 17	Total hours run Apr 17 – Apr 18
Castlehill	162	51	108	175
Moat Farm	262	94	79	284
Sawtry Roughs	184	76	85	173

	Total hours run May 11-Mar 12	Total hours run Mar 12-Apr 13	Total hours run Apr 13-Apr 14
Castlehill	230	356	195
Moat Farm	19	622	315
Sawtry Roughs	5	450	210

#### 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, a review of the decisions that have been made identified that only one has an informative advising the applicants of their separate legal obligation to comply with the requirements of the Board's Byelaws and the Land Drainage Act (LDA). Whilst this is a positive step, unfortunately, it specifically refers to the Middle Level Commissioners and a now superseded version of the 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 26 new applications have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<b><i>MLC Ref.</i></b>	<b><i>Council Ref.</i></b>	<b><i>Applicant</i></b>	<b><i>Type of Development</i></b>	<b><i>Location</i></b>
528	H/16/02536/FUL	Mr P Allgood	Residential (3 plots)	Fen Lane, Sawtry
529	H/17/00946/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Nunez	Residence (Extension)	Church Street, Sawtry
530	H/17/70105/SCRE	Network Rail	Transportation	Woodwalton to Huntingdon Station Approach
531	H/17/01216/CLPD	Spirotech SRD Group Ltd	Industrial	Brookside, Sawtry
532	H/17/00927/FUL	Lodge Park Ltd	Residential (18 plots)	St Andrews Way & Chapel End, Sawtry*
533	H/17/01495/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs M Lavender	Residence (Extension)	Maple Close, Sawtry
534	Pre-app Enq	Richardson & Peat	Residential (3 plots)	Raveley Road, Woodwalton
535	H/17/01595/FUL	Mr Mohammad Ummar Farooq Anjum	Residential (2 dwellings)	Green End Road, Sawtry
536	H/17/01856/AGDET	Mr G P Meadows	Agricultural	St Judiths Lane, Sawtry
537	H/17/01800/FUL	Optimum Land & Property	Residence	Raveley Road, Great Raveley
538	H/17/01715/EXDET	Mr & Mrs Skelton	Residence (Extension)	Louthe Way, Sawtry
539	H/5010/16/CC/C2	Cambridgeshire County Council	Education	Middlefield Road, Sawtry
540	H/17/01954/PMBPA	Mr A Rowell	Residential (3 plots)	Bridge Street, Woodwalton
541	H/17/02129/PMBPA	Mr D Peters	Residence	St Judiths Lane, Sawtry
542	H/17/02172/PMBPA	Agreserves Ltd	Residence	Raveley Fen Road, Great Raveley
543	H/17/02102/AGDET	M J Elliott	Agricultural	Gidding Road, Sawtry
544	H/17/02351/PMBPA	Agreserves Ltd	Residential (2 plots)	Raveley Road, Woodwalton

545	H/17/02326/REM	Mr & Mrs Evans	Residential (2 plots)	High Street, Upwood
546	H/17/02429/FUL	Wedge Galvanizing Group Ltd	Industrial	Old Great North Road, Sawtry*
547	H/17/02252/HHFUL	Mr T Upton	Residence (Extension)	Church Street, Sawtry
548	Enquiry	Client of Nick Page	Proposed development (tbc)	North west of Copins Close, Shawley Road, Round Hills Way, Fairfield Close, & Salters Way & south west of Glatton Road, Sawtry
549	H/18/00023/HHFUL	Ms S Randall	Residence (Extension)	13 Papyrus Way, Sawtry
550	H/18/00069/HHFUL	Mr J Ward	Residence (Extension)	Tinkers Lane, Sawtry
551	H/18/00202/HHFUL	Mrs M Dale	Residence (Extension)	Aversley Road, Sawtry
552	H/18/00398/FUL	V & J Services (Mr J Harding)	Agricultural	Church Street, Sawtry*
553	H/18/70082/SCRE	Larkfleet Homes	Residential (350 plots)	Shawley Road/Glatton Road, Sawtry

***Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder applications for Full Planning Permission***  
***Planning applications ending 'SCRE' relate to screening/scoping opinions***  
***Planning applications ending 'CLPD' relate to the Certificate of Lawfulness proposed***  
***Planning applications ending 'AGDET' relate to Agricultural Determination***  
***Planning applications ending 'EXTDET' relate to prior approval of a larger home extension application***  
***Planning Applications ending 'CC' relate to County Council matters***  
***Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval Agricultural to Dwellings***  
***Planning applications ending 'REM' relate to Reserved Matters applications***

Developments that propose direct discharge to the Board's system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems.

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

- *Mr & Mrs M Lavender – Residence (Extension) at Maple Close, Sawtry (MLC Ref No 533)*
- *V & J Services (Mr J Harding) – Agricultural development at Church street, Sawtry (MLC Ref No 552)*

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated effluent into the Board's system via Sawtry or Upwood Water Recycling Centres (WRC).

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.

- *Residential development on land at and including 12 Fen Lane, Sawtry – Mrs D Younger (MLC Ref Nos 360, 389 & 449)*
- *Extension to existing motel at Redwings Lodge Motel, Old Great North Road, Sawtry – Redwings Lodge Ltd (MLC Ref No 412)*

- *Development at Nordic House, Old Great North Road, Sawtry - Tesco Pension Trustees Ltd (MLC Ref No 424) & NFI Industries (MLC Ref No 441)*
- *Renewable Energy Development at land north west of Red House Farm on Double Bank Lane, Sawtry – Anescon (MLC Ref No 517)*

**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.**

*Residential development at and to the south of Marshalls Bros Garage, Gidding Road, Sawtry – Client of Royal Haskoning (MLC Ref No. 307), Fox Land & Property (MLC Ref Nos 325, 339 & 343) Persimmon Homes (EM) (MLC Ref No 405), Persimmon Homes & Bellway Homes East Midlands (MLC Ref No 409) and Charles Church (East Midlands) (MLC Ref No 439)*

Persimmon Homes was chased for an update on essential maintenance works. The response received from Persimmon advised that it was in discussion with its landscaping contractors, but also that drier conditions were being awaited, following which actions would be taken.

*Construction of sewage treatment works at land off Raveley Road, Woodwalton - Anglian Water Services Ltd (MLC Ref No 447)*

It is understood that the construction of this facility has been completed.

*Residential development on land between St Andrews Way & Chapel End, Sawtry - Davidsons Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 456) & Lodge Park Ltd (MLC Ref No 525 & 532)*

Further to the Board's last meeting a planning application was submitted to the District Council in April 2017 seeking the replacement of seven large houses (which already have planning permission) with eighteen smaller houses. Planning permission was refused in February.

Development of the site has commenced and discussions are being undertaken with the developer to protect the Board's interests.

*Residential development to the east of Glebe Road Farm, Gidding Road, Sawtry – Linden Homes North (MLC Ref Nos 463, 476, 507 & 508)*

A Supplementary Report will be provided at the meeting.

*Development to create a 3FE (630 pupil) Infant and Junior School including extensions (following partial demolition of infant school), a new two storey block with covered walkways, a 60 place pre-school building, and associated works including the relocation of play area extensions to hard play areas, relocation of trim trail, provision of additional cycle and scooter parking spaces and alterations to access and removal of drop off to form a single access, with reconfiguration of car park at Sawtry Infants & Junior School, Middlefield Road, Sawtry - Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref Nos 501, 512 & 539)*

A Discharge of Condition application, associated with surface water disposal, was submitted to the County Council in September and this was subsequently discharged in October. However, it is noted from the Board's records that the appropriate documentation associated with the site's development, including an application for discharge consent, has not been received. Initially it is suggested that in an effort to expedite the matter the Board may wish to consider issuing "Advisory" Notices to the parties concerned.

**Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion, further instruction and approval to initially write to the parties concerned in order to resolve this potential issue.**

*Outline planning application for the erection of up to 295 residential dwellings, access and associated works, all other matters reserved at land south west of Mill Cottage, Gidding Road, Sawtry – Waterman Infrastructure & Environment (MLC Ref No 520) & Kier Group (MLC Ref No 524)*

Outline planning permission subject to the imposition of conditions, including both surface and foul water, was granted to the Kier Group at the beginning of May.

*Railway Track Between Woodwalton and Huntingdon Station Approach – Network Rail (MLC Ref No 524)*

**NB. A Screening Opinion application is a planning process where the applicant asks the relevant Local Planning Authority for its formal opinion as to whether there are likely to be significant effects on the environment and require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).**

The intention of this process is to enable developers to obtain a clear view from the LPA on its requirements before they reach the stage of lodging a formal planning application, thus minimising the possibility of delay or uncertainty.

A Screening Opinion was submitted to the District Council in respect of this part of its East Coast Main Line (ECML) Connectivity Programme. Network Rail proposes to re-establish approximately six miles of track between Huntingdon Station and Woodwalton. An integral part of the improvements is to re-establish a fourth track (Up Slow, for slower speed trains travelling towards London) between Huntingdon North Junction and Woodwalton Junction 1 and provision of electrification. These proposals are known as Huntingdon to Woodwalton Four Tracking (HW4T).

The proposed re-installation of the fourth track, which will be laid in approximately the same location as a previous fourth track which was removed in the 1980s, includes all associated permanent way works, earthworks and retaining structures.

A response received from Network Rail includes the following:

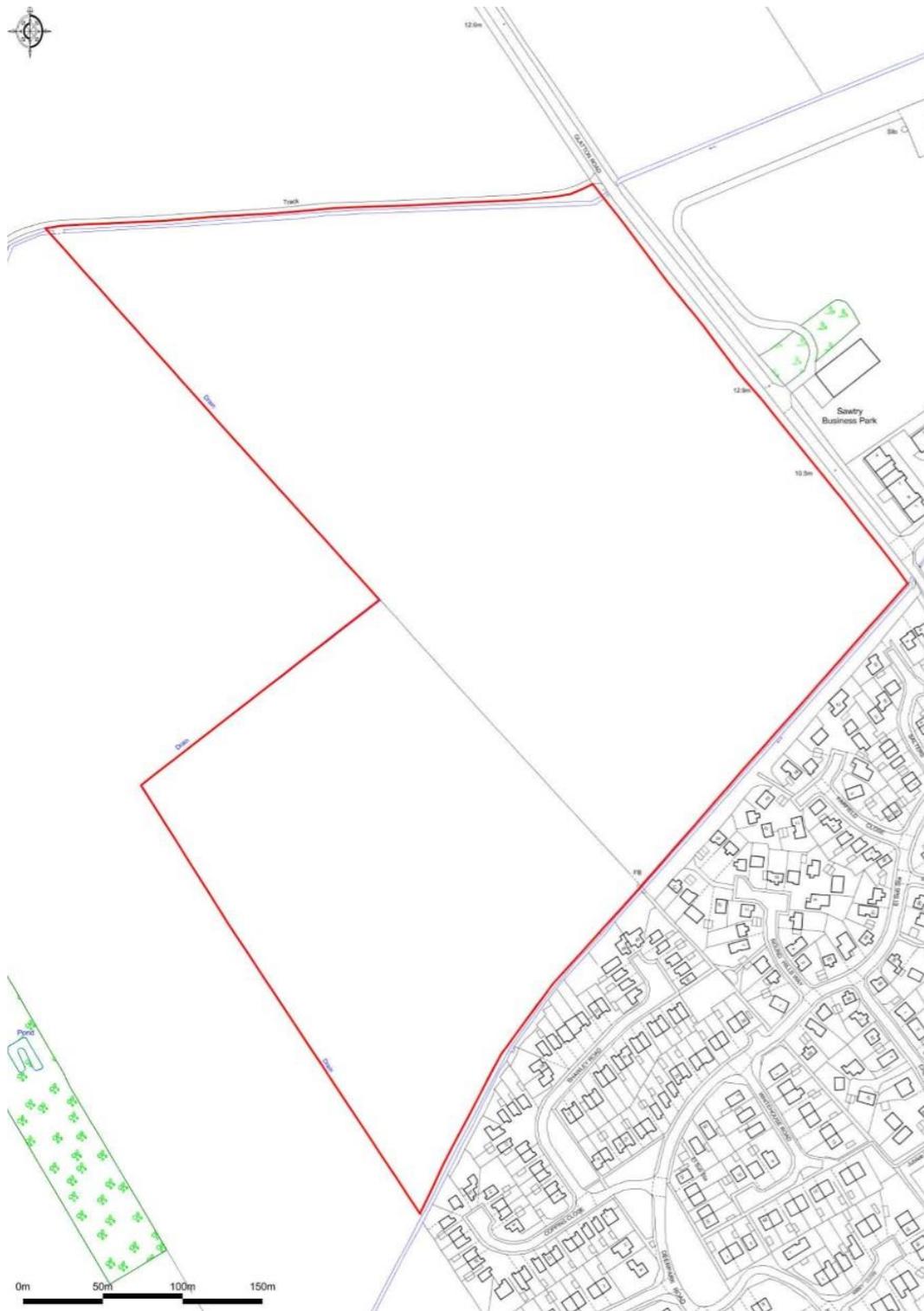
“In terms of the work we intend to carry out, should there be a requirement to apply for a license, we will liaise with the IDB as stated in Reference A. We will not be introducing any foul water as part of the development.

This requirement for consent has been recorded in our consents log.”

However, despite this the Board’s attention is drawn to the problems that both The Bedford Group of IDBs and the EA have experienced with protected provisions and the effects on their byelaws as raised later in this report.

*Proposed residential development to the north west of Copins Close, Shawley Road, Round Hills Way, Fairfield Close and Salters Way and south west of Glatton Road, Sawtry – Client of Waterman Infrastructure & Environment (MLC Ref No 548) & Larkfleet Homes (MLC Ref No 553)*

A Provision of Information enquiry was received from Waterman Infrastructure & Environment who, in view of the large size of the site, were encouraged to undertake the detailed pre-application consultation process but no instruction has been received.



Plan showing the extent of the proposed site

A Screening Opinion was submitted to the District Council by Marrons Planning on behalf of Lark Fleet Homes. A covering letter includes the following:

“The site consists of circa 16.7 hectares of greenfield land at Glatton Road to the north of the built up area of Sawtry. ....”

“The development proposed consists of circa 350 dwellings alongside with associated site infrastructure, open space (including provision of sports and play facilities), a community facility, and a high level of landscaping. The application will seek outline

planning permission, with all matters reserved, except access details. The proposals will deliver a high quality and sustainable development, providing much need new market and affordable housing for the district, alongside a number of environmental benefits for the site and economic benefits for the wider area.”

“5. **Water, Flood Risk and Drainage**

The land falls in Flood Zone 1 and therefore is at low flood risk. A number of drainage measures will be put in place such as the integration of balancing ponds to address any potential surface water drainage issues. A new pumping station will also be included in the proposals to assist in foul sewer drainage. Put simply, the land is suitable for sustainable drainage measures, and the effects of development are not considered to be significant in this regard warranting the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment.”

### **Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036**

The Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Proposed Submission and its supporting documents were submitted for independent examination to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government via the Planning Inspectorate on 29 March.

The Secretary of State has appointed Kevin Ward from the Planning Inspectorate to carry out an independent examination of the Local Plan. The Inspector's task is to establish whether the Huntingdonshire Local Plan is 'sound'. He will then report on his findings, including advising if modifications are needed to make the Local Plan sound.

### ***Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA)***

A consolidated version of the HELAA has been produced to support the Proposed Submission Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. This incorporates all site assessments from the HELAA documents published for consultation in July and October 2017. It also reflects the outcomes of the Call for Sites which accompanied the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Consultation Draft 2017.

### ***Huntingdonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)***

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

The note referring to the SFRA 2010 mapping for the Middle Level Commissioners' area remains on the Council's website.

### **Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)**

The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards since the 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 uses 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 its 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 29 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 the 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 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.

### ***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; the role of IDBs and partnership working, amongst other things.

## **General Advice**

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

- (a) Mrs Marty Turner – An application for byelaw consent to erect a 1.8 metre high 16 metre long fence with a pedestrian gate at the rear of 25 Shawley Road, Sawtry, adjacent to the Sawtry Brook (a Board's district drain), was recommended for approval. The new fence will be erected on the line of an existing fence and no closer than two metres from the bank top.

Consulting Engineer

18 May 2018

Sawtry (342)\Reports\May 18

Miss Ablett 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.

With regards to the development at Middlefield Road, Sawtry (MLC Ref Nos 501, 512 & 539), Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished to issue an advisory notice to the parties concerned, as the appropriate documentation, including an application for discharge consent, had not been received.

Mr Lensen enquired whether hard wire testing on the pumps at all sites had been carried out every 5 years. Miss Ablett advised that she would request the Middle Level Commissioners' Mechanical and Electrical Engineer to contact him to confirm whether this was the case.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the Reports and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the Planning Engineer be requested to write to the Local Councils regarding informatives on decision notices.
- iii) That the Planning Engineer send advisory notices to the parties concerned relating to MLC Ref Nos 501, 512 & 539).
- iv) That the Mechanical and Electrical Engineer advise Mr Lensen whether hard wire testing on the pumps at all sites has been carried out every 5 years.

(NB) – Mr Lensen declared an interest (as an employee of AgReserves Ltd) in the planning applications for AgReserves Ltd.

#### B.1116 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.1117 District Officer's Report

The Board considered the Report of the District Officer.

The District Officer reported that the drains and banks were in good order and there had been no bank slippages during the year. He reported that the roof at the pump house at Manor Farm had been damaged when the roofing felt had been torn off completely in a storm and advised that this had now been repaired at a cost of £2,000.

#### RESOLVED

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

- ii) That the District Officer be authorised to arrange for flail mowing as he felt appropriate.

#### B.1118 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.

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 11<sup>th</sup> June. She reported that Cliff was due to retire at the end of June and that his replacement had been appointed.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board make a £100 contribution towards a gift for Cliff Carson's retirement.

#### B.1119 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 £3,275 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2018/2019.
- ii) That the Board agree that the sum of £895.50 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2018/2019.

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

#### B.1120 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.1121 Application for byelaw consent

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

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Mrs Marty Turner	Erection of fence – rear garden - 25 Shawley Road, Sawtry	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

B.1122 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2018/2019 in the sum of £6,026 (the precept for 2017/2018 being £5,937).

B.1123 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £3,797.44 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£4,697.75 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018 less £900.31 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2016/2017).

(b) Further to minute B.1085(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 kept under review.

B.1124 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 £609 to £616.

RESOLVED

That the increased ADA subscription be paid for 2018.

d) Liability of Board Members

Miss Ablett referred to, and the Board noted, a Guidance Note received from ADA dated the 28<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 to include compliance with the environment regulations 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 by ADA.

RESOLVED

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

g) Floodex 2019

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

B.1125 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 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

B.1126 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.1127 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.

RESOLVED

- i) That the District Officer be appointed Health and Safety Officer with assistance from Jonathan Fenn, the Middle Level Commissioners' Operations Engineer.

- ii) That the Board participate in any training organised through the Middle Level Commissioners.

#### B.1128 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to a letter received from Defra dated the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.1129 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.1130 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 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

#### RESOLVED

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

### B.1131 Charging for Environmental Permits

Miss Ablett reported on the consultation on charging for Environmental Permits which closed on the 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ada.org.uk/2018/01/ada-responds-environment-agency-charge-proposals-2018).

### B.1132 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### B.1133 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### B.1134 Budgeting

Miss Ablett 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 2018.

### B.1135 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.1136 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management system.
- 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

- i) That no changes be made to the valuation at this time and for the matter to be reviewed again at the next annual meeting.
- ii) That a copy of the Board's Risk Management Policy and the Pumping Station Valuations be sent to Mr Lensen.

### B.1137 Appointment of External Auditor

Further to minute B.1055, Miss Ablett referred to the decision by the Commissioners 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 Commissioners for a five year period commencing with the financial year 2017/2018.

### B.1138 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.1139 Annual Governance Statement – 2017/2018

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

## 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 2018.

### B.1140 Payments 2017/2018

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £28,523.20 which had been made during the financial year 2017/2018.

(NB) – Mr Darby declared an interest in the payment made to T E Darby & Sons.

(NB) – Mr Raby declared an interest in the payment made to H Raby & Sons and (as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

### B.1141 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Board 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.

B.1142 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2017/2018

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

B.1143 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 Huntingdonshire District Council would be:-

Gravity Area – Area 1

Drainage rates	-	15.14%
Special levy	-	84.86%

Gravity Area (Flood Alleviation Scheme) – Area 2

Special levy	-	100%
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Pumped Area (Sawtry Fen) – Area 3

Drainage rates	-	99.89%
Special levy	-	0.11%

Pumped Area (Moat Farm) – Area 4

Drainage rates - 100%

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £36,933 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 £27,179 and £9,754 respectively.
- iv) That drainage rates in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

AREA 1	-	2.25p
AREA 3	-	26.90p
AREA 4	-	50.00p
- v) That a Special levy of £9,754 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire 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.1144 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.1145 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019.