

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board
held at the Lamb & Flag Public House, Welney on Monday the 20th January 2020

PRESENT

K Goodger Esq (Chairman)	S Hartley Esq
P Clabon Esq (Vice Chairman)	R G S Means Esq
H G Bliss Esq	A Quail Esq
S A Calton Esq	J Quail Esq
C J Crofts Esq	C N T Rose Esq
R D Gladwin Esq	B Scott Esq
G W Gowler Esq	D Scott Esq
C F Hartley Esq	W Sutton Esq

Miss Samantha Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Carl Nunn (District Foreman) were in attendance. Mr R Gott attended for part of the meeting.

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

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Kirk Esq, Messrs N & P Russell and P M Tegerdine Esq.

B.1827 Death of Mr Graham Nunn

The Chairman referred to the death of Mr Graham Nunn, Board's former District Foreman, on the 8th September 2019.

He informed Members that Mr Nunn had been District Foreman from January 1987 to August 2016.

B.1828 Death of Mr John Hartley

The Chairman referred to the death of the Board's former Chairman, Mr John Hartley, on the 3rd November 2019.

He reminded Members that Mr Hartley had been a member of the Board since April 1962 and had been Vice Chairman from May 1992 to May 1999 and Chairman from May 1999 to January 2015.

He had also served as Assistant District Officer from 1968 to 1971 and 1984 to 2005 and District Officer from 1971 to 1978 and 2005 to 2015.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect for both Messrs Hartley and Nunn.

RESOLVED

That the Board's appreciation of the services rendered by Messrs Hartley and Nunn be recorded in the minutes.

B.1829 Declarations of Interest

Miss Ablett reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

Mr Gladwin declared an interest in planning applications (MLC Ref 494) received for P J Farms Ltd.

Councillor Sutton declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council's Planning Committee.

Councillor Sutton and Mr Hartley declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in matters concerning the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1830 Confirmation of Minutes

With reference to minute B.1796, Councillor Crofts advised that the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk would remove fly tipped rubbish from public land, but not private land.

RESOLVED

That, subject to the amendment, the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 20th May and 17th June 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1831 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership

The Chairman reported:-

a) That the Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk had re-appointed Councillor C J Crofts and appointed Councillors S A Calton, J Kirk and C Rose to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

That Councillor Spikings was not re-appointed and Councillor Pope had resigned from the Council.

b) That Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillor W Sutton and appointed Councillor B Rackley to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Calton and Rose.

B.1832 Amendments to the Constitution

Further to minute B.1790, Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had drawn up a draft scheme for reconstitution to reflect the change in numbers to 17 elected Members. However, DEFRA had questioned why the Board was so large and had referred to guidance issued in 2006 recommending that, for smaller Boards, the number of Board Members should not exceed 13, resulting in a split of 10 elected and 3 appointed Members. In view of this DEFRA had enquired why 17 elected members were required and requested justification for the larger Board.

Miss Ablett advised that, on behalf of all IDBs, the Middle Level Commissioners had responded to the guidance issued in 2006 stating that the advice about numbers was irrelevant to the good running of the Boards and was a matter for each Board in terms of governance and local accountability.

The Chairman reported that, following discussions with the Assistant Clerk, both he and the Vice-Chairman now considered that, to allow for a fair representation of appointed Members, 14 was a more appropriate number of elected Members and that this number could be reached by natural wastage.

Miss Ablett advised that if the Board amended its constitution to 14 elected Members it may be necessary to have an election should this number not be reached voluntarily at that time. She also advised that the number of Members required for a quorum would need to be revised.

The Chairman asked for Members' thoughts on the matter.

Councillor Sutton enquired whether in view of the ongoing talks in respect of amalgamation amending the numbers of Members was now needed. The Chairman advised that talks were still at a preliminary stage so may take a number of years to finalise assuming amalgamation occurs.

After some discussion, Members agreed with the proposals of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED

That the number of elected Members be reduced to 14 and the number required for a quorum be reduced to 7.

B.1833 Water Transfer Licencing

Further to minute B.1764, Miss Ablett reported that the relevant licences have been applied for for the MLC and associated Boards and that these were being validated and then the EA have 3 further years to determine them. She also advised that it was worth noting that the EA have confirmed that only MLC system to IDB transfers do not require a separate licence.

B.1834 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Middle Level and South Level Barrier Bank works

Further to minute B.1766, Miss Ablett referred to the Newsletters from the Environment Agency dated May, September and December 2019.

B.1835 Worlds End Farm, Nordelph

a) Further to minute B.1791(i), Miss Ablett reported that, as agreed at the last meeting, no payment for compensation had been made and there had been no further communication of any concern to the Board.

b) Middle Level Commissioners' Legal Fees

Further to minute B.1791(ii), Miss Ablett reported that, with regards to the Board's resolution to seek recovery of the excess legal costs incurred by the Board from the Middle Level Commissioners, the Clerk had written to the Chairman advising that the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk was of the opinion that she had covered all options open to the Board and that the correct course of action had been taken.

The Chairman noted the contents of the response and stated that, in his opinion, progressing the matter further would incur significant cost without any certainty of success and hence recommended that no further action be taken.

RESOLVED

That no further action be taken to seek recovery of excess legal costs.

Mr Gott joined the meeting.

B.1836 Hales Drove, Old Croft River

Further to minute B.1792, the Chairman reminded members of the Boards previous discussions regarding the section of the Old Croft River behind the two Hampstead Cottages.

Miss Ablett reported that the Chairman had attended a site meeting with an engineer from Peter Brett Associates to discuss the options available to the Board and a copy of this report had been emailed to all members.

Having read the report the Chairman reported that both he and the Vice Chairman considered that, to avoid additional costs in the region of £2,000-£3,000 carrying out a geotechnical investigation and survey, the best course of action would be to widen the channel by 2 metres from Maywood Farm to the garden of the first cottage. The Chairman asked if Members had any comments.

Councillor Sutton enquired whether there would be risk of erosion behind the cottages if the channel was widened, as this could also be a problem.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be asked to advise the Board on the practicalities of widening the channel and whether there could be any risk of erosion behind the cottages.

B.1837 Site of former Shrub House, 46 Church Road, Christchurch – Planning Application F/YR15/0104F)

Further to minute B.1793, Miss Ablett reported that consent for the gravel access road had been issued. However, the Discharge consent application had not yet been dealt with as part of the contribution fee was still outstanding but she confirmed that payment of the outstanding balance had been requested in December.

B.1838 Roadway to Nordelph Pumping Station

Further to minute B.1794, Miss Ablett reported that the Land Registry document confirmed that the land was owned by Norfolk County Council who had granted the Board right of way over and along the private roadway. She confirmed that as the road was a private roadway and not a public one the Highways Authority was not responsible for its upkeep.

Miss Ablett also confirmed that the document stated both parties would share equally between them the cost of maintaining and repairing a portion of the road and that Upwell IDB would bear the full cost of maintenance of the section to the bank and to the pumping station.

Miss Ablett reminded the Board that it had been agreed, some years ago, that the County Council would supply planings and the Board would carry out the work to repair the road. She reported that although the road had been repaired last year it was again in need of some maintenance and enquired whether the Board wished for the Council to be contacted again requesting another delivery of planings so the Board's contractor could carry out the repairs.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Duncan Slaid of Norfolk County Council, County Farms Division requesting another delivery of planings so that the Board could arrange for the road to be repaired.

B.1839 Collection of Fly Tipped Rubbish

Further to minute B.1796, Miss Ablett confirmed that, as requested, a letter and enclosure relating to the collection of fly tipped rubbish had been sent to all ratepayers with the rate demands.

B.1840 Complaint regarding the administration of the Board

Further to minute B.1809, Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had written to the complainant who had subsequently contacted the Ombudsman regarding various issues. She advised that the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk had corresponded with the Ombudsman and supplied numerous documents and the Ombudsman had only recently confirmed that the complaint warranted an investigation. Miss Ablett confirmed that the Board would be kept informed of the situation.

The Chairman enquired what the consequence would be to the Board if the Ombudsman found in favour of the Complainant.

Miss Ablett advised that it was not possible to say at this time as it was dependent upon how much of the complaint was upheld and how serious it was thought to be.

B.1841 Structure under the Road at the Sixteen Foot River

Further to minute B.1822, Miss Ablett reported that the Middle Level Commissioners' Operations Engineer, Jonathan Fenn, and the Chairman had concluded that the most cost effective solution would be to fill the structure with clay. She confirmed that it had been agreed that the Middle Level Commissioners would supply the clay and the Board's contractor would carry out the work.

She advised that the Chairman was to speak with Jonathan Quail with regards to access but, due to adverse weather conditions, it had been much too wet to carry out the work and would therefore have to wait until after harvest.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman contact Jonathan Quail and the Middle Level Commissioners' Operations Engineer after harvest to arrange works.

B.1842 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett 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 Board 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.

ii) Applications for byelaw consent

That the following applications for consent to undertake works in and around watercourses have been approved and granted since the last general meeting of the Board:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date consent granted</u>
Frank Hartley & Sons	Piping and filling of approx. 20 metres of private watercourse with 450mm dia pipe to improve access to Ashtree House Horsehead Drove, Three Holes	3 rd September 2019
Mr & Mrs Gladwin	Formation of porous gravel access road and installation of pre-cast concrete headwall	14 th October 2019

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 Member who wishes to attend.

c) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association 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.1629(e), 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 Board contribute £100 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 Board 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.

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.

B.1843 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Upwell I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – December 2019

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters previously reported at the May 2019 meeting and that described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out.

Bedlam Bridge

At the end of October pump 2 starter failed, an initial investigation revealed the main contactor had welded closed and so was duly replaced. However, this revealed the underlying cause was a faulty inverter (internal short). The inverter has now been replaced and the station is operating at full capacity again.

Cock Fen

The Chairman has instructed the MLC to replace the rusting floor plates around the pump discharges within the station and to repair the broken outfall flap valve in the spring. The faulty alternator on engine 2 has been dealt with by the District Forman.

On 22.November an inspection revealed the cleaner trolley at Cock Fen had broken its end plate and very nearly traversed out of its track (see photo below). Metalcraft will be attending site in December and at the time of the Board meeting the situation should have been resolved.



Nordelph

The electricity meter remains faulty. The MLC continue to try to resolve the issue with the meter operator and supplier.

Padgets

As instructed by the Chairman MLC will replace the rusting guide rails in spring 2020.

Upwell Fen

By the date of the Board meeting it is anticipated that Lawtronic will have attended site and corrected the issue of the pump running on normal rate electricity.

Further to the last report the perimeter fencing is now complete as is the case for the hand railing around the intake.

As requested by the Chairman MLC will remove and repair the outfall flap valve, which is in a very poor state, in spring 2020.

Pumping Station Asset Appraisals

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

Bedlam Bridge



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Upwell
Commissioned	1948 (original diesel)
Refurbished	1980 (1 st Electric pump), 2006 (2 nd Electric pump installed)
Pumps	1 no. Allen Gwynnes 15" VSAF 1 no. Bedford Pumps VMFB
Duty	360 @ 4.2m TGH & 540 l/s @ 6.3 m TGH
Drive Motor	Newman and Marelli SC 30kW & 55 kW @ 970 rpm
Gearbox	Andantex Dual Drive on no.2
Control Equipment	Inter-lec Ltd
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Hydroranger 200
Weedscreen Cleaner	CW Engineering 5000 Series
Control Building	Brick with asbestos cement sheet roof
Telemetry	Yes
Fencing	2.3 metre high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Bedlam Bridge is one of five pumping stations in the Upwell Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain an area of arable land to the south of the village of Christchurch. The station discharges into the Sixteen Foot Drain.

The pumping station was constructed in 1948 and originally operated with two diesel engine driven Allen Gwynnes horizontal slit casing centrifugal pumps. An electric pump (pump 1) was installed in 1980 and replaced one of the diesel engine driven pumps. A second electric pump (pump 2) was installed in 2006, which replaced the remaining diesel engine driven pump. Pump 1 was overhauled in 2015 and both pumps appear to be in a satisfactory condition but are likely to need overhauling in 10-15 years.

Weedscreen



The weedscreen was replaced when the screen cleaning process was automated in 2006. The galvanised screen consists of 12mm bar sections at 65mm centres. It is in very good condition and provided that the automated cleaning process does not damage the screen it should have a further 30 years of remaining life.

The automatic weedscreen equipment was installed in 2006 by C W Engineering and consists of a monorail beam, trolley and grabber unit. It is in a satisfactory condition however it is likely to need a general overhaul in 3-4 years. The control panel for the unit is located in the control building.

Control House



The control building was constructed in 1949 and is of a brick construction with a metal rafter roof that has a sheet panel covering. The sheet panels are likely to be constructed of asbestos cement, any asbestos present at this site should have been identified within the Board's asbestos register, as required by the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

The brickwork has been coated in the past with a sealant to provide weather protection this coating is flaking badly and many areas of brickwork are now exposed leaving some brickwork damaged by rain and frost. The condition of the roof is unclear and needs inspecting thoroughly but it is likely that water can penetrate joints in heavy rain conditions. The building and possibly roof need urgent repairs to ensure they last as long as the pumping plant requires. The two manual isolation valves appear in good order and open and close satisfactorily albeit with a great deal of effort. It is recommended that they be exercised twice yearly as a minimum.

All of the windows have been bricked up in the past and lighting is now by artificial means with several fluorescent lights. The double wooden doors are likely to be the original ones installed and are in fairly poor condition. The fascia and rainwater goods are made of plastic and are in good condition but are in need of minor repairs (end caps etc).

Control Equipment/Pumps



The station was electrified in 1980 when a single Allen Gwynnes vertical spindle axial flow pump (pump 1 on the right) was installed. A second electric pump (pump 2 on the left) manufactured by Bedford Pumps was installed in 2006 and was coupled with a Newbrook gearbox to allow for power take off facilities in the event of power failure. With the exception of a new inverter in starter 2 only routine maintenance has been carried out recently and the pumping plant is considered to be mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

The control panel located in the control building was installed in 2006 and operates both electric pumps.

Pump 1 is now nearly forty years old but could have a further 10 years of life, more if general corrosion is not an issue. The control panel and second pump should easily last a further 20 years subject to ongoing repairs/overhauls.

The submergence between the pump's impeller and lowest land level is in the region of 2.5 metres, which should allow for future lowering of the water level to allow for the shrinkage of the surrounding ground and will be 15 – 25 years before consideration needs to be given to lowering the sump level.

The station is fitted with an Oriel telemetry system which needs attention if it is required to work reliably.

Fencing/Compound

The site is accessed off the main Sixteen Foot main road. The compound is laid to stone and is in reasonable condition but would benefit from sprucing up and should not require major expenditure for another 20 years.

The site is fenced with a 2.3 metre high galvanised palisade fence that has a double vehicular access gate. It is in good condition and should have a residual life of 20 years.

Electricity is supplied from a pole mounted transformer located adjacent to the compound.

Inlets/Outlets



The inlet area and wingwalls are constructed with sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The sheet steel piles are in fair condition but with signs of corrosion however they should last a further 30 years.

The concrete outfall bay is in a similar condition to the inlet and should last a further 30 years. However, the gate lifting structure should be assessed to make sure the chains are not likely to fail in the near future.



Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Bedlam Bridge
Internal Drainage Board	Upwell

Function Category	Description	Year 1 2020/21	Year 2 2021/22	Year 3 2022/23	Year 4 2023/24	Year 5 2024/25	Year 6 - 10 2025 - 2030	Year 11 - 15 2030 - 2035	Year 16 - 20 2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment							90k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment					10k				
Control Building			30k						
Compound and Surroundings									

Need

30k: general building and roof repairs
10k: Weedscreen cleaner overhaul
90k: Overhaul pump 1, replace pump 2 and upgrade to control panel

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

Cock Fen



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Upwell
Commissioned	1975
Refurbished	Pumps 2001 and 2002
Pumps	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 24" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C4/91745/1&2
Duty	1022 l/s @ 6.6m Total Gauge Head 600 RPM
Drive Motor	Chinese "Perkins" 1006TG diesel engines
Gearbox	Rossi RC 320FO2AS 3.15:1 with Van der Graaf Couplings
Control Equipment	Blackburn Starling, refurbished by E Rand 2003
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Hydroranger Ultrasonic
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	Brick with flat felted roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 metre high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Cock Fen is one of five pumping stations in the Upwell Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain an area of arable land to the northeast of the village of Welney and discharges via two pipelines into the Old Bedford River.

The pumping station was constructed in 1975 and was originally fitted with two Allen Gwynnes vertical spindle axial flow pumps driven by diesel engines through Hansen right angle reduction gearboxes.

Weedscreen



The weedscreen was replaced in 2018 and consists of 12mm thick bar sections at 50mm centres and is in an excellent condition.

Weed Screen Cleaner

A cleaner manufactured by Metalcraft (Chatteris) was installed in July 2018



Control House



The control building walls are of brick construction and the roof is constructed of woodcemail panel sections that have a roof covering of mineral felt. The roof is leaking and is due to be repaired shortly. It should be noted that should this material become wet through water ingress it can become fragile and unsafe. Crawling boards will then be required for access onto the roof when equipment is lifted through the roof hatches. The brickwork is generally in a good condition with no signs of spalling except there are no rainwater goods to the building and rain discharges through an opening in the parapet roof, this needs changing as it has led to brickwork damage.

The building has no windows and lighting is by artificial means using several fluorescent lights.

The door, which is constructed of metal, is in good condition and should last a further 20 years if maintained.

Control Equipment/Pumps



The control panel is old (1975) and in a poor condition, many of the components inside show signs of corrosion. The level controller failed in 2014 and was replaced with a second hand unit which whilst still working must have a limited life remaining. It is possible the existing panel carcass could be refitted with new components reducing replacement costs.



The pumps, diesel engines, gearboxes and control panel are located in the control building. The pumps discharge the flow via inverted siphons to the outfall in the Old Bedford River. Pump 1 was fitted with a new engine in 2010 and the pump overhauled in 2013. Pump 2 also had a new engine in 2010 with the pump being overhauled in 2012. The pumps are now 45 years old and are, therefore, potentially coming to the end of their design life however this is greatly dictated by the rate of general corrosion which is unknown at this juncture. They are likely to need overhauling in 10 years or replacing in the next 15 – 20 years.

During winter periods it appears that a water level of around 97.30 (to a level datum which is 100 metres below Ordnance Datum at Newlyn) is generally maintained to provide the required level of service to the present lowest land level. The minimum automatic stop level of the pump is approximately 96.00 metres. Therefore, at the normal winter retention level of approximately 97.30 metres, there is a further 1.3 metres scope for future lowering to allow for any shrinkage of the surrounding district and it is likely to be up to 20 years before consideration needs to be given to lowering the sump level or replacing the station.

The pumps were originally driven by Lister JA6 aircooled diesel engines. A Perkins TG1006 replaced the no 1 Lister during the early 1990s. Both have been replaced by Chinese built “Perkins” engines c/w with Rossi gearboxes.

The Vand der Graaf centrifugal couplings that transmit the drive from the engines to the gearboxes are no longer manufactured and as such spares are in short supply.

An estimate to provide an electricity supply to the station was provided in 2002 but found to be excessive and it was agreed that the present diesel operation would continue.

The bunded double skinned fuel tank manufactured by Koronka was installed in 2001 and is in good condition and should have a further 20 years life. The fuel pipework etc may require some improvement to comply with current Control of Pollution Regulations.

The ductile iron pipework is in reasonable condition. After the ductile iron pipework leaves the building it connects to thinwall GRP pipe the condition of which is suspect and could require early replacement.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

Access to the site is along a two kilometre long stone access track that has seen some deterioration over the last 10 years and could do with a little improvement.

The compound is largely unmade but is in reasonable condition.

There is a 2.1 metres high galvanised palisade fence around the perimeter of the site which is in very good condition with a further life of about 20 years.

Inlet



The inlet wing walls are constructed of sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The piles are in good condition and should last a further 30 years.

The inlet is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no signs of major spalling and should last a further 30 years.

Outlet

The outlet bay is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with a further 30 years of residual life. The two metal flapvalves are showing signs of rusting and often do not close properly and hence are due to be repaired during spring 2020.



Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Cock Fen
Internal Drainage Board	Upwell

Function Category	Description	Year 1 2020/21	Year 2 2021/22	Year 3 2022/23	Year 4 2023/24	Year 5 2024/25	Year 6 - 10 2025 - 2030	Year 11 - 15 2030 - 2035	Year 16 - 20 2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment				20k			150k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building		15k							
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry				10k					

Need

15k Building needs re-roofing and new guttering									
20k New control panel									
150k Replace engines and overhaul pumps									

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

Nordelph



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Upwell
Commissioned	1932 (Original Diesels)
Refurbished	1970 Electric Pump Installed, Overhaul In 2011
Pumps	1 no. Allen Gwynnes 24" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C4/74220
Duty	935 l/s @ 4.7m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Laurence Scott SC No 53516, 65kW @ 585 Rpm
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	BHI, Refurbished by Lawtronic 1991, Soft Start
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger Plus
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	Brick with Rendered Finish And Tiled Pitched Roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	None

General Comments

Nordelph is one of five pumping stations in the Upwell Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain to the south of the village of Nordelph. The station discharges into the Old Pophams Eau watercourse. It was originally built in 1932 with diesel driven pumps installed in the pump house. It was electrified in 1970 when a single Allen Gwynnes pump was installed.

Weedscreen



The main weedscreen has failed and so a second screen has been placed behind it and directly in front of the pump wet well.



Control House

The control building, which dates back to 1932, is in a generally poor state but seems to be structurally sound and would benefit from general repairs. The brickwork has been rendered and subsequently painted with a protective coating. This coating has not adhered to the rendering and little remains. Some of the windows have been removed and have been filled with what appears to be mass concrete.

The roof is constructed with steel rafters and the pitched roof is covered with what appears to be asbestos cement tiles. This should be confirmed by the Board's asbestos register.



The underside of the roof is lined with a timber cloak, which is in good condition and indicates that the roof is watertight.

The rainwater guttering is in poor condition with some of the downpipes missing which could cause water penetration into the building. The wooden fascia and eaves are in poor condition and are rotten.

The wooden entrance door is in a very poor state of repair with several panes of glass missing.

Although the building is in poor condition there is no indication of subsidence and it should last a further 20 years or more if maintenance work is carried out.

Control Equipment/Pump

The control panel was installed in 1970 and upgraded in 1991 and is now showing signs of deterioration. The starter is an early Safronics soft start which is surely near the end of its life however the carcass is still sound and the panel could re-fitted to save money.



The condition of the pump, which is over three-quarters through its original design life, appears to be reasonable for its age and it is likely that it could last up to a further 15-20 years as long as spare parts can be obtained or remanufactured. The pumpset was last overhauled in 2011.



During winter periods it appears that a water level of around 97.50 (to a level datum which is 100 metres below Ordnance Datum at Newlyn) is generally maintained to provide the required level of service to the present lowest land level. The minimum automatic stop level of the pump is

approximately 96.00 metres. Therefore, at the normal winter retention level of approximately 97.50 metres, there is a further 1.5 metres scope for future lowering to allow for any shrinkage of the surrounding district and it is likely to be 20 years before consideration needs to be given to lowering the sump level or replacing the station.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The compound is laid to grass and is in reasonable condition. The site is not fenced but vandalism is not an issue due to the remoteness of the site and that the Pump Operative lives in the adjacent bungalow. Fencing would need to be erected if the weedscreen cleaning process was automated.

Access to the site is along a 0.8 kilometre long stone access track, which is in reasonable condition although there are several potholes that need attention.

Electricity is supplied to the control building via overhead cables from a pole-mounted transformer located on the opposite side of the river.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles and backed with concrete. They are in reasonable condition with some signs of corrosion particularly at the water/air interface. They should last a further 25 years.

The inlet bay is constructed of concrete and was modified slightly when the electric pump was installed. It appears to be in reasonable condition with no major signs of deterioration.

The pump discharges into the Old Pophams Eau watercourse via partially exposed ductile iron pipework to a concrete outfall bay.



The outfall bay is in good condition and should last a further 30 years. However the steel flapvalve is missing and the station relies solely on the siphon breaker valve preventing back flow.

The inlet and outlet pipework are showing signs of corrosion but are likely to have a residual life of over 20 years.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Nordelph
Internal Drainage Board	Upwell

		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	2030 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement								1M	
Pumping and Control Equipment			15K						
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building						10k			
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need

1M: The station is nearing the end of its life and is likely to need major overhaul or replacement

15k: Panel is at the end of its life and soft start could potentially fail at any time, new back board recommended

10k: General building repairs

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

Padgetts Corner



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Upwell
Commissioned	1980
Refurbished	1995
Pumps	1 no. Flygt 3152 Submersible
Duty	120 l/s @ 4.5m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Integral Flygt
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	Flygt
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	GRP
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 m high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Padgetts Corner is one of five pumping stations in the Upwell Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain a small area of arable land to the west of Christchurch and discharges into the Sixteen Foot drain.

The station has a single submersible pump and was constructed in 1980.

Weedscreen



The weedscreen is manually raked and consists of 10mm thick bars sections at 50mm spacings. The weedscreen is badly corroded and needs replacing in the next 3-4 years.

Control House/Panel

The GRP control kiosk and control panel were replaced in 2015 and are both in a good condition.



Pump

The single Flygt submersible pump was replaced in 2012. Should a major failure occur with these types of pumps then it is usually more economical to replace with a new one. These pumps normally have a design life of 20 years; therefore, it is likely that the pump will need to be replaced in the next 15 years. Only routine maintenance has been carried out recently and the pumping plant is considered to be mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

The ductile iron pipework appears to be in good condition and should last a further 20 years however the pump guide rails are badly corrected and hence are scheduled for replacement in spring 2020.



The submergence between the pump's impeller and lowest winter level is in the region of 1.0 metre which does not allow for the levels to be lowered much in the future to allow for the shrinkage of

the surrounding land. However, as the area that drains to the pumps is quite small catchment shrinkage should not be too much of an issue.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The site is secured by a 1.8m high galvanised palisade fence that is in good condition and should last a further 30 years.

The site is accessed off the main road and there is a vehicle lay-by at the entrance. Access to the site is via concrete slab steps.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet and wingwalls are constructed of sheet steel piles. There are signs of significant corrosion but they should last a further 20 years when a station rebuild may well be the only option.



The outlet consists of sheet steel piles and the outfall pipe protrudes from the vertical face.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Padgetts Corner
Internal Drainage Board	Upwell

Function Category	Description	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025 - 2030	2030 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									300k
Pumping and Control Equipment		2k							
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment					6k				
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need

300k: station is in fair condition but rusting steel piles may necessitate replacement in 20 years
2k: new guide rails required
6k: new screen

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

Upwell Fen



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Upwell
Commissioned	1967
Refurbished	1976 (Motor and pump uprated), 2011 Pump overhauled
Pumps	1 no. Allen Gwynnes 18" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C4/91756
Duty	511 l/s @ 5.6 m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	LSE SC No 18231A1, 48kW @ 980 RPM
Gearbox	Newbrook SPL26 Dual Drive
Control Equipment	BH1 Direct on line
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	Concrete blocks with felt covered flat roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	None

General Comments

Upwell Fen is one of five pumping stations in the Upwell Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain an area of arable land to the south of the village of Nordelph and discharges into the Old Bedford River.

The pumping station was constructed in 1967 and was fitted with a single Allen Gwynnes pump. The pump, motor and control equipment were later uprated in 1976 to provide extra flow capacity.

Weedscreen



The screen was replaced in 2018 and is in an excellent condition.

Weedscreen Cleaner



Installed in 2018 the cleaner should last at least 30 years with an overhaul after 15 years.

Control House

The control building is the original one built in 1969 and is constructed of concrete blocks and is painted externally and internally. The roof is constructed of concrete sections and covered with mineral topped felt. The building is in reasonable condition with no cracking or subsidence. It should last a further 20 years before consideration needs to be given to its replacement.



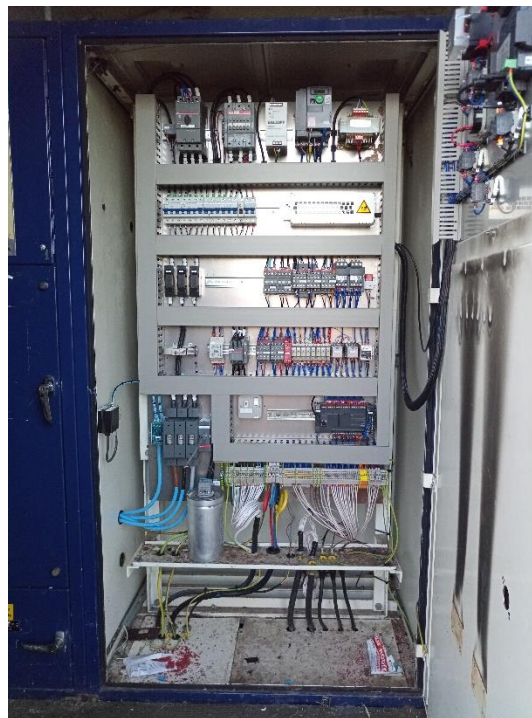
The building has no windows and lighting is by a single fluorescent light.

The door is constructed of timber and is metal lined. It is in reasonable condition and should last a further 10 years if properly maintained.

There are no fascia or rainwater goods to the station.

Control Equipment

The original control panel was upgraded in 2018 with a new backboard and components and should last at least another 20 years.



Pumps

The station pumps the inlet flow via an inverted siphon and through a 600mm concrete pipeline directly to the outlet located in the Old Bedford River. A gearbox is installed between the pump and motor, which can allow for an independent power source in the event of a power or motor failure. The pump and motor were updated in 1976 to provide increased flow capacity. The single Allen Gwynnes vertical spindle axial flow pump was last refurbished in 2011.



The difference between the submergence of the pump's impeller level and the current winter operating level of 97.10 is in the region of 1.1 metres which should allow for lowering of water levels in the future to allow for the shrinking district land levels and it should be 20 years before consideration needs to be given to lowering of the sump level.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The site is newly fenced with a 2.1 metres high galvanised palisade fence. The station compound is laid to grass and is in reasonable condition.

Access to the site is via a stone and grass track that over winter can get in a very poor condition this track requires improvement so that it is suitable for use by heavy mobile cranes and emergency service vehicles.

Inlet

The inlet wingwalls are constructed with steel sheet piles and are concrete capped. The piles are in good condition with only surface corrosion and should last a further 30 – 40 years.

The inlet is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no major signs of deterioration and should last a further 40 years.

Outlet

The outlet bay is constructed with reinforced concrete however at the time of the inspection it was completely submerged. It is however believed to be in reasonable condition and should have a residual life of 20 years. The flapvalve is badly corroded and is due to be repaired in spring 2020.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Upwell Fen
Internal Drainage Board	Upwell

Function Category	Description	Year 1 2020/21	Year 2 2021/22	Year 3 2022/23	Year 4 2023/24	Year 5 2024/25	Year 6 - 10 2025 - 2030	Year 11 - 15 2030 - 2035	Year 16 - 20 2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									750k
Pumping and Control Equipment							25k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need

750k: The pumping station will require a major refurbishment/replacement in 20-30 years time.

25k: pump overhaul

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

Pumping Station Valuations-Upwell I.D.B	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
Site Name	Upwell I.D.B-Bedlam Bridge Pumping Stn.
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	0.9 cumecs
Station built	1948 (original diesel)1980 (1 st Electric pump), 2006 (2 nd Electric pump installed)
Description of Station	1 no. Allen Gwynnes 15" VSAF (overhauled 2015), 1 no. Bedford Pumps 500 mm VMFB with Andantex Dual Drive gearbox.Motors Newman and Marelli SC 30kW & 55 kW @ 970 rpm.Brick control building with asbestos cement sheet roof
Valuation	
Civils Works	£568,683.00
M&E	£283,660.00
Other	£59,125.00
Total	£911,468.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump	£370,650.00
Hard standing	£2,118.00
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£79,425.00
Control building	£84,720.00
Other inc weedscreen	£21,180.00
M&E	
Pumps/gearbox	£130,920.00
Control Equipment/cabli	£49,095.00
Power Supply	inc in public liability
Motors	£16,365.00
Weedscreen raker	£87,280.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£26,875.00
Supervision	£16,125.00

Pumping Station Valuations-Upwell I.D.B

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	Upwell I.D.B-Cock Fen Pumping Stn.
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	2.05 cumecs @ 6.6m Total Gauge Head 600 RPM
Station built	1975 eningines & gearboxes replaced 2010? Pumps overhauled
Description of Station	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 24" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow driven by Chinese "Perkins" 1006TG diesel engines via Rossi RC 320FO2AS.Blackburn Starling auto controls refurbished by E Rand 2003 Brick pumphouse with mineral covered flat roof. (pump 1: new engine 2010, pump overhauled 2013). (Pump 2: new engine 2010, pump
Valuation	
Civils Works	£714,515.00
M&E	£332,755.00
Other	£64,500.00
Total	£1,111,770.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework	£423,600.00
Hard standing (new 2018)	£15,000.00
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£79,425.00
Pumphouse	£84,720.00
Other inc weedscreen	£21,180.00
Weed cleaner (new 2018)	£80,000.00
M&E	
Pumps	£152,740.00
Control Equipment/cablir	£38,185.00
Power Supply	Public liability cover
Diesel powerpacks fuelta	£81,825.00
Installation	£32,730.00
Gearboxes/couplings	£27,275.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£26,875.00
Supervision	£21,500.00

Pumping Station Valuations-Upwell I.D.B

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	Upwell I.D.B-Nordelph Pumping Stn.
Site Data	
No. Pumps	1
Station Capacity	0.94 cumecs
Station built	1970 Electric Pump Installed, Pump Overhaul In 2010 replaced Feb 11
Description of Station	No.C4/74220Laurence Scott SC No 53516, 65kW @ 585 Rpm. BHI Control Panel Refurbished By Lawtronic 1991, Soft Start. Brick With Rendered Finish And Tiled Pitched Roof
Valuation	
Civils Works	£513,615.00
M&E	£125,465.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	£682,080.00
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework	£370,650.00
Hard standing	
Fencing	
Outfall	£31,770.00
Control building	£74,130.00
Installation	£15,885.00
Other inc Weedscreen	£21,180.00
M&E	
Pump	£76,370.00
Control Equipment/cabli	£21,820.00
Power Supply	Public liability cover
Motor	£10,910.00
installation	£16,365.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station Valuations-Upwell I.D.B

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	Upwell IDB- Padgets Corner Pumping Stn.	
Site Data		
No. Pumps	1	
Station Capacity	120 l/s @ 4.5m Total Guage Head	
Station built	1976 refurbished & replacent pump installed 2005	
Description of Station	1 no. Flygt 3152 Submersible (replaced 2012) Integral Flygt 8.8 kW motor. Controls in GRP enclosure(no building)	
Valuation		
Civils Works	£180,030.00	
M&E	£32,730.00	
Other	£43,000.00	
Total	£255,760.00	
Breakdown of valuation		
Civils Works		
Pump sump/pipework	£127,080.00	
Hard standing	£0.00	
Fencing	£5,295.00	
Outfall	£31,770.00	
Control enclosure	£5,295.00	
Other-weedcreen	£10,590.00	
M&E		
Pumps	£16,365.00	
Control Equipment	£10,910.00	
Power Supply	Public liaability	
Motors	inc	
Installation	£5,455.00	
Weedscreen raker	na	
Other		
Approvals	£10,750.00	
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00	
Design	£16,125.00	
Supervision	£10,750.00	

Pumping Station Valuations-Upwell I.D.B

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

Upwell I.D.B-Upwell Fen Pumping Stn.

Site Data

No. Pumps

1

Station Capacity

0.51 cumecs

Station built

1967 (Motor and pump uprated 1976) and 2012? (Pump overhaul)

Description of Station

1 no. Allen Gwynnes 18" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C4/91756 LSE SC Motor No 18231A1, 48kW @ 980 RPM Newbrook Dual Dive gearbox. Control building Concrete blocks with felt covered flat roof

Valuation

Civils Works

£440,175.00

M&E

£107,000.00

Other

£40,000.00

Total

£587,175.00

Breakdown of valuation

Civils Works

Pump sump/pipework

£264,750.00

Hard standing (new 2018)

£15,000.00

Fencing (new 2018)

£1,000.00

Outfall

£31,770.00

Control building

£21,180.00

Installation

£15,885.00

Other inc Weedscreen

£10,590.00

Weed cleaner (new 2018)

£80,000.00

M&E

Pump/gearbox

£65,000.00

Control Equipment/cabli

£20,000.00

Power Supply

inc in public liability

Motor

£7,000.00

installation

£15,000.00

Other

Approvals

£10,000.00

Liaison and consultation

£5,000.00

Design

£15,000.00

Supervision

£10,000.00

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 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.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 12 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
484	19/00490/F	Mr & Mrs T Whitaker	Residence (Garage/storage building)	Boothes Road, Nordelph
485	19/00497/F	Mr D Percy	Residence (Replacement)	Boothes Road, Nordelph
486	F/YR19/0297/F	Mr & Mrs Barltrop	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, Christchurch
487	19/00758/F	Colin Marchant	Residence (Extension)	Silt Road, Nordelph
488	19/00842/F	L Scrivener	Horticultural	Squires Drove, Three Holes
489	F/YR19/0475/F	Towler Construction	Residence	Crown Road, Christchurch
490	Enquiry	Client of Clancy Consulting	Flood Risk Information request	Cock Fen Road, Lakes End
491	19/01460/F	Mrs T Bool	Canine (Kennels)	Flint House Road, Lott's Bridge, Three Holes
492	19/01526/F	Mrs S Millington	Canine (Kennels) Retrospective	Welney Road, Lakes End
493	19/01301/F	Mr P Rolfe	Residential (Extension)	Flint House Road, Lott's Bridge
494	F/YR19/0898/AG1	P J Farms Ltd	Agricultural (Grain/machinery store)	Padgetts Road, Christchurch
495	19/01786/F	Mr J Banniser	Residence (Annex)	Birchfield Road, Nordelph

Planning applications ending 'AG1' relate to Agricultural Notification

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 Board's requirements.

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

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agent(s) and/or Board decision/instructions are required concerning the following development. No further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

- *Erection of 6 dwellings at land south west of Syringa House, Upwell Road, Christchurch - Mr J Stittle & Miss R Watson (MLC Ref No 437) & Mr B Dawson (MLC Ref No 476)*

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.

Erection of 4 bedroom farmhouse and garages replacing the farmhouse that was destroyed by fire at Mill House, Boothes Road, Nordelph – Mr Denis Pearcey (MLC Ref Nos 338 & 485)

A planning application was submitted to the Borough Council in April for the erection of a replacement dwelling, the original being demolished following a fire. A previous planning application proposed a similar scheme, as discussed in the Board's Meeting Reports circa 2011-14, but was never implemented.

Whilst the location of the dwelling within the floodplain is discussed no reference appears to have been made in the relevant documents, including the FRA and the Officer's Report, to the presence of the Board's Drain or its requirements.

According to the submitted Design and Access Statement:

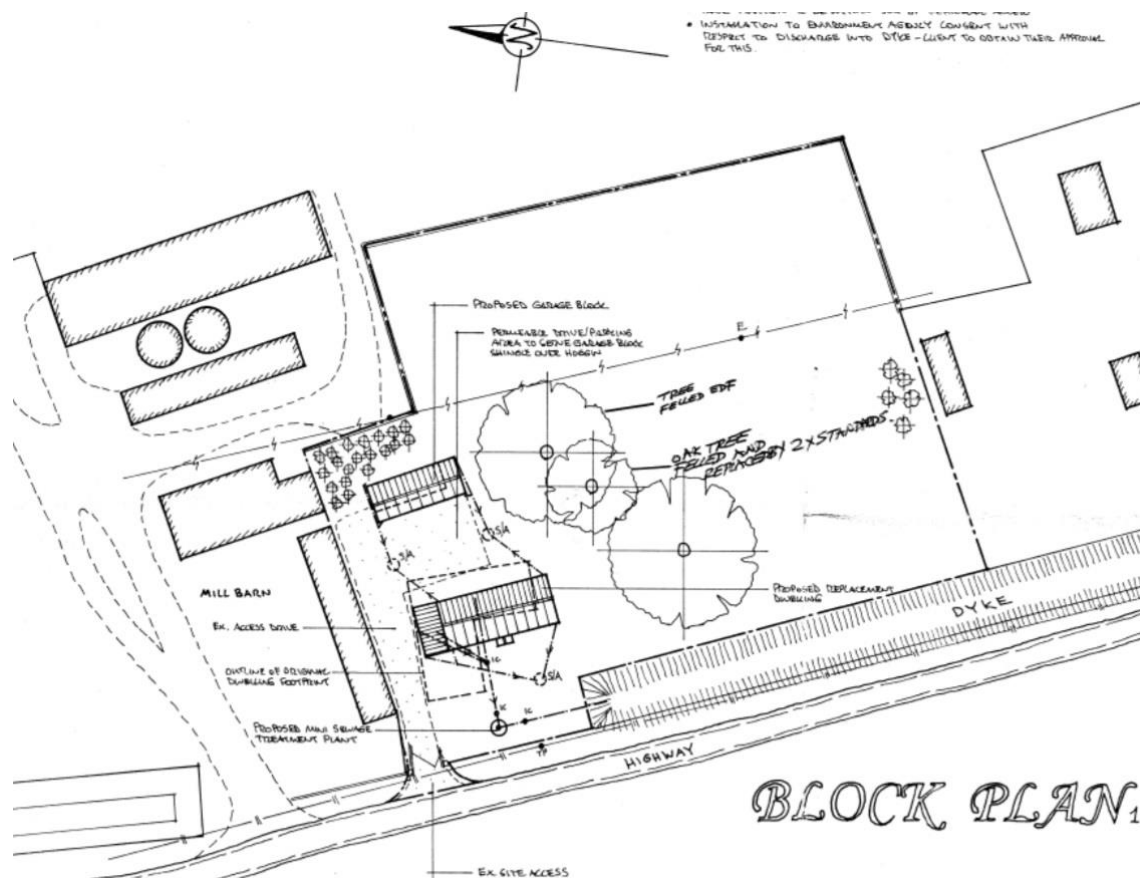
"Foul drainage currently discharges into a Septic Tank located near to the dyke and is now proposed to be replaced by using an approved proprietary mini package sewage treatment plant with treated waste water discharging into the adjacent dyke; all subject to Environment Agency consent".

Planning permission was approved subject to the imposition of planning conditions including one relating to the raising of the floor level to mitigate any potential impacts during a flood event

To date, no correspondence has been received from the applicant or the applicant's agent concerning this development and, therefore, no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Further involvement will be required if the development progresses. Based on the current information, the Board's consent will be required but, as shown on the plan

below, the location of the soakaway, close to one of the headwalls, and the STP, which appears to be over the piped section of the Board's Drain, would not be recommended for approval.



Extract from Rod Atkins Architectural Design Services Drawing No. 482 03 showing the proposed layout

Erection of 4 dwellings with detached garages, comprising of 2 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and 2 x 3-storey 5-bed dwellings at the site of the former Shrub House, 46 Church Road, Christchurch – P J Farms Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 409, 412 & 414)

The consent application for structures within Straight Drain and encroachment within its 9.0m wide maintenance access strip has been recommended for approval.

Discussions are continuing with the applicant's consultant in respect of the discharge consent application.

Construction of 2 dwellings at Chapel Farm, Silt Road, Nordelph – Mr D Russell (MLC Ref Nos 426, 472 & 481)

Discussions are currently being undertaken with the applicant's agent, distinct DESIGNS UK Ltd., as part of an on-going post-application consultation in respect of both surface and treated foul effluent water.

The current proposals are for the site to discharge to infiltration devices which are only sized to accommodate the 10% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), the 1 in 10 year, event, which does not meet the Board's minimum requirements ie the worst case event up to the 1% AEP, the 1 in 100 year, event, together with a 40% allowance for climate change. Further details are currently awaited from the applicant's agent.

Proposed residential development of 17 units to the north west of The Grange and south east of North Road, Welney – Loyd Homes (Client of JPP Consulting) (MLC Ref No 462)

The consent applications for works in and adjacent to The Old Croft River are being progressed.

Proposed residential development (4 dwellings) at former Three Tunns Public House, Main Street/Bedford Bank (East) Welney – Elgood & Sons Ltd (MLC Ref No 475)

Further to the last meeting an application for surface water disposal only has been received from the applicant's water level management consultant, the Geoff Beel Consultancy (GBC).

The Board will be aware that it has nature conservation duties under various Acts including the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and is a competent authority under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994. Therefore, it was necessary to seek comments from Natural England due to the site's proximity to the Ouse Washes system.

In response to an enquiry the officer at Natural England advised that she did not think that:

“... the surface water discharge from a small area is going to have a measurable effect in comparison with other inputs into the Nene Washes, and I don't feel it would be reasonable to object to the discharge licence as proposed.”

but given the SAC status of the Counter Drain and the negative effect on water quality added that they:

“...would be concerned about further foul water discharge entering the Ouse Washes in the same location as has been requested for the surface water. A decision of no likely significant effect, or no effect on integrity of the notified features, would have to be

made under the Habitats Regulations, and given the current nutrient status of the watercourse my feeling is that that wouldn't be possible."

Therefore, GBC was advised that there is no option but for the foul water emanating from the site to be connected into the adjacent AWSL sewers which discharge treated foul effluent water into the Water Recycling Centre (WRC) at Green Lane, Christchurch which discharges via the Board's system into the Commissioners' Sixteen Foot River and not into the Ouse Washes system.

The opportunity was taken to remind GBC of the Supreme Court's ruling in 2014 which confirmed that any connection to a public sewer under Section 106 of the Water Industry Act (WIA) 1991 or agreement to construct a public sewer under Section 104 of that Act also requires the Board's consent where our systems would be affected.

GBC has advised that an application for the disposal of treated foul water effluent will be made once planning permission has been granted. It is anticipated that the site will be sold before it is re-developed, therefore, a degree of attentiveness will be required by the Board to ensure that this element is dealt with at the correct time.

Development Contributions

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

Local Plan Update and associated Consultations

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document

No further correspondence has been received in respect of this document.

2019 revision of the Local Validation Guidance List & Local Validation Check List for planning applications for the County Council's own development & for waste development

A report detailing the proposed revisions and the public responses which included responses from various interested parties including the Commissioners, several Parish and Town Councils, and various County Council departments went before the County Councils on 16 May.

A copy of the report can be found on the Council's webpage by using the following link and searching for "Review of the Local Information Requirements for the Validation of Planning Applications":

https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/232/Committee/8/Default.aspx

However, the relevant items, as far as the Commissioners and relevant associated Boards are concerned, are summarised below.

“3.0 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3.10 Middle Level Commissioners – Middle Level Commissioners have made a number of comments: 1. The contents of the Middle Level Commissioner’s response of 2017 remain relevant. 2. The Commissioners are pleased to note that the reference in the introduction on page 2 of the 2019 LVL Guidance notes to the use of relevant and competent technical specialists and encourage this. 3. The commissioners and associated boards promote meaningful preapplication advice and work with CCC colleagues to ensure that any issues concerning flood risk, water level management, navigation and environmental issues are dealt with prior to the planning application process, which offers more certainty in the decision making process. The Middle Level Commissioners would be pleased if applicants and/or agents could be advised to contact the Middle Level Commissioners for advice within their jurisdiction. A web site link is given to their pre- and post-application procedure: <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/consents/>. 4. The Commissioners request that applicants and/or agents are reminded that should planning approval be given by Cambridgeshire County Council, to remind the applicant(s) agent(s) that any matters requiring consent under the requirements of the Land Drainage Act, the Highways Act, the Water Industry Act, the Flood and Water Management Act and/or the Middle Level Act 2018, which relates to navigation related issues, must be complied with before any work is commenced on site. 5. It is requested that any drawings that are submitted to County Council be to a recognised engineering scale including a scale bar and advice on what size of paper the drawing should be printed on. 6. The Commissioners are pleased to note that the reference in the introduction on page 2 of the 2019 LVL Guidance notes to the use of relevant and competent technical specialists and encourage this. 7. The Biodiversity Survey and Report (Paragraph 4) includes reference to the Middle Level Biodiversity Manual (2016), on page 5 - this remains current on 10 April 2019. 8. The Statement of Sustainable Design and Construction (Paragraph 5) includes or the provision of both a foul drainage strategy and water conservation strategy, on pages 6 and 7. This is supported but it is suggested that the latter should be applied County wide and not just applied to the South Cambridgeshire District Council’s area. 9. The Flood Risk Assessment (Paragraph 7) gives a list of application types that is appropriate to provide a Flood Risk Assessment for. The last bullet point (on page 8) refers to developments of: “Less than 1 hectare within flood zone 1 which has critical drainage problems as notified by the Environment Agency.” Unless the area is identified within a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment) the Environment Agency are unlikely to be involved. Drainage is the responsibility of several stakeholders, including Internal Drainage Boards and your Council’s Flood Risk and Biodiversity Team. The latter are more likely to be aware of and have to resolve “critical drainage problems”. It is reassuring to note and we applaud the inclusion of a reference and a link to our “Planning Advice and Consent Documents” webpage on page 9. 10. Additional Plans and Drawings (including cross-sections where required). (Paragraph 22), the inclusion of the section detailing other plans and drawings and suggesting suitable scales for these is noted and supported.”

“4.0 Consideration of the Consultation responses

4.10 Middle Level Commissioners – 1. Noted with thanks. No changes required. 2. Pre application advice - References to Middle Level guidance will be retained, so no changes required. 3. References to Middle Level guidance are retained and it is recommended that the Middle Level Commissioners are added to the list of other bodies who provide pre-application advice. 4. Consent under the requirements of the Land Drainage Act is covered when necessary by informative at decision stage. 5. Drawings - This is covered by national guidance, so no changes required. 6. Technical specialists’ reference - Noted with thanks. No changes required. 7. Biodiversity survey - Noted with thanks. No changes required. 8. Statement of Sustainable Design and Construction - This is already covered across all districts based on the relevant adopted policy

guidance. The reference to South Cambridgeshire is only made as their requirements are stricter through adopted policy. Therefore no changes are required. 9. Flood Risk Assessment - Officers acknowledge that drainage is the responsibility of several stakeholders and have noted the acceptance to the Middle Level Commissioners planning advice pages. This will be retained on the new guidance and therefore no further changes are required. 10. Additional Plans and drawings - Noted with thanks. No changes required.”

A copy of the Planning Committee Minutes can be viewed via the following link by searching for “Minutes – 16th May 2019”:

<https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/232/Committee/8/Default.aspx>

The final published versions of both the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the Local Validation List and Guidance Notes can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-applications/submitting-a-planning-application/>

Norfolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan

Norfolk County Council is preparing a Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review, to consolidate its three Development Plan Documents (DPD), including the Site Specific Allocation DPD referred to in the Board’s April 2017 meeting report, into one Local Plan, and ensure that the policies within them remain up-to-date and to extend the plan period to the end of 2036 to ensure consistency with the other plans being developed by the Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that most local plans are likely to require updating in whole or in part at least every five years and this requirement was incorporated into the adopted Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

A public consultation on the draft Preferred Options document took place over a six week period from 18 September until 30 October. The County Council is currently reviewing the responses received with the intention of publishing all the responses by the end of 2019.

A response made on behalf of the Commissioners and our relevant associated Boards, within Norfolk, in response to a public consultation advised that the document had been considered and the proposals were found to be outside the respective catchments and, therefore, no specific comments were made.

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan

Local Plan review

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 “to take place towards the end of the year/earlier next year.”

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

Fenland District Council is preparing a new Local Plan 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)	

The Council undertook a Public Consultation on the Issues & Options Consultation Document, holding a ‘Call for Sites’ exercise, requesting nominations for Local Green Spaces, and inviting views on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

The Issues & Options consultation followed a questionnaire type format with many of the questions asked not being applicable to our duties and functions. A response was made on behalf of the Commissioners and our relevant associated Boards, within Cambridgeshire. Where relevant comments were made on issues of concern related to the question concerned. Issues raised included export cables/mains from energy production developments, the loss of peat based soils, footpaths/cycleways, the retention of and access to on-site open watercourses, water efficiencies in new development, the natural environment, development within the floodplain, pre-application

consultation, drainage strategies, the retention and improvement of rivers, their settings and associated corridors and neighbourhood planning. The opportunity was also taken to include some generic text on issues of relevance in respect of development related issues.

Level 1 SFRA & WCS documents

Royal Haskoning DHV have 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.

Upwell Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2038

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They are able to choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area.

A Pre-submission Consultation on the Upwell Parish Neighbourhood Plan under Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 was undertaken between the 5th April and 24th May. Perhaps not unsurprisingly the Plan primarily refers to the village of Upwell but items of interest to the Board included vehicular movements adjacent to open watercourses, the natural environment, footpaths, the character of the parish and the maintenance of flood defences. The latter also advised that the current level of government funding may not be available in the future and funding from other stakeholders including the Parish Council may be required if current Standards of Protection (SoP) are to be maintained.

The opportunity was also taken to include some generic text on issues of relevance in respect of development related issues.

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

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

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:

Riparian Responsibilities

In order to raise awareness of and instigate discussion on an issue that causes difficulties for RMAs, including the Boards, 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 the County, six of which are within the Fenland district but none are within the Board's 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 will be available as a series of training modules via the ADA website later in 2019.

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

https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/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. No new “wet spots” have been identified within the Board’s district.

The next meeting is due to be held during April.

General Advice

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

- (a) Frank Hartley and Sons – An application for byelaw consent for the piping and filling of a private watercourse alongside Horsehead Drove near Ashtree House was recommended for approval.

- (b) Mr Stephen Carter – A byelaw consent application for the piping and filling of a 24 metre length of the Old Croft River at Croft County Club has been received. The application is currently being reviewed but the presence of water voles has required additional information to be requested.

Consulting Engineer

11 December 2019

Upwell (331)\Reports\January 2020

Asset Appraisals

Miss Ablett referred to the asset appraisals that had been carried out and to the comments made in relation to likely future expenditure required. She advised that the expenditure highlighted would be included in the Board's Capital Improvement Programme to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Board.

Insurance Valuations

Miss Ablett reported that, following the asset appraisals, the valuations of the pumping stations had increased by approximately £250,000 and enquired if the Board wished to increase the insured value of the stations which she considered would be at a cost of hundreds rather than thousands of pounds.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the actual cost of increasing the insured sums be ascertained and the Chairman be authorised to take such action as he considers necessary

B.1844 District Foreman's Report

The Board considered the Report of the District Foreman.

Nordelph PS Electricity Meter

Miss Ablett reported on the position regarding the electricity meter and that Anglia Farmers would be contacting the Energy Ombudsman to see if they would take the case on board and would also take up the right reserved to share the correspondence with Ofgem and the Meter Operators Association. She advised that the new supplier, Haven Power, had been helpful and Anglia Farmers were awaiting a suggestion from them. She confirmed that she would keep the Chairman informed of the situation.

Upwell Fen Pumping Station Roadway

Miss Ablett reported that the main user of the roadway was Waldersey Farms with the Environment Agency using it on the odd occasion, together with the Board for access to the pumping station.

She enquired whether the Board knew who owned the roadway and who was responsible for its maintenance.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the Clerk ascertain ownership of Upwell Fen Pumping Station roadway and whether any agreement exists regarding the maintenance of the road.

B.1845 Conservation Officer's Newsletter

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2019, which had previously been circulated to Members.

(NB) - The District Foreman left the room when the following two items were discussed.

B.1846 District Labour Board's Employee Wages

The Board gave consideration to the Board's employees' wages for 2019/2020.

Miss Ablett referred to the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award indicator which was likely to be in the region of 3%.

RESOLVED

That the wages of the Board's employee be increased by the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award formula for 2019/2020 from 1st April 2020, as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule, until further notice.

B.1847 Potential Amalgamation Discussions – Sutton & Mepal IDB, Manea & Welney DDC and Upwell IDB

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Sutton & Mepal and Manea & Welney DDC 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 advised that any potential amalgamation was going to require further negotiation and was not something that would happen in the near future but instead may take several years.

Cock Fen PS Electrification

The Chairman reported that he had asked the Consulting Engineers to look into the cost of the electrification of Cock Fen Pumping Station.

Miss Ablett reported that Richard Lloyd had advised that a very draft estimate would be at least £80,000 and could be £120,000 as there were so many different factors that needed to be considered. She advised that it would cost the Board in the region of £500 for the engineer to explore the possibility further and put together a more accurate quote.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineers be asked to obtain an accurate quote.

Appointment of Finance Committee

The Chairman reported that both he and the Vice Chairman considered that a Finance Committee should be formed in order to discuss various matters, such as the potential amalgamation, the electrification of Cock Fen Pumping Station and District Labour. He suggested that the new committee should consist of 5 members including himself, the Vice Chairman, a

Councillor and two other elected Members. He asked for the Boards approval to the formation of a Finance Committee and for those persons interested to make themselves known.

The Chairman advised that all matters discussed by the Committee would be reported to Members at the meetings of the Board.

The Chairman requested that details of the precept, pump catchments and estimated Public Works Loan Repayments be made available for the first Committee meeting to be held on the 3rd February 2020 and Miss Ablett confirmed she would arrange for this to be done.

RESOLVED

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

P Clabon Esq	K Goodger Esq
R D Gladwin Esq	J Quail Esq
W Sutton Esq	

B.1848 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2020, viz:- from £849 to £866.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2020.

B.1849 Determination of annual values for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendations for the determination of annual values for rating purposes.

RESOLVED

- i) That the determinations recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeals against the determinations.

B.1850 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £43.40.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1851 Contribution from Developers

a) Further to minute B.1810, Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had contacted ADA to enquire of the latest position regarding the lack of status on IDBs being a statutory consultee in the planning process. Unfortunately, the position appeared to remain the same in that government have no current plans to make changes to the current arrangements.

Miss Ablett advised that this matter had been raised regularly by IDBs in the Middle Level area and countrywide over many years, including not so long ago at the ADA Conference and whilst government did not see the need to make any changes it was interesting to note that there were also mixed views within the IDB arena itself, with some IDBs feeling that the current arrangements were satisfactory. The basis of this being that IDBs could make comments but there was no legal obligation for them to do so. Hence in instances where it suited a Board not to comment they could not be taken to task over this. On the flip side however, as all planning authorities have responsibilities to consider flood risk and they should at least, in theory, take on board IDBs comments whether they are statutory consultees or not.

b) With reference to minute B.272(b), the Clerk 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.

B.1852 Health and Safety Report

Further to minute B.1811, the Chairman referred Members to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on the 8th November 2019 and advised that all items recommended by them were being dealt with. He confirmed that a further meeting had been arranged for the 9th February 2020.

B.1853 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2018/2019

a) The Board 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 Board 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 Board continue to comply with the Internal control objectives to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority.

b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2019.

B.1854 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett 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 Board noted and approved.

B.1855 Expenditure/ Estimate Update

The Board considered the Estimate Update for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED

That the update be approved.

B.1856 Date of next Meeting

Miss Ablett reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday the 18th May 2020.

B.1857 Cock Fen Pumping Station

The Chairman asked for Anglia Farmers to be contacted to enquire about installing 'Tank Scout' at Cock Fen Pumping Station, which is a sensor that monitors fuel tanks and makes an order when tank levels drop to a trigger level.

RESOLVED

That Anglia Farmers be contacted to enquire about installing 'Tank Scout' at Cock Fen Pumping Station.