CURF AND WIMBLINGTON COMBINED INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Tuesday the 12th May 2020

PRESENT

M E Heading Esq (Chairman)	Mrs A J Langley
R J Angood Esq	R E Mason Esq
Mrs M Davis	G Wakeham Esq

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

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from C Gowler Esq, R Gowler Esq, D G Nicholas Esq and L A Nicholas Esq.

B.435 Standing Orders

Miss McShane reported that to allow the Board to modify the manner in which they hold meetings (for a temporary period) whilst special arrangements are in place to deal with COVID-19, Defra have agreed to the adoption of modified standing orders. Members considered the adapted set of the new model orders, as supplied by ADA, which include two extra clauses at the end of them which include a change to the way in which meetings are held to allow remote attendance.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve in principle.

B.436 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chairman declared interests in minute no. B.443 and (as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in matters concerning the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.437 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 14th May 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.438 Election of Board Members

Miss McShane reported that the term of Office of the elected Members of the Board would expire on the 31st October 2020 and submitted the proposed Register of Electors applicable to the 2020 election.

RESOLVED

i) That the Register be approved.

ii) That, should a vacancy in membership occur, Mr Boor of Plantation Farm be approached to fill the vacancy.

B.439 Land Drainage Act 1991
Board Membership - Fenland District Council

Miss McShane reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillor Mrs M Davis to be a Member of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.440 Inspection of District

Consideration was given to whether the Board should undertake an inspection of the District in 2021.

RESOLVED

That a date for an inspection of the District be set prior to the next meeting of the Board and this be arranged with the Chairman and Vice Chairman together with Messrs Angood and Wakeham who requested to join the site visit.

B.441 Water Transfer Licencing

Further to minute B.363, Miss McShane reported that the relevant licences have been applied for for the MLC and associated Boards and that these were due to be validated before the end of December 2019 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.442 Resignation of pump attendant at Bensons Pumping Station

Further to minute B.403, the Chairman reported that Mr Oliver Horne had tendered his resignation as pump attendant at Bensons Pumping Station and it had been agreed that Christopher Gowler would take over these duties from the start of the next payment period.

RESOLVED

That the action taken by the Chairman and Vice Chairman in appointing Mr Christopher Gowler to take on the pump attendant duties at Bensons Pumping Station be approved.

B.443 Contravention of Byelaws – Infilling of Ditch – Byall Fen Drove

Further to minute B.418, Miss McShane reported that there was a continuing contravention of Byelaws by the infilling of a ditch at Byall Fen Drove.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman take steps to resolve this matter.

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

B.444 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:-

i) COVID-19 Actions

That following the instructions given by government on 23rd March the following list of actions have been taken (this list is not exhaustive);

- Arrangements were made for all MLC staff to have the facility to work from home. This included access to email, and in most cases full remote access to work computers. This was implemented and fully operational by Wednesday 25th March.
- MLC operatives continue to attend work but in a more restricted manor following NHS guidelines.
- A skeleton rota to ensure that the office phones are manned has been put in place, post is received and processed and letters sent out where necessary.
- Other temporary arrangements have been implemented to help support the continued operation of the office whilst the COVID-19 government restrictions remain in place, this includes allowing more flexible hours of work, allowing access to the office as and when required to collect or deposit papers making arrangements for the post to be collected and delivered to a safe location outside the office.
- A licence to run video conferencing meeting was obtained and arrangements made to hold meetings by telephone and/or video. Chairmen were contacted at each stage as government advice emerged.
- A policy statement was issued via the MLC website stating the actions the MLC were taking.
- Consultation with ADA on more or less a daily basis were undertaken in the first few weeks encouraging them to take proactive action. Of value to us (and as called for) ADA have been able to secure IDBs 'Key Worker' status and have obtained approval from Defra to move to web/telephone conference meetings.

ii) 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 support for the Biosphere bid 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.

That a fifth Chair's Meeting was held on the 10th March 2020.

Topics discussed included health and safety, effective communications with the public, the move to electronic agendas, consideration of the level of planning information included in reports, planning fees and the work of WRE.

Planning and Consenting

One of the agreed actions from the last Chair's meeting was that each Board be asked to consider the degree of delegation and reporting they require on planning and consenting matters. This was in response to several queries over the extent of detail being reported on such matters and the delays in issuing responses due to the number of people being consulted. I have outlined several possible options below to assist the Board but of course there are many other permutations and it is for the Board to decide which suits its interests best.

a) Remain with the current arrangements.

b) Continue to delegate all commenting on consent applications and relevant planning matters to the chairman and in his absence (or where he has an interest) to the Vice Chair. The Chair to have the power to decide if a matter should be raised at the board meeting for its consideration where legal timeframes permit this. All matters however to be reported generally more briefly within the Board report, ie number of applications responded to and number of consents issued or refused.

c) As above but leaving the Clerk with the power to determine the appropriate responses to consent applications and planning matters without reference to the Chair or Vice Chair.

RESOLVED

That the Board continue to delegate all commenting on consent applications and relevant planning matters to the Chairman.

iii) Application for byelaw consent

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

Name of Applicant	Description of Works	Date Consent Granted
Mr D Hankins	Installation of 16 no field underdrain outfalls in district drain between points 30 and 31 near Ghant Farm, Boots Road, Manea	12th November 2019

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consent be approved.

iv) 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) <u>Annual Conference</u>

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 was held on Tuesday the 3rd March 2020.

The meeting format was as per the 2019 conference with a workshop in the morning and the Conference in the afternoon. Topics covered were control of invasive species, water resources, planning and effective communications with the wider public.

That the date of the next meeting is Tuesday the 2nd March 2021.

d) Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.365, 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) 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 on this matter as a result of this request.

v) Environment Agency consultation on changes to the Anglia (Central) RFCC

That a consultation is taking place on the constitution of three RFCCs following a formal proposal for two new unitary authorities to be formed in Northamptonshire (West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire) has been submitted to the Government for consideration. If approved these authorities would coming into existence on the 1 April 2020.

In Buckinghamshire the decision to create a single unitary authority replacing the existing five councils has been made by the Government, subject to Parliamentary approval. It would come into existence on the 1 April 2020.

Each new authority will be a unitary authority, delivering all local government services in their respective areas, including their functions as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFAs).

The membership of Thames RFCC, Anglian (Central) RFCC, and Anglian (Northern) RFCC currently includes representation from one or both of the existing county councils. To reflect the changes proposed the membership of all three RFCC will need to be varied before 1 December 2019.

At the same time to better reflect a catchment-based approach it is proposed to change the name of Anglian (Central) RFCC to Anglian (Great Ouse) RFCC. ADA has stated that it supports the naming revision.

vi) 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 principal 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-in-aided works to progress during this time on a hold-the-line basis.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve in principle.

vii) 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.

viii) 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 general feeling of the Boards so far was that they recognised there could be problems with Boards and the need to amalgamate possibly ten years down the road but most

seemed to be happy to continue with their current arrangements. However, this should remain under review and where appropriate amalgamations between Boards supported.

B.445 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – April 2020

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

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

A Roundup herbicide application was applied to the Board's drains included within last year's phased machine cleansing programme, and also to other District drains where it was required to control sporadic growths of emergent aquatic vegetation.

Following approval by the Board at its last annual meeting, bank trimming works to the eastern bank of reach 7-34 were carried out to reprofile the bank and remove any areas of bank subsidence and under cutting whilst improving the overall bank stability.

Further inspections of the historically problematic area surrounding the Plasgran site at Boots Bridge Road (reach 45-47-48) were carried out during the winter. With the Vice Chairman's prior agreement, a contractor's excavator was utilised to clear blockages in the local drains allowing water levels in private ditches to fall significantly. This work negated the perceived requirement to remove an existing access culvert in the Board's drain. The inspection further highlighted the culverts between the Plasgran site and the main Wimblington Common pump drain at Point 45 are all of the same diameter and therefore would not be the reason for the backing up of water in the local area. Further inspections will be carried out this autumn and winter to monitor for any further issues that may occur.

A recent inspection of the Board's District drains has revealed that the majority are in a generally satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The Board's programmed machine cleansing works are designed around return times of 3, 4 or 5 years to maximise financial benefit and to ensure all Board's drains are maintained to a good standard. The 2020 season throws up a mathematical model anomaly and no identified reaches fall within the programmed return period. In order to ensure the Board's drains retain their current "satisfactory" status the following reaches, Normoor drains reaches 75-72-73-74 and 75-76-77-78-79, which contained stands of sporadic reed and dense submerged aquatic vegetation, have been identified in the recent inspection as requiring machine cleansing this season. Board members will be aware that drains in this area of the Benson's catchment were omitted from the original phased machine cleansing programme. It is recommended that the affected reaches are machine cleansed this year in order to return them to a satisfactory condition.

North & South Normoor Drains, Reaches 75-72-73-74 & 75-76-77-78-79

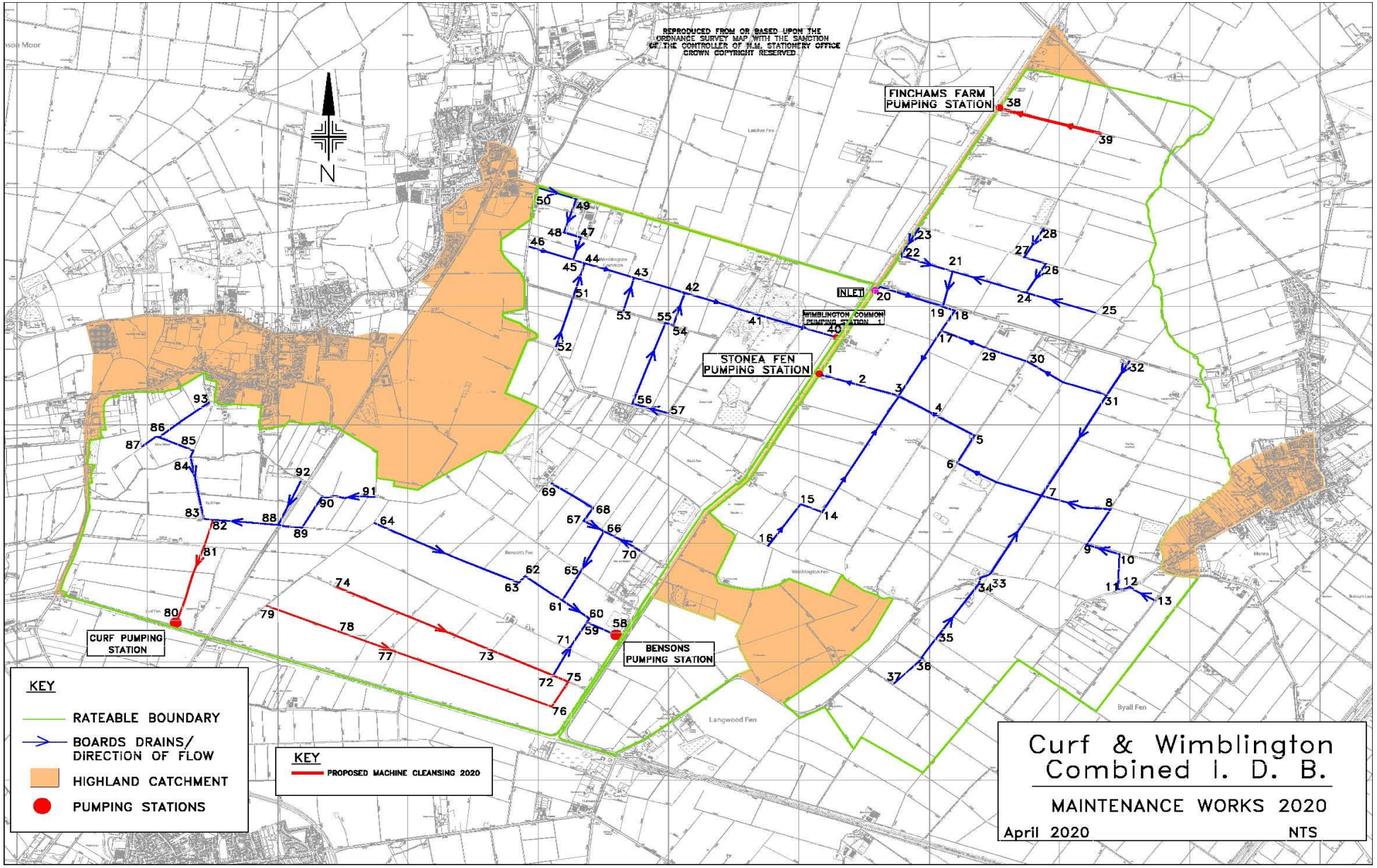
It was also noted during the inspection that the main Curf Pump drain, reach 80-81-82, contained large accumulations of Filamentous algae (cott) and submerged aquatic vegetation. It is recommended that the affected reach is also included in this year's annual machine cleansing programme. The inspection indicates that many of the District drains that require machine cleansing will only require a 'light touch' this year to retain their good status.

Following the Board's agreement at the annual meeting in 2016, Finchams Farm Pump drain, reach 38-39, has been included within the Board's phased machine cleansing programme on an annual basis. Board members will be aware of the on-going reactive/emergency machine cleansing that has been required for several seasons. A sum to allow for the cleansing work to be undertaken has been included within the Board's estimated costs.

A sum has also been included within the estimate to allow for drains that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, and any others that require a Roundup application to control aquatic weed growth, to be treated later in the growing season.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, have indicated that they are available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum for the completion of flail mowing of the Board's drains for the ensuing year has been included in the estimated costs.

A provisional sum has also been included within the Board's estimate to allow for any emergency cott clearance, culvert cleansing or bank slip reinstatement works that may be required later in the year.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RATEABLE BOUNDARY
BOARDS DRAINS/ DIRECTION OF FLOW
HIGHLAND CATCHMENT
PUMPING STATIONS
KEY
PROPOSED MACHINE CLEANSING 2020
Curf & Wimblington Combined I. D. B.
MAINTENANCE WORKS 2020
April 2020
NTS

Following a recent request by the Chairman, a quotation for security type fencing at Finchams Pumping Station has been sought. The Engineer will update members of the Board with progress on this matter.

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

1. Machine cleanse reaches within this year's Phased Cleansing Programme:

Bensons Pumping Catchment					
• Reach 72-72-74	1850	m	@	1.10	2035.00
• Reach 72-75-76-77-78-79	2750	m	@	1.10	3025.00
Finchams Farm Catchment					
• Reach 38-39	800	m	@	1.00	800.00
Curf Pumping Catchment					
• Reach 80-81-82	1000	m	@	2.50	2500.00
2. Allow sum for Roundup application to District Drains	Item		Sum		1250.00
3. Flail mowing of District drains	Item		Sum		8000.00
4. Provisional Item Allow sum for emergency cott clearance, culvert clearance or bank slip repair works	Item		Sum		1500.00
5. Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide application and maintenance works	Item		Sum		2200.00
		TOTAL		**£**	**21,310.00**

Orders for the application of Roundup herbicide by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they are weather dependant, and they will not be held responsible for the efficacy or failure of any treatments.

Pumping Stations

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

Bensons

At its last meeting the Board requested a budget price for a Sulzer pumpset similar to the one used to replace the no 2 unit in 2018. We would confirm that the current cost would be in the order of £50k installed.

The weedscreen cleaner hydraulic rams for the grab have failed, the rods having blistered and damaged the seals. Replacement rams, or replacement parts that will fare better, are being sourced. However, the cleaner is likely to be out of action for some time due to the current lockdown.

The 5 year electrical condition report was carried out in June 2019 with no remedial actions being required.

Curf

The weedscreen cleaner hose drums are rusting and require recoating.

Finchams Farm,

As requested at the Board's last meeting a budget price to replace the pump has been produced and found to be in the order of £20k, including modifications and installation, however currently the pump is operating reasonably satisfactorily and it may be that a plant overhaul would be the better and lower cost option.

If the Board does not wish to currently refurbish or replace the pump it is recommended the floor plate be lifted in the autumn to try and assess the condition of the pump fixing bolts.

The 5 year electrical condition report is now due and will be carried out when lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Wimblington Common

Recently the pump failed on overload due to a build-up of weed which was caused by the non-operation of the weedscreen cleaner. This fault was found to be due to the cable for pendant control, where it is located inside the brick wall, being damaged by rats/mice. Repairs have been carried out but it is advised that vermin control measures are put in place.

The 5 year electrical condition report is now due and will be carried out when lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Pumping Hours

Bensons

Year	Pump No 1 (current hours counter reading)	Pump No 2 (current hours counter reading)	Total Hours Run
18/4/19 - 6/4/2020	364 (8297)	166 (8232)	**530**
18/4/18 – 17/4/19	56 (7933)	69 (8066)	**125**
20/4/17 - 18/4/18	16 (7877)	553 (7997)	**569**
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	16 (7861)	205 (7444)	221
21/4/15 -14/4/16	417 (7861)	513 (7444)	930
5/4/14 – 21/4/15	299 (7586)	55 (6931)	354
5/4/13 – 14/4/14	80 (7287)	361 (6876)	441
27/3/12 – 5/4/13	59	763	822
28/4/11 – 27/3/12	4	34	38
23/4/10 – 28/4/11	9	218	227

Curf

Year	Pump No 1 (current hours counter reading)	Pump No 2 (current hours counter reading)	Total Hours Run
18/4/19 - 6/4/2020	412 (7370)	139 (6812)	551
18/4/18 – 17/4/19	88 (6958)	19 (6673)	107
24/4/17 - 18/4/18	247 (6870)	122 (6654)	369
14/4/16 - 24/4/17	67 (6623)	115 (6532)	182
21/4/15 -14/4/16	201 (6556)	83 (6417)	284
5/4/14 – 21/4/15	240 (6355)	199 (6334)	439
5/4/13 – 14/4/14	129 (6115)	281 (6135)	410
14/3/12 – 5/4/13	378	339	717
28/4/11 – 14/3/12	2	4	6
23/4/10 – 28/4/11	193	2	195

Finchams Farm

Year	current hours counter reading since installation of replacement controls in 1986	Total Hours Run
18/4/19 - 6/4/2020	11691	1043
18/4/18 – 17/4/19	10648	162
20/4/17 - 18/4/17	10486	376
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	10110	208
21/4/15 -14/4/16	9902	314
5/4/14 – 21/4/15	9588	322
14/3/13 – 5/4/14	9266	284
17/2/12 – 24/4/13	-	567
28/4/11 – 17/2/12	-	10
23/4/10 – 28/4/11	-	273

Stonea Fen

Year	Pump No 1 (current hours counter reading)	Pump No 2 (current hours counter reading)	Total Hours Run
18/4/19 - 6/4/2020	408 (4954)	435 (9547)	843
18/4/18 – 17/4/19	153 (4546)	37 (9112)	190
20/4/17 - 18/4/18	433 (4393)	194 (9075)	627
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	52 (3960)	278 (8881)	
21/4/15 -14/4/16	426 (3908)	130 (8603)	556
14/4/14 – 21/4/15	488 (3482)	152 (8473)	640
24/4/13 – 14/4/14	523 (2994)	191 (8321)	714
20/2/12 – 24/4/13	632	645	1277
28/4/11 – 20/2/12	24	38	62
26/4/10 – 28/4/11	288	83	371

Wimblington Common

Year	Current hours counter reading	Total Hours Run
18/4/19 - 6/4/2020	13653	384
18/4/18 – 17/4/19	13269	100
20/4/2017 - 18/4/17	13169	279
14/4/16 - 20/4/17	12890	173
21/4/15 -14/4/16	12717	751
14/4/14 – 21/4/15	11966	693
24/4/13 – 14/4/14	11273	299
8/2/12 – 24/4/13	-	550
21/4/11 – 8/2/12	-	26
26/4/10 – 21/4/11	-	200

Pumping Station Asset Appraisals

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

Bensons

Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington Combined
Commissioned	1976
Refurbished	1993/94
Pumps	1 no. British Pleuger S333P Submersible Axial Flow, 1 pump (pump 1) replaced with AFLEX 0601 440 PE300/6 Mixed flow canister pump,
Duty	425 l/s @ 4.0m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	British Pleuger wet type 33kW @ 1450 rpm, 30kW IP68 motor by Sulzer
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	British Plueger D.O.L.
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger Plus
Weedscreen Cleaner	Automatic: Manufactured by Metalcraft installed 2017
Control Building	Brick with mineral coated steel pitched tiled roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	None

General Comments

Bensons is one of five pumping stations in the Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain an area to the south east of Doddington. The pumping station was commissioned in 1976. Alterations to the drainage system have been carried out in the past with the decommissioning of pumping stations to the south and north of this station. The drains were regraded and redirected to this pumping station. A catchment to the east of the 16 Foot River also drains to the pumping station via an inverted siphon under the river, the condition and construction of which is unknown. Should it fail it would be extremely expensive to replace.

The existing position of the inlets and outlets were changed when the station was rebuilt and the existing inlets/outlets were plugged with clay.

Weedscreen

The weedscreen is automatically raked and consists of 12mm wide rectangular sections bars at 70mm spacing. The screen is new, part of the automatic cleaner installation commissioned in 2017. Despite only being 3 years old the cleaner has suffered a number of breakdowns the latest requiring the replacement of the grab hydraulic rams.

Control House

The control house is of traditional brick-built construction with a pitched roof covered with a tile effect metal sheeting. It was constructed in 1989 when the old pump house that housed the electrical equipment was demolished. The building is in a good condition with no signs of cracking or subsidence. At 30 years old it should last a further 30-40 years.

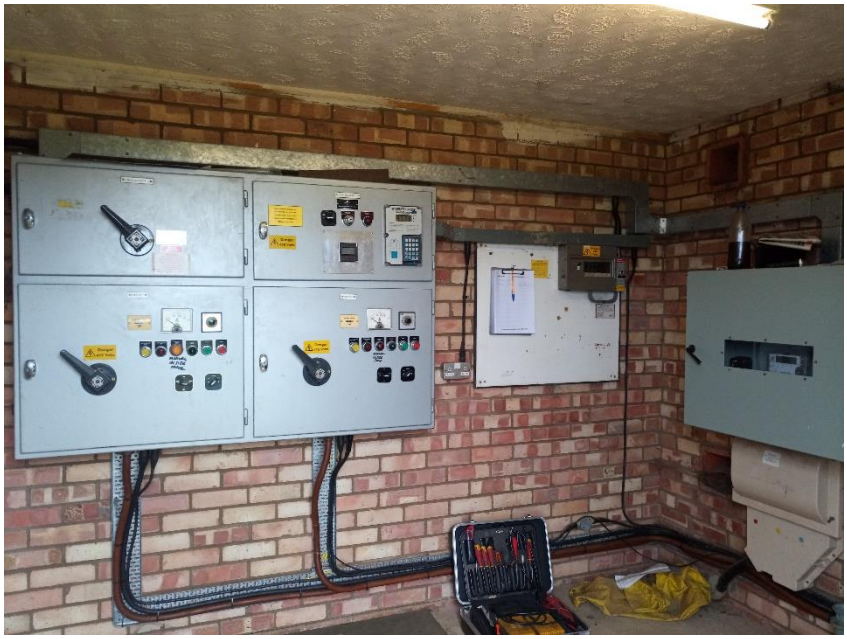
The wooden eaves and fascia have been replaced with UPVC and are in good order as is the guttering and downpipes.

There are no windows in the building and lighting is by single fluorescent light. The pedestrian access door to the building is manufactured of steel and is in good condition with an estimated residual life of 25 years if properly maintained.

Control Equipment/Pumps

The original remaining submersible pump was last overhauled in 1993/4 and is in a poor condition. Pump 1 was replaced with a submersible canister pump in 2018 at a cost of around 40K and it would make sense to replace pump 2 in the summer of 2021. The introduction of the automatic weed cleaner seems to have the effect of causing pump 2 to trip on overload as the cleaner operates, this may be the result of small pieces of debris being dislodged by the cleaner and fouling the pump hydraulics. The new pump does not seem to suffer the same problem, further supporting the case to replace pump 2.

The control panel is in reasonable condition for its age, despite being at the end of its original design life. Most of the components used in its construction are now obsolete but these can be replaced with modern equivalent components if needed. The panel could have a further 10 - 15 years life but repair costs may start to increase significantly.



The submersible pumps discharge through ductile iron pipes, which are in reasonable condition, into a surge chamber located in the compound. From here water gravitates via

900mm diameter concrete pipes into the river. The condition of the underground pipes could not be accessed.

The submergence between the pump's impeller and lowest winter level is in the region of 1 metre. Some consideration may need to be given to lowering the sump level, in less than 20 years time, to allow for falling land levels over time.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

Access to the station is via a track that runs parallel to the Sixteen Foot drain. The track, which was originally stoned and gravelled, is now very soft and unsuitable for heavy vehicles in winter or wet conditions. The compound area was fenced off with 1.8 metre high palisade fencing at the time of the cleaner installation.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet wingwalls are constructed of concrete capped sheet steel piles. The steel piles are in an acceptable condition for the age of the station and should have a further 30 years of life in them. There is a 1.2 metre high galvanised handrail around the inlet bay which is in good condition and should also last a further 30 years.

The outlet bay is constructed of concrete and is in good condition with no major deterioration and should have a further 40 years residual life. The outlet bay has a 1.2 metre high galvanised handrail which is in good condition.

The concrete slab steps leading to the outlet bay are in a fair condition at present.

The flap valve is showing signs of significant rusting and will need repairing or replacing in the next 5 years.

There is an adjacent outlet that was part of the original drainage arrangement which will eventually require removal/demolition.

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	**Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B-Bensons Pumping Stn**
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	0.9 cumecs
Station built	1976
Description of Station	Pump 2. British Pleuger S333P Submersible Axial Flow pump with British Pleuger wet type 33kW intergral submersible motor. In 2018 Pleuger pump (pump 1) replaced with AFLEX 0601 440 PE300/6 Mixed flow canister pump, 30kW IP68 motor by Sulzer. British Pleuger DOL auto control equipment. Pump 2 refurbished 1993/94. Heron Weedsreen Cleaner installed 2016. Brick control building with pitched tiled roof
Valuation	
Civils Works	£518,910.00
M&E	£174,560.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	**£736,470.00**
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework etc	£370,650.00
Hard standing	£10,590.00
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£52,950.00
Control building	£21,180.00
Other surge chamber	£52,950.00
M&E	
Pumps	£109,100.00
Control Equipment/cabling	£32,730.00
Power Supply	Public liability
Motors	inc submersible
Installation	£32,730.00
Weedscreen raker	£87,280.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Bensons
Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington

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			50K					20K	
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need

50K replace pump 2

20K replace control panel (includes remote access to controls)

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.
- these are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Curf

Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington Combined
Commissioned	1981
Refurbished	2005 (No. 2 pump)
Pumps	2 no. British Guinard H400 Vertical Spindle Axial Flow
Duty	425 l/s @ 3.5m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Leyroy Somer SC 38kW @ 970 rpm
Gearbox	Catep dual drive pump no 2
Control Equipment	Midlands Panels Star-Delta
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger Plus
Weedscreen Cleaner	Automatic: Manufactured by Metalcraft installed 2017
Control Building	Brick with flat roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8m high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Curf pumping station is one of five pumping stations in the Curf and Wimblington Internal Drainage Board catchment. The area to the south of Doddington drains to Curf pumping station which discharges into the Forty Foot drain.

The existing pumping station was demolished and replaced with the present station in 1981. The station is therefore two thirds through its design life.

The station has two pumps which lift water from the incoming drain into a surge chamber where it discharges by gravity through a 900mm diameter concrete pipe to a concrete outfall that discharges into the Forty Foot river.

Weedscreen

The weedscreen is automatically raked. The bar screen installed at the inlet to the station consists of 12mm thick galvanised bar sections at 50mm centres. The weedscreen is in good condition and if not damaged by the automatic cleaning process will last a further 25 years. The new cleaner was installed and commissioned in 2017.

Control House

The control building is constructed in brickwork on a reinforced concrete slab and piles and has a felt covered flat roof. The brick structure is sound with no signs of cracking, spalling or subsidence and should last a further 40 years. The felt covered roof is in good condition but will require replacing in 5–10 years' time. The eaves are manufactured in plastic and will last a further 20 years. The metal constructed door is in good condition and will last a further 20 years subject to regular maintenance. There are no windows and internal lighting is by means of a single fluorescent light.

Control Equipment/Pumps

The control panel is the original installed in 1981 when the station was rebuilt. It is in good condition and should have a further 20 years design life subject to replacement parts being available.

The two vertically mounted 400mm British Guinard axial flow pumps were installed in 1981 and should have a further 20 years design life subject to a further overhaul around 2024/5. Pump number 2 was refurbished in 2005. The gearbox and motor were found to be in generally satisfactory condition and the overhaul was limited to the replacement of bearings in the motor. Pumpset number 1 had a similar refurbishment carried out in 2006.

The ductile iron pipework appears to be in good condition and should last a further 20 years.

The submergence between the pump's impeller and lowest winter pumping level is in the region of 2.5 metres. This should allow for lowering of the water level to allow for shrinkage of the surrounding ground and it will be 10 – 20 years before consideration needs to be given to lowering the sump level.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The site is fenced by a 1.8m high palisade fence installed along with the weedscreen cleaner. The access to the site is off a stone track that runs parallel to the Forty Foot river. Electricity is supplied to the site via an overhead pole located at the perimeter of the site where it is then routed underground before entering the control building.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet wing walls are constructed using concrete capped steel sheet piles. The piles are in an acceptable condition for their age with signs of corrosion but should last a further 30 years.

The concrete inlet sump is in good condition with no major signs of deterioration. The wingwalls are fitted with a 1.2 metre high galvanised 'Kee Klamp' type handrailing which is in good condition and should last a further 20 years.

The gravity fed outfall discharges into the Forty Foot through a concrete outfall bay which has a 1.2 metre high galvanised post and rail barrier fitted. The flap valve is in a good condition.

Pumping Station Valuations

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

Site Name	**Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B-Curf Pumping Stn.**
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	850 l/s @ 3.5m TGH
Station built	1981
Description of Station	2 no. British Guinard H400 Vertical Spindle Axial Flow pumps, with 28kW Leroy Somer SC motors & Catep dual drive gearbox, Midland Panels star delta auto control equipment. Pumps refurbished 2005 & 2006. Order placed for Heron Weedsreen Cleaner 2015
Valuation	
Civils Works	£518,910.00
M&E	£310,935.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	**£872,845.00**
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump	£370,650.00
Hard standing	£10,590.00
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£52,950.00
Control building	£21,180.00
Other Surge Chamber	£52,950.00
M&E	
Pumps	£130,920.00
Control Equipment	£32,730.00
Power Supply	Public liability
Motors/gearbox	£27,275.00
installation	£32,730.00
Weedscreen raker	£87,280.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Curf
Internal Drainage Board	Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B.

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						45K			30K
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building						5K			
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need

45K overhaul pumps

30K new control panel

5K General building compound repairs

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.

- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Finchams Farm (Jenny Grays) Pumping Station

Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington Combined
Commissioned	1959
Refurbished	1980 pump overhauled, and motor replaced
Pumps	1 no. Tangye 12″ Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No. 39168
Duty	136 l/s @ 2.7m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Brook Crompton Parkinson SC 7.5kW @ 980 RPM no. M33345723
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	G E Childs Direct-on-line
Automatic Level Control	Electrode probes
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	Brick with slate tiled pitched roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	None

General Comments

Finchams Farm is one of five pumping stations in the Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain a small area of arable land to the south west of Manea and discharges into the Sixteen Foot drain.

The station has a single pump located inside the pump/control house.

Weedscreen

Not much of the screen can normally be seen however what can be viewed looks to be in a reasonable condition and should last a further 10 -15 years. The screen is manually raked.

Control House

The control building is of brick construction on a reinforced concrete base and piles. The condition of the building is generally good with no signs of major spalling, cracking or subsidence. The pitched roof has slate tiles and is in generally good condition.

The fascia and eaves are constructed of plastic and should last a further 20 years. The downpipes and guttering are also in good condition.

The original double timber door to the building was replaced in 2009 with new steel doors. There is a single metal window in the building which requires some attention.

There is a single Herbert Morris lifting beam and chain set in the roof of the building.

Control Equipment/Pumps

The Tange vertical spindle pump is the original one installed in 1959 and there is evidence of oil leaks suggesting seal problems possibly associated with a worn shaft, it was last overhauled during 1980. The pump operates with a distinct shake but has apparently done so for as long as anyone can remember and, whilst it is operating satisfactorily at present, it is likely to require an overhaul soon. In order to establish how urgently overhaul is needed a thorough inspection is recommended in autumn/winter 2020/21. The original control panel was replaced in 1986 and should last a further 10-20 years.

The level controls in the station still operate on electrode rods the condition of which should be checked.

The ductile iron pipework above ground appears to be in good condition and should last a further 20 years.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The site is unfenced and freely accessible from the road side and would benefit from fencing. The site is laid to grass and concrete paving slab steps lead from the verge to the control building.

Electricity to the station is fed overhead from a pole-mounted transformer to the building.

The station is located adjacent to the B1098 public highway.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet is constructed in reinforced concrete with no wingwalls and is in a satisfactory condition.

The outlet bay is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no major signs of deterioration. The flap valve, always submerged, is of cast iron construction and thought to be in a satisfactory condition and is held open in the summer via steel chain.

Pumping Station Valuations

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

Site Name	**Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B-Finchams Farm Pumping Stn.**
Site Data	
No. Pumps	1
Station Capacity	136 l/s @ 2.7m Total Gauge Head
Station built	1959
Description of Station	Tangye 12" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No. 39168 Brook Crompton Parkinson SC 7.5kW G E Childs. 1980 pump overhauled and motor replaced. Direct-on-line controls. Brick pumphouse with slate tiled pitched roof
Valuation	
Civils Works	£224,508.00
M&E	£65,460.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	**£332,968.00**
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework(under road)	£185,325.00
Hard standing	
Fencing	
Outfall	£15,885.00
Control building	£15,885.00
Other weedscreen	£7,413.00
M&E	
Pump	£32,730.00
Control Equipment/cabling	£10,910.00
Power Supply	Public liability
Motor	£5,455.00
installation	£16,365.00
Weedscreen raker	na
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Finchams Farm
Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington Combined

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		1K			20K				
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings		10K							
Telemetry									

Need

1K Thorough inspection and report on condition of pump and control electrodes

10K Fencing/security

20K Pump controls overhaul

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.

- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Stonea Fen (Wimblington Combined) Pumping Station

Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington Combined
Commissioned	1975
Refurbished	No. 1 2009
Pumps	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 21″ Axial Flow No.C4/960261/2
Duty	750 l/s @ 4.6m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Brooks Crompton Parkinson 55kW @ 738 rpm SC No E738T1/2
Gearbox	Newbrook
Control Equipment	Cutler Hammer Direct-on-line
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger
Weedscreen Cleaner	Middlemass Lord 'Heron'
Control Building	Brick with felt covered flat roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 m high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Stonea Fen is one of five pumping stations in the Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board catchment. The station drains an area of arable land between the Sixteen Foot Bank and Manea.

The station was constructed in 1975 and consists of two pumps that lift the incoming flow into the surge chamber where it gravitates to the Sixteen Foot drain.

Weedscreen

The weedscreen consists of 12mm thick metal bars at 50mm centres. The weedscreen is in satisfactory condition but showing significant signs of corrosion however it should last up to a further 10-15 years if not damaged by the weed cleaning process.

The weedscreen cleaning process was automated in 1998 when a beam and grab trolley, manufactured by Middlemass Lord, was installed. The unit was overhauled in summer 2018 and with the exception of the trolley wheels which needed replacing along with hoses and hydraulic seals the cleaner was found to be in good condition and should last a further 15 years before requiring any major refurbishment.

Control House

The control building is constructed of brick on a reinforced concrete slab and piles and has a felt covered concrete section roof. The brick structure is generally sound with only minor spalling at the base. The mortar joints of the brickwork are deteriorating and it would be prudent to action minor building repairs to ensure the building lasts a further 40 years. The felt covering to the roof was replaced in 2008 and will need to be replaced in 5-10 years' time. The rainwater goods, fascia and eaves are manufactured in plastic and being replaced in 2007 are in good condition and should last a further 20 years. The metal door is in good condition and should last a further 20 years if properly maintained. There are no windows in the building and lighting is by means of a single fluorescent light.

Control Equipment/Pumps

The control panel is the original installed in 1975. The panel has been updated with a Milltronics Multiranger programmable logic controller and ultrasonics that replaced the original electrode rods. Some of the components are no longer made; however, they can be replaced with modern equivalents. The panel is in good condition for its age and should last up to a further 20 years, albeit with an internal refit using the existing cabinet.

The pump and motors are the original ones and at 34 years old are two thirds through their design life. One of the pumps is fitted with a dual drive gearbox that allows for the pump to be operated by an external power transmission source if an electrical or motor failure should occur. Pump No 2 was overhauled in 1993 and pump No 1 was overhauled in 2009. Whilst there is no sign of pump No 2 failing it is recommended pump No 2 be removed for overhaul in summer 2021.

The pumps discharge the water into a concrete surge chamber which, in turn, gravitates to the outfall bay. The surge chamber is in good condition with no signs of major deterioration and should last a further 30–40 years.

The ductile iron pipework appears to be in good condition with a further anticipated design life of 30 years.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The site is bounded by a 2.1 metre high galvanised palisade fence which is in good condition with a further 20 years life. There is a double pedestrian/vehicular gate entrance.

The site is laid to gravel and is in good order. Electricity is supplied to the control panel via a sub-station located in the compound which is connected to the adjacent HV overhead electricity cable located near the entrance to the site.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no signs of major deterioration. The inlet wingwalls are constructed of concrete capped steel piles. The steel piles show signs of significant corrosion but should last a further 15-20 years.

The outlet bay is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition. There is a 1.2 metre high galvanised handrail on the top of the bay which is in good condition and should last a further 30 years. The flap valve is showing signs of corrosion but It was last repaired in 2014 and should last a further 10 years before an overhaul is required.

Pumping Station Valuations

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

Site Name	**Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B-Stonea Fen Pumping Stn.**
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	1.5 cumecs
Station built	1975
Description of Station	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 21" suspended VSAF pumps with 55kW motors and 1 no. dual drive gearbox. Cuttler Hammer Controls Direct on Line auto controls. Brick control building with mineral covered flat roof.
Valuation	
Civils Works	£529,500.00
M&E	£321,845.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	**£894,345.00**
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework etc	£370,650.00
Hard standing	£10,590.00
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£63,540.00
Control building	£21,180.00
Other Surge Chamber	£52,950.00
M&E	
Pumps/pipework etc	£141,830.00
Control Equipment	£43,640.00
Power Supply	Public liability
Motors	£16,365.00
installation	£32,730.00
Weedscreen raker	£87,280.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Stonea Fen
Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington

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			25K						150K
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									30K
Control Building			10K						
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need
25K pump 2 overhaul
150K new pumps and control panel
30K major cleaner overhaul
10K general building repairs

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.

- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Wimblington Common Pumping Station

Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington Combined
Commissioned	1971
Refurbished	2002
Pumps	1 no. Allen Gwynnes Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C489233
Duty	694 l/s @ 4.2 metre Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	Mather and Platt SC No. 735628 45kW @ 980 rpm
Gearbox	Newbrook Dual Drive
Control Equipment	BHI DOL
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger Plus
Weedscreen Cleaner	Bosker Bandit
Control Building	Brick with mineral felt covered concrete flat roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 metre high galvanised palisade

General Comments

Wimblington Common is one of five pumping stations in the Curf and Wimblington Combined Internal Drainage Board. The pumping station drains an area to the east of Wimblington and discharges into the Sixteen Foot Drain.

The station has a single pump which lifts the water from the incoming drain via an inverted siphon direct to the outfall.

Weedscreen

The bar screen installed at the inlet to the station consists of 10mm thick galvanised bar sections at 65mm centres. The weedscreen was installed when the screen was automated in 2003. The screen is in good condition and should last a further 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process.

The automatic weedscreen cleaner manufactured by Bosker consists of a telescopic hydraulic arm and turn table. The cleaner is in fair condition but is prone to periodic faults due to aging instrumentation, but even so it should have a further design life of 15 years.

Control House

The control building is constructed in brickwork on a reinforced concrete slab and piles and has a felt covered flat roof. The brick structure is in sound condition with no signs of cracking/spalling but there is considerable subsidence around its concrete pad, which could be corrected if it becomes necessary. The felt covered flat roof is in satisfactory condition but the covering will require replacing in the next 5 - 10 years. The eaves and fascia are manufactured of plastic and are in good condition with a further 15 years life.

The metal constructed door is in good condition and should last a further 20 years if properly maintained. There are no windows in the control building and lighting is artificial by means of a single fluorescent light.

Control Equipment/Pumps

The station has a single Allen Gwynnes 18″ vertical spindle axial flow pump. The electric motor is linked to the pump via a Newbrook combination drive gearbox which allows the pump to be operated using an external drive unit should a power failure occur.

The pump was taken out for inspection and repairs in 2002. In 2015 the pump top shaft bearing seized and had to be replaced. It was noted at that time that apart from the addition of an impeller wear ring (casing damaged by cavitation) all other aspects of the pump were in a reasonable condition. It is recommended the pump be removed for overhaul in 2030. The control panel is the original unit installed in 1971 when the station was built and is approaching the end of its life and a replacement should be considered in the next 10 years.

The ductile iron pipework appears to be in good condition and should last a further 20–30 years.

The submergence between the pump's impeller and lowest winter pumping level is in the region of 1.7 metres. This should allow for lowering of the water level in the future to compensate for the shrinking ground and it should be 20 – 30 years before consideration needs to be given to lowering the sump level.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The site is accessed along a grassed track that runs parallel to the Sixteen Foot drain, access to site can be difficult at certain times of the year. It is recommended that the Board review the pumping station access, which should be suitable for use by heavy mobile cranes and emergency service vehicles.

The site is surrounded by a 2.1 metre high galvanised palisade fence that was installed during the automation of the weedscreen in 2003. The fence has single pedestrian and double vehicle access gates.

The compound is laid to gravel and is in reasonable condition.

Electricity is supplied to the station from an overhead electricity pole and transformer located adjacent to the compound. It should be noted the electricity board's cut out fuse is 100A the same as the control panel's fused isolator resulting in "NO Discrimination". During a sudden and excessive overload, it is often the cut-out fuses that blow instead of the panel fuses requiring the services of UK Power Networks.

Inlets/Outlets

The inlet sump is constructed of reinforced concrete and is flanked by wingwalls constructed of concrete capped sheet steel piles. The concrete in the inlet bay is in good condition with little signs of deterioration and should last a further 30–40 years. The sheet steel piles are in a poorer condition with significant signs of corrosion but should last a further 20–30 years. The inlet has a 1.2 metre high galvanised post and rail handrail fitted which is in good condition and should last a further 20 years.

The pumped outlet is via a reinforced concrete outfall bay and is a reasonable condition and should last a further 30-40 years. The metal flap valve appears to be in reasonable condition but will need repairs in the next 10 years.

Pumping Station Valuations

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

Site Name	**Curf & Wimblington Combined I.D.B-Wimblington Common Pumping Stn.**
Site Data	
No. Pumps	1
Station Capacity	0.7 cumecs
Station built	1971
Description of Station	1 no. Allen Gwynnes Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No.C489233 with Mather and Platt 45 kW motor and dual drive gearbox. BHI Controls Direct on Line auto controls. Bosker Bandit weed cleaner. Brick control building with mineral covered flat roof.
Valuation	
Civils Works	£338,880.00
M&E	£165,832.00
Other	£43,000.00
Total	**£547,712.00**
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework etc	£264,750.00
Hard standing	£0.00
Fencing	£10,590.00
Outfall	£31,770.00
Control building	£21,180.00
Other	£10,590.00
M&E	
Pumps/pipework etc	£54,550.00
Control Equipment/cabling	£21,820.00
Power Supply	inc in public liability
Motor	£7,637.00
installation	£16,365.00
Weedscreen raker	£65,460.00
Other	
Approvals	£10,750.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,375.00
Design	£16,125.00
Supervision	£10,750.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	Wimblington Common
Internal Drainage Board	Curf and Wimblington IDB

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							35K		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment								30K	
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									

Need
35K pump overhaul and new controle panel
30K Complete overhaul of cleaner

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.

- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

Inlet at Point 20

During a recent inspection of structures that pass through the Middle Level Commissioners' flood defence embankments it was discovered that the outfall end of a brick arch of an inlet at Point 20 of the Board's drainage system has collapsed. The collapsed section is immediately adjacent to the B1098 Chatteris to Upwell road opposite the layby close to Boots Bridge on the Sixteen Foot River. The inlet comprises a brick headwall with a steel penstock arrangement located on the river side of the layby. Downstream of the headwall a brick arch crosses underneath the layby and road and discharges into the roadside ditch. This ditch then runs a short distance alongside the B1098 road before turning to run alongside the B1093 towards Manea. The condition of the inlet suggests it has not been operated for many years.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways Department has inspected the site and has confirmed that the arch is not one of its structures and, although the collapse is immediately adjacent the highway, it does not consider it dangerous. However, works need to be undertaken to rectify the situation.

Proposed Work

In the Engineer's view the Board has to address the following:

Investigative work needs to be undertaken to ascertain the condition of the inlet and the full extent of the work required.

If the Board wishes to retain the structure

It is assumed that only the brickwork on the downstream section of arch has collapsed and hence the skills of a bricklayer would need to be employed to reconstruct this section of arch. An estimate for brickwork repairs is £6,000.

Another option would be to clear the collapsed section of arch, insert a pipe through the arch to the headwall, fill the void between the new pipe and the brick arch with concrete and make good the bank on the downstream side. An estimate of cost for installing a pipe through the arch is £10,000. The benefit of this option would be confidence in the structural integrity over the full length of the culvert.

To make the inlet fully operational both of the above options would require the refurbishment of the existing penstock or the fitting of a new penstock. An estimate of cost to install a new penstock would be £5,000.

If the Board considers the inlet is no longer required

The arch can be permanently blocked. This can be achieved by either removing or breaking into the arch immediately behind the headwall and the void being filled with concrete or clay. The headwall can then be removed and the length of collapsed arch and bank made good. An estimate to permanently block the inlet is £8,000.

View of fenside verge above collapsed arch

View of interior of arch from downstream end

View of headwall and penstock on upstream/ riverside end of arch

The Board's instructions on this matter are requested.

Planning Procedures Update

Further to the last meeting the Clerk to the Commissioners has received invitations and attended meetings held by both Fenland District and King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough (KL&WN) Councils' Developers Forum and the latter's Inter-Agency Flood Group.

The use of Infiltration Devices

At the last Inter-Agency Working on Flood & Water Group meeting the issue of minor developments (less than 10 houses) not having adequate safeguards in place where infiltration (soakaway) drainage is proposed was raised, as no authorities are prepared to accept responsibility for checking the adequacy of designs or to police their effective implementation. This matter has now been added to the agenda for future meetings.

Local Land Charges Register (LLCR)

A challenge to the legality of the requests by the Middle Level Commissioners to place notes on the Land Charges Registry was raised. This has resulted in KL&WN Council ceasing adding any such notes. Interestingly the stance being taken by Fenland District Council differs from this and it has advised that it holds notes on file which are passed on whenever a Land Charges Registry enquiry is made. In this way it can rightly assert that the notes are not on the Registry but are held separately.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 37 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
498	F/YR19/0295/RM	Mr R Glowacki	Residential (4 plots)	Turf Fen Lane, Doddington*
499	F/YR19/0323/F	Mr & Mrs Kingham	Residential (2 plots)	Cooks Green Doddington
500	F/YR19/0333/PNC04	Mr & Mrs Notarius	Residential (2 plots)	Manea Road, Wimblington
501	F/YR19/0482/F	Mr E Brand	Residence	New Street, Doddington
502	F/YR19/0459/F	Mr F Simpson	Residential (2 plots)	Fallow Corner Drove, Manea
503	F/YR19/0536/F	Mr A Ahuja	Residence (Extension and garage)	Fen View, Doddington,
504	F/YR19/0528/F	Mr C Rouse	Residence	Newgate Street, Doddington
505	F/2008/19/CW + F/YR19/2008/CCC	Plasgran Limited	Waste/General Industrial (Extension)	Manea Road, Wimblington*
506	F/YR19/0566/F	Mr & Mrs J Cook	Residence	Westfield Road, Manea
507	F/YR19/0548/O	Mr M Brooks	Residence	Church Street, Wimblington
508	F/YR19/0685/F	Mr & Mrs Kingham	Residential (2 plots)	Cooks Green, Doddington
509	F/YR19/0679/F	Mr & Mrs Turl	Residence (Extension)	Primrose Hill, Doddington
510	F/YR19/0662/O	Mr S Wright	Residence	Fallow Corner Drove, Manea
511	F/YR19/0713/F	Ashewell Developments	Residence (Temporary)	Nixhill Road, Wimblington
512	F/YR19/0690/F	Ashewell Developments	Residence	Nixhill Road, Wimblington
513	F/YR19/0689/F	JMC Construction	Business Offices (Not Financial & Professional Services)	Nixhill Road, Wimblington
514	F/YR19/0684/O	Mr & Mrs Chambers	Residential (3 plots)	Primrose Hill, Doddington
515	Post-Application Consultation	Plasgran Limited	Waste/General Industrial (Extension)	Manea Road, Wimblington*
516	F/YR19/0780/F	Mr A Ahuja	Residence (Annexe)	Fen View, Doddington
517	F/YR19/0768/O	Mr M Groves	Residence	Brickmakers Arms Lane, Doddington
518	F/YR19/0684/O	Mr & Mrs Chambers	Residential (3 plots)	Primrose Hill, Doddington
519	F/YR19/0794/O	Mr O Wade & Miss R Godden	Residence	School Lane, Manea
520	F/YR19/0797/F	Mr & Mrs Kingham	Residence	Cooks Green Doddington
521	F/YR19/0892/RM	Mr & Mrs Harmer	Residence	Newgate Street Doddington
522	F/YR19/0958/O	Mr K Jordan & M Judd	Residential (29 plots)	Fallow Corner Drove, Manea*
523	F/YR19/0956/F	Mr & Mrs Glowacki	Residence	May Meadows, Doddington*
524	F/YR19/0970/O	Mr P Fox	Residential (3 plots)	Westfield Road, Manea
525	F/YR19/1015/F	Ashewell Developments	Residence	Nixhill Road, Wimblington
526	F/YR19/0995/F	Ashewell Developments	Sui Generis (Equine & livery)	Nixhill Road, Wimblington
527	F/YR19/1012/F	Mr D Baxter	Residence (Mixed Use)	Cowslip Close, Doddington
528	F/YR191001/O	Mr A Mason	Residential (up to 10 plots)	Newgate Street, Doddington
529	F/YR19/1065/F	Brand Associates	Residence	New Street, Doddington

530	F/YR20/0022/RM	Mr P Petrou	Residential (32 plots)	High Street, Manea*
531	F/YR20/0026/F	Defland Nurseries	Agricultural (Horticulture)	Benwick Road, Doddington
532	Enquiry	Skylark Garden Centre	Mixed Use	Manea Road, Wimblington
533	F/YR20/0099/F	Mr F Simpson	Residential (2 plots)	Fallow Corner Drove, Manea
534	F/YR20/0118/O	Mr L Skinner	Residential (6 plots)	Westfield Road, Manea

Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Planning applications ending 'PNCO' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Planning Applications ending 'CW' relate to County Waste
Planning applications ending 'CCC' relate to Cambridgeshire County Council

Developments that propose direct discharge to the Boards' system are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, surface water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems. All the applicants have been notified of the Boards' requirements.

Mr and Mrs Newton chose to use the Infiltration Device self-certifying process for a residential extension at 29 New Street, Doddington (MLC Ref No 488) and, in doing so, agreed that if the device was to fail in the future they would be liable for discharge consent.

Further to Minute B.408 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (iv) the current position is being ascertained in respect of the following developments:

- *Residential development, off-site road improvements and associated works involving demolition of existing agricultural building on land east of Bevills Close and north of Eastmoor Lane, Doddington – Client of Woods Hardwick* (MLC Ref Nos 177 & 182), *Ashley King Developments* (MLC Ref No 294) *& Stafford Infrastructure Engineering (SIE)* [*Client of Lee Bevans*] (MLC Ref No 314) *& Whetstone Developments Ltd* (MLC Ref No 360 & 426)

- *Residential development on land south of 21 and 27 School Lane, Manea - Leigh Property Investments Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 195 & 300) & *– SSL (Fund) General Partnership* (MLC Ref No 318)*, Leigh Property Investments Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 361 & 368) & *BGS Developments Ltd* (MLC Ref No 440)

- *Grain storage facility at the former Dalgety Arable Limited site, Manea Road, Wimblington - Executors of F Knowles Will Trust (A Knowles)* (MLC Ref No 194) & *Mr T Knowles* (MLC Ref Nos 245, 254, 264, 379, 400 & 445)

- *Erection of residential development on land west of Teachers Close, Manea – Mr P Jolley (*MLC Ref No 285*), Portman Developments (*MLC Ref No 308*), Matthew Homes (*MLC Ref No 404, 418 & 441) *& Client of Woods Hardwick (*MLC Ref No 433*)*

- *Erection of 38 x 2-storey dwellings comprising; 2 x 4-bed, 16 x 3-bed and 20 x 2-bed, with garden sheds and erection of 2.1 metre high fencing at land south west of Williams Way, Manea - Crestel Partnership Ltd (*MLC Ref No 309*)*

- *Erection of a storage building at land north of Two Hoots, 100 Westfield Road, Manea - Mr R Morris* (MLC Ref No 419)

Developments at Delfland Nurseries, Benwick Road, Doddington – Delfland Nurseries Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 101, 186, 423 & 531)

Further to the Board's 2017 Meeting Report it is understood that the replacement glasshouse has been installed but according to the Board's records the applicant has not met the Board's requirements or its duties under the Land Drainage Act.

In view of the above, the Board may want to consider how it would like to resolve this on-going matter and its further instruction is requested on how it would wish to proceed.

Any inspection of the site to ascertain whether work has commenced and any subsequent discussion with the applicant's agent will have to be delayed until the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) working restrictions are lifted.

A planning application was submitted to the District Council for the erection of an 18m long by 4.50m wide Bio-mass Boiler and Plant Room in January with planning permission subsequently granted in March subject to the imposition of planning conditions.

None of the conditions imposed are relevant to the Board but the Decision Notice also includes a Drainage Advisory Notice which reminds the applicant that it has a separate legal obligation to comply with the requirements of the relevant Internal Drainage Board in the area.

Developments at the plastic recycling centre on land at former Baker Youngs' nursery site, Manea Road, Wimblington - Plasgran Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 193, 258, 275, 475, 497 505 & 515)

Further to previous reports a discharge of planning conditions application was submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council, in its role as the Waste Planning Authority (WPA), County Council Ref No F/2004/17/CW/C1 (MLC Ref No 497) requesting the discharge of Conditions 17 and 18 concerning the provision and maintenance of a surface water disposal scheme associated with planning application County Council Ref No F/2004/17/CW (MLC Ref No 475). The County Council was reminded of the Board's position concerning the provision of responses to planning applications.

Subsequent to this the applicant agreed to undertake a detailed post-application consultation (MLC Ref No 515) to consider the water disposal issues associated with the proposal. As a result, it was possible to make a more positive response to the County Council in relation to the planning application to create extra laboratory space.

The proposed drainage strategy for additional surface water run-off from the development is based upon the use of the existing site drainage and balancing pond and the discharge at greenfield run-off rates. The design for the drainage system included for further site development.

Members will recall that the balancing pond is dual purpose and also provides water retention for on-site reuse, primarily for fire-fighting purposes. Therefore, dependent upon the level of water already in the pond there is a potential for up to approximately 750m^3 of further storage.

A review of the Drainage Strategy provided by the applicant's engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd, and associated documents concluded that the existing site drainage and balancing pond is sufficient to accommodate the additional surface water run-off from the proposed changes to the site layout and continues to provide a Standard of Protection (SoP) of 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), a 100 year event, together with a 30% allowance for climate change, resulting in no increased rate of discharge to the Board's system. The County Council was advised accordingly.

Due to the timescales involved and the LLFAs positive response the conditions relating to surface water disposal were discharged by the County Council (MLC Ref No 497) in April. The Decision Notice included a Drainage Advisory Note.

The planning application for the extra laboratory space (MLC Ref No 505) was granted planning permission at the beginning of October.

The construction of 2 agricultural irrigation reservoirs, by the extraction and export off-site of approximately 685,000 tonnes of unprocessed sand and gravel at Lyons Farm, Wimblington Fen, Wimblington – Nicholas Farms (MLC Ref Nos 211, 244, 269, 427 & 428)

Further to Minute B.408 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (iii) the Assistant Operations Engineer recently visited the site and reported there is currently no sign of progress.

An application for the installation of structures within the Board's Drain and its associated 9.0m wide maintenance access strip has not been received.

In view of the continued contravention it is considered that the members re-consider the Clerk to the Board's suggestions that:

(i) The occupier is given six months to remove the offending structures re-instating the channel profile to its former condition

(ii) Appropriate applications be made to the Board for any replacement structures and/or encroachment within, over, under the Board's Drain or associated 9.0m wide maintenance access strip.

Failing this, appropriate enforcement action should be taken against the applicant.

Therefore, in order to resolve this long-standing issue and guide further discussion it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and further instruction.

Erection of 6 dwellings involving demolition of existing dwelling at 18 Westfield Road, Manea – Mr L Skinner (MLC Ref Nos 231, 235 & 321)

Further to the Board's 2014 Meeting Report and following the expiration of the previous planning permission associated with this site, an outline planning application with matters committed in respect of access and layout was submitted to the District Council in early February for the re-development of this former garage facility, potato merchants and haulage yard.

Planning permission was subsequently granted in April. None of the imposed planning conditions are relevant to the Board but a Drainage Advisory Note was included on the Decision Notice.

The planning application form advises that surface water disposal will be to soakaways.

Developments at Skylark Garden Centre and Country Store, Manea Road, Wimblington - Skylark Garden Centre (MLC Ref Nos 234, 435 & 532) *[Previously Wimblington Common* (MLC Ref Nos 046 & 048) *– Mr R Gowler]*

Further to the Board's 2017 Meeting Report, a meeting was held with various representatives to discuss a potential development at this location.

It is presumed that these proposals supersede those for which planning permission has previously been granted.

Residential development (Kingsland Close) at 65 Newgate Street, Doddington - Mr J Kingsland (MLC Ref No 284)

Since the last meeting the Flood Risk and Biodiversity Officer, who was dealing with the reported flooding on this site, has left the County Council's employment. The current position is being ascertained.

Erection of 32 dwellings at land north of 28-30 High Street, Manea – Primepower Properties Ltd (MLC Ref No 374) *&* – *Mr P Petrou* (MLC Ref No 530)

Further to the Board's 2018 Meeting Report, a Reserved Matters planning application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale was submitted to the District Council before Christmas.

The County Council, in its role as the LLFA, removed its original objection advising the District Council that:

> "The above documents demonstrate that surface water from the proposed development can be managed through the use of permeable paving with subbase attenuation to restrict surface water discharge to 2 l/s for all events up to and including a 1 in 100 year event plus a 40% allowance for climate change, before discharging into the Anglian Water Sewer to the west of the site."

The proposed SuDS is a hybrid solution the future funding and maintenance of which could be the responsibility of several parties i.e. the residents, a management company, the County Council, Anglian Water etc.

Planning permission was approved by the District Council in April. The Decision Notice included a Drainage Advisory Note.

Members will recall that a surface water condition was imposed by The Planning Inspector when considering the original applicant's appeal. As a result, the LLFA did not have to provide a response to this planning application as any surface water drainage issues will be dealt with using this condition.

Developments off Turf Fen Lane, Doddington

Further to Minute B.408 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (ii) notes continue to be entered on the Local Land Charges Register for developments in the vicinity of The Oaks and Cathedral View.

(a) *Land North of Cathedral View (May Meadow) – Brand Associates* (MLC Ref Nos 370 & 392); *Mr & Mrs G Glowacki* (MLC Ref No 398); *Mr M Wilson* (MLC Ref No 436); *Mr R Glowacki* (MLC Ref No 442 & 498) *& Mr & Mrs Evans* (MLC Ref No 477)

Extract from Linear Build Consultancy's Drawing No RMD001 Rev C with the outfall pipe shown in blue

Further to the last Board Meeting, concern was raised, in October, by the owner of Plot 3, to discuss her development, planning reference F/YR18/0346/F (MLC Ref No 477). She advised that the developer had installed a drainage outfall pipe along the southern boundary of this four-plot site. This outfall then turns through 90 degrees and is laid across an adjacent field to a supposedly existing outfall into a private watercourse to the south of the site. It is understood that this pipeline will be the outfall for both treated foul effluent and surface water for all four plots. However, it is understood that the outfall has been blocked off by the adjacent landowner to the south, who claims to own all of the private receiving watercourse. The owner of Plot 4, and the developer have also raised this issue.

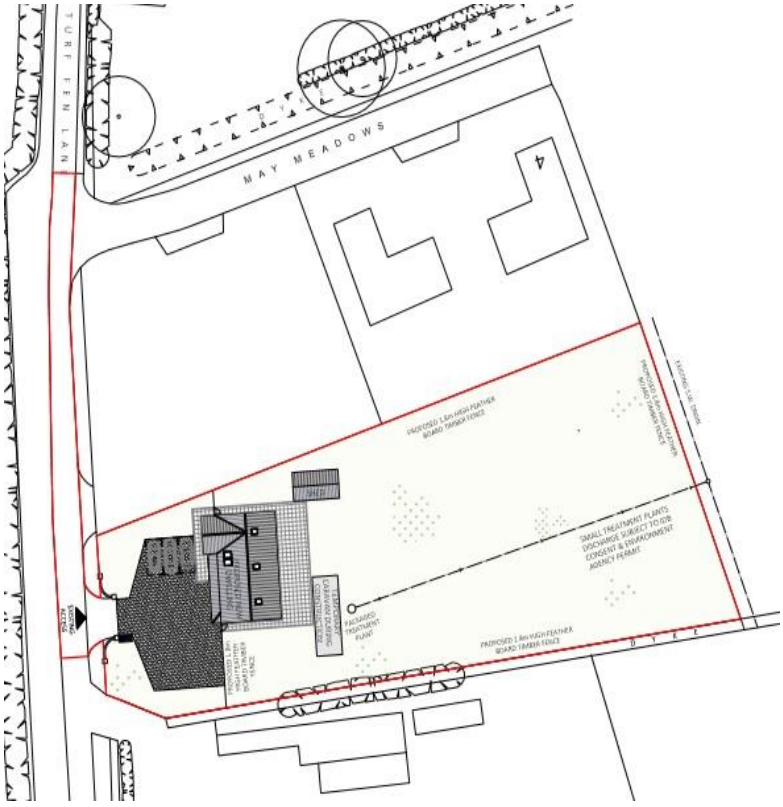
Following a letter from the MLC Assistant Clerk and several follow up conversations with the watercourse owner it is clear that as sole owner of the receiving watercourse he is not willing to accept the drainage discharge from this

development, due to the potential impacts that this could have. No agreement between the various parties has yet been reached concerning this.

Further detailed information for alternative drainage arrangements is currently awaited from the developer for three of the plots and it is understood that the owner of Plot 4 has taken matters for his own site in hand and further information is awaited from him also.

(b) Erection of a 7-bed dwelling with integral garage and a shed on land to the south of May Meadows, Doddington - *Mr D & Mrs R Glowacki* (MLC Ref No 523)

Extract from Brand Associates' site plan Drawing No SWA.18:1:A showing the site's location and the proposed connection into the outfall pipeline



This planning application, which is located on a plot of land between May Meadows and Cathedral View, was validated by the District Council in November.

As can be seen from the plan, left, it is proposed that drainage from this dwelling will also connect into the outfall pipeline that serves the May Meadows development.

Planning permission was granted in the New Year subject to the imposition of conditions none of which were relevant to the Board's interests. However, a Drainage Advisory Note was included on the Decision Notice.

For reasons discussed below in respect of the re-development of the Lavender Mill at Manea the disposal of treated foul effluent water into the Board's system has issues and should be resisted where possible. Therefore, in view of the growth along Turf Fen Lane the Board is encouraged to advise the relevant authorities that a connection into the adopted Anglian Water system is required.

Therefore, in order to resolve this matter and guide further discussion it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and further instruction in respect of these developments.

Re-development involving demolition of existing buildings at Lavender Mill, Fallow Corner Drove, Manea – Mr K Jordan & Mr M Judd (MLC Ref Nos 413 & 522) *[Previously Wimblington Combined* (MLC Ref No 109) – *Mr K Jordan*]

Further to the Board's 2017 Meeting Report a planning application Ref No F/YR19/0958 (MLC Ref No 522) was submitted to the District Council in October 2019.

The application is not the subject of a detailed post-application consultation, therefore, in the absence of involvement a brief review of the Drainage Strategy, prepared by Thomas Consulting, submitted in support of the planning application advises that:

> "…the development would reduce the existing discharge significantly without providing any attenuation."

The Strategy includes a potential surface water storage solution which uses permeable paving, in the private drives, to provide both treatment and attenuation. Water falling on the highway is stored utilising a 200m length of pipework in the main surface water network with the additional storage being provided off-line under the local area or the Pumping Station Compound.

Such a proposal may place the ownership and maintenance of the surface water disposal solution on many parties, for example, the individual property owners, a management company, the Highway Authority, Anglian Water etc.

In respect of the disposal of treated foul water effluent the two options proposed are to:

(a) Use a private package sewage treatment plant, which will presumably be the responsibility of the re-developed "estate", which could be subject to the appropriate consents being issued for discharge into the Board's system.

(b) Connect into the existing Anglian Water system that terminates in close proximity to 39 Westfield Road. Unfortunately, the topography of the site would prevent a gravity connection, therefore a pumped rising main would be required.

When treated foul effluent water discharges from one or two properties it is possible to justify receiving "additional" water, particularly if a connection to an adopted sewer is

some distance away and not viable in economic terms. However in addition to transferring the "additional" water, which places an increased "load" on the receiving systems other issues associated with the disposal of treated effluent water from non-adopted systems exist which include the increased risk of pollution and odours as a result of "spills", possibly due to the lack of maintenance of the units and difficulties with identifying ownership of any problems.

Whilst it is accepted that if it is necessary to circumnavigate the site there is some distance between the proposed site and the nearest adopted foul water sewer it is considered that the number of properties involved may make the installation of a new foul water sewer preferable. However, it may be possible to negotiate with the owners of the properties on the southern side of Westfield Road which would significantly reduce the length of sewer required.

It is understood that this planning application was due to be presented to a recent Planning Committee meeting which was cancelled due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. The application will not be able to be heard until this meeting is rescheduled and an extension of time to the application until 20th May has been suggested.

As a result, a decision is pending on the planning application

In order to assist further discussion and the issuing of consents, the Board is asked to consider the proposal, particularly whether it would require the installation of a new connection into the existing foul water sewer system, advise on any requirements it may have and provide instruction on how it would wish us to proceed.

Residential development up to 10 dwellings on land to the south of 63-77 Newgate Street, Doddington – Mr A Mason (MLC Ref No 528)

This planning application was validated by the District Council and according to its Public Access webpage a decision remains pending.

Ellingham Consulting Ltd's Drainage Strategy Ref ECL0153/PETER HUMPHREY ASSOCIATES LTD advises that:

> "To confirm the suitability soakaways as an appropriate method of managing runoff from the site it is proposed that infiltration testing is undertaken. The testing, to BRE365, will be undertaken prior to the full application for the development.

If the site was not suitable for soakaway then the use of attenuation and discharging to the drainage ditch to the south east of the site is a second viable option."

The LLFA is currently objecting to the proposal partly because of the absence of permeability testing.

Extract from Peter Humphrey Associates' Indicative site plan Drawing No 6000/01F

Development Contributions

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

Fenland District Council (FDC)

FDC Liaison Meeting

A meeting was held at the end of March 2019. 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 but will have to be delayed until the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) working restrictions are lifted.

Emerging Local Plan 2019-2040

Fenland District Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the period 2019-2040 which, when adopted, will replace the current Fenland Local Plan (May 2014). The Local Plan is an important

document which will “determine what the district will look like in the future and how it will become an even better place to live, work and visit.”

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

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

Issues & Options Consultation

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

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

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

Question 8: Renewable Energy

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

Question 11: Minimise Carbon Losses from Wider Activities

Should the Local Plan:

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

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

Question 12: Other Proposals to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Question 22: Transport
12b) Should the Local Plan make provision of cycle and footways, which are designed in a way so that they become the natural choice to use for short journeys, rather than the car?
The response advised that, where possible, footpaths, cycleways, street lighting, and/or other street furniture should be positioned outside of any protected watercourse and the associated maintenance access strip.

Question 13: Design and Amenity
13c) Are there any specific local issues which need to be addressed through design policies?
Issues specifically referred to were the retention of on-site open watercourses and the provision of adequate maintenance strips beside water level and flood risk management systems, including protected watercourses, within the development's design.

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

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

Question 16: Gypsy and Travellers & Question 17: Park Homes and Houseboats
16b) What other suitable locations for Gypsy and Traveller pitches are there?
17) Is there a need for moorings for houseboats or sites for caravans in Fenland? Any evidence to support your comments would be welcome, or suggestions as to how such need could be identified in Fenland
In respect of the Middle Level Commissioners' interests, comment was made that in addition to the normal caravans and "bricks and mortar" sites, suitable locations may need to be considered for "house boats".

Question 24: Natural Environment
How do you think the Local Plan should protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment?
The Conservation Officer advised that the Plan should include recreational and wildlife spaces being created as part of new residential developments and the incorporation of relevant biodiversity measures.

Question 26: Flood & Water Management
Do you have any views on how new development could reduce flood risk?
Our comments included but were not limited to the following:

- The extent of the Environment Agency's (EA) Indicative Floodplain and the constraint that this imposes on "growth" in the District.

- All relevant development proposals must be discussed with the relevant RMA including the appropriate Internal Drainage Board at the earliest opportunity, preferably at the pre-application stage.

- In addition to the requirements of the NPPF and associated technical guide, all applications for relevant developments must include a drainage strategy to demonstrate that:

(a) Suitable consideration has been given to the disposal of both surface and treated waste water flows and should detail any mitigation required;
(b) Appropriate arrangements have been made for developments adjacent to watercourses; and
(c) Issues of long-term ownership, funding and maintenance of the water level and flood risk management system are addressed.

- All proposals should have regard to the guidance and byelaws of the relevant RMA including the Internal Drainage Boards. Where appropriate the contents of hydraulic models and studies, such as the Middle Level Strategic Study must be considered.

Question 27: Any Other Issues
Is there anything else you would like to raise – has anything been missed, or are there any general comments you would like to make?
It was suggested that the retention and improvement of the rivers, their settings and associated corridors in the District for navigation, environmental, leisure and tourism through the provision of related facilities together with the provision of a Water Space Strategy should be considered.

Question 28: Your Priorities
28b) Please identify any other top priorities.
The response advised that the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards'/Commissioners' priorities were:

- To fund, maintain, protect and improve existing and make further provision of viable and appropriate water level and flood risk management infrastructure and systems to reduce the likelihood of harm to people and damage to the economy, environment and society.

- The implementation and management including enforcement of water efficiency measures for residential, business and other users of potable water.

- The retention and improvement of the rivers, their settings and associated corridors in the District for navigation, environmental, leisure and tourism through the provision of related facilities.

- To maintain, protect and improve the existing and make further provision of net gains to achieve environmental benefits to the waterways in the district.

Question 29: Neighbourhood Planning
The Council was advised that the "Neighbourhood Area" designation should not unduly affect the Middle Level Commissioners and associated Boards/Commissioners adding that even though a neighbourhood area may have been designated, compliance with the provisions of the appropriate Acts and the relevant RMA's byelaws would still be required.

Level 1 SFRA & WCS documents

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

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

Cambridgeshire 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 Council 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/Commissioners 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/ccc_live/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/

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water (C & P FloW) Partnership

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

Future Meetings

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

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

A public consultation on the draft FCERM Strategy for England document was held between May and June 2019.

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 information can be found at the following link:
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/29-million-extra-funding-to-boost-action-on-making-homes-more-resilient-to-floods

Riparian Responsibilities

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

Cambs County Council Capitally Funded Highway Drainage Schemes

Schemes have been assessed and prioritised based upon level of flooding reported, ie high priority - is property flooding or risk to life, or 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 Commissioners' area.

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

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

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

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

Good Governance for Internal Drainage Board Members

In March and April 2019 ADA ran a series of five Good Governance Workshops for IDB Members. The recordings from these events are available as a series of training modules via the ADA website.

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 2019. The next meeting was due to be held during April but has been postponed until the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) working restrictions are lifted.

There are no current problem areas or "wet spots" within the Board's catchment.

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

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

An article detailing the project was included on page 16 of the Summer edition of the ADA Gazette. This can be found at https://flickread.com/edition/html/index.php?pdf=5d1efbbc0a48b#16

The project is further discussed under a separate Agenda item.

General Advice

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

(a) Mr D Hankins – An application for bylaw consent to install 16 No. field underdrain outfalls in the district watercourse between Points 30 and 31 near Ghant's Farm, Boot's Road, Manea was recommended for approval.

29 April 2020 Consulting Engineer

Curf & Wimblington Combined (308)\Reports\April 2020

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The Engineer reported that the maintenance works carried out last year accorded with the maintenance programme approved by the Board at its last annual meeting.

A Roundup herbicide application had been applied to the Board's drains which were included within last year's phased machine cleansing programme and following approval by the Board at its' last meeting, bank trimming works to the eastern bank of reach 7-34 were carried out to reprofile the bank and remove any areas of bank subsidence and under cutting to help improve the overall bank stability.

Inspections of the historically problematic area surrounding the Plasgran site at Boots Bridge Road (reach 45-47-48) were carried out during the winter and with the Vice Chairman's prior agreement a contractor's excavator was utilised to clear blockages in the local drains allowing water levels in private ditches to fall significantly. This work had negated the perceived requirement to remove an existing access culvert in the Board's drain. Further inspections would be carried out this autumn and winter to monitor any further issues which occurred.

A recent inspection of the Board's drains had revealed that the majority were in a generally satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. In order to ensure the Board's drains retained their current satisfactory status the following reaches, Normoor drains reaches 75-72-73-74 and 75-76-77-78-79 which contained sporadic reed and dense submerged aquatic vegetation had been identified as requiring machine cleansing this season. The drains in the Benson's catchment which had been omitted from the original phased machine cleansing programme were now recommended for machine cleansing this year in order to return them to a satisfactory condition.

It was noted during the inspection the main Curf pump drain, reach 80-81-82, had contained large accumulations of algae cott and submerged aquatic vegetation. The Engineer recommended that this affected reach should also be included in this year's annual maintenance cleansing programme.

Following the Board's agreement at their meeting in 2016, Finchams Farm pump drain, reach 38-39, had been included in the Board's phased machine cleansing programme on an annual basis and a sum for this cleansing work had been included in the Boards' estimated costs.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, had indicated that they were available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year and a sum for the completion of flail mowing had been included in the estimates.

A provisional sum had also been included within the Board's estimates to allow for any emergency cott clearance, culvert cleansing or bank slip reinstatement works that may be required later in the year.

With regards to pumping stations, other than matters previously reported, only routine maintenance had been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the pumping stations appeared mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition.

Bensons Pumping Station

The Engineer reported that at the last meeting the Board had requested a budget price for a Sulzer pump set similar to the one used to replace unit 2 in 2018 and he confirmed that the current cost of this replacement would be in the order of £50,000.00 installed.

The weedscreen cleaner hydraulic rams for the grab had failed and a replacement ram or replacement parts were currently being secured.

The Board noted that it had been necessary to carry out vermin control at Bensons pumping station.

Curf Pumping Station

It was noted that the weedscreen cleaner hose drums were rusting and required recoating.

Finchams Farm Pumping Station

As requested at the Board's last meeting, a price to replace the pump had been found to be in the order of £20,000.00 including modifications and installation. However, currently the pump was operating reasonably satisfactorily and it may be that a plant overhaul would be a better and lower cost option.

Wimblington Common Pumping Station

It was reported that the pump had recently failed due to a build up of weed which was caused by the non-operation of the weedscreen cleaner. This fault was due to the cable pendant control (which was located inside the brick wall) being damaged by rats/mice. Repairs had been carried out but it was advised that further control measures be put in place.

The pumping stations hours of pumping were noted.

Pumping Station Asset Appraisals

Further to the asset appraisal carried out in 2010 the Board had requested an update for 2020 and these valuations reports were set out in full in the agenda and were noted and approved.

Inlet at Point 20

During a recent inspection of structures that pass through the Middle Level Commissioners' flood defence embankments it was discovered that the outfall end of a brick arch of an inlet at Point 20 of the Board's drainage system had collapsed. The collapsed section was immediately adjacent to the B1098 Chatteris to Upwell Road opposite the layby close to Boots Bridge on the Sixteen Foot River. The inlet comprised a brick headwall and a steel penstock arrangement located on the river side of the layby. Downstream of the headwall a brick arch crossed underneath the layby and the road and discharged into the roadside ditch and the condition of inlet suggested that it had not been operated for many years.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways Department had inspected the site and had confirmed that the arch was not one of its structures and although the collapse was immediately adjacent to the highway they did not consider it dangerous.

The Engineer reported that the Board had to address the following:-

> Investigative works needed to be undertaken to ascertain the condition of the inlet and the full extent of the work required.
>
> If the Board wished to retain the structure it was estimated that the brick work repairs would be in the region of £6,000.00 Another option would be to clear the collapsed section of arch, insert a pipe through the arch to the headwall, fill the void between the

new pipe and the brick arch with concrete and make good the bank on the downstream side. The estimated cost for installing a pipe through the arch was £10,000.00. In order to make the inlet fully operational both of the above options would required the refurbishment of the existing penstock and fitting of a new penstock which would cost in the region of £5,000.00 to install.

If the Board considered that the inlet was no longer required the arch could be permanently blocked and an estimate to permanently block the inlet was £8,000.00.

RESOLVED

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

(ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the recommended works be undertaken.

(iii) That the inlet at Point 20 be capped at each end with imported clay and the bank be reinstated.

(iv) Planning applications

That the Chairman arrange a meeting with the Planning Engineer to discuss the planning matters on the agenda and be authorised to make a decision on any further action on these matters.

B.446 Capital Improvement Programme

The Board considered their future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

That the Capital Programme be approved in principle and kept under review.

B.447 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, dated December 2019, previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.448 Pumping Station duties

a) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2020/2021.

b) The Board gave consideration to the fuel allowances payable to Messrs Horne and Carson.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of £5466.00 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2020/2021.

B.449 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.450 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2020/2021 in the sum of £10,121.00 (the precept for 2019/2020 being £9,873.71).

B.451 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss McShane reported that the sum of £597.74 (£5,724.25 less £5,126.51 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2018/2019 together with the sum of £4,336.89 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.

B.452 Letting of Herbage

Consideration was given to the letting of herbage in the District in 2021.

RESOLVED

That herbage be let as follows viz:-

i) Narrow Drove, Green Drove (from Narrow Drove to the South Bank) and South Bank (from the Commissioners' Pumping Station to Block Fen Drove) to Mr Robin Gowler for £10 per annum.

ii) North Bank (from Boots Bridge to the Commissioners' Pumping Station) to M F Martin Limited for £5 per annum.

B.453 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss McShane reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2020, viz:- from £629 to £642.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2020.

B.454 Erection of dwellings – May Meadow, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington

Miss McShane updated the Board on issues which had arisen since the date of the last meeting with the erection of these dwellings. The drain taking surface water from the properties had been prevented from flowing into a private drain by the adjacent landowner and alternative proposals for the discharge of this water were currently under consideration by the Consulting Engineers.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman discuss the discharge of surface water from these dwellings with the Consulting Engineers and be authorised to take any appropriate action.

B.455 New Project for Skylark, Manea Road, Wimblington

Miss McShane reported that the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive had had discussions with Skylark Garden Centre who wanted to expand their site and add fishing lakes to those already in existence, build holiday cabins and possibly visitor's moorings. These matters were still under discussion and a further report would be submitted to the Board in the future.

RESOLVED

The Board noted the current position with regard to this project.

B.456 Review Flail Mowing for 2019 season and consider 2020 season

The Chairman reported on proposals for the 2020 flail mowing.

RESOLVED

That the machine should currently mow on both sides of the bank.

B.457 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

The Board considered the recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes.

RESOLVED

i) That the determination 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 appeal against the determination.

B.458 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £90.09.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.459 Contribution from Developer

Miss McShane 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.460 Health and Safety

a) Further to minute B.378, in light of the appointment of Cope Safety Management, Miss McShane reported on the requirement to appoint a member to take on and report to the Board matters relating to Health and Safety.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman continue to deal with and report on Health and Safety matters.

b) Further to minute B.421, the Chairman referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on the 18th October 2019 and that a second visit had been planned at the end of March which had had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The Chairman referred to a number of low level risks which had been identified and one medium risk at Wimblington Common Pumping Station and reported that all the matters identified would be completed.

Miss McShane reminded the Board that they are responsible for ensuring they are compliant with all Health and Safety legislation and are adequately insured. In view of this, all points for action raised by its' Health and Safety consultant must be implemented so as to avoid the Board's insurance policy from becoming invalid.

c) Miss McShane referred to the ADA Internal Drainage Boards' Health, Safety & Welfare Survey 2018.

B.461 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.462 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss McShane 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.

B.463 Budgeting

Miss McShane referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

B.464 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.465 Risk Management Assessment

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

Members considered the Board's Risk Register.

RESOLVED

That the Risk Register be approved and kept under review and the policy to review risk between formal reviews be continued.

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

RESOLVED

That, as per the Engineer's valuation, the insured value of the Board's' buildings be increased from 1st April 2020.

B.466 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss McShane referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

B.467 Annual Governance Statement – 2019/2020

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2020.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

B.468 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £94,128.33 which had been made during the financial year 2019/2020.

(NB) – The Chairman declared an interest (as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.469 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2019/2020

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2020 as required in the Audit Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

B.470 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2020/2021

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2020/2021 and were informed by Miss McShane that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by contributions would be 90.37% and by special levy on local billing authorities and by contribution would be 9.63%.

RESOLVED

i) That the estimates be approved,.

ii) That a total sum of £86,505 be raised by drainage rates and special levy and by way of contribution from the Middle Level Commissioners under the Wimblington 2nd District Drainage Order 1922.

iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy and contribution from the Middle Level Commissioners are £74,346, £8,032 and £4,127 respectively.

iv) That a rate of 21.00p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

v) That a Special levy of £8,032 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That a contribution of £4,127 be made by the Middle Level Commissioners in respect of Byall Fen in accordance with Wimblington 2nd District Drainage Order 1922.

vii) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).

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

B.471 Display of rate notice

RESOLVED

That notice of the rate be affixed within the District in accordance with Section 48(3)(a) of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.472 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 11th May 2021.