

MANEA AND WELNEY DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

At a Meeting of the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners
held at the Lamb and Flag Public House, Welney on Wednesday the 5th February 2020

PRESENT

J E Heading Esq (Chairman)	Mrs A J Langley
N Cook Esq	C Marks Esq
C F Hartley Esq	C W Sears Esq
J Hawes Esq	W Sutton Esq
M E Heading Esq	N V M Walker Esq

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Commissioners) was in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Sutton who had been re-appointed by Fenland District Council and, on behalf of the Commissioners, welcomed back Mr Walker.

The Chairman referred to the death of the Board's former Clerk, Mr David Noble OBE, on the 20th December 2019.

He reported that Mr Noble had been Clerk to the Commissioners from August 1993 to March 2004

The Commissioners stood in silence as a mark of respect for both Mr Noble.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners' appreciation of the services rendered by Mr Noble be recorded in the minutes.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from C J Crofts Esq, M D R Fairey Esq, P D Hawes Esq, P Jolley Esq and R M C Sears Esq.

C.853 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hill reminded the Commissioners of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any of them.

Councillor Sutton declared an interest in any planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council.

The Chairman and Mr M Heading declared an interest in the planning applications (MLC Ref Nos 573, 579 & 594) received for A & E G Heading Ltd.

The Chairman, Messrs Hartley, Heading and Sutton declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

C.854 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 5th June 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

C.855 Appointments – 2020/2021

- a) Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That J E Heading Esq be appointed Chairman of the Commissioners.

- b) Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That R M C Sears Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Commissioners.

- c) Appointment of Finance Committee

RESOLVED

That the Finance Committee be constituted as follows, viz:-

C J Crofts Esq	Mrs A J Langley
J E Heading Esq	R M C Sears Esq
P Jolley Esq	W Sutton Esq

C.856 Land Drainage Act 1991

- a) Further to minute C.833, Mr Hill reported that Fenland District Council had also re-appointed Councillor W Sutton to be a Commissioner under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.
- b) Mr Hill reported that the Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk had re-appointed Councillor C J Crofts, to be a Commissioner under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

C.857 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Middle Level and South Level Barrier Bank Works

Further to minute C.835, Mr Hill referred to Newsletters from the Environment Agency dated September and December 2019.

The Chairman reported on the progress of the works and that it was his intention to view the works at the summer inspection.

Councillor Marks reported that there had been issues locally with the reinstatement of the road to Purls Bridge and the Environment Agency's proposals to install a new floodgate at Welney in the summer which could take up to six weeks.

C.858 Replacement of Tractor and Flail Mower

Further to minute C.836, the Chairman reported that he had received three quotations for the replacement of the flailmower; one for a Bomford machine and one for a Spearhead machine, both considerably cheaper than a Herder machine. The Herder however, due to the changing flail mowing policy as a result of environmental considerations, would be more suitable as it was more heavily engineered and able to cope better with the work required. He further reported that it was intended to also purchase a weed cutting bucket which would be able to fit on the flail mower arm.

He reported that to operate a heavier duty flail mower the Commissioners would require a higher rated tractor and that he had discussed this with the Middle Level Commissioners' Operations Engineer and although the majority of Herder machines were used with Massey Ferguson tractors, he advised that he favoured a John Deere, as fitting the flail mower would be better as this tractor is built around a frame which makes the fitting more precise allowing more efficient operation. He considered that a Massey Ferguson tractor would likely have a five year working life but the John Deere and Herder flail should give a working life of up to ten years. He was also confident that the combination would be able to do more work efficiently.

In response to Councillor Sutton, the Chairman estimated that the District Superintendent spent approximately half of his time between the end of April/early May and the end of September flail mowing and that in normal operating circumstances the flail mower was not detached from the tractor. Councillor Sutton enquired if consideration had been given to a self-propelled machine. The Chairman confirmed that a self-propelled machine would be up to 50% more expensive and that it would not be possible for the Commissioners to justify this additional expenditure.

The Chairman informed the Commissioners of their current policy in relation to carrying out works for third parties and that he would be investigating the possibility of carrying out bankside mowing for the Environment Agency.

In response to Councillor Marks, the Chairman informed the meeting that a trade-in price of £25,000 had been received for the Commissioners' current tractor/mower and after discussions with staff at the Middle Level Commissioners he proposed to sell the machine via the Middle Level ebay account as it was likely that a better price could be achieved.

In response to Mrs Langley, the Chairman confirmed that it was likely that the replacement tractor/flail mower costs would be in the region of the budget allocation.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman in placing orders for a John Deere tractor, Herder flail mower and weed cutting bucket be approved and that the Commissioners' current tractor and flail mower be sold on the Middle Level Commissioners' ebay account.

C.859 Potential Amalgamation Discussions – Manea & Welney DDC, Sutton & Mepal IDB and Upwell IDB

Further to minute C.837(i), the Chairman reported on a meeting held with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Sutton & Mepal and Upwell IDBs on the 25th November 2019 and referred to the

summary of benefits/disbenefits of amalgamation together with a spreadsheet showing the makeup, finances and structure of each Board.

He reported that they all considered the meeting beneficial but currently did not consider immediate action was required but they should continue to review the matter on an ongoing basis.

Mr M Heading reported that the matter had been discussed following the Geoff Beel report in 2008 and Mrs Langley referred to the financial position and updated the Commissioners on the Upwell IDB also paying a Middle Level rate.

The Chairman referred to the Upwell IDB having two catchment areas; one draining to the Middle Level and one to the Old Bedford River and that the Upwell IDB may give consideration to formally splitting the catchments should an amalgamation proceed.

Mr Walker referred to an amalgamation possibly being some years away and could the Boards realise these benefits through closer working practices.

The Chairman reported that it was intended to have another meeting before the end of 2020 and that the Boards should be looking at closer working relations, possibly sharing plant and labour.

The Commissioners agreed that the long-term position would be for an amalgamation but that they should look for closer working relations with the other two Boards.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman continue discussions with Sutton & Mepal and Upwell IDBs Chairmen and Vice Chairmen.

C.860 The Grange, Welney

Further to minute C.838(iii), Mr Hill reported that the Developer was currently looking to move onto site to commence works and that the Consulting Engineers had advised of the Commissioners' requirements but that the Developer was not currently in a position to formalise an agreement. He confirmed that the matter would continue to be monitored by the Middle Level Commissioners' Solicitor.

C.861 Old Diesel Building

- i) Further to minute C.852(vi), the Chairman reported that it was intended to remove the equipment from Welches Dam pumping station and then dismantle the building by the end of next month.
- ii) The Chairman referred to previous issues at the old Glenhouse pumping station building and that, having received quotations for the replacement of the doors at an estimated cost of £5,000, he had contacted Turners who would be carrying out a site inspection to give advice and an estimate of likely costs in the spring.

He reported that there had been discussions over possible grants to assist with the repairs and Councillor Marks confirmed that quotations would be required to progress the matter and that there was currently the possibility of three sources of funding.

Mrs Langley queried the possible funding levels and likely ongoing maintenance costs if the stations was to be retained as a form of historical attraction. She referred to the remote location of the station and difficulties getting to it. In response, the Chairman confirmed that the replacement of the doors could be in the region of £5,000 and estimated that repairs to the roof could be in the region of £15,000.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman obtain quotations for the repairs to the doors and roof and to continue discussions for possible heritage funding towards these works.

B.862 Clerk's Report

Mr Hill advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a fourth Chair's Meeting was held on the 26th November 2019.

The meeting commenced with a presentation with slides covering the lottery funded 'Fens Biosphere' bid. This UNESCO designation would have no statutory backing but instead aims to draw attention to the unique nature of the area. Good practice sharing would be facilitated and a framework of support for positive action developed. The idea is to frame the application around the Cambridgeshire peat lands and the IDB districts which provide a network of interconnecting watercourses. As this designation would not lead to a set of actions which would be enforced but could have a positive impact on the area the Board were asked (at this stage) to consider giving its approval in principle to the bid.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve in principle

Health and Safety discussions followed and it was agreed that the new arrangement with Cope Safety Management was working well.

The future vision for the MLC and IDBs was discussed and is covered as a separate agenda item.

On member training, after discussion, it was agreed that members would benefit from training on 'communications and engagement' as it was felt that Boards generally had challenges in getting messages across to the public.

The only other item covered in any detail was in relation to Board agendas and minutes. It was resolved that the Chairs supported the move to reducing the amount of paper leaving the MLC offices and it was also agreed, for reasons of efficiency, that Chairs be provided with an action points list as soon as practical after the meetings but in advance of issuing draft minutes.

Councillor Sutton referred to Fenland District Council's document management system used for Council meetings and suggested the Middle Level Commissioners could look into a system. He reported that the matter had been discussed at a recent Middle Level Executive Committee meeting.

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 Commissioners:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
N M Boor and Son	Piping and filling of approx.. 12 metres of private watercourse – Darcy Lode, Plantation Farm, Wimblington Road, Manea	3 rd July 2019
Mr J Hawes	Continuation of 300mm dia pipe along length of drain – shallow ditch fronting Biggins Farm, Fallow Drove Manea	15 th July 2019
Loyd Homes Limited	Installation of surface water discharge Pipeline, headwall and protective revetment within the Old Croft River between Points 110-111	2 nd January 2020

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents be approved.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 82nd Annual Conference of the Association had been held at the ICE building in Westminster on Wednesday 13th November 2019.

The conference was very well attended and the speakers this year were:-

Stuart Roberts - Vice President National Farmers' Union – an arable and livestock farmer who has also worked for Defra and Flood Standards Agency – who shared his views on the need for more radical and bold thinking on flood risk management and the supply of water for agriculture.

Bryan Curtis – Chair Coastal Group Network – Chartered Engineer and a member of CIWEM and ICE.

Bryan is Chairman of the Coastal Group Network. This is a network of Councils, Ports, Government bodies who provide a collective voice for the coast and management of the shoreline.

Robin Price – Interim Managing Director – Water Resources East (WRE)

Water Resources East is a partnership from a wide range of industries including water energy, retail, the environment, land management and agriculture who are working in collaboration to manage the number of significant risks to the future supply of water in the East of England. The NFU and ADA (via the David Thomas) have membership on the Board of WRE.

The conference was introduced by Robert Caudwell who asked all present to mark their appreciation of the work being done in the north east of England to respond to and manage the impacts of the floods. He stated his opinion that warnings at previous ADA conferences over the lack of river maintenance had fallen on deaf ears and that the flooding taking place at the time was clear evidence of the need to better balance capital investment with maintenance spending. He then went on to outline ADA's intention to lobby all parties throughout the general election. This included sharing the 7-point plan detailed below;

1. Long term investment horizons in the face of climate change challenges

Flood risk management delivers enduring benefits and authorities involved need to be able to plan ahead financially over multiple years and need to receive a sensible balance of capital and revenue funding, spread across the river catchments, in order to find efficiencies through climate change adaptation and resilience, and attract business investment.

2. Promote co-operation and partnership working to manage the water environment and reduce flood risk

Close cooperation between flood risk management authorities, water companies, communities, business and land managers needs the continued strong support of government to deliver adaptive and resilient flood risk maintenance and similar activities more efficiently and affordably.

3. Total catchment management

Total catchment management is now the widely accepted approach to managing our water and now is the time to increase and empower local professionals and communities to manage and operate these catchments together.

4. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

The next government needs to fully implement Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, to ensure future development can keep pace with the challenges of the changing climate, by ensuring that SuDS are maintained over the lifetime of a development.

5. Support local governance in flood and water level management decision making

In some parts of England there is an appetite for greater local maintenance delivery on watercourses and flood defence assets than that currently afforded from national investment. This can be achieved via the careful transfer of some main river maintenance to local bodies or the expansion of areas maintained by those local bodies, such as Internal Drainage Boards, where there is local support and transitional funding.

6. Local Government Finances

It is vital that Special and Local Levy funding mechanisms for drainage, water level and flood risk management continue to be part of this funding landscape to maintain the democratic link with local communities affected.

7. Brexit: Ensuring a resilient regulatory framework for the water environment

The next government needs to provide clear policy messages about how they wish to make the delivery of environmental improvements to the water environment

easier and more effective as we transition from European legislation such as the Water Framework Directive.

Unfortunately, because the conference was held during the pre-election period sometimes known as Purdah, which restricts certain communications during this time, there were no representatives available from the Environment Agency or Defra which significantly restricted the debate on flood risk management, funding and maintenance issues. However, there was considerable support from the floor of the conference for the view that lack of maintenance had significantly contributed to the recent problems with the River Don and the flooding of Fishlake village.

Officers of the Association were re-elected, including Lord De Ramsey as President and Robert Caudwell as Chairman.

Subscriptions to ADA would be increased by 2% for the following year.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held in London on Wednesday the 11th November 2020.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to obtain a ticket for the Annual Conference of the Association for any Commissioner 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 will be held on Tuesday the 3rd March 2020. The format will be as per the 2019 conference with a workshop in the morning and the conference in the afternoon.

d) Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.731, ADA have advised that the valuable research work being carried out by Hull University on eels and eel behaviour in pumped catchments will be continuing for at least another two years. ADA consider that the financial support to the project to date provided by the IDBs has been positive and noted by the regulator (EA), leading to positive engagement on finding practical solutions at pumping station sites. They therefore consider that it would be useful if IDBs could consider whether they would be willing to continue their annual contributions to this research over that period.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners contribute £250 per year for the next 2 years towards further research on eels.

e) Floodex 2020

That Floodex 2020 will be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 26th and 27th February 2020.

f) Emergency Financial Assistance for Internal Drainage Boards

That whilst in East Anglia we have not had the unprecedented levels of rainfall which have occurred further north and in the west of the county in recent years this by no means equates to there being no risk of it occurring here. ADA have written to DEFRA seeking to formalise a mechanism for IDBs providing support to the EA in a major event to recover costs. An update will be given should there be any substantive movement from DEFRA

iv) Tactical Plans for the Fens Agreement

That the Environment Agency have set up a multi-partner group (FRM for the Fens) to steer work on developing strategic plans for managing flood risk in the lower Great Ouse catchment. This work is considered necessary to address the impacts of population growth and climate change, which are particularly relevant in this area. The EA is requesting approval to the approach being taken in principle and follows the letter sent in January 2019. The perceived value of this work is that it pre-apportions the benefits (land and property which would flood if not defended) so that applying for grant should be more straight forward and the amount of grant possible clearer. This should give increased certainty and clarity and resolves the issue of double counting benefits where for example a property is protected from flooding by both EA and IDB assets. Work on developing the strategy could take up to 15 years though and the proposal also therefore includes a mechanism for allowing grant-aided works to progress during this time on a hold-the-line basis.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve in principle

v) Water Resources East (WRE)

That the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive has been appointed as ADA's area representative on the Board of WRE. He will act as spokesman for IDBs who have an interest in the future management and provision of water in the East of England. This is particularly important as government consider plans to make the area more resilient and as the impacts of climate change start to bite in an area of rapid housing growth.

To facilitate a place on the Board requires a modest financial contribution from all IDBs within the area covered by WRE. The MLC contribution is their Chief Executive's time spent representing the Boards. For the Commissioners the requested annual contribution is £52.11.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee that the requested contribution be paid to WRE.

vi) Vision for the Future of Boards administered by the MLC

That Members will be aware that the Chair's meetings hosted by the MLC has had an item on the agenda for the last few meetings on future planning of administration and delivery of operations for the Board's collectively. As part of this process it has been agreed that members thoughts should be sought on what they envisage the collective future can and should look like to ensure the most resilient, delivery focused approach that can be achieved. Members should when developing their vision of water management in the fens in 2030

consider the challenges of maintaining representation, improving financial resilience, reducing duplication of work, the potential for cost savings, advantages and disadvantages of the various options available, the impacts of technology and sharing of resources and knowledge.

The information gathered from individual meetings will be collated and presented to the autumn 2020 Chairs meeting for their consideration.

C.863 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Manea & Welney D.D.C.

Consulting Engineers Report – January 2020

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters previously reported, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the stations is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Pumping Hours

Glenhouse

Hours Run	11 Jan 19 – 10 Jan 20	17 Jan 18 - 10 Jan 19	14 Jan 17 – 17 Jan 18	16 Jan 16 – 14 Jan 17	14 Jan 15 – 14 Jan 16
No 1	113 (4718)	214 (4605)	152	101	219
No 2	270 (4900)	144 (4630)	43	253	166
No 3	226 (4851)	234 (4625)	76	172	177
No 4	102 (4718)	203 (4616)	152	96	203
Total	711	795	423	622	765

Purls Bridge

Hours Run	11 Jan 19 – 10 Jan 20	17 Jan 18 - 10 Jan 19	14 Jan 17 – 17 Jan 18	16 Jan 16 – 14 Jan 17	14 Jan 15 – 14 Jan 16
No 1	182 (10654)	237 (10472)	166	94	121
No 2	185 (9787)	241 (9602)	159	147	367
Total	367	478	325	241	488

Pumping Station Asset Appraisals

Further to the asset appraisal carried out in 2010 for the EA the Commissioners requested an update for 2020.

Glenhouse



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners
Commissioned	1948
Refurbished	1997 (New station built, existing one disused)
Pumps	4 no. Bedford Pumps DB 60.09.8. 600mm Suspended MFB P0309/1-4
Duty	1000 l/s @ 6.12 m TGH @ 730 RPM
Drive Motor	4 no. Perkins 1006T
Gearbox	Rossi RV320
Control Equipment	Carlton Controls Modex Autostart Engine Controller
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Hydroranger Ultrasonic
Weedscreen Cleaner	EJ Lord 'Heron'
Control Building	Steel framed and clad building
Telemetry	Yes
Fencing	1.8 metre high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Glenhouse is one of two pumping stations in the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners' catchment. It serves to drain an area of the drainage district to the southwest of the village of Manea. The station was originally constructed in 1948 with two diesel driven pumps located in a brick pump house. In 1997 a new station was constructed which is powered by four diesel driven pumps, the engines being housed in weatherproof canopies. The control panel for this new station is located in a steel framed building which also houses a workshop.

Weedscreen



The weedscreen was installed as part of the new station works in 1997. It consists of 12mm galvanised bars at 65mm centres. Now over 22 years old it is half way through its design life and should last at least another 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process.

The automatic weedscreen installed as part of the main works was manufactured by EJ Lord and consists of a single monorail supporting a travelling trolley and grab unit. Now over 22 years old it may well be in need of a general overhaul to ensure it remains serviceable for another 20 years.

Control House



The control panel is located in a steel framed and sheeted structure that is a tractor garage and workshop. The steel framed building should have a design life of 50 years and, therefore, should have a further life of 30 years. The workshop also houses a double skinned diesel storage tank.



The former pumping station is brick built with an asbestos cement sheet roof. The building is showing signs of subsidence and the roof condition is poor which allows water penetration. The existing mechanical and electrical equipment is still in place but it is unlikely that it will ever be used again.



Control Equipment/Pumps



The four diesel driven pumps are located in individual acoustic enclosures. The Perkins diesel engines drive the Bedford Pumps via a Rossi Motoriduttori RV 320 right angle gearbox. The pumps should have a design life of a further 20 years before replacement is needed however these units have not been removed for inspection since their installation and it may well be prudent to at least undertake some degree of close inspection.



The pumping station control panel manufactured by Carlton Controls is located in a steel framed building which is used as a workshop. The control panel is in very good condition and should have a further 15 – 20 years before a major refurbishment is required. Automatic level control is by Milltronics Hydroranger 200 ultrasonic.

This station was fitted with a Dynamic Logic telemetry system, however this system is no longer functional.

Fencing/Compound

The new station compound has a 1.8 metre high-galvanised palisade fence which should have a further 20 years' life.



The station compound is part grass and part concrete and is in fair condition but could do with some minor remedial works to the steps to reduce the risk of tripping.

Inlets/Outlets

The new station inlet has been constructed adjacent to the former pumping station. The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The old wingwalls and inlet that remain from the old diesel pump station structure are in fairly poor condition with heavy corrosion and spalling of concrete. This should not affect the new station operation and should last a further 30 years. The condition of the new wingwalls and concrete inlet is very good with no signs of deterioration and should last a further 50 years.



The reinforced concrete outlet bay houses the discharge ductile iron pipework from the four pumps. There is a protective 1.2 metre high galvanised 'Kee-Klamp' style railing on the top of the structure. The outlet bay is in good condition and should last a further 40 years, however the pipework supports are in need of repair.

Pumping Station Valuations

The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.

Site Name	Manea & Welney DDC - Glenhouse Pumping Stn.	
Site Data		
No. Pumps		4
Station Capacity		4cumec
Station built		1997
Description of Station	4 no. Bedford Pumps DB 60.09.8. 600mm Suspended MFB P0309/1- 4 driven by Perkins 1006T diesel engines via Rossi RV320 gearboxes. E J Lord Heron weedscreen cleaner Tin clad steel framed control building with Carlton Controls autostart control equipment also incorporating plant store/workshop	
Valuation		
Civils Works		£868,380.00
M&E		£578,230.00
Other		£80,625.00
Total		£1,527,235.00
Breakdown of valuation		
Civils Works		
Pump sump		£688,350.00
Hard standing		£5,295.00
Fencing		£10,590.00
Outfall		£52,950.00
Control building		£84,720.00
Other		£26,475.00
M&E		
Pumps & engines		£436,400.00
Control Equipment		£54,550.00
Power Supply		
Motors		
Weedscreen raker		£87,280.00
Other		
Approvals		£21,500.00
Liaison and consultation		£5,375.00
Design		£32,250.00
Supervision		£21,500.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Glenhouse
Internal Drainage Board	Manea and Welney

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025 - 2030	2025 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment							120k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment			20k						
Control Building							35k		
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need

120k overhaul pumps, fit new engines, service flap valves									
20k overhaul weed screen cleaner									
35k Demolish old pumphouse to reduce liability									

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2009 prices.
- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Purls Bridge



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners
Commissioned	1978
Refurbished	No.2 pump added 1986 No.1 pump Submersible replaced 1999 (overhauled Jan 2016)
Pumps	British Guinard H500-445 Vertical Spindle and Bedford Pumps Sb.50.09.06. Submersible Mixed Flow no. 512/1/1
Duty	550 l/s @ 6.0 metres TGH
Drive Motor	Leroy Summer (VSAF)/ BCP 50 kW @ 960RPM
Gearbox	Catep (VSAF)
Control Equipment	British Pleuger Auto Transformer
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger Plus
Weedscreen Cleaner	CW Engineering
Control Building	Brick with mineral covered flat roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8m high steel post and mesh

General Comments

Purls Bridge is one of two pumping station in the Manea and Welney District Drainage Commissioners' catchment. It serves to drain an area of district to the southeast of the village of Manea. The station was originally fitted with a single submersible pump. A vertical spindle type pump was installed in 1986 adjacent to, and to supplement, the existing pump. The submersible type pump was replaced in 1999.

Weedscreen



The weedscreen was replaced when the cleaning process was automated in 2008. The weedscreen consists of 12 mm thick bars at 75mm centres and is manufactured of galvanised steel. It is in a good condition and should last a further 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process.



The CW Engineering 5000 series automatic weedscreen mechanism was installed in 2008. It consists of a single monorail supported by columns with a motorised hoist drum and a hydraulic grab mechanism. It is in a fair condition but showing its age and consideration should be given to a general overhaul.

Control House



The control building is of brick construction with a mineral felt covered flat roof. The brickwork is in good condition with no signs of spalling, cracking or subsidence. The building structure should have a further design life of 40 years. The roof is of timber construction and is covered with mineral

felt. The felt was replaced in 2005 with a high-performance material and appears to be in a satisfactory condition however it is likely to need replacing in the next 5-10years.

There are no windows in the building and lighting is by a single fluorescent light. The door to the station is of metal construction and is corroding in various places. It should last a further 20 years subject to regular coating with paint.

The eaves, fascia and rainwater goods are made of plastic and are in good condition and should last a further 10-15 years.

Control Equipment/Pumps

When originally commissioned the station was fitted with a single British Pleuger submersible pump which discharged into a reinforced concrete surge chamber before gravitating to the outfall bay via a 1000mm diameter ductile iron pipe. The station was designed to accommodate an additional pump.



Indeed, a second pump was duly added in 1986 and consisted of a British Guinard vertical spindle axial flow pump. An additional starter was added to the existing control panel and new pipework laid to the surge chamber. The new pump incorporated a gearbox to allow for connection to an independent power source from an agricultural tractor in the event of power failure.

The original submersible pump was replaced with a Bedford Pumps submersible mixed flow unit which was overhauled by the manufacturer during January 2016.

The second pump is now over 30 years old and over half way through its design life. The submersible pump installed in 1999 should have a further 10 years of life and it is likely to be more economical to replace it than repair it. It would be prudent to lower the water levels and have a thorough inspection of pump 2 to establish its condition in the interim.



The original control panel is over 30 years old but should last another 15 years at least. It is in good condition but some of the components are no longer manufactured. However, these could be replaced with modern equivalents should the need arise. The control mechanism has been updated with ultrasonic controls and a Milltronics Multiranger programmable logic controller has been installed.

The submergence level between the pumps impellers and lowest land level (reducing over time as a result of the sinking ground level) is not expected to be an issue for at least the next 20 years.

The station is not fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

Access to the station is along a part stone and part unmade track. The track subsided in 2016 under the load of a crane used to reinstall pump 1 but has been stable since and no major expenditure should be required in the next 10 years unless damage is caused by heavy machinery.

The compound is laid to stone and is in reasonable condition with no major works required in the next 20 years. The compound has a 1.8 metre high steel post and wire mesh fence that has two accesses; one being pedestrian the other vehicular. The posts and wire mesh are showing signs of rust corrosion but should last at least a further 20 years if maintenance work is carried out soon.

Inlets/Outlets



The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles with a concrete capping. The steel piles are showing signs of heavy corrosion but should last a further 15 – 20 years.

The inlet is constructed in reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no signs of major deterioration and should last a further 50 years.

The surge chamber is constructed in reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no signs of major deterioration and should last a further 50 years. The siphon breaker valves need attention 1-2 times a year but should last a further 20 years.



The outlet bay is of reinforced concrete and is in good condition.

Pumping Station Valuations

The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.

Site Name Manea & Welney DDC - Purls Bridge Pumping Stn.

Site Data

No. Pumps 2
 Station Capacity 1.1 cumecs
 Station built 1978

Description of Station Originally a single pump station. In 1986 second pump was added, a British Guinard H500-445 Vertical Spindle axial flow with a Catep dual drive gearbox. In 1999 the original pump was replaced with a Bedford Pumps SB.50.09.06. Submersible Mixed Flow no. 512/1/1. 50 kW @ 960RPM. Brick control building with mineral covered flat roof. CW Engineering automatic weedsreen cleaner Auto transformer/star-delta control panel.

Valuation

Civils Works £413,010.00
 M&E £278,205.00
 Other £43,000.00
Total £734,215.00

Breakdown of valuation

Civils Works

Pump sump £264,750.00
 Hard standing £10,590.00
 Fencing £10,590.00
 Outfall £52,950.00
 Control building £21,180.00
 Other £52,950.00

M&E

Pumps £152,740.00
 Control Equipment £27,275.00
 Power Supply
 Motors £10,910.00
 Weedscreen raker £87,280.00

Other

Approvals £10,750.00
 Liaison and consultation £5,375.00
 Design £16,125.00
 Supervision £10,750.00

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 10 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
592	F/YR19/0393/O	Mr R Brooks	Residence	March Road, Tipps End
593	Enquiry	Layzan Developments	Residential (TBC)	Station Road, Manea
594	F/YR19/3055/COND	A & E G Heading Ltd	Anaerobic Digestion Plant	Fifty Road, Manea
595	F/YR19/0629/RM	Mr J Furnell	Residence	Park Road, Manea
596	F/YR19/0699/O	Mr P Fox	Residential (4 plots)	Westfield Road, Manea
597	19/01385/F	Mr & Mrs Goddard	Residence (Extension)	Back Drove, Welney,
598	Enquiry	Client of Create Consulting Engineers	Car Park	Fodder Fen Road, Manea
599	F/YR19/0865/F	Mr D Carrington	Equine	Wisbech Road, Manea
600	19/01862/O	Mr R Chapman	Residence	Back Drove, Welney
601	F/YR19/0934/F	Mr P Gale	Residence (Garage/workshop)	Station Road, Manea

***Planning applications ending 'COND' or 'DISC' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters***

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

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated foul water effluent into the Commissioners' system either via private treatment plants or Manea Town Lots Water Recycling Centre (WRC).

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 Commissioners' interests.

Erection of 14 dwellings; comprising; 2 x 3 storey 5/6 bed, 1 x 3 storey 5 bed, 5 x 2 storey 4 bed and 6 x 2 storey 3 bed with associated garaging at Station Road, Manea – Mr Short and Mr Fox (MLC Ref Nos 446, 449, 482 & 511)

Residential development, garages, associated parking, the formation of allotments, public open space, and a new access on land west of Teachers Close, Manea - Portman Developments (MLC Ref No 453), Client of Woods Hardwick (MLC Ref Nos 514 & 538) & Matthew Homes (MLC Ref Nos 545, 551 & 557)

Proposed residential development in the vicinity of Station Road, Manea – Lovell Partnerships Limited (MLC Ref No 578)

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

Residential development (Delilah Close) involving demolition of existing buildings at International House, Station Road, Manea - Mr J Daniels (MLC Ref No 365) & Homestead Development Company Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 386 & 436)

Discussions with the management company are continuing.

Erection of 26 dwellings at land west of 49-49A High Street, Manea - Cole Properties (Manea) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 415 & 471)

Further to the Commissioners' resolution the applicant advises that revised details are currently being prepared by his engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd.

Development to the east of Park Road, Manea – Mr E Barnes (MLC Ref Nos 431, 438, 485, 525, 561, 584 & 590)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report a Discharge Consent application for the disposal of both surface and treated effluent water from the development for 15 dwellings on land east of 11 - 21 Park Road, Manea (MLC Ref Nos 525, 561, 584 & 590) was received during May together with the supporting information on the drainage proposals and associated contribution fee.

The proposals for surface water disposal are for a partially attenuated system that utilises an existing adjacent watercourse which discharges into the Commissioners' system at a restricted flow rate of 2 l/s. The drainage proposals supplied by the engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd, have been reviewed and confirm that the drainage system has been designed to accommodate the worst case events up to and including the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), a 1 in 100 year event, together with a suitable allowance for climate change. The application has been recommended for approval.

Development at Knyverton House, Wisbech Road, Manea - Mr M Balaz (MLC Ref No 516) & Ms A Kusynova (MLC Ref No 524)

The issues surrounding this site remain outstanding.

Proposed residential development to the north west of The Grange and south east of New Road, Welney - Client of JPP Consulting (MLC Ref No 559) & Mr R Boyd (MLC Ref No 567)

Further to the last meeting the three applications for encroachment within or adjacent to the Old Croft River have been recommended for consent subject to the imposition of conditions including matters relating to the provision of details of the temporary works, method statements and the management company's long-term funding, management and maintenance arrangements for the upkeep of the facilities in perpetuity.

The applications for discharge consent are currently awaited.

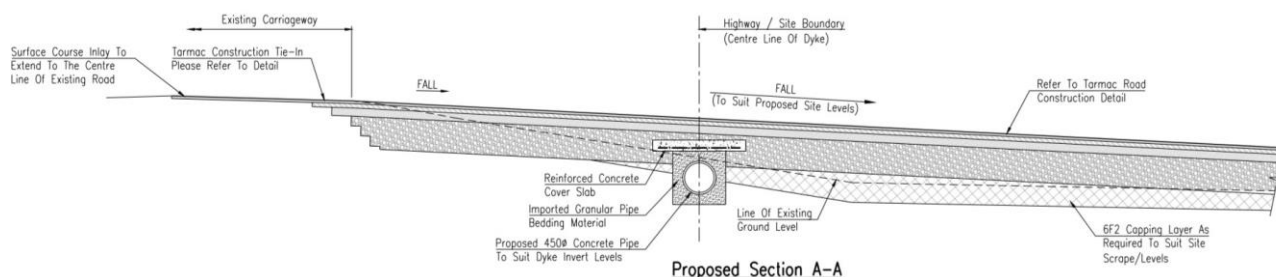
Erection of an Anaerobic Digestion Plant, associated infrastructure, lagoon and feedstock clamps at land south west of Crane Farm (Colony Farm), Fifty Road, Manea – A & E G Heading Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 573, 579 & 594)

Further to the February 2019 report an application for the discharge of planning conditions, including surface water disposal, was submitted to the District Council at the end of May and has been discharged following a recommendation from the LLFA.

Surface water disposal within AD Plants is normally via a "closed loop" system but it is noted from the Drainage Report submitted to support the discharge of conditions that:

"2. The yard water (dirty) has been dealt with using a pumped system as this is the only available option. We have looked at increasing the area and depth of the lagoon to provide gravity feed however the site area and the water table preclude this. In any event the discharge from the lagoon must be pumped as it cannot discharge to the water course. In our opinion the system proposed is the best available option."

It is understood that entry into the site will be via a new access which will require the piping and filling of an existing open watercourse beside Fifty Road the detail of which is shown on Sidebottom Richardson Cheng Ltd's Drawing No 17119/01 Rev E.



**Extract from Sidebottom Richardson Cheng Ltd Drawing No 17119/01 Rev E
showing a cross section through the proposed access culvert**

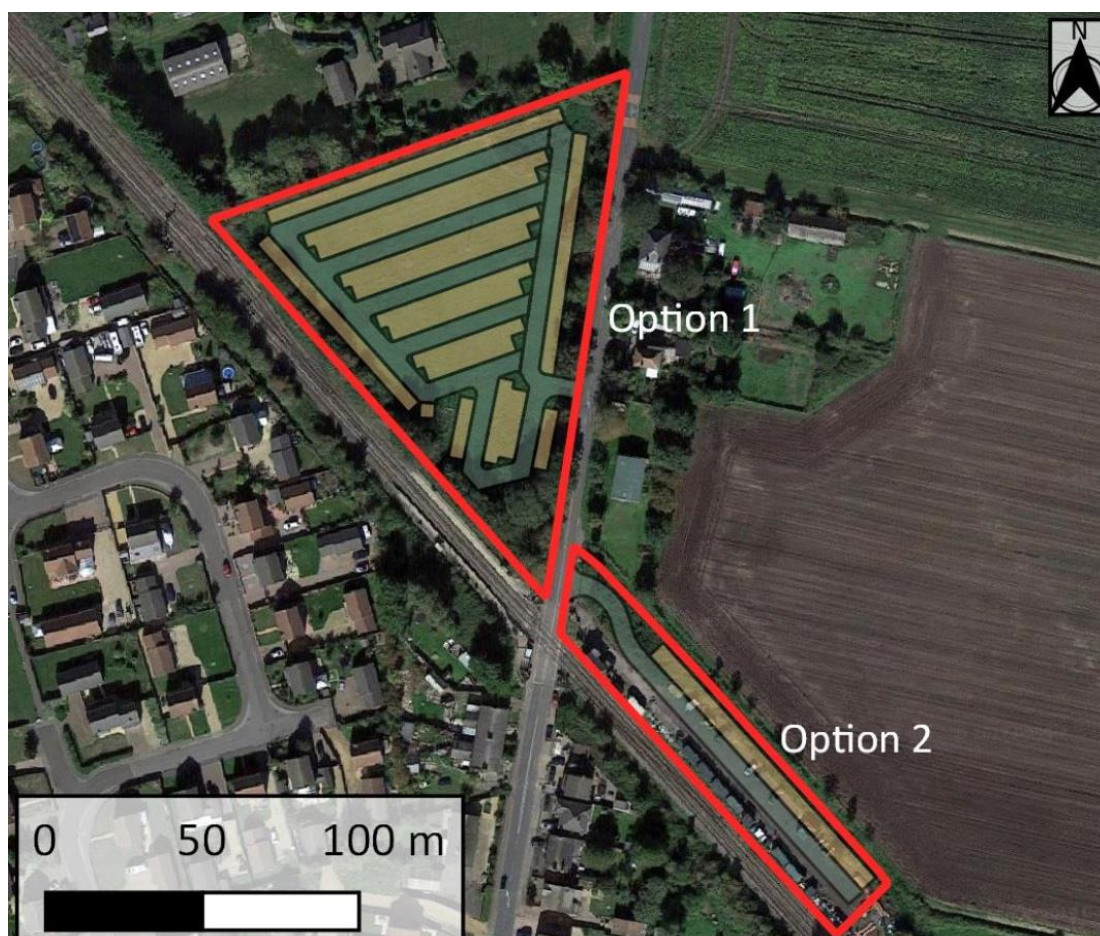
A 450mm diameter pipe is proposed, however members will be aware that the Commissioners' minimum pipe size requirement is 600mm diameter.

However, it is noted from the Commissioners' records that no applications for either the disposal of surface or ground water or the piping and filling of the open watercourse under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act have been sought and thus they are not consented.

Proposed car parking at Manea Railway Station, Fodder Fen Road, Manea – Client of Create Consulting Engineers (MLC Ref No 598)

An enquiry was received in October in respect of potential car parking sites to serve Manea Railway Station.

The enquirer was recommended to use the "Pre-and Post-Application Consultation Procedures" or another of the paid services that we offer but no instruction has been forthcoming.



Extract from the plan supplied by Create Consulting Engineers showing the location of the sites

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 meeting was held at the end of March. Issues discussed included navigation related matters, notes on the LLCR, the Wisbech Garden Town, the FRM for The Fens project, the Future High Street Fund bid for March etc.

Another meeting is currently being organised.

Emerging Local Plan 2019-2040

Fenland District Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the period 2019-2040 which, when adopted, will replace the current Fenland Local Plan (May 2014). The Local Plan is an important document which will “determine what the district will look like in the future and how it will become an even better place to live, work and visit.”

‘Live’ Timetable for Production of the Fenland Local Plan (October 2019)

No.	Stage	Description	LDS Target	Actual dates
1	Consult on a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report	The SA scoping report sets out the sustainability objectives proposed to be used to appraise the economic, social and environmental effects of the emerging Local Plan policies. The SA scoping report is subject to consultation.	N/a	Consultation 11 th October to 21 st November 2019
2	Public participation (Regulation 18)	Opportunity for interested parties and statutory consultees to consider the options for the plan before the final document is produced. This stage may involve one or more public consultation rounds. We intend two rounds for the new Local Plan.	October 2019 & May 2020	Issues and Options Consultation Document Cabinet 18th September Consultation 11 th October to 21 st November 2019
3	Pre-Submission Publication (Regulation 19)	The Council publishes the Local Plan which is followed by a 6 week period when formal representations can be made on the Local Plan.	February 2021	
4	Submission (Regulation 22)	The Council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State together with the representations received at Regulation 19 stage.	May 2021	
5	Independent Examination Hearing	Held by a Planning Inspector into objections raised on the Local Plan.	From the day it is ‘submitted’	
6	Inspector’s Report	This will report whether if the Plan is ‘Sound’ or ‘Not Sound’. The Inspector may make recommendations to make the plan ‘Sound’.	January 2022 (estimate – could be earlier or later, and subject to the examination)	
7	Adoption of DPD (Local Plan)	Final stage, the Council will formally need to adopt the Local Plan and it will then be used in making planning decisions.	February 2022 (estimate - could be earlier or later, and subject to the examination)	

Issues & Options Consultation

Between 11 October and 21 November 2019, the Council undertook a Public Issues & Options Consultation, held a ‘Call for Sites’ exercise, requested nominations for Local Green Spaces, and invited views on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

The consultation was in a questionnaire type format most of the content of which did not directly relate to navigation, water level and flood risk management matters or questions are not relevant to our duties and functions.

Where the questions raised were not specifically relevant to us but may be related to issues upon which we would like to make a remark we made a "comment".

Question 8: Renewable Energy

A comment was made concerning the location of the nearest appropriate grid connection and the potential detrimental effect that the export cable/main connecting into it may cause for example, channel crossings, transport routes and associated remedial works, the formation/uprating/reconstruction of access culverts/roads, and other works to accommodate specialist construction machinery and associated infrastructure the impacts of which are not generally considered as part of the planning process.

Question 11: Minimise Carbon Losses from Wider Activities

Should the Local Plan:

11a) Set out a specific policy on the loss of peat-based soils, and the carbon impacts of it?

Guidance was given concerning the Lowland Agricultural Peat Taskforce when launched by Defra and the East Anglian Fens peat pilot managed by Natural England.

Question 12: Other Proposals to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Question 22: Transport

12b) Should the Local Plan make provision of cycle and footways, which are designed in a way so that they become the natural choice to use for short journeys, rather than the car?

The response advised that, where possible, footpaths, cycleways, street lighting, and/or other street furniture should be positioned outside of any protected watercourse and the associated maintenance access strip.

Question 13: Design and Amenity

13c) Are there any specific local issues which need to be addressed through design policies?

Issues specifically referred to were the retention of on-site open watercourses and the provision of adequate maintenance strips beside water level and flood risk management systems, including protected watercourses, within the development's design.

Question 14: Optional Standards

14a) Do you think the Local Plan should include any of the following optional standards (subject to need and viability testing)? If so why?

ii) Water efficiency of new homes

The implementation and management, including enforcement, of water efficiency measures for residential, business and other users of potable water. Proposals should include suitable schemes which minimise the need to abstract water from the Main River system to ensure that it is available for other potential water resource uses ie agricultural irrigation, biodiversity, navigation, leisure and tourism etc.

Question 16: Gypsy and Travellers & Question 17: Park Homes and Houseboats

16b) What other suitable locations for Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there?

17) Is there a need for moorings for houseboats or sites for caravans in Fenland? Any evidence to support your comments would be welcome, or suggestions as to how such need could be identified in Fenland

In respect of the Middle Level Commissioners' interests, comment was made that in addition to the normal caravans and "bricks and mortar" sites, suitable locations may need to be considered for "house boats".

Question 24: Natural Environment

How do you think the Local Plan should protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment?

The Conservation Officer advised that the Plan should include recreational and wildlife spaces being created as part of new residential developments and the incorporation of relevant biodiversity measures.

Question 26: Flood & Water Management

Do you have any views on how new development could reduce flood risk?

Our comments included but were not limited to the following:

- The extent of the Environment Agency's (EA) Indicative Floodplain and the constraint that this imposes on "growth" in the District.
- All relevant development proposals must be discussed with the relevant RMA including the appropriate Internal Drainage Board at the earliest opportunity, preferably at the pre-application stage.
- In addition to the requirements of the NPPF and associated technical guide, all applications for relevant developments must include a drainage strategy to demonstrate that:
 - (a) Suitable consideration has been given to the disposal of both surface and treated waste water flows and should detail any mitigation required;
 - (b) Appropriate arrangements have been made for developments adjacent to watercourses; and
 - (c) Issues of long-term ownership, funding and maintenance of the water level and flood risk management system are addressed.
- All proposals should have regard to the guidance and byelaws of the relevant RMA including the Internal Drainage Boards. Where appropriate the contents of hydraulic models and studies, such as the Middle Level Strategic Study must be considered.

Question 27: Any Other Issues

Is there anything else you would like to raise – has anything been missed, or are there any general comments you would like to make?

It was suggested that the retention and improvement of the rivers, their settings and associated corridors in the District for navigation, environmental, leisure and tourism through the provision of related facilities together with the provision of a Water Space Strategy should be considered.

Question 28: Your Priorities

28b) Please identify any other top priorities.

The response advised that the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards'/Commissioners' priorities were:

- To fund, maintain, protect and improve existing and make further provision of viable and appropriate water level and flood risk management infrastructure and systems to reduce the likelihood of harm to people and damage to the economy, environment and society.
- The implementation and management including enforcement of water efficiency measures for residential, business and other users of potable water.
- The retention and improvement of the rivers, their settings and associated corridors in the District for navigation, environmental, leisure and tourism through the provision of related facilities.
- To maintain, protect and improve the existing and make further provision of net gains to achieve environmental benefits to the waterways in the district.

Question 29: Neighbourhood Planning

The Council was advised that the "Neighbourhood Area" designation should not unduly affect the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners adding that even though a neighbourhood area may have been designated, compliance with the provisions of the appropriate Acts and the relevant RMA's byelaws would still be required.

Level 1 SFRA & WCS documents

Royal Haskoning DHV has been appointed to update the Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (WCS) for Fenland District Council as part of the evidence for the new Local Plan.

An Inception Meeting has been held and an information request is currently being processed.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

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

Future Meetings

Following the successful "joint" approach future meetings will involve both the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP) and Peterborough Flood & Water Management Partnership (PFLoW). The MLC are stakeholders in both partnerships.

Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England

A public consultation on the draft FCERM Strategy for England document was held between May and June.

Members of the partnership generally considered that amongst other matters the consultation could have been more ambitious; sought greater RMA involvement; and that surface water flooding should have been included.

Following the consideration of the responses it is intended to publish the final national FCERM strategy for England in 2020.

Local FRM Strategy

Both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategies are due to be reviewed soon and may be a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough response.

The Environment Agency's Joint Assurance Group

This group provides support to the RMAs on the delivery of Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funded projects and meets on a monthly basis to discuss business cases.

Partnership members generally agreed that it would be beneficial to understand what the EA, in its role as the approval body, would like to see in business cases and requested suitable good examples that could be used as guidance.

The EA advised that:

- (i) The lack of sharing of suitable business case examples may be for GDPR/commercially sensitive/economic reasons and advised that whilst the EA cannot 'circulate' these, other RMAs can.
- (ii) Due to the specialist nature of projects within The Fens it may not be possible to find enough suitable projects.

Property Flood Resilience Pathfinder Project

A £700k grant bid was made by a consortium of LLFAs. Confirmation of a successful bid is awaited.

Further details on the project can be found in Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder Evaluation Final Evaluation Report October 2015.

Further details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/29-million-extra-funding-to-boost-action-on-making-homes-more-resilient-to-floods>

Riparian Responsibilities

In order to raise awareness of and instigate discussion on an issue that causes difficulties for RMAs, including the Boards/Commissioners, primarily due to increased workload and costs, the County Council's Flood Risk and Biodiversity Team prepared an "Issues and Options Briefing Note" seeking changes to current practices that are inefficient and create inconsistency across the county in the use of public resources to address the issues associated with riparian assets. The document is currently being considered by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Cambs County Council Capitally Funded Highway Drainage Schemes

Schemes have been assessed and prioritised based upon level of flooding reported, ie high priority is property flooding or risk to life, low priority is highway only flooding and will be developed to provide estimated costs and prioritised to be delivered to available budget. There is an annual highway drainage budget of £1m, which needs to cover all staff, investigation, design and construction costs and, therefore, not all the schemes will be delivered in the current financial year.

The majority of investigation and design is delivered through Skanska or its supply chain, and managed by the County's Highways Projects team. Priority and funding are confirmed by its Asset Management team.

There are currently 22 schemes ongoing within Cambridgeshire, six of which are within the Fenland district but none are within the Commissioners' area.

District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) & Water Cycle Study (WCS) documents

Most of the SFRA and WCS documents are considered old and have not been updated as initially intended. All will require reviewing as supporting evidence when the respective District Council's Local Plans are updated.

A 'joint' County-wide document was suggested but was not considered possible due to the differing states of the various Local Plans across the County.

No reference was made to the funding arrangements for the provision of the updated documents.

Good Governance for Internal Drainage Board Members

In March and April 2019 ADA ran a series of five Good Governance Workshops for IDB Members. The recordings from these events are available as a series of training modules via the ADA website and can be found at the following link: <https://www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/governance/>

A copy of the slides used at the presentation can be found at the following link:

https://www.ada.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2019/04/Good_Governance_Workshop_Slides_2019.pdf

Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCA)

Following a problem encountered within North Level District IDB which required close liaison with Peterborough City Council, in its role as the Highway Authority, the possibility of arranging PSCAs with IDBs and Councils was raised but has not yet been concluded.

Updates on Highways England (HE) Scheme

The former areas 6 and 8 now form the East Region and the new term contractor is Ringway. The previous short-term Asset Support Contracts (ASC) have been replaced by a 15-year Road Investment Strategy (RIS) contract in order to ensure a consistent long-term approach.

Anglian Water Services Limited (AWSL) Price Review 2019 (PR19)

OFWAT like what is being proposed but not the associated costs. AWSL contends that it is trying to be “proactive and not reactive”. **Note: In order to reduce charges on its customers AWSL currently appears reluctant to incur any unnecessary additional costs beyond what it is obliged to accept.**

Requests have been made for suitable applications to be submitted to its project funding programme. It is hoped that a meeting with AWSL’s Flood Partnership Manager will be arranged soon.

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

Meetings were held in April and October and there are currently no known issues or “wet spots” within the Commissioners’ catchment.

The next meeting is due to be held during April.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan

Local Plan review 2016-2036

The relevant Borough Council’s web page advises that the submitted comments and suggestions are being reviewed with another version of the plan being issued for further consultation in line with its [Local Development Scheme \(LDS\)](#) will “to take place towards the end of the year/earlier next year.”

Local Plan review Programme 2019-2021

Local Plan Documents	2019				2020				2021			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec
Local Plan review (2016 – 2036)	E/C	C/D	D	D/E	F	G	G		H/I/J			
Housing & Economic Availability Assessment												
Authority Monitoring Report												

	Key Stages of Local Plan Preparation	Regulation
A	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation (completed 2016)	
B	Development of options – on-going engagement on issues and emerging options	
C	Publish and Consult on draft Local Plan	Regulation 18
D	Pre-Submission plan development	
E	Pre-Submission publication and consultation	Regulation 19 & 20
F	Submission of document to Secretary of State	Regulation 22
G	Examination (Including Hearing Sessions)	Regulation 24
H	Receipt of Inspectors Fact Check Report	
I	Receipt of final Inspector's Report	Regulation 25
J	Adoption	Regulation 26

Upwell Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2038

Both the draft and revised versions of the plan have been considered as part of public consultations held between 5 April – 24 May and 18 November – 13 January.

The plan is very Upwell village centric and given that only a very small portion of Upwell Parish Council is within the Commissioners’ area the response made on the Commissioners’ behalf was generic. Items of interest to the Commissioners include the Natural Environment, flood risk and prevention and maintenance of flood defences.

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

The Middle Level Commissioners’ Planning Engineer has represented both the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards/Commissioners on the Technical Group since the last Board meeting.

An article detailing the project was included on page 16 of the Summer edition of the ADA Gazette.

This can be found at <https://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5d1efbbc0a48b#16>

The project is further discussed under a separate Agenda item.

General Advice

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

- (a) N M Boor and Sons – An application for byelaw consent to pipe and fill 12 metres of private watercourse near Plantation Farm, Wimblington Road, Manea was recommended for approval.

- (b) A & E G Heading Ltd – An application for byelaw consent to install land drains, infill ditches and excavate a new ditch at Burgess Farm near Christchurch was received during the reporting period. During site visits water voles were found to be present in the ditch to be infilled and before further progress on the application can be made a proposal for mitigation works needs to be submitted and approved.

Consulting Engineer

21 January 2020

Manea & Welney (317)\Reports\January 2020

The Chairman referred to proposals for car parking at Manea railway station and the potential drainage problems raised which would need taking into account. Councillor Marks reported that drainage was raised as an issue when the planning application was discussed and it was requested that the Developer liaise with the Drainage Authority concerning the proposals.

RESOLVED

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

C.864 Pumping Stations

The Chairman reported that currently pumping station maintenance was carried out on a 1/4ly basis but as the District Superintendent had extensive mechanical expertise he considered the Commissioners could move to an Annual Inspection by the Consulting Engineers.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners change their current policy concerning the routine maintenance of pumping units to one per annum.

C.865 District Superintendent's wages, pension contributions and Future Labour Requirements

a) The Chairman reported that it was the intention to align the District Superintendent's wages with a equivalently qualified Middle Level Commissioners' employee and as such he suggested to reach this point, in view of other wages in the area, that there should be a 5% increase for 2020/2021.

Mrs Langley considered that a 5% increase would be appropriate for the coming year and that the Finance Committee should fully review the remuneration package at their next meeting.

Mr Walker considered the District Superintendent had a lot of additional mechanical skills and the Commissioners needed to show their appreciation for the works and skills provided to them.

The Chairman considered the Commissioners needed to properly review the remuneration package to ensure it was in line and reflected the skill sets of the District Superintendent and remained competitive within the area.

b) Consideration was given to the pension contributions of the District Superintendent for 2020/2021.

Mr Hill confirmed the current minimum contribution rates and those currently being made by both the employer and employee. The Chairman reported that it had been the Commissioners' policy to match the contributions paid by the District Superintendent and Mr Hill confirmed that currently he was unaware of any intention for the employee contributions to change. In view of this, the Chairman considered that the employer contribution of 6% should remain unchanged but that the matter continue to be reviewed and the policy to match contributions remain.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee:-

- i) That the wages of the District Superintendent for 2020/2021 be increased by 5% as from 1st April 2020.
- ii) That the Commissioners' pension contribution remain at 6% for 2020/2021 but they continue to be monitored to ensure the Commissioners' current policy of matching the employees contribution remains and that the Chairman be authorised to take any further action as he considers appropriate should there be further changes.
- iii) That the Finance Committee fully review the remuneration package of the District Superintendent at their next meeting to ensure it remains competitive.

C.866 Capital Improvement Programme

The Commissioners considered their future capital improvement programme.

The Chairman reported that the Commissioners would continue to monitor the pump drive units at Glenhouse pumping station and when they reach the end of their useful working life they would be replaced, the current proposals being with electrical units.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Capital Programme be agreed in principle and kept under review.

C.867 Conservation Officer's Newsletter

Mr Hill referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2019, which had previously been circulated to the Commissioners.

C.868 District Superintendent's Report

The Commissioners considered the Report of the District Superintendent.

The Chairman expressed the Commissioners' appreciation and thanks for the work of the District Superintendent.

RESOLVED

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

C.869 Maintenance Works in the District

The Chairman reported that approximately 98% of the works had been completed for 2019/2020 and that it was intended to continue the Commissioners' policy for 2020/2021.

C.870 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.

C.871 Environment Agency – Precept

Mr Hill reported that it was anticipated that the RFCC would set the increase for precept payment for 2020/2021 at 2.5%.

The Chairman reported that he had previously attended the EA/IDB Liaison Meeting but had not been informed about recent meetings and requested that he be notified about future meetings in order to represent the Commissioners.

C.872 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Mr Hill reported that the sum of £43.93 (£541.37 less £497.44 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Commissioners' actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2018/2019 together with the sum of £531.59 in respect of 80% of the Commissioners' estimated expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.

C.873 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Mr Hill reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2019, viz:- from £629 to £642.

RESOLVED

That the increased ADA subscription be paid for 2020

C.874 Parking at Glenhouse Pumping Station

The Chairman reported that there have been issues concerning parking by the residents at the Commissioners' former premises at Glenhouse Pumping Station but the matter was being dealt with by the District Superintendent and the Clerk.

C.875 Contribution from Developers

Mr Hill reported that a contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received.

C.876 Health and Safety

- a) Further to minute C.749(i), the Chairman reported that he had agreed to be appointed Health and Safety Officer at the Commissioners' meeting in June 2018.
- b) Further to minute C.845, the Chairman referred the Commissioners to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on the 30th September 2019. He advised that the District Superintendent was taking action in relation to the points raised in the report and that it was planned to hold a further meeting with Cope Safety Management in a month's time.

The Chairman reported that the Finance Committee had raised concerns over the lone working of the District Superintendent and had discussed the "What Three Words" app which could assist should an emergency situation arise. He reported that although the District Superintendent was confident with the current lone working provisions the Finance Committee's recommendation was that the use of the application should be investigated further.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to investigate the provision of the "What Three Words" application and take any further actions he considers appropriate.

- c) Mr Hill referred to the ADA Internal Drainage Boards' Health, Safety & Welfare Survey 2018.

C.877 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Commissioners – 2018/2019

- a) The Commissioners considered the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

RESOLVED

- i) That, after fully considering the internal controls put in place by their appointed administrators and the checks carried out by their appointed internal auditors, the Commissioners were satisfied that, in all significant respects, the internal control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority.
 - ii) That the present policies concerning risk management, budget monitoring and insured value of properties are adequate for the size of the business and that they be continued.
 - iii) That the Clerk and responsible financial officer review the internal audit strategy with the internal auditor to ensure the most appropriate method is in place to ensure the Commissioners continue to comply with the Internal control objectives to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority.
- b) The Commissioners considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

The Chairman reported on the Internal Audit Report's specific comment concerning the valuation of the Old Glenhouse pumping station and informed the Commissioners of the

methodology used for the valuation. Mr Hill reported that when completing this financial year's accounts consideration would be given to how the asset was to be shown on the balance sheet.

Mr Hill reported that the Finance Committee had also raised concern that the Internal Auditors Management letter was addressed to the Middle Level Offices and not directly to the Commissioners and they requested that the Auditor be informed that the Commissioners require direct notification of their report. He confirmed that he had contacted the Auditor who had agreed to the request.

C.878 Defra IDB1 Returns

Mr Hill referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2018/2019 and to the letter from the Minister and Annual report summary and analysis received from Defra dated August 2019, which the Commissioners noted and approved.

C.879 Review of Internal Controls

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

C.880 Risk Management Assessment

a) Mr Hill reported that it was necessary every 4-5 years to consider the formal Risk Register and in between times to judge the risks when considering the Consulting Engineer's and other reports and when setting budgets and rates/special levies. He advised that these risks had been analysed by the use of the Risk Matrix and added that, although the risk registers for IDBs very rarely changed, they would change over time and it was important for Boards to consider formally and that consideration was due this year.

The Commissioners considered their Risk Register.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee that the Risk Register be approved and kept under review and the policy to review risk between formal reviews be continued.

b) The Commissioners considered the insured value of their buildings.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineers instructions be used for the insurance values for the Commissioners' pumping stations from the 1st April 2020.

Purles Bridge pumping station	-	£735,000
Glenhouse pumping station	-	£1,530,000
Old Glenhouse buildings	-	£300,000

C.881 Exercise of Public Rights

Mr Hill 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.

C.882 Payments to 31st December 2019

The Commissioners considered and approved payments amounting to £140,582.50 which had been made between the 1st April and the 31st December 2019.

(NB) – The Chairman, Messrs Hartley, Heading and Sutton declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

C.883 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2020/2021

The Commissioners considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2020/2021 and were informed by Mr Hill that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 72.15% and 27.85%.

The Chairman referred to the review carried out by the Finance Committee and their recommendation to setting a 40.0p in the £ rate.

In response to Mr Heading, Mr Hill reported that the figures had been updated following recent rainfall and the Finance Committee considered the proposals still remained robust and relevant.

RESOLVED

That the Commissioners approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee:-

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £189,782 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £136,851 and £52,931 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 40.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v)
 - a) That a Special levy of £33,165 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
 - b) That a Special levy of £19,766 be made and issued to the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.
- vi) That the seal of the Commissioners be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levies referred to in resolution (v).

vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

C.884 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.

C.885 Date of next Meeting

Mr Hill reminded Members that the next meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Wednesday the 10th June 2020 (following which the District Inspection will be held). The venue to be confirmed by the Chairman.