

MARCH WEST AND WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March West and White Fen Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Tuesday the 7th May 2019

PRESENT

J L Brown Esq (Chairman)	S R Court Esq
M J Mottram Esq (Vice Chairman)	P G Hayes Esq
T E Alerton Esq	C Miller Esq
N J Bates Esq	D G West Esq
H W Whittome Esq	

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

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Miss E Alerton, D J Fountain Esq, H T Kisby Esq and J A Neal Esq.

B.132 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.

B.133 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

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

B.134 Death of Mr Michael Kisby

The Chairman referred to the death of Mr Michael Kisby on the 1st November 2018.

Miss McShane reminded Members that Mr Kisby had been a member of the Board from September 1970 until his resignation in November 2017, after 47 years' service, and that he had been Chairman from June 1982 to May 2011.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for Mr Kisby.

RESOLVED

That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered by Mr Kisby be recorded in the minutes.

B.135 Board Membership

With reference to minute B.86, Miss McShane reported that Miss Emma Alterton and Mr Paul Hayes had accepted the invitation to join the Board.

Mr Chairman welcomed Mr Hayes to his first meeting of the Board.

B.136 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership – Fenland District Council

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

Miss McShane also reported, however, that more recently Fenland District Council had advised that Mr Cornwell is no longer a nominated member of the Board and that all allocations to outside bodies will be made following the local elections and the Annual Council meeting on the 23rd May.

Councillor Court explained to the Board that he had not been re-elected to the Council at the elections on the 2nd May and that he would cease to become a member of the Council and the Board from the Annual General Meeting of the Council on the 23rd May 2019.

B.137 Proposed Retail Park to the west of Hostmoor Avenue, March – Brossman Mills Ltd

Further to minute B.91, the Chairman updated the Board on this proposed development. The Consulting Engineers had been involved in pre-application discussions with the applicant, Brossman Mills Ltd and MTC, their agents. The proposal included the formation of a roundabout at the junction of the A141/Hostmoor Avenue which will encroach into the adjacent balancing pond to the south of Hostmoor Avenue which may now have been sold by Anglian Water. The Consulting Engineers had written to Anglian Water requesting that:-

- a) A copy of Anglian Water's assessment and details of the land sale.
- b) Suitable supporting evidence to ensure that the proposal is designed to meet current design standards and does not detrimentally affect the Board's system.
- c) Replacement storage mitigation, at a suitable location, is provided, if required, before work on the filling of the pond commences on site.

This letter had been sent on the 3rd May 2019 and a response was awaited.

B.138 Fish Harvesting at Pumping Stations

Further to minute B.93, Mr Lakey reported that the works on the fish harvesting had now been completed and the biggest fish have now been removed from the Board's drain.

RESOLVED

To continue to monitor the number of fish within the District watercourses.

B.139 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.105(e), the Board considered their updated Byelaws.

RESOLVED

That the updated Byelaws be adopted.

B.140 Policy Statement

Further to minute B.105(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.141 Bank Slip – Whittlesey Road, March

Further to minute B.107, Miss McShane reported on an approach which had been made to Cambridgeshire County Council with regard to the bank slip at Whittlesey Road, March. A letter had been sent together with a report on the County Council's automated system.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Clerk send a further letter to Cambridgeshire County Council Highways together with a photograph of the bank slippage on Whittlesey Road and a contact number for the Board's Consulting Engineer.

B.142 Contravention of Byelaws – Rutterford Site – Whittlesey Road, March

Further to minute B.108, Miss McShane reported that following a letter that had been written to Rutterford Construction, the company had made an application for byelaw consent for the fencing, the electricity pole and the hardstanding area. In a recent letter to the company, the Assistant Clerk had advised that any surface material applied should be permeable and requested that the materials stored along the edge of the drain should be moved to another location on site.

Mr Rutterford had also indicated that he would be willing to carry out future drain maintenance on his side of the drain.

RESOLVED

That Byelaw Consent be granted.

B.143 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.113, the Board considered their Biosecurity Policy.

RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

B.144 Proposed works to the rear of the Tesco site

Further to minute B.130, Mr Alterton reported that in one of his fields at the rear of the Tesco site Anglian Water have a main supply pipe across his field that appeared to have been leaking. However, Anglian Water had advised that they did not believe that their pipe was leaking.

RESOLVED

That Mr Alterton dig the land in this location, drain and gravel it, and do a chlorine test, to see if Anglian Water are wrong.

B.145 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a second Chair's meeting was held on the 17th October 2018 and that discussions centred around meeting Health and Safety legislative requirements and the possible options for increased efficiency in delivery of IDB/DDC services. Outline detailed proposals on the latter are to be brought before the next Chair's meeting for consideration.

That a third Chair's Meeting was held on the 11th 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.

RESOLVED

That the Board give further consideration to the briefing paper.

ii) Applications for byelaw consent

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:-

C J Fountain & Son Ltd	Installation of 12 no. field underdrain outfalls in district drain between points 146 and 147 in White Fen area near Benwick	26 th July 2018
Mr A Cobb/Turves Residents	Culverting of minor section of drain and new culvert under carriageway linking drains – private watercourse	28 th March 2019

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 81st Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 14th November 2018 and had been well attended with the main speakers being Sue Hayman MP, Shadow Secretary for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Robert Hössen crisis management expert from the Netherlands, John Curtin, Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management at the Environment Agency and David Cooper Deputy, Director for Flood and Coastal Erosion Management at Defra.

Sue Hayman Affairs spoke about her first-hand experience of flooding in Cumbria, the impact of flooding on mental health, building on flood plains and river management without environmental change and funding.

Robert Hössen gave a presentation on how incident management is organised and dealt with in the Netherlands.

John Curtin gave a presentation on the effects of climate change and referred to the government's discussions regarding the likelihood, impact and severity of climate change.

David Cooper referred to the 25 year environment plan and to various Government publications made in 2018, which can be viewed online.

That the Officers had been re-elected, subscriptions would be increasing by 2% for the following year and the Conference marked the launch of the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members.

That the Conference also marked the first presentation of the Chairman's award which were presented to Ian Russell from the Environment Agency for his work on Public Sector Co-operation Agreements and to Cliff Carson, former Environmental Officer of the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards, for his work which was instrumental in changing views concerning conservation.

b) Annual Conference

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

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Member who wishes to attend.

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 12th 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 3rd 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 on these 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.

vii) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B125, 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 30th 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 30th 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.146 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

March West & White Fen IDB

Consulting Engineers Report – April 2019

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

March & Whittlesey Area

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

Following the Board's resolution in 2007 to implement a phased programme of bank revetment works within the Board's system, toe board and piling works, approximately 360 metres in length, were undertaken along the Beggars Bridge main pump drain last autumn. The bank revetment works included a continuation of the ongoing trial use of recycled aggregates (brick bats), as used at other sites. Due to a change in



Beggars Bridge Pumping Station Revetment works

working operations, the reject brick bats are now being crushed and recycled in the production of new building blocks, leading to an increase in the overall cost as demand increases for this product. The Board may wish to take this opportunity to discuss its options and whether it wishes to continue with the brick bats or find a suitable alternative for the future phased bank revetment programme.

With the Chairman and Vice Chairman's agreement, new dam boards were installed at the School Farm division Dam, Point 18, to ensure the Staffurth's and Duncombe's system levels could operate independently. New dam boards and repairs to the hand rail were also required at Truman's Corner division dam, Point 19, after a car left the road and entered the drain, causing damage to the structure. With the Chairman's approval the repair works were carried out at a cost to the Board, as there was little hope of recharging the remedial repairs to the driver or vehicle involved in the accident.

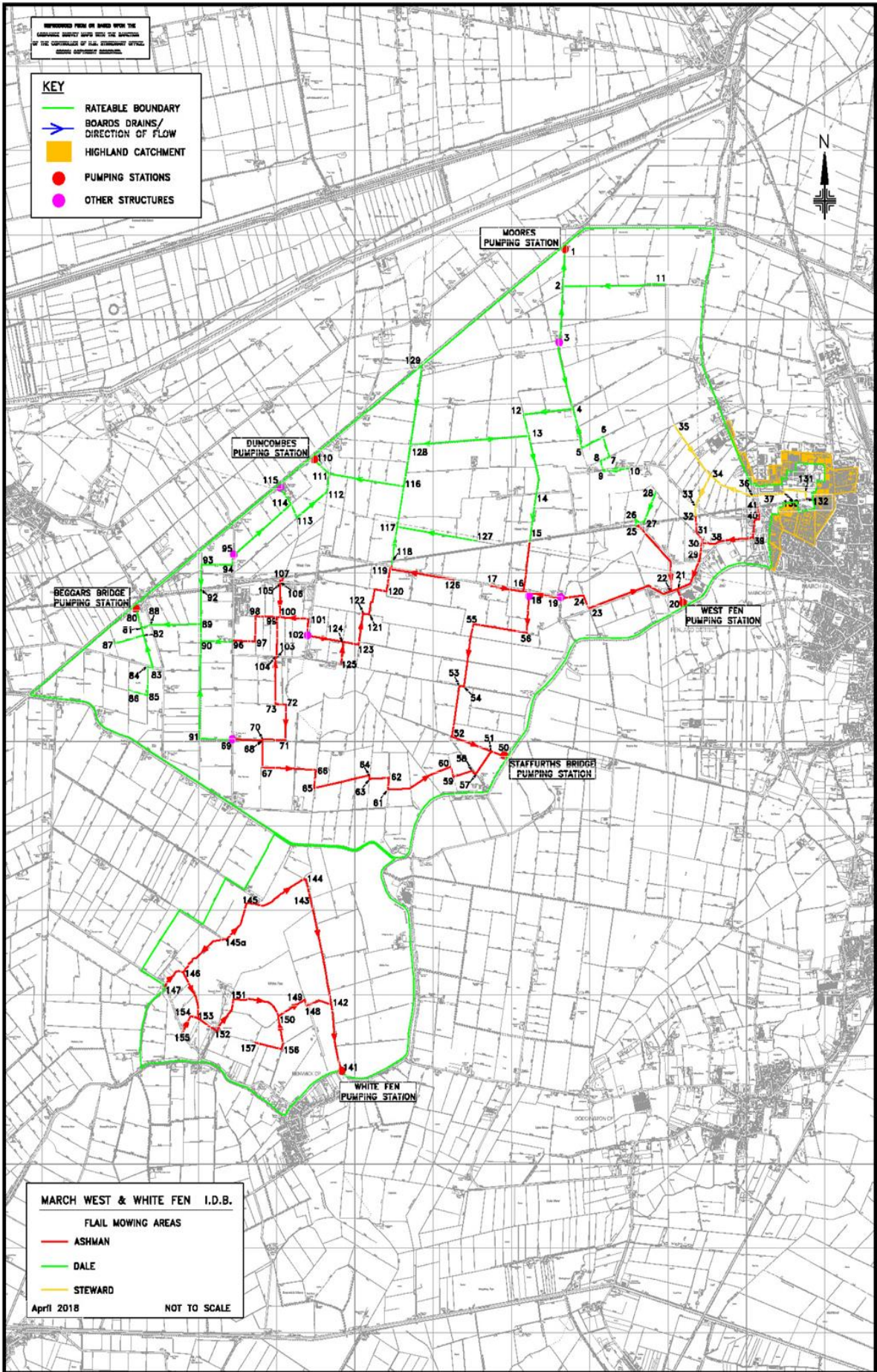


Truman's Corner, Point 19

UNREGISTERED PLAN OR DRAWN UPON THE
 CADASTRAL SURVEY MAPS WITH THE SANCTION
 OF THE CHIEF OFFICER OF HIS DISTRICT OFFICE.
 LEGAL ADVICE OBTAINED.

KEY

- RATEABLE BOUNDARY
- > BOARDS DRAINS/
DIRECTION OF FLOW
- HIGHLAND CATCHMENT
- PUMPING STATIONS
- OTHER STRUCTURES



MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN I.D.B.

FLAIL MOWING AREAS

- ASHMAN
- DALE
- STEWARD

April 2018

NOT TO SCALE

Provisional notices for this year's intended machine cleansing works have been sent out. The extent of this year's phased programme of maintenance works is shown on the following site plan.

As the Board's annual meeting falls during the early part of the growing season, it is proposed that an inspection of the Board's drains be undertaken during the summer months to identify areas of bank subsidence and to prioritise the worst affected reaches to be dealt with as a continuation of the phased programme of bank revetment works. In this respect, a sum has been allocated in the Board's estimated costs to allow for toe board and piling works to be undertaken to stabilise and return the side sloping banks to their original profile.

A recent inspection of the Board's District drains has revealed that the majority are in a generally satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection indicates that many of the District drains that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.

However, the inspection did highlight areas of bank subsidence along the "Tesco drain", reach 36-37 and these will require re-piling/revetment works to re-instate the channel and bank profile once access is available following the harvest of adjacent crops.



Bank Subsidence, reach 36-37

An allowance has also been included within this year's estimated costs to allow for a Roundup herbicide application to be made in advance of the programmed machine cleansing work, and in any other district drains identified as requiring herbicide treatments to control emergent weed and reed growths following the Board's inspection later in the summer months.

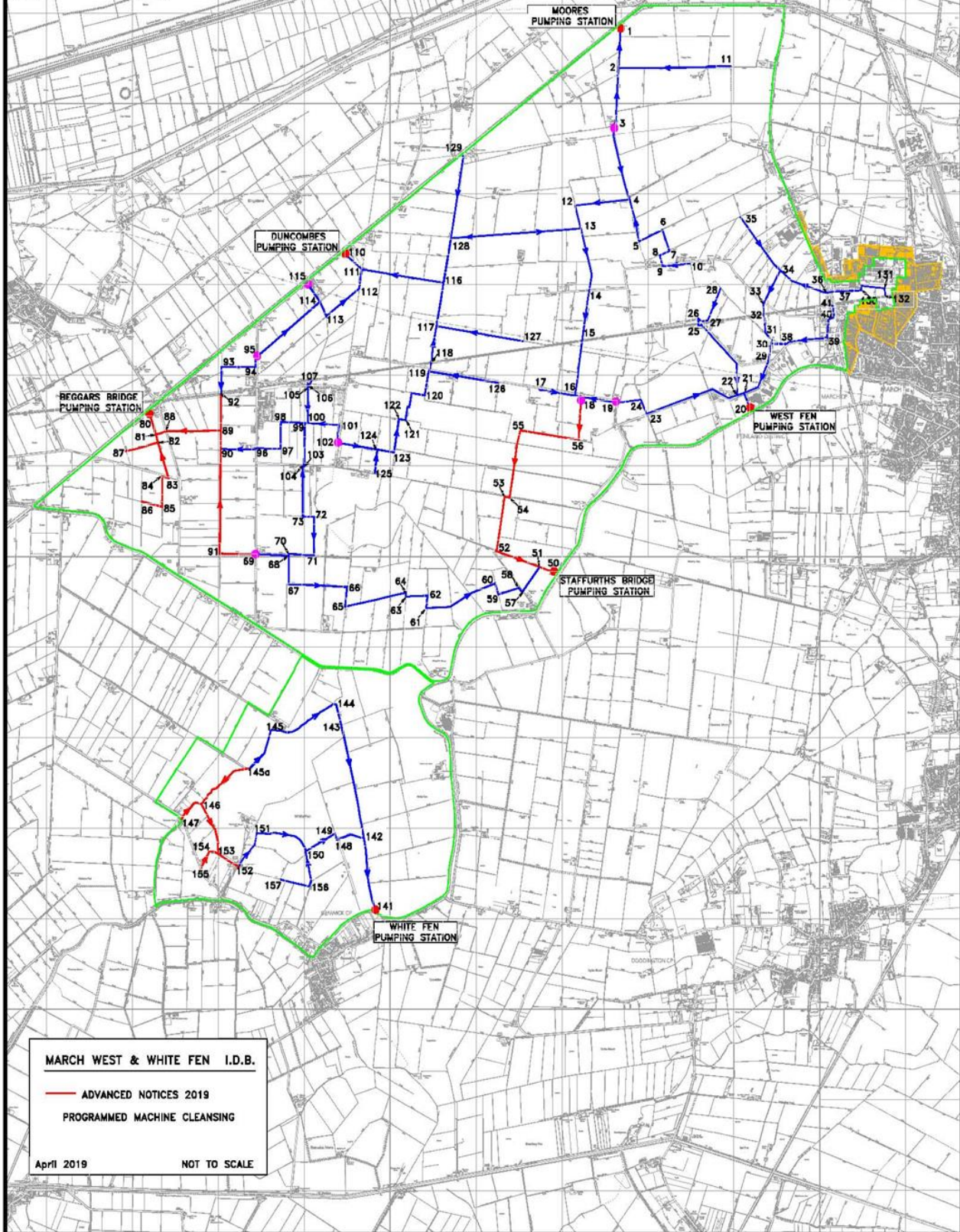
Following the Board's agreement at its last annual meeting, the contract to undertake flail mowing works was divided between Messrs Ashman, Mr J Steward and Mr R Dale. The site plan on the previous page shows how this work was allocated for each individual contractor. Messrs Ashman have indicated that they will not be available for this season's work, and the Board may wish to take the opportunity to discuss on what basis they wish to proceed with the flail mowing requirements for the coming year.

A provisional sum has been allocated within the Board's estimated costs to allow for emergency machine cleansing, Cott (filamentous algae) removal or culvert clearance works that may become necessary later in the year.

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KEY

- RATEABLE BOUNDARY
- > BOARDS DRAINS/
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- OTHER STRUCTURES



MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN I.D.B.

- ADVANCED NOTICES 2019
PROGRAMMED MACHINE CLEANSING

April 2019 NOT TO SCALE

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance works is as follows. Please refer to the previous site plan for locations.

1. Machine cleanse the following reaches:

<u>Beggars Bridge Catchment Area</u>				£	
69-91-90-89-92	2250	m	@	1.10	2475.00
81-88-89	800	m	@	1.10	880.00
82-87	400	m	@	1.10	440.00
80-81-82-83-84-85-86	1450	m	@	1.10	1595.00

<u>Staffurths Catchment Area</u>					
50-51-52-53-54-55-56-18	3350	m	@	1.20	4020.00

- | | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|--|--|----------|
| 2. Bank Revetment works
36-37 | Item | Sum | | | 1500.00 |
| 3. <u>Provisional Item</u>
Allow sum for bank
reinstatement works | Item | Sum | | | 15000.00 |
| 4. Roundup herbicide application | Item | Sum | | | 1200.00 |
| 5. Flail mowing of District Drains | Item | Sum | | | 9000.00 |
| 6. <u>Provisional Item</u>
Allow sum for emergency machine
cleansing, Cott removal or
culvert clearance | Item | Sum | | | 2000.00 |
| 7. Fees for inspection, preparation and
submission of the report to the Board,
arrangement and supervision of
herbicide applications and maintenance | Item | Sum | | | 2500.00 |

TOTAL					£40,610.00
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White Fen Area

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

Provisional notices of this year's intended machine cleansing works, in accordance with the phased maintenance programme approved at the 2009 annual meeting, have been sent out. The extent of this year's phased programme of maintenance works is shown on the previous site location plan.

Roundup Pro Biactive herbicide was applied to reaches in advance of the phased programmed machine cleansing works.

As the Board's annual meeting falls during the early part of the growing season, it is proposed that a detailed District inspection be undertaken during the summer months to identify any additional works or herbicide applications that may be required.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. In anticipation of the Board's agreement a £2,000 flail mowing budget has been allocated within the estimated costs for this year.

Provision has been included within the Board's estimated expenditure to allow for a Roundup herbicide application to be applied to drains included within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, and to any other district drains where an herbicide treatment is required, to control reed stands or substantial growths of emergent aquatic vegetation.

A provisional sum has been included within the Board's estimate to allow for emergency machine cleansing, cott removal, culvert clearance or bank revetment works that may be required later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance works is as follows. Please refer to the previous site plan for locations.

<u>Machine cleanse reach the following reaches</u>					
1.	152-153-154-155	600	m	@	1.20 720.00
2.	145a-146-153	1350	m	@	1.20 1620.00
3.	146-147	350	m	@	1.20 420.00
4.	Allow sum for Roundup application	Item	Sum		600.00
5.	Allow sum for flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing works	Item	Sum	2000.00	
6.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing Cott removal, culvert clearance or bank revetment works	Item	Sum		1000.00
7.	Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangements and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance works	Item	Sum		700.00
TOTAL					£7,060.00

Orders for the application of herbicides are accepted on condition that they are weather dependant and the MLC will not be held responsible for the efficacy of any treatments.

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the Stations appears to be mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Duncombes

Pump no 2 continues to operate with a faulty seal/chamber leakage sensor. Monitoring of the motor for signs of moisture ingress will continue to be carried out until the pump is removed for a full inspection and overhaul. A recent test of the motor windings showed no indication of any moisture ingress into the motor. The 5 year electrical condition report was carried out on the 16th April with no remedial actions required.

Moore's Bridge Pumping Station

The 5 year electrical condition report was carried out on the 16th April with no remedial actions required.

Removal of Moore's pump for overhaul, which had been planned for late summer 2017 and was postponed due to problems with risk of fish kills, was carried out when conditions improved to allow access by a mobile crane.

After stripping the unit down to component level at the Middle Level Depot the following conditions/works required were ascertained:

Pump Details

- i) Pump type: Allen Gywnnes Pumps, 500mm Vertical Spindle Axial Flow
- ii) Installation date: 1989
- iii) Total hours run: 3512

Pump

- i) The thrust-bearing was found to be worn and was renewed.
- ii) The delivery-bend and lower shaft water lubricated bearing and their corresponding shaft areas were found to be in a satisfactory condition following cleaning up and were suitable for reuse.
- iii) The impeller and its race were in a satisfactory condition, but its glass fibre nose cone was missing and a replacement was remanufactured.
- iv) The pump shaft had suffered from extreme corrosion, but being of a large diameter was suitable for reuse following cleaning up and painting.
- v) The mild steel pump suspension tube pump castings were also suffered from extreme corrosion. The castings were shot blasting and epoxy coated but the pump suspension tube was past repair

and a replacement was manufactured, however without the original manufactures drawings difficulties were experienced machining and realigning this component.

- vi) All of the fixing bolts were very badly corroded and were on the verge of failure and were therefore replaced in stainless steel.

Dual Drive Gearbox-SPL26

- i) A general service was carried out.

The pump was reinstalled and re-commissioned in early November when water levels in the district and ground conditions became favourable.

Motor Details

BCP 50 kW squirrel cage

The winding insulation resistance from phase to earth and between phases was satisfactory at 200M ohms. A general overhaul was carried out, which included replacing the bearings and cleaning and lacquering the stator windings.

West Fen

The 5 year electrical condition report was carried out on the 16th April with no remedial actions required.

After a detailed inspection of the pump condition it was clear that more than bolt replacement (as reported at the last meeting) was required and on the 1st May 2018 the Board approved the removal and overhaul of the pump, the following conditions/works required were ascertained:

Pump Details

- i) Pump type : Allen Gywnnes Pumps, 21" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow
- ii) Installation date: 1972
- iii) Total hours run: 13050

Pump

- i) The thrust-bearing/head bearing was found to be worn and was renewed.
- ii) The bottom shaft bearing and shaft sleeve was found to be worn however there was enough material in the sleeve to bore out and fit a new over seized sleeve. The top bearing and sleeve were in a satisfactory condition and after cleaning up were suitable for reuse.
- iii) The propeller and wear ring were in a satisfactory condition.
- v) The mild steel pump suspension tube had suffered from extreme corrosion and was past repair. A replacement was manufactured using dimensions taken from the old suspension tube.
- vi) All of the fixing bolts were very badly corroded and on the verge of failure and were therefore replaced in stainless steel.

Motor Details

BCP 45 kW squirrel cage

The winding insulation resistance from phase to earth and between phases had been a problem before the overhaul. After a general overhaul, which included replacing the bearings and cleaning and lacquering the stator windings, the winding insulation resistance from phase to earth and between phases is satisfactory at 250M ohms.

Due to the need for over pumping whilst the main pump was out for overhaul and the over pump using the main pump controls, the hours run figures have been distorted and are not representative of true running hours so have not been reported below.

Automatic weedscreen cleaner hoist drum

In December 2018 the hoist drum failed. Investigation showed the problem was with the two internal brakes. The drum unit was sent for overhaul to the original equipment supplier and re- installed and re-commissioned on 3rd January 2019.

Staffurths Bridge

The 5 year electrical condition report was carried out on the 16th April with no remedial actions required.

Automatic weedscreen cleaner

Due to fair wear and tear the cleaner has required the following replacement parts and is now working trouble free.

- New steel hoist ropes
- New timing sprocket
- New top and bottom hoist switches

Beggars Bridge

The 5 year electrical condition report was carried out on the 16th April with no remedial actions required.

White Fen

As previously reported the VJ adaptors on the delivery pipes below the intake sump covers will, at some point, require replacement; this however is not urgent.

Pumping Hours

Beggars Bridge

Hours Run	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018	March 2019
Total	519	112	94	133	110	187	153
Hours	(11386)	(11498)	(11592)	(11725)	(11835)	(12022)	(12175)

Duncombes

Hours Run	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018	March 2019
No 1	528	131	183	94	72	285	269
	(7081)	(7212)	(7395)	(7489)	(7561)	(7846)	(8115)
No 2	737	144	207	74	141	287	114
	(7047)	(7191)	(7398)	(7472)	(7613)	(7900)	(8014)
Total	1265	275	390	168	213	572	383
Hours							

Staffurths Bridge

Hours Run	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018	March 2019
No 1	23	259	666	77	466	140	173
	(7847)	(8106)	(8772)	(8849)	(9315)	(9455)	(9628)
No 2	996	525	60	154	112	161	282
	(8536)	(9061)	(9121)	(9275)	(9387)	(9548)	(9830)
Total	1019	784	726	231	578	301	455
Hours							

Moores

Hours Run	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018	March 2019
Total	48	152	132	7 (3231)	99	104	84
Hours	(2940)	(3092)	(3224)		(3330)	(3434)	(3518)

West Fen

Hours Run	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	February 2016	February 2017	March 2018	April 2019
Total Hours	504 (1128)	225 (11453)	371 (11824)	121 (11945)	200 (12145)	287 (12432)	-

White Fen

Hours Run	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018	March 2018 – April 2019
No 1	140 (2707)	364 (3071)	74 (3145)	30 (3175)
No 2	24 (1603)	1 (1604)	11 (1615)	436 (2051)
Total Hours	164	365	85	466

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 38 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
692	F/YR18/0244/O	Mr T Walker	Residence	Norwood Road, March
693	F/YR18/0231/F	Ken Thomas Warehousing Ltd	Warehousing (Extensions)	Whittlesey Road, March
694	F/YR18/0255/F	Mr S Jones	Residence	Duncombes Road, Turves
695	F/YR18/0289/F	Mr Mason	Residence (Extension)	Whitemoor Road, March
696	F/YR18/3040/COND	Cobb Construction	Residential (2 plots)	March Road, Turves*
697	F/YR18/3041/COND	Cobb Construction	Residential (4 plots)	March Road, Turves*
698	F/YR18/0359/F	John Peart	Residence (Extension)	Peyton Avenue, March
699	F/YR18/0362/F	Mr & Mrs Bedford	Residence (Extension)	Fishermans Drive, March
700	F/YR18/0395/RM	Mr & Mrs White	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March
701	Enquiry	Ms S Elliot	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March
702	F/YR18/0417/F	Mr & Mrs Burgess	Formation of a new access and driveway and piping of drain	March Road, Coates
703	Enquiry	Clients of Pegasus Group	Purchase of land	South of Hostmoor Avenue and north of March to Peterborough Railway line
704	F/YR18/0566/F	Brossman Mills	Retail/Restaurants & cafés/Hot food takeaways (16 units & infrastructure)	Wisbech Road, Westry*
705	F/YR18/0676/F	Mr R Smith	Residence (Conversion and Extension)	Hillside Road, March
706	F/YR18/3084/COND	J Bates & Sons	Agricultural (Anaerobic digester plant)	Beggars Bridge, Coates
707	F/YR18/0691/F	Mr & Mrs Agland	Residence (Extensions)	Whitemoor Road, March

708	Enquiry	MJS Construction (March) Ltd	Not known	Whittlesey Road, March
709	F/YR18/0758/F	Mr Kisby	Residential (2 plots)	Middle Road, March
710	F/YR18/0780/F	Mr D Creese	Residential (3 plots)	Norwood Road, March
711	F/YR18/0820/PNC04	Mr C Bates	Residence	Beggars Bridge, Coates
712	F/YR18/0874/F	Fenn Holidays Ltd	Coach garage	Whittlesey Road, March*
713	F/YR18/0879/F	Mr Fletcher	Residential (2 plots)	March Road, Turves
714	F/YR18/0933/F	Royston Farms Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Burnthouse Farm Sidings, Turves
715	F/YR18/1038/F	Mr A Smith	Mobile home bases (8 plots)	Chase Road, Benwick*
716	Pre-application enquiry	Client of MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd	Hot food takeaways (Unknown)	Hostmoor Avenue, March*
717	F/YR18/1133/F	Prestige Properties Turves	Residential (6 plots)	Whittlesey Road, March*
718	F/YR18/1113/O	Mr & Mrs N Jones	Residential (2 plots)	Burnthouse Road, Turves
719	F/YR18/1146/F	Mr D Creese	Residential (2 plots)	Norwood Road, March
720	F/YR18/1143/F	Miss M Patrick	Residence	Wisbech Road, March
721	F/YR19/0023/PNC04	Bank Farm Ltd	Residential (5 plots)	Whittlesey Road, Benwick
722	F/YR19/0006/PNC04	Mr W Ho	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March
723	F/YR19/3006/COND	Mr & Mrs Griffin	Vehicular access and piping of drain	Whittlesey Road, March
724	F/YR19/0045/AG1	Hetherington Properties LLP	Aerobic Digestion Plant (Passing Bays)	Whitemoor Road, March
725	F/2001/18/CW/C1	RKE Biogroup Ltd	Aerobic Digestion Plant	Whittlesey Road, March
726	F/YR07/1117/F	Mr & Mrs D T Cobb	Residence	March Road, Turves*
727	F/YR19/0170/F	Mrs R Bartlett	Residence (Extension)	Burnthouse Road, Turves
728	F/YR19/0176/F	Mr Fletcher	Residential (2 plots)	March Road, Turves
729	F/YR19/0157/F	Ms N Gill	Residential (5 plots)	Norwood Road, March

Entries ending 'COND' or 'DISC' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Entries ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Entries ending 'PNC0' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Planning applications ending 'AG1' relate to Agricultural Notification
Planning applications ending 'CW/C1' relate to Approval of Details Reserved by Condition

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. All the applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

The following applications are for development where the discharge is attenuated before it reaches the Board's system:

- (i) Mr T Walker (MLC Ref Nos 692)
- (ii) John Peart (MLC Ref No 698)

- (iii) Brossman Mills (MLC Ref No 704)
- (iv) Client of MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd (MLC Ref No 716)
- (v) Ms N Gill (MLC Ref No 729)

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

- *Residential development and associated parking at Baxter's Dairy and land south of Peas Hill Road, March – D J & N R Baxter; D J & G W Tuffs & J Helmer (MLC Ref No 238) & CGT Developments (MLC Ref Nos 328 & 443); Mr G Wilding (MLC Ref Nos 599, 601 & 627); Dawe Developments (MLC Ref No 671)*
- *Works associated with the extension of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility at Local Generation Ltd, Wisbech Road, Westry - Local Generation Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 508, 585, 589, 619 & 625)*
- *Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling and detached garage involving demolition of existing dwelling at 190-194 Whittlesey Road, March – Mr & Mrs P Foreman (MLC Ref Nos 578 & 598)*
- *Erection of Grain Store Building with associated Gas Tanks and Hardstanding at Agricultural Building at Wades Farm, Grandford Drove, March – J C & M A Martin (MLC Ref Nos 621 & 637)*
- *Re-development of 1-3 Hostmoor & 1 Martin Avenue, March – Client of MTC (MLC Ref No 624) & Harrier Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 632)*
- *Erection of 4 poultry barns with associated structures and biomass boiler(s), formation of a lagoon and erection of an agricultural dwelling and site office at land west of 405 Whittlesey Road, March – St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 626)*
- *Proposed extension at Marina Drive - Mr G Harding & Ms D Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 629 & 630)*
- *Change of use of an agricultural building to 3 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings at White Fen Farm, Whittlesey Road, Benwick – Mr G Burton (MLC Ref Nos 634 & 651 previously White Fen MLC Ref No 039)*
- *Erection of a 2-storey 3-bed dwelling with attached garage on land south west of Phoenix House, 341 Wisbech Road, Westry – Ms C Dean (MLC Ref No 643)*

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.

Agricultural Buildings and warehousing – MBM Produce (MLC Ref Nos 135 & 267) and Erection of 2 x warehouse extensions to existing building and the erection of a 2.4m high (max height) palisade fence to boundary – Ken Thomas Warehousing Ltd (MLC Ref No 693) on land and buildings at Glenthorn Farm, 133 Whittlesey Road, March

This planning application involves the extension of the existing warehousing at the former MBM facility adjacent to the Board's West Fen Pumping Station.

It is understood that the extension is on land that was previously granted discharge consent by the Board and will not increase the impermeable area discharging to the Board's system, but this is currently being clarified.



Extract from Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd Drawing Number SE-941 04 REV. C – Drainage Layout Plan

Members will note that the proposal includes the erection of 2.4m high palisade fencing around the site. According to the plan submitted by Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd, see previous extract, this extends to the brink of the Board's Drain and would, therefore, restrict the Board's ability to undertake routine maintenance operations.

Planning permission was granted by the District Council in June subject to the imposition of conditions none of which are relevant to the Board and despite the importance of the adjacent water level and flood risk management systems the Decision Notice does not include a Drainage Advisory Note that refers to the need to meet either the Board's and/or the Commissioners' requirements or advise that contact should be made at the earliest opportunity to discuss any such requirements.

No application for consent has yet been sought by the applicant.

In order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions, it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and further instruction.

Residential development including the formation of vehicular accesses on land south of 710 Whittlesey Road, March - R Green (MLC Ref Nos 430, 502 & 504), Ideal Prestige Properties (MLC Ref Nos 570 & 572) + Prestige Properties Turves (MLC Ref No 717)

Further to the last meeting report, a revised planning application for six dwellings (MLC Ref No 717) was submitted to the District Council in December and has recently been granted subject to the imposition of planning conditions including some relevant to the Board.

Members will recall that discharge consent for both surface and treated effluent water associated with this development was issued in March 2018. The impermeable area created by the increased plot numbers, from three to six, remained unchanged but the occupancy, upon which the treated foul water discharge is based, increased. Upon the receipt of the outstanding contribution fee it is understood that the Clerk to the Board amended and issued a revised consent document.

The applicant has advised that the works granted under the consents is beginning soon and once it has advanced to a stage to review, we will inspect it.

Erection of office building, four bay coach garage and 2m high palisade fencing to west and north boundaries with associated parking at 49 Whittlesey Road, March - Fenn Holidays Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 435 & 712).

Further to the Board's 2008 report, a planning application for the erection of a coach garage and forecourt has been submitted to and subsequently granted permission by the District Council.

An application for Discharge Consent has been submitted and is currently being processed.

Various developments at West Fen Farm, Whitemoor Road, March – Hetherington Properties Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 448, 569 & 724), Client of Cannon Consulting Engineers (MLC Ref No 680), RH & RW Clutton LLP (MLC Ref No 690) + RKE Biogroup Ltd (MLC Ref No 725)

Further to the last meeting report two subsequent planning applications have been submitted in relation to the aerobic digestion plant. The first was submitted by Hetherington Properties LLP (MLC Ref No 724) for the formation of four passing bays approximately 30m long and 3m wide constructed from Type 1 roadbase with a gravel surface beside the farm access road between Whittlesey Road, near Beatons Farm, and the track to West Fen Farm, off Whitemoor Drove. The second was submitted by the RKE Biogroup Ltd (MLC Ref No 725) for the discharge of conditions including surface water disposal.

During verbal discussions the applicant has advised that, in the current absence of a suitable connection point into the grid, any gas created will, initially, be tankered off site.

Discussions with the various parties are continuing.

Agricultural buildings at Burnthouse Farm, Burnthouse Sidings, Turves – Royston Farms Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 455 & 714)

Further to the 2011 Board Meeting Report a planning application for a 42m long by 24m wide agricultural building has been submitted to the District Council and was subsequently granted planning permission in June. None of the imposed conditions are relevant to the Board.

Despite the size of the development (1,008m²), which is equivalent to several medium to large houses, this type of development is not classed as a "major development" and, therefore, the LLFA is not a statutory consultee for this type of application.

The submission documents advise that surface water disposal will be via soakaways but no evidence to support this was supplied with the planning application.

The Decision Notice includes a Drainage Advisory Note that refers to the need to meet the Board's requirements and advises that contact should be made at the earliest opportunity to discuss any such requirements but, to date, no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Residential development on land north of 35 Whittlesey Road, March - Greene King PLC (MLC Ref Nos 526, 544 & 561), Client of Caldecote Group (MLC Ref No 566) & MJS Construction (March) Ltd (MLC Ref No 708)

An enquiry was received from MJS Construction (March) Ltd concerning encroachment within the Board's maintenance access strip during August but no further correspondence has been received concerning this site and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Proposed Retail Park to the west of Hostmoor Avenue, March - Brossman Mills Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 591, 611 & 704) + Commercial development involving works to Phase One, Hostmoor Balancing Ponds to the south east of Wisbech Road/Hostmoor Avenue, Westry - Bright Edge Ltd (MLC Ref No 405) & Client of MTC (MLC Ref No 716)

Westry Retail Park

With the exception of issuing a copy of the Board's "standard" initial response to a subsequent planning application, no further discussion has occurred with either the applicant or its engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd [MTC], concerning the Retail Park proposal since the last Board meeting.

A revised planning application was validated by the District Council in June and according to its Public Access webpage a decision remains pending. The County Council's Flood Risk & Biodiversity Team, in its role as the LLFA, is currently objecting to the proposed surface water drainage solution.

According to the current drainage layout the proposal now includes the provision of four "ponds", however, the eastern pond appears to have little surface water use and may be simply to retain "storage" lost due to the filling of the existing roadside open watercourse.

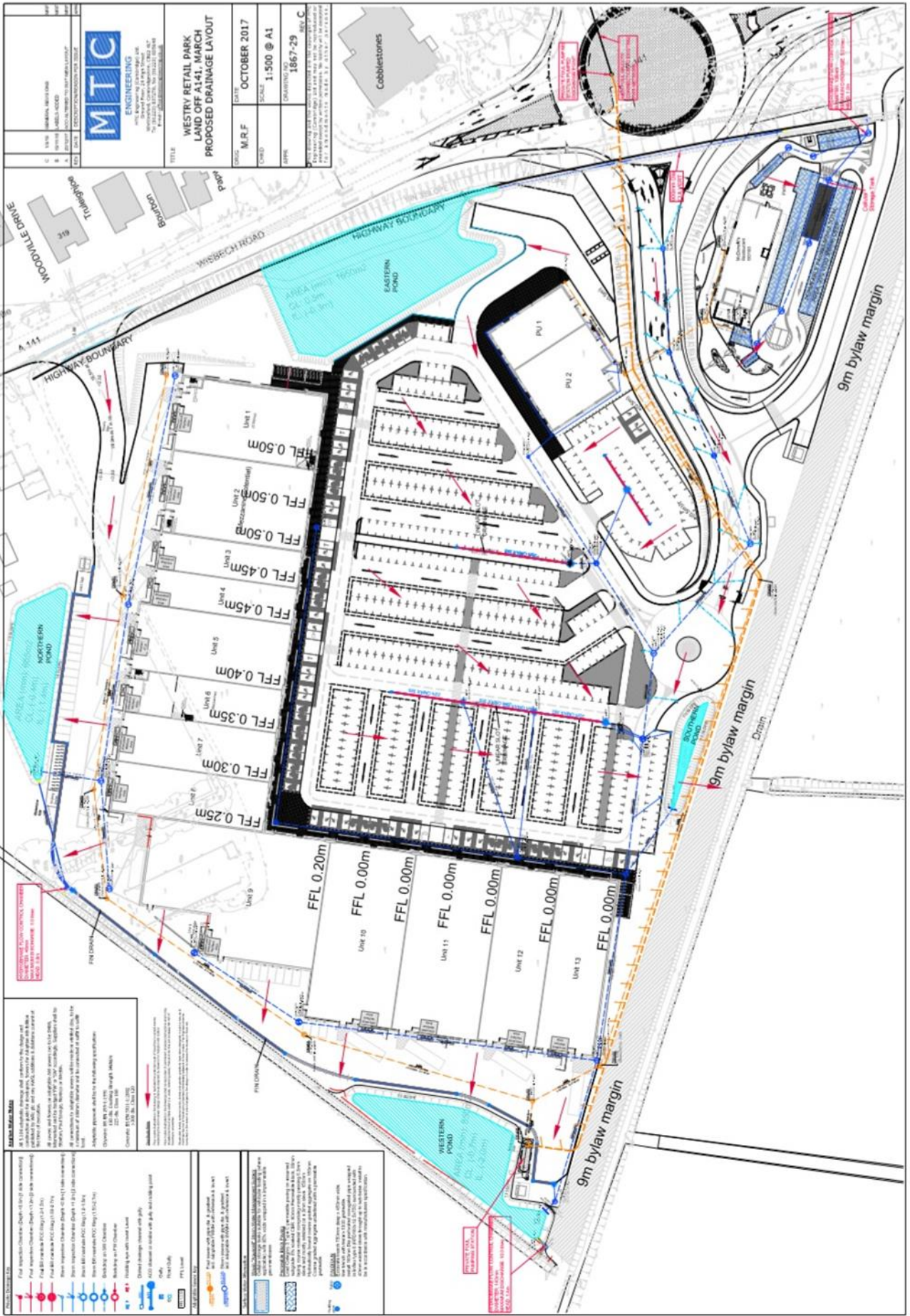
Commercial development involving works to Phase One Hostmoor Balancing Ponds

Further to previous reports a pre-application consultation request has been received from MTC concerning the purchase and filling of part of the long-established surface water balancing pond adjacent to the Tesco PFS.

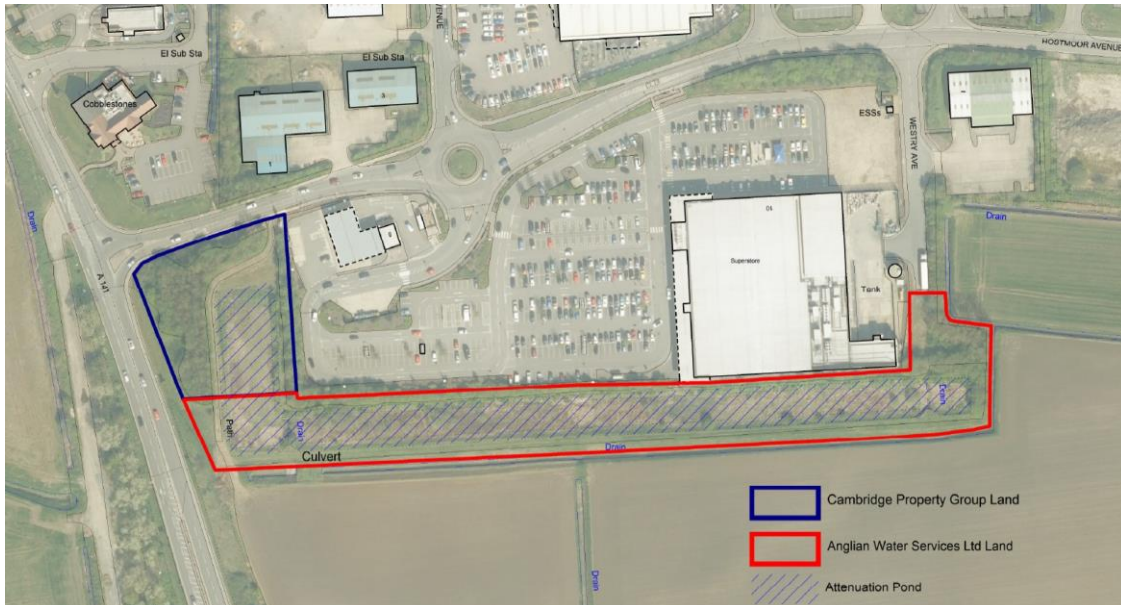
MTC has advised that:

“When Anglian Water disposed of this section of the pond in 2005 they would have undertaken a disposal risk assessment (a process that all disposals and particularly operational assets have to go through) which covered both the operational side of the business, giving an immediate view on the function of the balancing pond some 10 to 15 years ahead. It is only when it passes this process that land can be declared surplus and disposed of. Despite our best efforts we have been unable obtain details of the 2005 assessment from Anglian Water. However, MTC have undertaken a full analysis of the entire AW pond to examine the impacts (if any) on (1) the infilling of the section of pond purchased on which we propose to infill, and (2) on a further section of the pond immediately to the south which our clients have expressed an interest to purchase from Anglian Water. The analysis is currently with Anglian Water engineers for review. The report concludes that sufficient capacity will remain within the pond following the proposed infilling thus the function and operation of the pond will not be effected by the infilling therefore no effect on the Board’s system. In this basis no risk mitigation is considered necessary.”

A detailed assessment of the proposal and response to MTC remains outstanding as comments are awaited from the various stakeholders involved including the Clerk to the Board. Concern was expressed about the proposal during an internal consultation and a suggestion has been received that engineering works, including the repair of the outfall sluice, are undertaken to ensure that they work as originally intended and do not discharge unregulated into the Board’s system.



Copy of MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltds Drawing Number 1867-29 REV. C – Drainage Layout



Plan supplied by MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd showing land ownership

It is considered that before proceeding further, the Board should require the following, as a minimum:

- a) A copy of Anglian Water’s Assessment and details of the land sale.
- b) Suitable supporting evidence to ensure that the proposal is designed to meet current design standards and does not detrimentally affect the Board’s system either via an increased discharge, to the stability of the Board’s Drain that forms the southern boundary of the balancing pond or other impact.
- c) Replacement storage mitigation, at a suitable location, is provided, if required, before work on the filling of the pond commences on-site.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussions it would be beneficial to receive the Board’s opinion and further instruction.

Residential development on land west of 450 March Road, Turves – Cobb Construction (MLC Ref Nos 622, 623, 656, 657, 696 & 697)

Further to the last Board report, the development proposal has had to be revised as the Council required traffic calming to be installed. To accommodate this the whole section of drain and not just the access needs to be culverted. As an extra to the project a new pipe under March Road, connecting both sides of the road, is also being proposed. This will reduce the flood risk to the downstream properties.

Adam Cobb of Cobb Construction came into the office to take advantage of a surgery appointment, he was advised that it would be necessary to submit a new application with the revised details. This application has been received and processed with a recommendation for approval.

Erection of 3 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and 1 x 2-storey 5-bed dwelling and detached garage with playroom/gym above at land east of Silver Street, March - Mr & Mrs Edgoose (MLC Ref Nos 639, 640 & 667)

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

The position concerning this site is currently being ascertained.

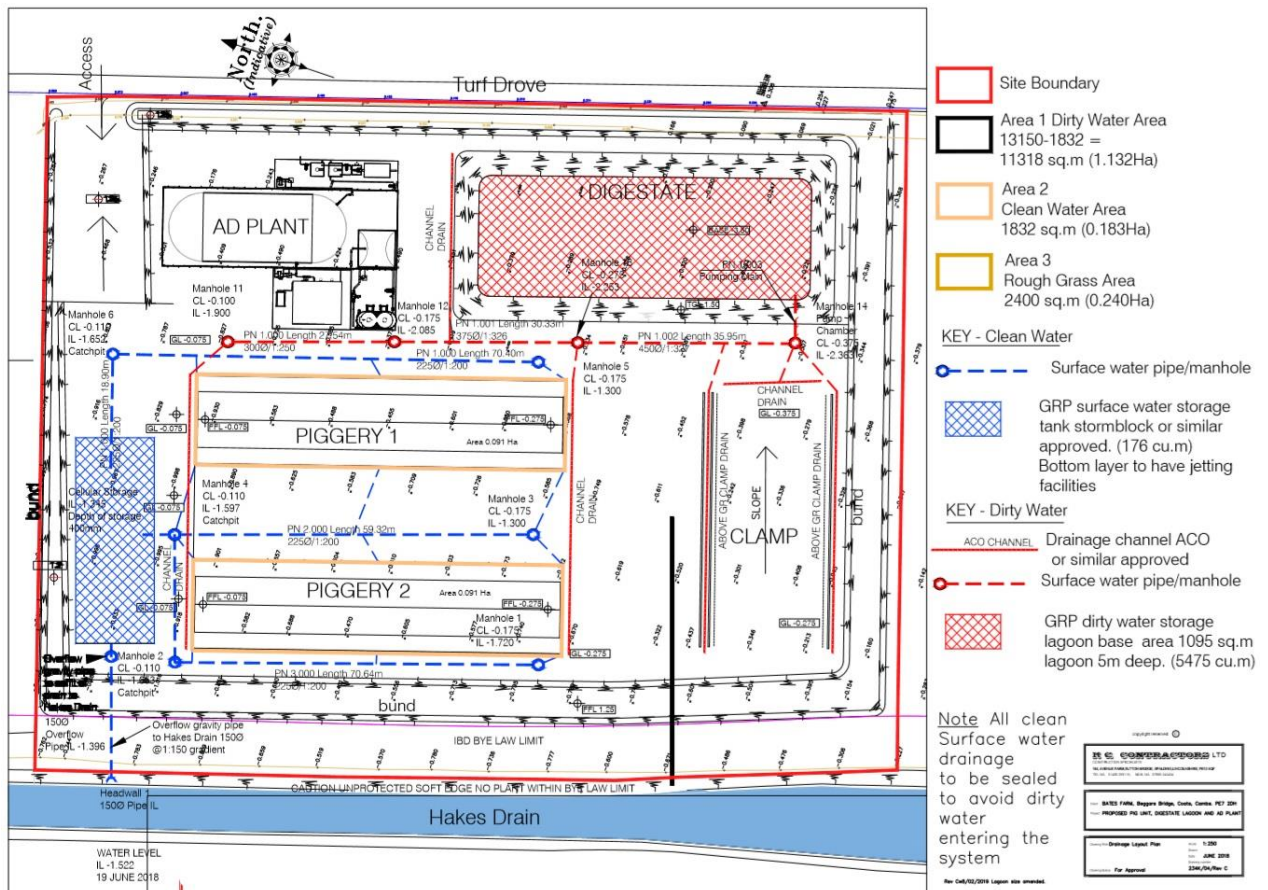
Proposed residential development at Crazy Acres, off Chase Road, Benwick - Client of Stirling Maynard and Partners Ltd (MLC Ref No 661) & Mr A Smith (MLC Ref Nos 671 & 715) [previously White Fen, MLC Ref Nos 025 & 026 - Mr A Smith]

Further to the last meeting report, a planning application for the formation of static pitches for eight mobile homes was refused permission by the District Council in January.

Erection of two pig rearing buildings and feed stock storage area; an anaerobic digester plant and process building; formation of digestate lagoon and construction of 2.0 metre high earth bunding on land to the south of Bates Farm – Client of Roy Lobley (MLC Ref No 666) & J Bates & Son (MLC Ref Nos 675 & 706)

Planning permission was granted for this proposal in late April 2018 subject to the imposition of conditions. Reference is made within the Officer's Report to the development being within the floodplain and its close proximity to open watercourses, however, no specific reference is made to the Board's system or the development's close proximity to one of its pumping stations.

The Decision Notice did include an informative referring to the Land Drainage Act and the potential need to seek the Board's consent albeit reference was made to the March and Whittlesey IDB. However, despite this, no contact was made before the submission of a Discharge of Conditions application in July.



Copy of K G Contractors Ltd Drawing Number 234K/04/REV. C – Drainage Layout Plan

Although it is clear that the intention is to dispose of surface water into the Board's system, and given the contents of the LLFA's correspondence, the applicant, its agents and consultant have not contacted the Board to enquire whether this approach is acceptable or would be consented should the proposal proceed.

Currently the LLFA is unable to recommend the discharge of the relevant condition and a decision on the submission remains pending.

With the exception of providing some information on the pumping station, as part of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request, presumably associated with this site, no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Erection of up to 118no dwellings involving demolition of 147a Wisbech Road on land north of The Green and north of 145-159 Wisbech Road, March – Mr T Knowles (MLC Ref No 681)

According to the District Council's Public Access web page a decision remains pending but it does include the Committee Report dated February 2019 which contains the following:

“Flood Risk & Drainage

9.29 Policies LP14 and LP16 of the FLP seek to ensure that development can be served by adequate surface and waste water infrastructure, avoids identified risk e.g. flooding, and uses sustainable drainage systems which should be designed to contribute to improvement in water quality in the receiving water course.

9.30 The site lies in Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3. Given the scale of the development with a site area of over 1Ha, a site specific flood risk assessment (FRA) and drainage strategy has been provided which indicates that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can be used at the proposed development to successfully restrict discharge rates in line with the Lead Local Flood Authority's requirements. The surface water is proposed to eventually discharge into the adjacent Internal Drainage Board controlled assets.

Surface water

9.31 The County Council's Lead Local Flood Authority has considered the FRA and drainage approach and is generally supportive of the scheme. Whilst they disagree with the approach by the applicant in respect of arranging the SuDS around the layout rather than the other way round, they consider this could be satisfactorily addressed through the reserved matters submission. They also raise question with the accuracy of the reporting of internal ditches but conclude that the attenuation and conveyance of surface water would not increase the risk of surface water flooding. Finally, they question the applicant's assertion that permeable paving is not an effective method of surface water management – advising that there are several examples where this has been employed locally with success. Again, they conclude that this is a matter that can be appropriately dealt with at reserved matters stage.

9.32 In summary therefore, the LLFA consider that the development could adequately manage surface water within the site without posing a risk of flooding within or outside the development subject to conditions securing a detailed surface water drainage scheme for the site, based on sustainable drainage principles and using infiltration where ground conditions are conducive to this and/or attenuation. Furthermore, the LLFA require details for the long term maintenance arrangements of the surface water drainage system (including all SuDS features). This could also be reasonably secured via planning condition.”

together with the following recommendation:

“11 RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee delegates authority to finalise the planning conditions and terms of the S.106 agreement to the Head of Planning, and
2. Following completion of the S106 obligation to secure the necessary education and health contributions, policy compliant levels of affordable housing and open space as detailed in this report, application F/YR17/1127/O be approved subject to conditions listed below.

OR

3. Refuse the application in the event that the obligation referred to above has not been completed and the applicant is unwilling to agree to an extended period of determination

of 4 months, or on the grounds that the applicant is unwilling to complete the obligation necessary to make the development acceptable.”

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

Formation of a vehicular access and piping of drain at Fenn Lodge, 37 Whittlesey Road, March – Mr & Mrs M Griffin (MLC Ref No 691 & 723)

Further to the last Board report, the applicant has now completed the works for the installation treatment plant and has begun works on the new access culvert.

Development Contributions

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

Fenland District Council (FDC)

FDC Liaison Meeting

A follow up meeting was held on 28 March.

Planning Committee Decision at Estover Road, March

Members may be aware of the District Council's decision in relation to the outline planning application for a residential development at Estover Road, March. However, members may be interested in the principles established at the Committee Meeting in respect of the Board's/Commissioners' interests.

The March Fifth District Drainage Commissioners requested that the Middle Level Commissioners Planning Engineers represented them at the Planning Committee's September meeting.

It was interesting to note that the Commissioners' presence was acknowledged with one Councillor stating that as the Commissioners have made the effort to attend, the Committee should listen to them. Another comment made was that the Committee is concerned that Statutory Consultees do not attend the Planning Committee Meetings.

There was considerable support for the Drainage Boards particularly from Cllrs Bligh, Laws and Newell, but you will note the comments which were quite rightly made by Cllr Sutton and Nick Harding.

In view of this it appears that, within Fenland at least, the comments of the LLFA, as a Statutory Consultee, override that of the Commissioners, even though they have to receive and transfer any flows and deal with any resultant problems at their ratepayers' expense.

Relevant extracts from the minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 September are copied below:

"F/YR15/0668/O

LAND NORTH OF 75-127, ESTOVER ROAD, MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

OUTLINE WITH ONE MATTER COMMITTED DETAILED AS ACCESS IN RELATION TO 95 NO DWELLINGS (MAX) WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, DRAINAGE AND OPEN SPACES

Middle Level Commissioners strongly object to the application.

Members received a presentation in accordance with the public participation from Mr Graham Moore (Middle Level commissioners), who was speaking on behalf of Middle Level Commissioners and March Fifth Internal Drainage Board [sic] and Mrs Liz Whitehouse, who were both speaking in objection to the Application.

It is the IDB not the Environment Agency, FDC, CCC or Anglian Water, which has to receive and transfer flows that emit from the site.

The site is located in flood zone 1 and the applicant has provided information to evidence that surface water from the development can be managed and there have been no objections from the Lead Local Flood Authority and Environment Agency who are statutory consultees. The Middle Level Commissioners are not statutory consultees; however the queries that have been raised by them have been looked at by the applicant but as this is an outline planning application and it would not be reasonable to supply the information requested currently and the details relating to the design of the scheme and details regarding the drainage scheme details are unknown. The condition that the LLFA have requested will put an appropriate safeguard in place to ensure a suitable strategy is established prior to the commencement of construction.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows:

- *Councillor Mrs Laws stated that it is a windfall site but the drainage issue is an area of concern. With regard to viability, the site does not deliver what it should and although the Section 106 Officer has looked into this. The development is therefore less sustainable than it should be.*
- *Councillor Sutton stated that he believes the development is sustainable. It is in flood zone 1 and the Lead Local Flood Authority who is a Statutory Consultee has no objection to the proposal. The issues concerning the discharge raised by Middle Level Commissioners and the IDB can be reviewed at a later stage and do not need to be considered today. Planning Committee Members have to make decisions on material planning reasons. The proposal does not go against the Neighbourhood Plan; if it did then Officers would not be recommending it for approval.*

- *Councillor Sutton stated he can see no material planning reason to refuse the application.*
- *Nick Harding stated that in terms of the surface water issues which have been raised. The IDB have recognised that the LLFA is the authority that we should be going to in consideration of these matters and if the NPPF is referred to it does state that major development should incorporate sustainable drainage systems and should take account of the advice of the LLFA. The advice from the LLFA is that this development proposal with conditions is acceptable.*
- *Nick Harding stated that he is very supportive of the IDB's they have a separate legal process which has to be complied with by persons who wish to discharge their surface water and just because planning permission is granted for a development it does not mean they are automatically going to get consent from the IDB's. The Developer still has to apply to the IDB and the detail for the scheme has to be agreed.*
- *Nick Harding stated that with regard to Anglian Water, they have raised no objection to this application. They have indicated that they will make necessary improvements to their network to ensure they can deal with the water and therefore as we do not have an objection from Anglian Water, and members should consider on what basis would we be able to defend a reason for refusal based on foul water capacity.*

Following the meeting the Planning Engineer advised the Clerk to the Commissioners that:

"Whilst I was concerned when we originally stood back and stopped making bespoke responses to the LPA in preference to writing to the applicant and/or agent, which does cause some problems, the planning decision confirmed that this choice was the correct one, as the Commissioners and associated Boards are not wasting their limited resources by issuing letters that will be ignored by the LPA. However, this procedure is, under the current circumstances, potentially wasteful as the developer, LPA and LLFA could put considerable effort into an application which may be granted planning permission but which a Board refuses to consent."

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

The final report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER), prepared by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission ([CPIEC](#)) was published in September.

Jointly funded by the CPCA and Cambridge Ahead the report sets out how the CPIEC considers the area can sustain its own economy and support the UK economy whilst providing a better and more fulfilling way of life for the people who live and work in this area and details how this should be achieved, with fourteen key recommendations, and another thirteen subsidiary recommendations. Some of the suggested actions will be difficult to implement requiring close collaboration between leading institutions in the area, this is likely to include the

relevant RMAs including the Commissioners and associated Boards, who will be needed to deliver them effectively.

Issues considered relevant to our interests include the following:

General

- a) The success of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a project of national importance.
- b) The Government should recognise the benefits further devolution to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough would bring

Flood Risk and Water Level Management

- a) The area has not been subject to dramatic flooding events in recent years, which can mean the issue is paid little attention.
- b) Flood risk infrastructure should be considered enabling infrastructure, in that it allows a great deal of economic activity to happen in the first place (land being the most fundamental of all the economic factors of production).
- c) In the fens, water has an especially significant effect on the local economy with much of the area classified by the EA as being in flood zone 3 and this presents challenges to local economic development. Finding solutions to this problem is likely to have to happen little by little, with the finer points of detail being worked through with the EA, Anglian Water, and others. Wisbech should be seen as a UK testbed for new flood-resistant approaches to development, and levels of investment in flood defence infrastructure should be substantially increased.
- d) It is estimated that during a serious drought scenario, England could face £1.3billion of lost economic activity every day.
- e) A requirement of 110l per person per day should be enforced in water stressed areas, and that in future councils should have the power to enforce 80l per person per day requirements for new developments where appropriate.

The Environment

NB. 'Natural capital' refers to the stock of living ('biodiversity') and non-living (eg minerals, water) resources that interact and provide a flow of services ('ecosystem services') upon which

society depends. Some of these services are delivered locally, others may have national or international value. All other capitals (human, social, intellectual, manufactured, financial) are ultimately underpinned by natural capital.

- a) Climate change is already having a damaging effect on biodiversity and could put a strain on the water supply.
- b) Within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, most districts were put into the middle band for levels of natural capital, although fenland (perhaps unsurprisingly) scores highly on this measure.
- c) The fens must also be considered as one of the UK's greatest natural assets with a rich wetland ecosystem which affords great leisure opportunities. The value of this natural capital must not be overlooked.

Economic Growth

- a) The Commission reached the conclusion that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is not one, but three economies, the Greater Cambridge area, which includes Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, and parts of Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire; the Greater Peterborough area, the area around Peterborough; and the fens but should function significantly more as a single area than it does at present. This ought to be feasible whilst being compatible with each part of the Combined Authority area retaining its distinctive sense of place.
- b) A distinguishing feature of the whole area is how strongly it continues to grow outpacing both the East of England and UK over the last decade. This has been driven primarily, but not entirely, by rapid business creation and growth in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, where knowledge-intensive sectors are strongly clustered, densifying and highly dependent on their location.
- c) Evidence from the review identifies that both employment and turnover growth have been picking up right across the area. Employment growth has seen strong growth numbers in all districts but has been highest in East Cambridgeshire. Looking at growth rates in the global turnover of companies based in the area between 2010/11-2016/17 all six districts have seen turnover growth of over 2% per annum. In South Cambridgeshire this rises to over 10% per annum, which shows impressive company growth.

- d) Many very large firms, such as McCain and Del Monte, have plants in the north-east of the county and export from here around the world. Figures show that primary sectors constitute 24% of East Cambridgeshire's turnover, and 17% of Fenland's with Wholesale and Retail Distribution making up 33% of Fenland's turnover, and 28% of South Cambridgeshire's.
- e) The Netherlands, which has similar prevailing conditions to the fens but produces much higher-value agricultural goods, should be seen as an exemplar.
- f) Laws governing planning permission may impede business growth.
- g) It is very important to support the growth of market towns.
- h) There is a need for companies to invest in their employees.
- i) There is potential for greater commercial office development, particularly in Peterborough.

Housing

- a) To account for the fact that actual delivery of housing has been less than previously predicted and if employment growth continues to be significantly above what is forecast it might be necessary to build in the range of 6,000 – 8,000 houses per year over the next 20 years.
- b) In some areas, particularly in the north of Cambridgeshire, house prices are too low to make sufficient profit from development, rendering them unviable.
- c) There is positive evidence that ecological considerations are being taken seriously in new developments, with the new Eddington District in Cambridge being a notable example. Eddington reuses surface level water, reducing wastage and minimising flood risk.

Infrastructure

- a) Utilities underpin all economic activity, and there are areas of concern, particularly regarding electricity capacity. The government has committed to banning new diesel and petrol vehicles from 2040, but if it is envisioned that these will be replaced by electric vehicles, substantial levels of investment into upgrading the grid will be needed.

- b) The importance that flood defence infrastructure and the equally clear stresses upon water in one of the UK's driest counties are recognised.
- c) The level of the infrastructure of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been inadequate for too long. The growth seen in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire seems very unlikely to be sustained in the future without further and significant investment in infrastructure.
- d) A package of transport and other infrastructure projects to alleviate the growing pains of Greater Cambridge should be considered the single most important infrastructure priority facing the Combined Authority in the short to medium term. These should include the use of better digital technology to enable more efficient use of current transport resources.

Projects that seem likely to further this aim are the full dualling of the A47, better connecting the Peterborough economy to the Fenland economy; the A10, better connecting the Cambridge economy to the Fenland economy; and improvements to rail between Peterborough and Cambridge, particularly the Ely North junction thus better connecting all three economies.

- e) There should be greater awareness of potential supply chains and scope for collaboration within the region.
- f) It was suggested that several elements were needed to underpin the approach to financing infrastructure:
 - An Investment Fund should be created to execute priorities which leverages third party resources, meaning a sustainable momentum can be achieved by the prudent use of public resources (from both local and central government)
 - An Investment Pipeline should be established showing what is feasible to be delivered over a three, five, and ten-year period
 - A Mayoral Development Platform (such as a development corporation) is needed to facilitate and support development in collaboration with the private sector (investors and developers) and wherever practicable the community in which development takes place.

- Relevant RMAs possibly including the Commissioners and associated Boards may be asked to contribute to these.

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 Board meeting. The main matters that may be of interest to the Board are as follows:

Quarterly Meetings

The most recent meeting was a joint meeting held with the Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership (PFLoW) of which the MLC are also a partner. The number of meetings held each year may reduce from four to three.

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

The Environment Agency's (EA) new Environmental Permitting Charging Scheme can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-charging-scheme>. Early engagement with the EA is recommended as a slight redesign of the proposal may reduce the fees required.

Riparian Responsibilities

There has been discussion about issues concerning land owner's responsibilities on riparian "private" watercourses and the amount of time and resources that are taken up by various RMAs, including the Board, in dealing with riparian issues.

It was suggested that a recommendation be made to the RFCC. The options being considered are to do nothing; seek Government Support; or undertake an awareness campaign in the Public Domain with The Law Society, Local Government members etc. It is accepted by the partner members that some initial investment in time and resources may be required to progress these items further.

Discussions included the "Owning a watercourse" webpage, which replaced the Living on the Edge booklet, this is considered to be a backward step as the information that can be presented on the .gov.uk website is very limited.

The webpage can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>.

Hedge and Ditch Rule

Following a problem in the area covered by the Ely Group of IDBs this "common law" ruling that is mainly used to determine boundaries disputes and the requirements of the Land Drainage Act,

notably Section 25, is currently being discussed with various parties including the former Commissioners' and Boards' Clerk, Iain Smith.

The latest ruling which dates to 2015 can be downloaded from the Mills and Reeve website, which can be found at <https://www.mills-reeve.com/boundaries-and-the-hedge-and-ditch-rule-12-07-2015/>

Bank Instability - Environment Agency (EA)/IDB approach

The EA and IDBs advised on their respective position in respect of reinstating channels that have failed. These are largely the same but due to cost constraints the EA now only stabilises channels where there are raised embankments.

For Award Drains the wording of the Award needs to be considered. Some refer to the landowner and not the Authority concerned.

IDB & LLFA Planning Process

An update was given on the LLFA's discussions with North Level and District IDB, the Ely Group and the Middle Level Commissioners in order to attain a collective approach where possible.

However, it was explained that all three authorities have different approaches to some items and that any discussions with the planning authorities and agents may be iterative.

The LLFA/AWSL/MLC Liaison meeting was briefly discussed. The EA expressed an interest in joining this group.

Emergency Planning & Response

A draft flooding newspaper article and a flood call questions template, for completion by reception staff when receiving a flooding related call, is currently being prepared by a member of the Flood & Water team.

Skills & Apprenticeships

The Government is promoting the use of Apprenticeships and it is noted that many authorities are using these in preference to other forms of training.

It is understood that the EA, together with other partners, is developing a new Apprenticeship Standard for Water Environment Workers in England. This aims to support the training and development of workers who carry out operational activities in organisations where there is a responsibility to manage the impact of water environments, natural or manmade, on the land and surrounding businesses and homes. The water environment includes rivers, coasts (the sea), lakes, wetlands, canals and reservoirs.

County Council Public Sector Services

In addition to undertaking its role the group was advised that the Flood & Water Team may be extending its service to another County Council. The Commissioners' Planning Engineer has raised concerns with the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Business Manager about the potential deterioration of service within Cambridgeshire as a result.

RMA support & the Delivery of projects

Following concerns raised by IDBs and other RMAs the EA Local Levy is funding two LLFA and IDB Flood Risk Advisors who have been recruited to assist in the delivery of projects. Based at Ely they are the Commissioners'/Boards' point of contact in respect of FDGiA funding.

Initial meetings with the relevant advisor and the MLC staff have occurred.

RMA's Medium Term Programmes (MTP)

The RFCC has expressed a keen interest in knowing more about the different projects that partners in Cambridgeshire have put forward to the MTP for FDGiA. This is in part because the RFCC wants us to all understand each other's projects better. They would particularly like it if the RFCC Member Councillors for each County were familiar with all of the projects in their area and were able to champion them, not just the ones from their own organisation.

Therefore, the various relevant RMAs will be making presentations at Partnership meetings. As a result, as the largest promoter of such projects within Cambridgeshire, a presentation on the MTP prepared by the Middle Level Commissioners and its associated Boards has been made to the Partnership.

Rain Gauges

The Rain Gauge Network Project is progressing with the installation of gauges being undertaken in the next financial year.

Flood Risk Management Trainees

As part of closer partnership working, training has been given to junior members of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council staff and an undergraduate studying for a FRM degree under the EA foundation scheme. The main purpose of the training was to give the candidates a better and broader understanding of water level and flood risk management and also how the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners operate.

Feedback from both the candidates and internally has been positive and it is hoped that this opportunity can be offered again when the occasion arises.

One of the trainees wrote an article which was published in the Winter 2018 edition of the ADA Gazette. The article can be found at:

<http://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5c101ead23d6e#13>

IDB Good Governance Guide/East Ridings of Yorkshire Council Guide

Matters raised by the East Ridings of Yorkshire Council, who had governance concerns over IDBs within its area of jurisdiction, were briefly discussed.

It is understood that correspondence was copied to all LLFAs and that Cllr Steve Count (Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council) provided a response which advised that the County Council had good partnerships with IDBs in the County.

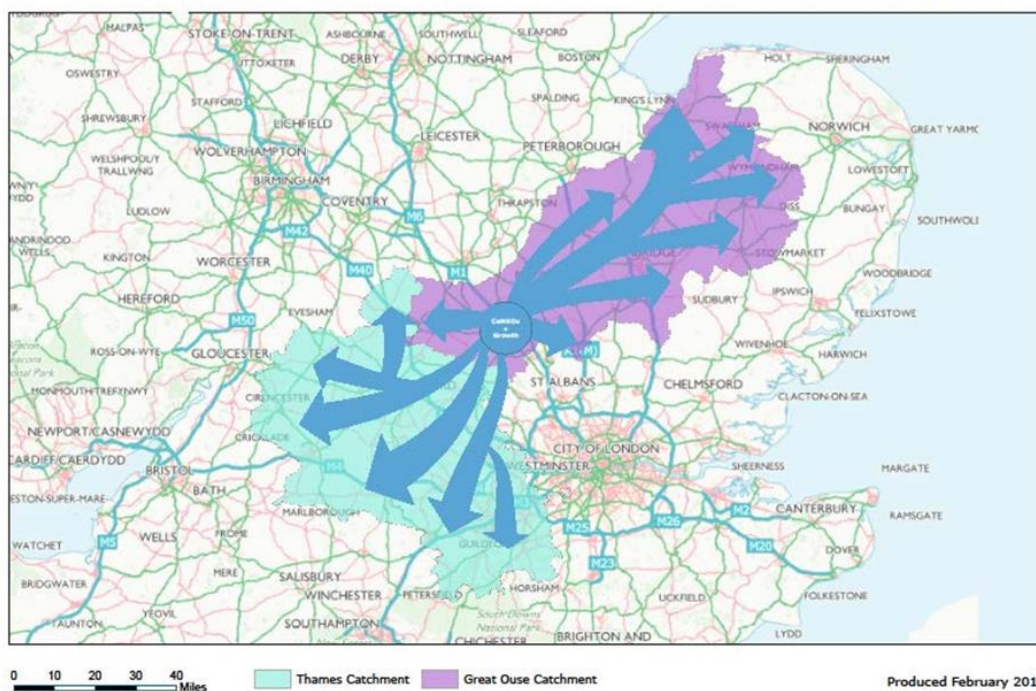
ADA has subsequently launched its Good Governance for IDB Members guide at the ADA Conference which is primarily aimed at new Board members. Five workshops were held during March and April.

Further details on the guide and the workshops can be found at the following link <https://www.ada.org.uk/2018/11/ada-publishes-guide-to-good-governance-for-internal-drainage-board-members/>

Update on RFCC's Growth Work

In order to accommodate the projected "growth", 500,000 new homes within the Cambridge – Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) arc, within the Great Ouse Catchment five Local Choices papers are currently being prepared on The Upstream Great Ouse Catchment, these will investigate the following:

- (i) Potential storage;
- (ii) Conveyance Study of the Main rivers to Denver Sluice, (this will investigate pinch points, silt deposition etc);
- (iii) A Modelling Workshop, (to use existing models as work needs to be completed now);
- (iv) An Economic Assessment, (this will include an assessment of Cost/Benefits and what it does to prevent flooding); and
- (v) The Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Link, (which will investigate potential benefits, water transfer/resources of the proposed new waterway between Kempston and the Grand Union Canal).



The EA is looking for RMA involvement in the production of these papers.

The EA's 2018 Flood Action Campaign

Research undertaken by the EA in conjunction with the Red Cross reveals that most 18-34 year olds do not know what to do in a flood. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-most-at-risk-in-a-flood-warns-environment-agency-british-red-cross>

Highways England (HE) Environmental Designated Funds (Legacy funding)

This is one of five funds provided by HE associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc., the others being Cycling, safety and integration, Air Quality, Innovation and Growth and Housing.

The potential environmental funding is available for the following areas noise, water, carbon, landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage and, therefore, could include flooding, pollution, water framework directive and biodiversity projects associated with the Strategic Road Network – A1, A14, A47 etc. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds>

This method of funding is being utilised by the following RMAs on the projects below:

(a) Environment Agency

Beck Brook at Girton - Legacy Fund and Local Levy match funding is being used to assist a flood alleviation scheme that was unable to achieve GiA.

Borrow Pits at Fenstanton – A potential flood alleviation scheme may be able to use Legacy funding.

(b) Cambridgeshire County Council

Bar Hill – Legacy funding for a potential £64k scheme.

Histon/Impington culvert replacement – The Legacy funding contribution is possible due to the site's close location to the A14.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

A meeting was held in early April and there are currently no known issues within the Board's catchment.

An Update to the original 2014 March Flood Investigation Report, following the floods of August 2014, has recently been issued and can be found at the following link:

<https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/March%20flood%20investigation%202019.pdf?inline=true>.

The March Community Flood Group is being re-promoted as the EA's funding and resources permit. It is hoped that a workshop will be held during the year.

Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group [previously reported as the Future Fenland Project]

The EA has recently commenced the FRM for the Fens Project to determine the best way of managing future flood risk. As a result a technical group has been formed, including representation from the Middle Level Commissioners.

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

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

A letter from the EA has been issued to the Chairman and a copy follows for your information. This included a copy of the “elevator pitch”, used by the EA to provide some background to the project. Please note that the extent of the geographical area shown has recently been amended.

creating a better place
for people and wildlife



Letter to Chairman
Internal Drainage Boards
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs
PE15 0AH

Our ref: ENV0000678C
Your ref
Date: 15 January 2019

Dear Chairman

Flood Risk Management for the Fens

Between Local Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency, we are modern day custodians of arguably the richest legacies of flood risk and drainage management in the country. I am sure you and your Board are really proud, like I am, to have a responsibility for critical infrastructure within a landscape that is hugely important for the economy, communities, food, farming and the natural environment.

The future of the Great Ouse Fens is something I am passionate about and with IDB clerks and engineers we are starting a partnership and collaborative approach to their future flood management. This letter summarises where we are and some of the important steps ahead. We really need your ideas, enthusiasm, advocacy, support and knowledge about this fantastic part of the country.

In recent years flood and drainage management in the Fens has been undertaken in somewhat of a piecemeal approach and reactive manner. With climate change projections and many of our assets coming to the end of their design life, we now collectively need to take a more strategic and long term approach. This will enable us all to maximise financial leverage and present a stronger more considered investment case to funding bodies.

Flood risk management for the Fens is a project set up to consider what the future flood risk management choices for the Great Ouse Fens could look like. This will help us develop a strategic approach together that will underpin and frame all flood and coastal risk management investment in the Fens moving forward. This is a key requirement of Defra's partnership funding policy (see attached note).

The attached document provides further details about the project, including the details of those flood risk management organisations involved in the Technical Group. David will hopefully have already briefed you on this work and will be your primary engagement link as the project moves forward.

customer service line 03708 506 506
gov.uk/environment-agency

Supported by the Anglian (Central) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee and with the help of the Technical Group, we have recently secured a funding package and obtained financial approval for Phase 1 of the project. The main products of this phase includes:

- A baseline report to gain a shared understanding of all land drainage and flood risk management assets, the economics, government grant eligibility level and partnership funding challenge for all sources of flooding. *This will be presented in a similar way to the Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline Report (we can provide a copy if you don't already have one) Anticipated delivery date Feb 2020.*
- Visualisation tools to showcase the findings of the baseline report in a way that informs and excites a wide variety of audiences. *Anticipated delivery date late 2020 after the baseline report to share key messages from the report.*

For Phase 1 we have not sought financial contributions from individual IDBs within the Great Ouse Fens, however the success of the work and effective use of the funding we have secured is hugely dependent upon the timely provision of asset and financial data from all Risk Management Authorities. Since July 2018, we have been working as part of the Technical Group on the specification and provision of this data.

We are aiming to appoint consultants for Phase 1 by early February 2019 and we are keen to have this data before then. Therefore it is vital that we have your support in helping your clerks and engineers to provide this information in a timely manner and by the 21 January 2019.

This will enable the project to move forward efficiently avoiding abortive costs, and help us to continue to support your IDB in seeking FCRM Grant in Aid (GiA) for individual investments. If we have gaps or deficiencies in the data then we will not be developing a strategic approach and are unlikely to be successful in maximising FCRM GiA funding for future projects.

Alongside Phase 1 we also collectively need to start to plan for Phase 2 of this work. Phase 2 is likely to start in approximately 5 years' time and most likely be a strategic options appraisal, to identify the choices for medium and long term flood risk management in the Fens.

Amongst the many benefits of this work, it will help us all better inform, influence and justify the source, nature and levels of funding required to

evolve and manage flood and drainage infrastructure over the medium and long term. The scope and governance arrangements for Phase 2 will all need to be developed and agreed collaboratively and there is no presumption that the Environment Agency will lead.

Initial estimates from similar projects are that Phase 2 may cost in the region of £10 million to £15 million, and significant levels of partnership funding will be needed to be sourced to unlock and complement FCRM GiA. Therefore an investment strategy will be developed in parallel to Phase 1. Your Board may want to consider sooner rather than later how they choose to plan for this.

In the short term, whilst the strategic work is progressing, we all still need to continue to invest in the flood and drainage infrastructure within the Fens, without prejudicing any medium and long term choices. To frame this and support investment decision making in being as effective and efficient as possible, through the Technical Group we are also developing tactical plans for the Fens. These are looking at how we apportion benefits across respective infrastructure and apply these to upcoming investments. Once these are ready it may be useful to present to your Board.

It is a really interesting and exciting time with all this work. I hope you and your Board are supportive of the approach. If you have any questions or would like further information then please contact David, myself or our Project Executive, Claire Bell (Claire.Bell@Environment-Agency.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Flood & Coastal Risk Manager for East Anglia Area (Great Ouse catchment inc North West Norfolk coast)

Mobile: 07824 431597

paul.burrows@environment-agency.gov.uk

January 2019

The Strategic Approach for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Projects

Supplementary Local Guidance Version 1

In both Defra Policy Statements (Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009 and Partnership Funding May 2011) demonstrating and evidencing a strategic approach to flood or coastal erosion risk is a requirement for every project, to ensure value for money for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA).

Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) and Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) form the large scale holistic view of risk management requirements at the catchment or coastal process scale, beneath which more detailed strategies, and the local scale risk management activities should be developed.

Primarily, all schemes seeking FCERM GiA allocation should be in line with or compliment any overarching strategic plan such, for example, the Great Ouse CFMP.

“SMPs or CFMPs will have collected information on the economic, environmental and social assets at risk, the defences or coast protection works that are in place and identified preferred policies. The SMP or CFMP will also have engaged with stakeholders and you may be able to draw some information from the results. Early links need to be made with SMPs or CFMPs and strategies (where applicable) as they may have already identified key issues and broad solutions (in CFMPs these are called generic responses). It is essential to link the problem back to the policy as defined in the SMP or CFMP (and for schemes, to the description of the strategy, where available) to ensure continuity is not lost. Any conflicts between the description of the problem for your project and the recommendation of the SMP or CFMP (or strategy) will need to be highlighted and reconciled before you can progress further.” - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Appraisal Guidance, 2010.

The meaning of a ‘strategic approach’ is described throughout the FCERM Appraisal Guidance, March 2010, mainly in Chapter 3. It needs to include consideration of wider factors such as the economic, environmental, recreational and social factors that may affect or be affected by the proposed investment opportunity. These wider factors will then subsequently influence the selection of investment options to manage or mitigate the flood or coastal erosion risks. At the early stages of appraisal a wide range and broad portfolio of options should be identified, such as a change in pumping regimes, storage options and combining flood cells and assets for example. These options should be appropriate to the scale and type of project being undertaken.

Any strategic evaluation should be done as early as possible when planning a FCERM project. Findings should be evidenced within the business case, however, as this is produced much later than the initial project submission is submitted to the Environment Agency (through PAFS) it may be required that evidence of a strategic approach be made available to the Environment Agency on request in advance of the programme refresh. Failure to submit such evidence on request, will result in the maximum grant rate for the scheme being reduced to 45%.

“Where there is not a clear strategic approach setting out how benefits are apportioned to individual investments within a system of assets, the maximum grant rate allowable will be reduced to 45%. This means that all risk management authorities, including internal drainage boards, could receive up to 100% grant levels. The reduced grant rate, relevant for all risk management authorities, helps preserve value for money in cases where investments may only score well because benefits are being double-counted.” – Partnership Funding Policy 2011

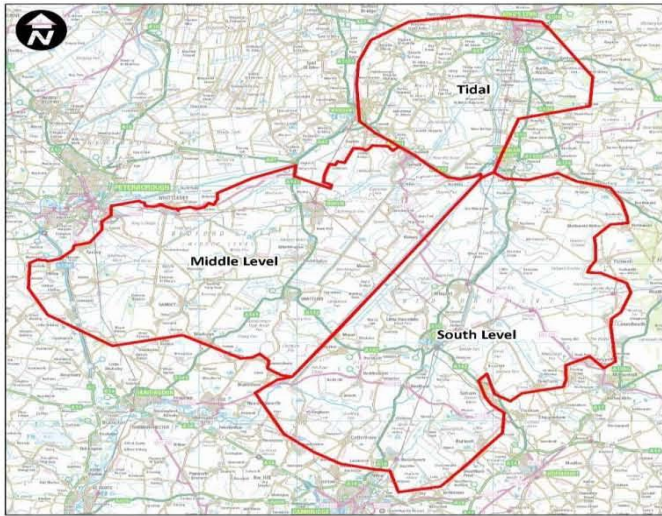
It is understood that there is a significant variation in the types of schemes which may be eligible for FCERM GiA funding. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the attention given to investigating a strategic approach should be proportional to the size of the scheme. Therefore, for smaller schemes (affecting a lower number of outcome measures and/or seeking a smaller sum of funding) a discussion of how a scheme aligns with a strategic approach may suffice. This could be evidenced, for example in notes accompanying a PAFS submission or captured within meeting minutes held in the early planning stages. Similarly, a larger scheme will require a more substantial demonstration. Any such scheme should be able to include, or reference any strategic analysis prior to PAFS submission or annual programme refresh.

This guidance reinforces the Defra Policy Statements ([Appraisal of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management June 2009](#) and [Partnership Funding May 2011](#)), if these National policies change in the future, this guidance will be amended accordingly.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Flood risk management for the Fens Project

Phase 1
Data gathering and collective ownership

Phase 2
High level action plan / strategy

Phase 3 onwards
Phased action plans



Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards



middle level commissioners



General Advice

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

- (a) C J Fountain and Son Ltd – An application for consent to install 12 No. field underdrain outfalls in the district drain between Points 146 and 147 in the White Fen area near Benwick was recommended for approval.

Consulting Engineer

26 April 2019

March West & White Fen (316)\Reports\April 2019

Mr Lakey reported that a recent inspection of the Board's drains had revealed that the majority were in a generally satisfactory condition and been maintained to a good standard and the inspection had indicated that many of the District drains that fall within this year's phased maintenance cleansing programme will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.

Mr Lakey referred to the use of brick bats for bank revetment works at Beggars Bridge and that, due to a change in working operations, reject brick bats were now being crushed and recycled in the production of new building blocks. This was leading to an increase in the overall cost for brick bats as demand for this product increases. The Board considered alternatives to the use of brick bats, including flint or granite but were of the opinion that brick bats were the best option as they encourage the return and regrowth of vegetation.

The Consulting Engineers were asked to investigate both sides of the drain at Points 55-56. Mr Lakey reported on the subsidence along the Tesco drain at Points 36-37 which will require re-piling to reinstate the channel and bank profile, once access was available following the harvest of adjacent crops.

The Board considered the arrangements for the contract to undertake flail mowing works and noted that Mr Ashman had indicated that he would not be available for work within the March West area.

Agricultural Buildings Warehousing, Ken Thomas Warehousing Ltd (MLC Ref No. 693)

The Board noted the planning application for the existing warehousing at the former MBM facility adjacent to the Board's West Fen pumping station and that the position regarding any increase in the impermeable area discharging into the Board's system was being clarified by the Consulting Engineer. It was also noted that there was a proposal to erect a 2.4m high fence along the drain and the Board requested that a letter be sent to the applicant advising of the Board's 9 metre easement strip and the need for the Board to undertake machine maintenance operations along the drain.

Agricultural Buildings at Burnt House Farm, Burnt House Tidings, Turves (MLC Ref Nos. 455 & 714)

It was noted that the submission documents with this application advised that surface water disposal would be by soakaways, but that no evidence had been supplied to support this. The Consulting Engineers were requested to check that the soakaways which had been installed were adequate after asking for further details about the soakaways.

Residential development on land north of 35 Whittlesey Road, March, former Greene King PLC site (MLC Ref Nos. 526, 544, & 561)

The Board noted the enquiry from MJS Construction (March) Ltd regarding encroachment within the Board's maintenance strip and requested that the Consulting Engineers write to MJS to seek clarification concerning this encroachment.

Erection of up to 118 dwellings on land north of The Green and north of 145-159 Wisbech Road, March (MLC Ref No.681)

The Board noted the situation with regard to the planning application for this site and requested that the Consulting Engineers monitor this application to ensure that the LLFA recommendation of planning permissions are secured by planning conditions.

Westry Retail Park

The Board considered the advice of the Consulting Engineers and agreed to recommendations a, b, and c, as set out in the report, and that these responses be sent to Anglian Water.

RESOLVED

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

ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the recommendations contained in the Report be adopted.

iii) That J Steward and R Dale undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements in the March and Whittlesey area for the ensuing year.

iv) That G Ashman undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements in the White Fen area for the ensuing year.

v) That the Consulting Engineers be authorised to carry out the required revetment works along the Tesco drain at Points 36-37.

vi) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to investigate both sides of the drain at Points 55-56.

v) That the Consulting Engineers:-

MLC Ref No. 693

Write to advise the applicant that the 2.4m fence should be 9 metres from the drain.

MLC Ref Nos. 455 & 714

Write to the applicant to check the position on the soakaways by enquiring if they have been installed and checking if they are adequate.

MLC Ref Nos. 526, 544 & 561

Write to MJS Construction (March) Ltd concerning encroachment within the Board's maintenance access strip.

MLC Ref No. 681

Check that the conditions regarding SUDS and the maintenance recommended by the LLFA have been included if the application is approved.

vi) Westry Retail Park

That the Board agree the recommendations (a) to (c) and requested that the Consulting Engineers make these responses on their behalf.

B.147 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.148 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.

B.149 Pumping Station duties

The Board gave consideration to the payments in respect of pumping station duties for 2019/2020.

Miss McShane referred to the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award indicator which was 3.0%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £5,617.00 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2019/2020.
- ii) That, in future years, an increase in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award be made for the provision of pumping station duties.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman and Messrs Bates and Whittome declared interests when this item was discussed.

B.150 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.151 Inspection of the District

The Chairman reported that the Board made an Inspection of the District on Wednesday the 3rd April 2019 which embraced (inter alia):-

1) West Fen Pumping Station

In satisfactory condition and in good order.

2) Moore's Pumping Station

A cover on the electric cable was missing and needed to be replaced.

3) Point 3

There was a steep bank at Point 3 on the weir and a handrail was required at this location in the interests of health and safety.

4) Bridge at Point 7

The bridge, which is owned by Daniel West, is in a bad state of repair. Mr West had indicated that he may apply, at a future date, for a culvert and although the Board has no ownership of the bridge it was used by the Board for maintenance works and was of benefit to the Board. As and when an application is made for a culvert at this point the Board would consider making a contribution to the work and a decision on this matter be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

5) White Fen Pumping Station

The Chairman commented that White Fen was in better order and handrails were now in place but that a platform would be a useful addition.

6) Turves Point 106

The drain at this location needs attention. It runs for approximately 100 metres between the houses; the whole area needs to be cleared out and piped in the future. The Consulting Engineers were currently obtaining quotations for this work and an indicative costing had indicated that these works would be in the region of £15,000 and it was agreed that a decision on these works would be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The houseowners' hedge at this location needs to be cut back and this could be carried out by the Board on a rechargeable basis and an amount is to be included in the budget for these works.

7) Point 80

The drain had been cleared at this location on one side and the bank reprofiled. The other side of the drain at this point also needs attention and this was to be carried out as part of the routine machine cleansing.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman select a date to hold an Inspection of the District in 2020 and to invite the Board to attend.

[Reference to points are to points on the Board's District Drain map]

B.152 Environment Agency – Precept

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2019/2020 in the sum of £15,667.05 (the precept for 2018/2019 being £14,921).

B.153 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

(a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £72.43 (£643.81 less £571.38 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 £899.94 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019

(b) Further to minute B103(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 kept under review.

B.154 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 £832 to £849.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2019.

b) Future ADA Communications

Miss McShane referred to a letter received from ADA dated 18th 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.

B.155 Damage to control structure – Trumans Farm, Whittlesey Road, March

Miss McShane referred to the damage to the control structure caused by a vehicle entering the drain on Friday the 2nd November 2018.

She reported that an approach had been made to Cambridgeshire Police Authority at their headquarters in Huntingdonshire and also to March Police Station to obtain details of the registration number of the driver, but as no police had attended the incident there was no information about the driver.

B.156 Contributions from Developers

Miss McShane reported that contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume have been received.

B.157 Health and Safety

- a) Further to minute B.111, the Chairman reported on the previous arrangements that had been put in place for health and safety and the preparation of risk assessments.
- b) The Chairman reported on the discussions at the Middle Level and Associated Drainage Board's Chairs meeting and that 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.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had now appointed 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 25th April stating that for March West and White Fen IDB the sum would be £600 per annum. However, it was understood that particularly in the first year or so extra support may be needed and this could be provided at a day rate of £500 or at an hourly rate of £85 for part days.

RESOLVED

That Cope Safety Management be appointed for a period of three years at a cost of £600 per annum, together with additional charges for any extra assistance requested.

B.158 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2017/2018

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2018.

B.159 Defra IDB1 Returns

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

B.160 Budgeting

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

B.161 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.162 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.

B.163 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss McShane 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.164 Annual Governance Statement – 2018/2019

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

B.165 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £115,104.01 which had been made during the financial year 2018/2019.

(NB) – Messrs Mottram and Whittome declared interests in the payments made to them.

(NB) – Mr Bates declared an interest in the payment made to J Bates & Son.

(NB) – The Chairman and Mr Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.166 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2018/2019

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliations for the year ended on the 31st March 2019 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.
- ii) That the sum of £15,000 be transferred from Developers contributions for essential works that need to be carried out.

B.167 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:-

	<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
Drainage rates	92.12%	66.71%
Special levy	7.88%	33.29%

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved; subject to the sum of £15,000 being taken from the Development Fund for the works required to be carried out at Turves.
- ii) That a total sum of £138,833 be raised by drainage rates and special levy (Area 1 - £37,886; Area 2 - £100,947).
- 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:-

	<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
Drainage rates	£34,901	£67,342
Special levy	£2,985	£33,605

- iv) That drainage rates be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

<u>Area 1</u>	<u>Area 2</u>
25.0p in the £	12.25p in the £

- v) That a Special levy of £36,590 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.168 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.169 Date of next Meeting

The Chairman asked the Board to consider whether one meeting per year was sufficient for the Board's business. Members agreed that one meeting was sufficient.

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 5th May 2020.

B.170 Proposed works at Turves Point 106

The Board discussed further the works to be carried out at Turves. It was agreed that the preferred option was to pipe the drain at this point. The decision on this was to be delegated to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and, at the appropriate time, residents were to be advised of the proposed works and of the Board's Byelaws and the need for the Board's maintenance strip to be maintained.