

## SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board  
held at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Swavesey on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### PRESENT

K Wilderspin Esq (Chairman)	W Handley Esq
J E Dodson Esq (Vice Chairman)	Ms A Malyon
Mrs S Dodson	Miss H Parish
N K Stroude Esq	

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Richard Lloyd (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance. Mr Iain Smith attended as a member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed Iain Smith, former Clerk to the Board, who was attending the meeting as a member of the public and gave him permission to comment on any agenda item he felt appropriate.

### B.953 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.

The Chairman declared an interest in the Superintendent's Fee and payments.

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in minute nos. B.959 and B.963.

Mr Stroude declared an interest in minute no. B.959.

### B.954 Confirmation of Minutes

### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

### B.955 Installation of telemetry

Further to minute B.921(v), the Chairman introduced Richard Lloyd, the Middle Level Commissioners' Mechanical and Electrical Engineer. The reason why he had invited him was to advise the Board on telemetry and level control. The Chairman reminded Members that the brackets that held the probes in the water had deteriorated and he had invited Richard Lloyd to the meeting to discuss the options to the Board.

Mr Lloyd advised that the Board had three options:-

1. To replace the brackets at a cost of £1,500.

2. Replace the probes with ultrasonic probes at a cost of £2,000 which would have a life expectancy of 20-25 years.
3. Introduce a telemetry system and advised that the Pulsar system could be installed at a cost of £4,000 which would include installation costs. This would enable the Board to see the level of the drain on the internet and could reduce the number of trips that were needed to the pumping station to check on levels.

#### RESOLVED

That a telemetry system at a cost of approximately £4,000 be installed.

#### B.956 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2017/2018

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

#### RESOLVED

- (i) That in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations the minutes record that approval of the accounts was given on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- (ii) That the Chairman was authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

#### B.957 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Miss McShane reported that South Cambridgeshire District Council had appointed Councillors Ms Alex Malyon and Bill Handley to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Miss McShane also reported that Councillors Brian Burling and Nick Wright were not re-appointed.

The Chairman welcomed both Members to the meeting and both Councillor Malyon and Handley expressed an interest in carrying out a visit around the Board's area to see how the drainage system worked.

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered by Councillor Burling be recorded in the minutes and conveyed to him together with their best wishes for the future.
- ii) That the Chairman take the two new Councillors for a tour of the District on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 10.00am.

### B.958 A14 Improvement Scheme

Further to minute B.874, the Chairman reported that the improvement scheme was not supposed to impact on Swavesey but at a public inquiry into the proposed work, the Board's concerns were not met. The Chairman requested the Consulting Engineer raise this with Cambridgeshire County Council at the next liaison meeting and enquire whether any water does actually flow from the A14 into the Board's area.

### RESOLVED

That, at the next CFRMP meeting, the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer liaise with Cambridgeshire County Council to confirm that no surface water would enter the Board's drains.

### B.959 Proposed Northstowe Development and other developments draining to Uttons Drove STW Northstowe and Effluent Discharge to Swavesey Drain

a) Further to minute 913(a), Miss McShane reported that she had contacted Paul Quigley to obtain an update on this development but had been advised that Paul Quigley had now left the local authority. She would make contact with his replacement and give any feedback to the Chairman.

With regards to Phase 3B, the Chairman and the Consulting Engineer had had a dialogue with the Developers and Phase 3B waters would go into the Swavesey Drain. A meeting had been arranged between the Environment Agency and Hilary Ellis of Cambridgeshire County Council and the Chairman when it was agreed that the Developers would pay for flood attenuation for Phase 3B and he advised that the Board would make an objection if water was to go to a balancing pond that did not take account of the catchment and the operation of Webbs Hole Sluice. It had been verbally agreed with HCA that they would pay for Graham Moore's fees for his advice and involvement.

It was anticipated that Phase 3B would be submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council for planning approval in the autumn.

b) Effluent Discharge to Swavesey Drain

Further to minute B.913(b), Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had advised that this matter was being led by South Cambridgeshire District Council with the Developer and this enquiry would be addressed to Mr Quigley's replacement at South Cambridgeshire District Council.

### RESOLVED

That the Assistant Clerk/Solicitor contact South Cambridgeshire District Council and make contact with Paul Quigley's replacement to obtain an update on this development.

(NB) - The Vice Chairman and Mr Stroude declared interests as landowners potentially affected by the scheme.

### B.960 High Level Stewardship Scheme – Mare Fen

Further to minute B.914, the Chairman reported that there was nothing further to discuss on this matter. The proposal had been for a nature reserve to improve environmental factors but no grant was available from Defra so this scheme will not happen.

#### RESOLVED

That this matter can now be removed from future agenda items.

### B.961 Works to the bank of the River Great Ouse

Further to minute B.915, the Chairman reported that Swavesey has at least 100 houses at risk of flooding and needs to reinstate the bank of the Ouse to design level. The Chairman reported that the Environment Agency had already carried out modelling with a cost of at least £50,000. The RSPB as landowners would provide scrapings from their land for the bank. Discussions were ongoing with Ryan Ely of the Environment Agency about the Board carrying out the works under a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement and there were ongoing discussions regarding this.

#### RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

### B.962 Outstanding drainage rates

Further to minute B.917, Miss McShane reported that it had not proved possible for the bailiffs to levy any distress of goods to satisfy the amount of £1,770.25 which remained outstanding.

#### RESOLVED

That the arrears are not written off and the matter be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board.

### B.963 Electric fence connection to pumping station energiser

Further to minute B.918, Miss McShane reported that she had had discussions with the Chairman and Mr Dodson, Vice Chairman, about the agreement that was needed for the electric fence connection to the pumping station and that a draft agreement would be sent to the Chairman for approval.

#### RESOLVED

That the Assistant Clerk/Solicitor send the draft agreement for approval to the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(NB) – The Vice Chairman declared an interest when this item was discussed.

#### B.964 Visit to St Germans

Further to minute B.919, the Chairman reported that it had not proved possible to arrange a site visit to St Germans Pumping Station during the past year but it is hoped that this could be arranged in the forthcoming year.

#### RESOLVED

That the Clerk to the Board provide some dates to members of the Board for a visit to be arranged as soon as possible. Refreshments or a lunch to be arranged before the visit.

#### B.965 Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.630, Miss McShane reported that as this matter affects all Boards, and to ensure efficiency and to minimise costs, work on revising the Byelaws has been held until all Boards administered by the Middle Level Commissioners have determined their wishes. Now that this objective has been achieved work is commencing and a bulk submission of revised Byelaws will be submitted for consideration by Defra accordingly, probably this Spring.

#### B.966 Policy Statement

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.967 Requirements for a Biosecurity Policy

Further to minute B.935, the Board considered their Biosecurity Policy.

#### RESOLVED

That the Biosecurity Policy be adopted.

#### B.968 Defra consultation on the rating system

Iain Smith had attended the meeting at the request of the Chairman to update the Board on matters from his new position as the IDB representative on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

Mr Smith referred to the consultation on the management of water which had a closing date of the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and he reminded Members that the present system of rating goes back to the rating system at the end of the 1980's and this was preventing new IDBs being created in areas where they were needed, such as Somerset Levels and Cumbria. This consultation may ultimately result in changes to the special levy and drainage rates and a new system of rating for business rates and Council tax.

## B.969 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a meeting of the Chairmen of all of the Middle Level Commissioners' administered Boards met on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to discuss the challenges facing Boards. Innes Thomson, Chief Executive of ADA, spoke on the arrangements adopted by other Boards around the country.

Matters raised included:-

- 1) Advantages, disadvantages and barriers to amalgamation.
- 2) Future meetings and the opportunity for Boards to request items be added to the agenda.
- 3) Reviewing Board membership numbers.
- 4) Frequency of Board meetings.

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

That the next administered Boards Chairs Meeting will be held on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and invitations will be sent out shortly.

ii) Association of Drainage Authorities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) Annual Conference

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

RESOLVED

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

b) 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 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

c) Floodex 2019

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

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 had been issued to each Member and will be available at the ADA stand at the Floodex event. It can also be downloaded from the ADA website.

That in March and April 2019, ADA will be running a series of free workshops in relation to Good Governance at which ADA hope to see as many Board Members as possible. The nearest workshops for this area are:-

- Marriott's Warehouse, Kings Lynn (19<sup>th</sup> March)
- Deafblind UK Conference Centre, Peterborough (28<sup>th</sup> March)

That there is also a workshop in London at the CIWEM Venue Farringdon (3<sup>rd</sup> April) for those who cannot attend a local workshop.

iii) 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.

iv) 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.

v) 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.

vi) Anglia Farmers

Further to minute B.945, Miss McShane confirmed that the running of the remainder of the Anglia Farmers electricity contract had been monitored and she was pleased to report that the service provided had improved.

She added that 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.

Miss McShane advised that a verbal report was presented to the Middle Level Commissioners at their recent Board meeting and, based on the results of the pricing comparison exercise and in view of the service provided by Anglia Farmers having improved, the Middle Level Commissioners resolved to remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

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

RESOLVED

That the Board remain with Anglia Farmers for a further contract period post 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.



B.970 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

The Board considered the Report of the Consulting Engineers and noted the weed and control maintenance carried out by the District Superintendent, including the application of herbicide treatments to control the emergent aquatic weeds in the District drain, viz:-

## **Swavesey I.D.B.**

### **Consulting Engineers Report – January 2019**

#### **Weed Control and Drain Maintenance**

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

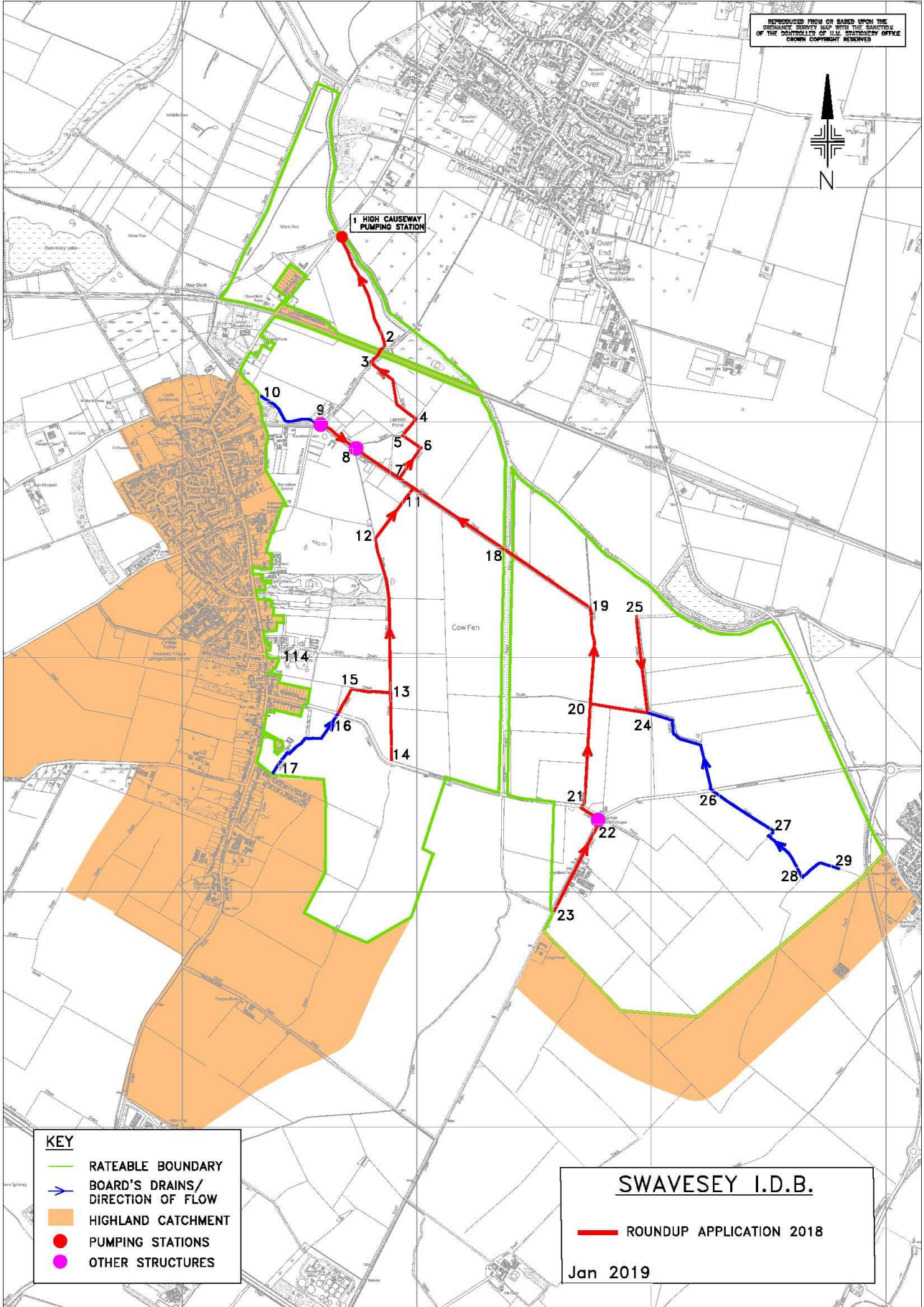
Roundup herbicide treatments were applied (during the early summer, with a follow up application during the autumn months) where required within the Board's district drains to control stands of emergent aquatic weed and vegetation growing within the dry and semi-dry drain beds. Please refer to the site plan on the following page for treatment locations. A sum has been included within the estimated costs to undertake herbicide applications throughout the district again this year.

The Board's flail mowing requirements were undertaken by Lattenbury Services Ltd. At the Chairman/Superintendent's request, Lattenbury will be approached to undertake the flail mowing of Board's drains again this year. A sum has been included within the estimated costs to cover this work.






Following an exceptionally warm dry summer last season, many of the Board's drain beds dried out. This reduced pumping requirements and water conveyance for the majority of the season. As emergent weed within the channel beds has already been treated with a Roundup application, the watercourses are deemed to have retained their general good condition and no apparent machine cleansing is required at this time. To this end, and with the Chairman's/Superintendent's approval, a late spring/early summer joint inspection of the Board's drains will be undertaken again this year. The inspection should highlight herbicide application requirements, and give an opportunity to forward plan any other works required to maintain the Board's drains to a satisfactory standard.

Provisional sums based on previous year's machine cleansing expenditure and culvert cleansing/piling works, have been allocated within this report.


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**KEY**

-  RATEABLE BOUNDARY
-  BOARD'S DRAINS/  
DIRECTION OF FLOW
-  HIGHLAND CATCHMENT
-  PUMPING STATIONS
-  OTHER STRUCTURES

**SWAVESEY I.D.B.**

 ROUNDUP APPLICATION 2018

Jan 2019

The estimated cost of this year's anticipated drain maintenance and weed control programme is as follows.

£

1) Roundup applications to control emergent aquatic vegetation in District drains	Item	Sum	1500.00
2) Provisional Item Allow sum for machine cleansing work to Board's drains as required	Item	Sum	2500.00
3) Provisional Item Allow sum for emergency works including bank piling or culvert headwall repair works	Item	Sum	1000.00
4) Allow sum for flail mowing of District drains and hedge cutting	Item	Sum	3400.00
5) Fees for preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum	650.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£9,050.00</b>

Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they will not be held responsible for the efficacy of any treatment.

**Pumping Station**

Only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition. The only exception being the level probe brackets which are badly corroded and ready to break away from the wall and hence require urgent attention.

**Pumping Hours**

Hours Run	9/1/18 - 16.1.19	12/1/17 - 9/1/18	11/1/16 - 12/1/17	21/1/15 - 11/1/16	6/1/14 - 21/1/15	28/1/13 - 6/1/14
Pump 1	173	92	101	2	227	3
Pump 2	191	80	71	173	801	295

**Planning Applications**

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 13 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

<b>MLC Ref.</b>	<b>Council Ref.</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Type of Development</b>	<b>Location</b>
336	S/4267/17/FL	Mrs S Ballard	Residence (Extensions and garage conversion)	Moat Way, Swavesey
337	S/4312/17/FL	JW Burgess & Son Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
338	S/4419/17/FL	Mr R Harrison	Residence (Extensions)	Black Horse Lane, Swavesey
339	S/0015/18/DC	Mr & Mrs Smart	Residence	Over Road, Swavesey
340	S/0341/18/FL	Mr & Mrs Thompson	Residence (Extension)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
341	S/1565/18/OL	Mr P Thwaites & Dr S Denley	Residential (2 plots)	Taylor's Lane, Swavesey
342	S/1594/18/PN	J W Burgess & Sons Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
343	S/2265/18/FL	J W Burgess & Sons Ltd	Agricultural (Grain store)	Boxworth End, Swavesey
344	S/2315/18/RM	Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson	Residential (99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
345	S/2463/18/FL	B J Baker & Son	Commercial (Butcher)	Rose & Crown Road, Swavesey
346	S/2900/18/RM	Matthew Homes Ltd	Residential (30 plots)	Boxworth End, Swavesey*
347	S/3525/18/FL	Mr K Lee	Residence	Ramper Road, Swavesey
348	S/4273/18/OL	B J Baker & Son	Residence	Rose & Crown Road, Swavesey

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

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

- Mrs S Ballard - Extensions and garage conversion at Moat Way, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 336)
- Mr R Harrison - Extensions at Black Horse Lane, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 338)
- Mr & Mrs Smart - Residence at Over Road, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 339)
- Mr K Lee - Residence at Ramper Road, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 347)

The following application is outside the Board's area but discharges may increase flows in the Turn Bridge, Church End Drain, Swavesey Drain system:

- Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson (MLC Ref No 344)

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

*Demolition of farm outbuildings and the erection of up to 90 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point from Boxworth End with all other matters reserved except for means of access on land off Boxworth End, Swavesey - Client of L K Group /Gladman Developments Ltd & Burgess (MLC Ref No 293) & Gladman Developments Ltd & Burgess (MLC Ref No 313)*

**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.**

*Proposed development to the rear of Cygnus Business Park (Mill Farm), Middlewatch, Swavesey - Nationwide Ltd (MLC Ref No 123) and Starburst Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 182 & 243) and Starburst Property Ltd (MLC Ref No 305)*

Following a delay in responding, correspondence has been sent to the applicants' consultant, KingdomTP Consulting, requesting further details on water disposal and points of discharge when the site was in agricultural use. A response is currently awaited.

*Residential development comprising 18 market and 12 affordable units plus open space, children's play area and landscaping at 18 Boxworth End, Swavesey – Mr & Mrs R Hallidine (MLC Ref No 271) and Matthew Homes (MLC Ref No 346)*

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports a Reserved Matters Planning Application was submitted to the District Council in July.

In an effort to overcome the topography of the site the proposal features an unorthodox surface water drainage solution where the majority of the site flows towards the road at Boxworth End before being pumped in the other direction, discharging into a balancing pond beside the open watercourse. Whilst it is accepted that on occasion the use of pumps is necessary and appropriate, members of the Board may be aware of flooding caused by pump failure due to power outages which often occur during rainfall events. The use of pumps in this way is considered unsustainable by most RMAs.

In addition, little consideration appears to have been given to the balancing pond location, its long-term ownership, funding and future maintenance requirements.

Planning permission was issued, subject to the imposition of conditions just before Christmas.

*Residential development with associated access, infrastructure and open spaces at land south of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey – Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson (MLC Ref Nos 284, 291, 315 & 344) and Pegasus Group (MLC Ref No 285)*

A letter was received from the District Council in April advising that planning application S/0862/17/OL (MLC Ref No 315) had been withdrawn.

Planning application S/2315/18/RM (MLC Ref No 344), a Reserved Matters planning application, referring to the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of the development following the approval of the outline planning permission S/1027/16/OL (MLC Ref 291), was submitted to the District Council in June. Following an instruction from the Board's Chairman the application was considered and a letter sent objecting to the proposal on the Board's behalf in October.

Subsequent discussions with the applicants' engineering consultant, **Wormald Burrows Partnership** Limited (WBP), ensued including a meeting with representatives from WBP and Bloor Homes together with the Board's Chairman, as part of a paid post-application consultation procedure.

As with the Matthew Homes site above, the timing of any discharge entering the downstream systems together with the design and the long-term ownership, funding and future maintenance requirements of the proposed balancing pond are the main concerns.

Planning permission was granted subject to the imposition of conditions, including requesting details of both the maintenance and management of the surface water drainage scheme and the automatic sluice valve and telemetry, in December.

*Residential development on land to the rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey - Swavesey Ventures Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 294 & 310)*

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports, discussions were held with the applicant's engineering consultant, Conisbee Consulting Engineers, during April concerning the use of a pumped discharge into the adjacent Award Drain.

Due to the complexity of the site it was requested that any further discussion be undertaken as part of our detailed post-application consultation process but no further instruction or correspondence have been received.

*Erection of 56 dwellings including new access at field north of Home Close and west of Moat Way, on land north of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey - Laragh Homes Ltd (MLC Ref No 314)*

This planning application was refused by the District Council in February 2018 for the following reasons:

“1. The Local Plan examination is at an advanced stage. The development proposed, of itself and when considered cumulatively with other development is such that its effect would be so significant that to grant permission would undermine the plan-making process by predetermining decisions about the scale, location or phasing of new development that are central to the emerging Local Plan. As such, to grant planning permission would be premature in the context of the current stage of the local plan process. This adverse impact individually as well as when taken together with the flood risk identified in reason for refusal below, significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposed development, including in terms of delivery of housing (including affordable housing).

2. Part of the site lies within an area of high flood risk (Flood Zone 3). The application has failed to demonstrate by means of a suitable Sequential Test that the development could not be located elsewhere with a lower probability of flooding. The development is therefore contrary to policy NE/11 of the adopted Local Development Framework which requires applications for planning permission to be judged against national policy, in this case paragraphs 100, 102 and 103 of the National Planning Policy Framework.”

The applicant lodged an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in May but this was subsequently withdrawn in September following the issuing of the Planning Inspector's Report on the Local Plan on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, which formally demonstrated that the District Council had a five year housing land supply.

## **Northstowe**

The Commissioners' Planning Engineer and the Board's Chairman, together with representatives from the LLFA and the EA, attended an Interactive Workshop on Phase Three of Northstowe in November.





Amended extract from the Northstowe Framework Masterplan August 2012 showing the extents of Phase 3

Discussions with these RMAs and the developer's engineering consultant, Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd, were initiated and it is planned that this will continue in the forthcoming months to ensure that the Board's requirements are met.

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

The 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:

#### ***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>.

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***Emerging 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.

### ***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 ADDA Conference which is primarily aimed at new Board members. Five workshops have been organised including:

- Mariott's Warehouse, King's Lynn (19 March)
- Deafblind UK Conference Centre, Peterborough (28 March), and the
- CIWEM Venue, Farringdon, London (3 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/>

### ***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.

### ***RMA support & the Delivery of projects***

Following concerns raised by IDBs and other RMAs the EA has engaged RMA support to assist in the delivery of projects. Funded by the Local Levy and based at Ely it is understood that they will be the Commissioners'/Boards' point of contact.

### ***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. 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 following projects:

(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.

### ***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.

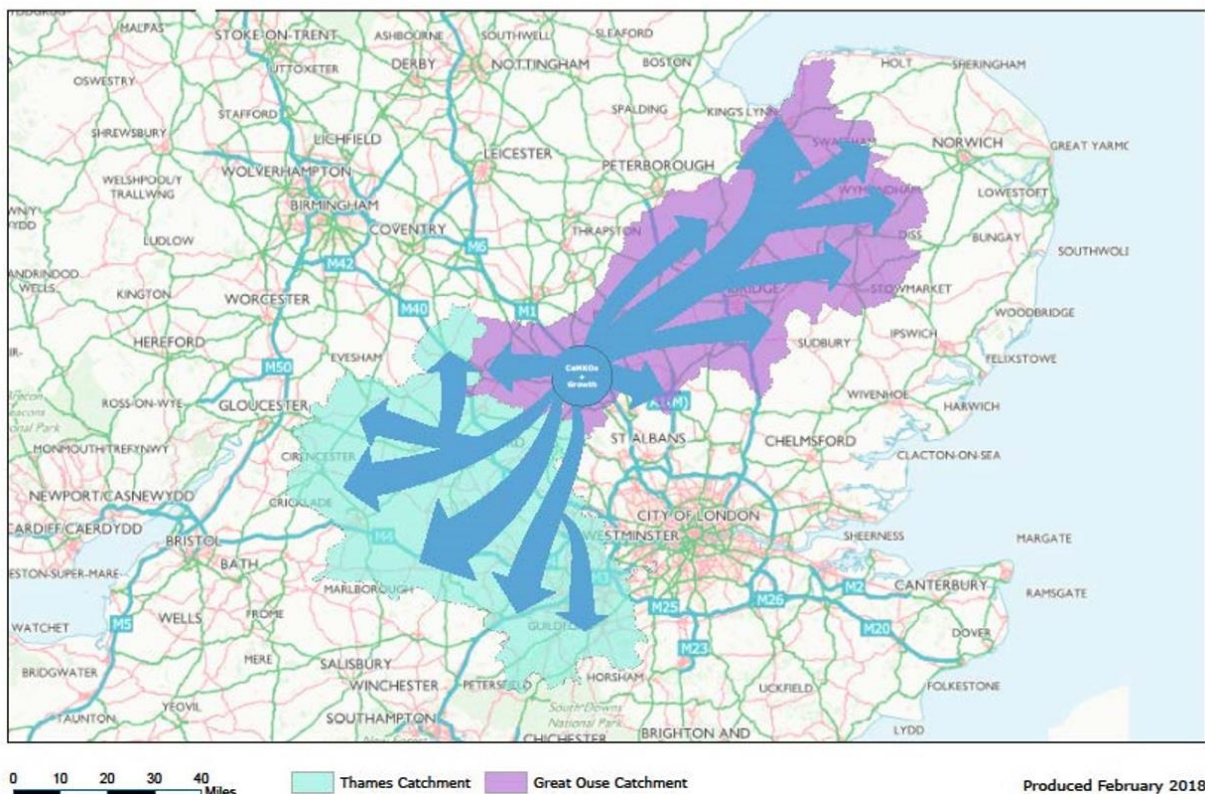
The recent inaugural LLFA/AWSL/MLC Liaison meeting was briefly discussed. The EA expressed an interest in joining this group.

## 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).

**Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKOx) : Growth Corridor**  
Catchment of River Thames and River Great Ouse



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

## 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 FRCC wants us to all understand each other's projects better. They would particularly like it if the FRCC 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 Partnerships 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.

### **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 Commissioners and IDBs operate.

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

### **Flood Risk Management (FRM) for the Fens Technical Group**

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 in February, 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.

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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](http://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



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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](mailto:Claire.Bell@Environment-Agency.gov.uk)).

Yours sincerely

**Paul Burrows**  
MCIWEM CWEM CEnv

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

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[gov.uk/environment-agency](http://gov.uk/environment-agency)

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*

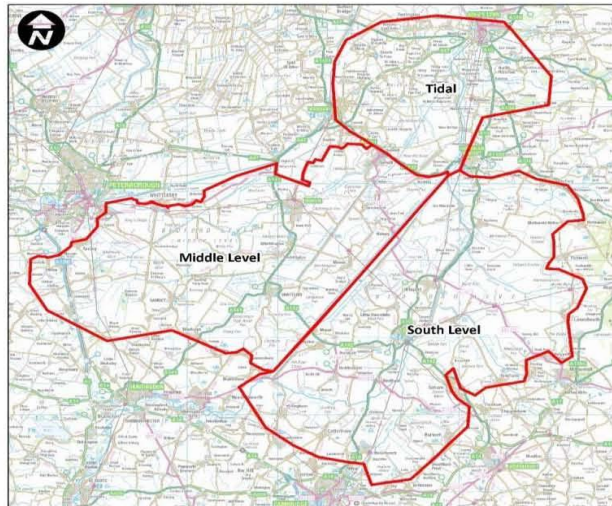
It is understood that there is a significant variation in the types of schemes which may be eligible for FCERM GiA funding. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that the attention given to investigating a strategic approach should be proportional to the size of the scheme. Therefore, for smaller schemes (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



## **South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City SFRA**

The relevant webpage on the District Council's web states that "An update of the SFRA is planned for Spring 2012." No further progress has been made concerning an update of the SFRA.

## **South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Local Planning Policy**

**NB. The Local Plan (sometimes referred to as 'The Local Development Plan') is a set of policies and land allocations prepared by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that provides guidance upon future development within its district.**

### ***South Cambs Local Plan (SCLP)***

Further to previous reports correspondence was received from the District Council in October advising that:

"Notice is hereby given in accordance Regulations 17, 26 and 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) that the **South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018** was adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council on **27 September 2018**.

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination in March 2014. This examination was conducted between March 2014 and August 2018. The Inspectors' Report concluded that, with the recommended main modifications which are set out in their report, the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan satisfies the requirements of Section 20(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework. The adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 incorporates these main modifications, as well as some additional modifications that do not materially affect the policies, pursuant to Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

A list of the main and additional modifications which have been adopted and which form part of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan may be viewed via the following link: [www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan2018](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan2018)."

## **Cambridge Water Company (CWC) Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)**

**Note** A WRMP is a document required by Government of every water company which describes how it proposes to maintain the balance of supply and demand over the next 25 years allowing for the influences upon its operation. These include an increasing population, economic growth, the changing climate and the need to protect the environment.

Further to the last meeting a Statement of Response (SoR) to representations received on the draft WRMP 2019 was published in August 2018. This can be viewed at: <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/media/2287/camstatement-of-response-to-dwrmp-2019.pdf>.

The SoR shows how CWC has addressed the points raised in the consultation period by regulators and other interested parties, and how it will be revising its final WRMP.

Where necessary, CWC has addressed the points made by making changes in its revised draft WRMP, published alongside the SoR, however it does not consider its revised draft WRMP to be the final 2019 WRMP.

### **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.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

- f) There should be greater awareness of potential supply chains and scope for collaboration within the region.



g) 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.

Consulting Engineer

31 January 2019

Swavesey(360)\Reports\January 19

With regard to the development at Boxworth End, Swavesey (MLC Ref Nos 293 & 313), the Chairman advised that this development had been subject to a public inquiry and the application had now been refused on appeal and that no further action needed to be taken on this matter at the present time.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.

B.971 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.972 District Superintendent's Report

The District Superintendent reported that the drains were generally in good condition except for rabbit damage and invasive weeds. As there had been no further land slips, no further expenditure needed to be allocated at the present time.

Members thanked the District Superintendent for his hard work on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED

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

B.973 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, together with the information sheets about floating pennywort.

B.974 District Superintendent

- a) Record of hours worked

Miss McShane reported that Mr K Wilderspin had worked 67 hours as District Superintendent between February 2018 and January 2019.

b) Fee

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

RESOLVED

i) That the Board agree that the sum allowed for the services of the District Superintendent for 2018/2019 (£1,683.00) be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award for 2019/2020.

ii) That the Board's thanks to the District Superintendent for his work over the last 12 months be recorded in the minutes.

c) Telephone Expenses

The Board gave consideration to the appropriate reimbursement of telephone expenses incurred on the Board's behalf.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of up to £80 be allowed for telephone expenses incurred on behalf of the Board by Mr Wilderspin.

d) Casual Labour

The Board gave consideration to the use of casual labour that may be required during the year.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice Chairman be authorised to engage such casual labour as they consider appropriate up to a limit of £200.

(NB) – Mr Wilderspin declared an interest in all items save d) and left the room when these items were discussed.

B.975 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.976 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss McShane reported that the RFCC have set the increase for precept payment for 2019/2020 at 5% (the precept for 2018/2019 being £1,669).

### B.977 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

- (a) Miss McShane reported that the sum of £3,785.28 (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency (£3,952.89 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2018/2019 less £167.61 overpaid in respect of the financial year 2017/2018).
- b) Further to minute B.928(b), Miss McShane referred to the discussions with the Environment Agency over the monies likely to be available to fund highland water claims.

#### RESOLVED

That the position be noted and the situation kept under review.

### B.978 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

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

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the increased ADA subscription be paid for 2019
- ii) That the Clerk contact ADA with their names and addresses of Board Members to ensure that future publications of the Gazette were delivered to them.

### B.979 Health and Safety

- a) Further to minute B.933, Miss Parish reported that she had almost completed the risk assessment on behalf of the Board and the health and safety questionnaire supplied by the Middle Level Commissioners and would discuss any actions required with the Chairman.
- b) Miss McShane reported that at the autumn Middle Level and Associated Drainage Board's Chairs meeting, a request was made to seek to either take on an additional employee or employ a contractor to specifically support the Drainage Board's to help them meet their legal Health and Safety requirements and also deliver the specified requirements of the Board's insurers who are calling for evidence that appropriate measures are in place to manage Health and Safety. Quotes are being sought but at this time costs are not available and of course the cost per Board is likely to be reflected by take up of any offer made.

The Board was asked to consider if it was interested in this service offer and if the decision to finally commit can be delegated to a member or members of the Board.

#### RESOLVED

That a decision be made once the Board had been made aware of the likely costs of the service.

### B.980 Proposed Bank Raising works

The Chairman reported that £50,000 had now been spent on modelling and the Environment Agency were to progress the scheme.

### B.981 Charging for Environmental Permits

Miss McShane reported on the consultation on charging for Environmental Permits which closed on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. It is suggested within the consultation that charging should be designed to recover costs and as such there may be significant increases in the charges for obtaining Environment Agency permits for some IDB activities which require such consents. ADA have responded on behalf of the industry and their response is available on their website, [www.ada.org.uk/2018/01/ada-responds-environment-agency-charge-proposals-2018](http://www.ada.org.uk/2018/01/ada-responds-environment-agency-charge-proposals-2018).

### B.982 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2018/2019

Miss McShane reported that in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, Internal Drainage Boards' accounts were required to be approved by resolution on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### B.983 Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England

Miss McShane referred to the recently issued Practitioners' guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory Annual Accounts and Governance Statements which will apply to Annual Returns commencing on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### B.984 Defra IDB1 Returns

Further to minute B.934, Miss McShane referred to a letter received from Defra dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and to the completed IDB1 form for 2017/2018.

### B.985 Review of Internal Controls

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

### B.986 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.

### RESOLVED

That no changes be made to the insured value at this time and the matter to be reviewed again at the next annual meeting.

### B.987 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

Miss McShane reported that as resolved at its' last meeting, the Board will continue with a limited assurance review and not take advantage of the audit exemption available for smaller public bodies with income and expenditure less than £25,000.

#### RESOLVED

To continue with a limited assurance review as has been carried out in previous years.

### B.988 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.989 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £2,576.48 which had been made during the financial year 2017/2018 (1<sup>st</sup> February – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018) and £22,441.75 made during the financial year 2018/2019 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019).

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to K & P J Wilderspin.

### B.990 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>Drainage rates</u>	<u>Special levy</u>
AREA 1	62.42%	37.58%
AREA 2	70.25%	29.75%
AREA 3	100%	-

#### RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £19,389 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 £13,091 and £6,298 respectively.
- iv) That drainage rates in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

AREA 1	-	70.0p
AREA 2	-	30.0p
AREA 3	-	10.0p

v) That a Special levy of £6,298 be made and issued to South Cambridgeshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special 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.991 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.992 Date of next Meeting

#### RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

#### B.993 Works required upstream of Webbs Hole Sluice

The Chairman referred to an email received from Brian Burling requesting that the Board carry out work to remove weed and silt from the area of Swavesey Drain upstream of Webbs Hole sluice. The Chairman reported that funds were available for this work from South Cambridgeshire District Council/Anglian Water/Environment Agency who by previous agreement had agreed to fund these works.

#### RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to contact the Environment Agency to ask that the work to remove the weed and silt from the drain at this point be carried out urgently.