

NIGHTLAYERS INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Nightlayers Internal Drainage Board
hosted at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 28th May 2020

PRESENT

A Edgley Esq (Chairman)
S Edgley Esq (Vice Chairman)

P Murphy Esq

L Edgley Esq
Mrs A Hay

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

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

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Anne Hay and Luke Edgley who were both attending their first meeting of the Board.

B.1063 Standing Orders

Miss Ablett 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.1064 Declarations of Interest

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

B.1065 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 9th May 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1066 Election of Board Members

Miss Ablett 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

That the Register be approved.

B.1067 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership – Fenland District Council

Miss Ablett reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillor P Murphy and appointed Councillors Mrs A Hay, I Benney and D Divine to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Miss Ablett also reported that Councillor Newell had not been re-appointed.

B.1068 Water Transfer Licencing

Further to minute B.994, Miss Ablett 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.1069 Illegal Discharge – Cambridge Property Group

Further to minute B.1035, Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had written to Cambridge Property Group on several occasions and they had finally responded advising they did not own the Tesco site and no longer had any rights or authority over it but agreed to pass the matter over to the owners of the Tesco site.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk contact Tesco regarding the discharge consent application

B.1070 Drove 22, Carters Bridge

Further to minute B.1036, Miss Ablett reminded the Board of their resolution to monitor the situation at Drove 22, Carters Bridge and to consider the installation of a slacker once a quotation had been received.

Miss Ablett advised that Fen Group had quoted a price of £11,416.00 + VAT and enquired whether the Board wished to install the slacker or continue to monitor the situation.

The Chairman advised that as there had been no issues this year due to water levels being kept low the Board should continue to monitor the situation. In support Mr Lakey reported that at a meeting on site with the Chairman and representatives from Abbots Ripton Estates it was agreed the Board would continue to monitor the situation.

The Chairman advised that the levels were kept as low as they had ever been this year and the land to the west of the District still suffered from some surface water ponding.

He added that when the Board were able to meet in person and assuming Abbots Ripton Estates still wished for a slacker to be installed, that would be the time to discuss the matter further. He advised that, in his opinion, the Board should not make any contribution as the installation of a slacker would only benefit the Board if it required higher water levels but Abbots Ripton Estates wished to keep their levels lower.

RESOLVED

That the situation continued to be monitored, together with the water levels, until the next meeting of the Board.

B.1071 Overgrown Watercourse from the Junction of A142, Isle of Ely Way, Chatteris Bypass and Short Nightlayers Drove East

Further to minute B.1041(iii), Miss Ablett reported that discussions were on-going with some of the parties responsible for the poorly maintained watercourses adjacent to the South Fens Business Centre and Anglian Water's WRC.

She advised that, unfortunately, the established contacts for two of the landowners involved had changed due to retirement and changing workloads and this had caused a slight delay. However, the parties concerned had confirmed they were investigating the matter to ensure a co-ordinated and amicable resolution. Miss Ablett added that the matter was to be discussed further at a meeting in April but this had been cancelled due to COVID-19 and the Clerk was to follow this up once restrictions were lifted.

The Chairman explained the current situation and the Board's concerns to the new members unaware of the position.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be requested to ascertain who owns the land before writing to all parties concerned to arrange a meeting including the Chairman and Vice Chairman, as soon as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.

B.1072 Replacement Handrail

Further to Minute B.1043, the Chairman reported that the handrail for the pumping station bridge at Point 2 had been replaced by the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.1073 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett 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 with the current arrangements.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

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

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

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

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

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

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

Water Resources East is a partnership from a wide range of industries including water energy, retail, the environment, land management and agriculture who are working in collaboration to manage the number of significant risks to the future supply of water in

the East of England. The NFU and ADA (via the David Thomas) have membership on the Board of WRE.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Total catchment management

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

4. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

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

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

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

6. Local Government Finances

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

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

The next government needs to provide clear policy messages about how they wish to make the delivery of environmental improvements to the water environment easier and more effective as we transition from European legislation such as the Water Framework Directive.

Unfortunately, because the conference was held during the pre-election period sometimes known as Purdah, which restricts certain communications during this time, there were no representatives available from the Environment Agency or Defra which significantly restricted the debate on flood risk management, funding and maintenance issues. However, there was considerable support from the floor of the conference for

the view that lack of maintenance had significantly contributed to the recent problems with the River Don and the flooding of Fishlake village.

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

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

b) Annual Conference

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

RESOLVED

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

c) Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association 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.997, 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 come 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.

v) Tactical Plans for the Fens Agreement

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

RESOLVED

That the Board approve in principle.

vi) 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.

vii) 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.1074 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Nightlayers I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – May 2020

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

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

A Roundup herbicide application was applied early in the growing season to the Board's Campole drain, reach 19-21-22-23-24-25-26-27, to control vigorous growths of watercress and other emergent aquatic vegetation, followed by a second application of Roundup, later in the year.

A recent inspection of the Board's drains has been undertaken, revealing that most drains remain in a generally satisfactory condition and are being maintained to a good standard.

However, sporadic stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation are evident throughout the Board's Campole drains to the west of the system (reach 19-21-22-23-24-25-26-27). It is recommended that the affected reach is treated with an application of Roundup herbicide, followed by light machine cleansing post-harvest this year. The inspection also highlighted evidence of three separate areas of bank subsidence in the Campole drain. It is recommended the subsided areas of bank have fir pile and toe board revetment installed and the bankside reformed to its previous profile.



Bank Subsidence reach 24-25

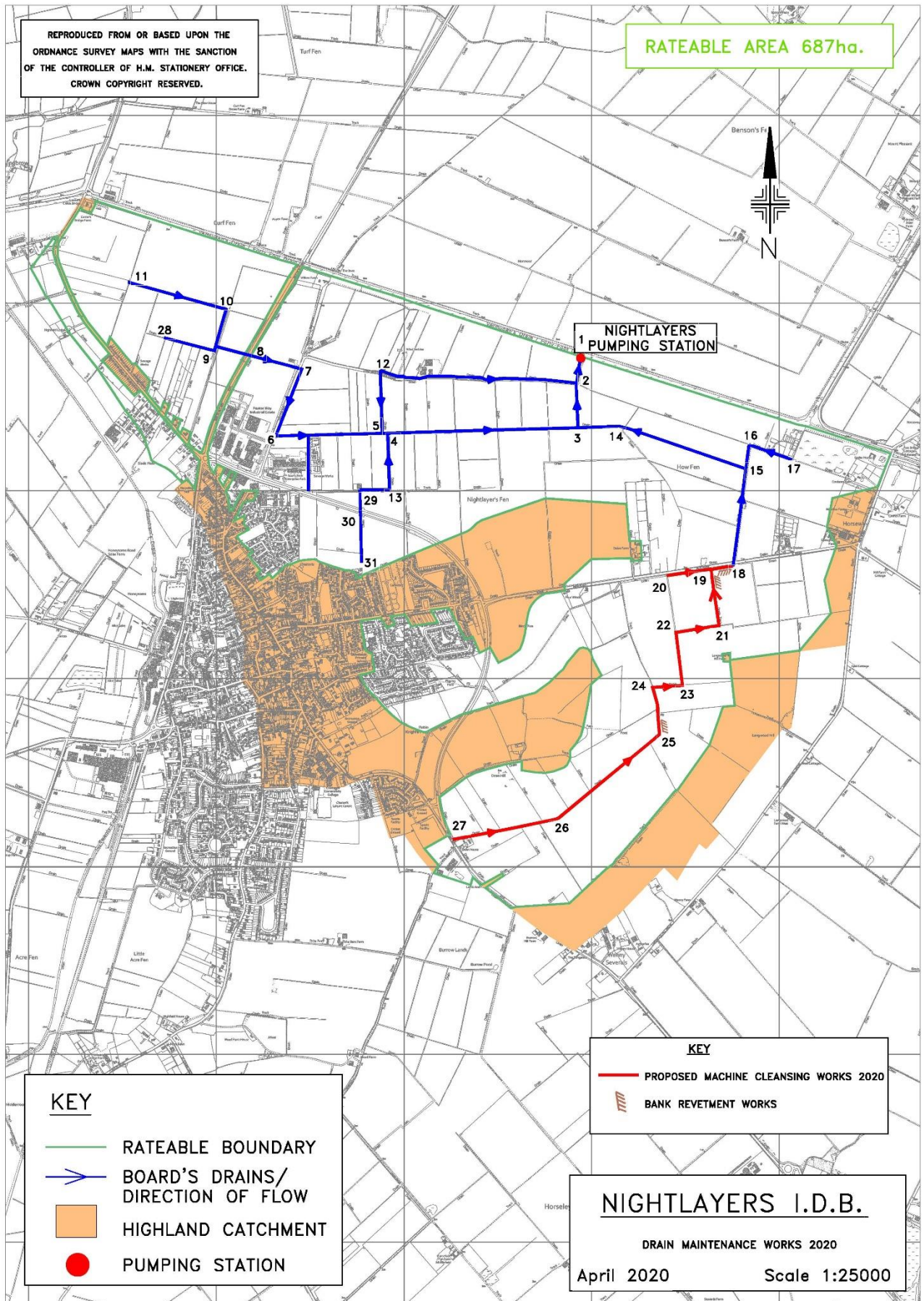
Bank Subsidence reach 18-19



It is further recommended that this be undertaken in conjunction with the proposed machine cleansing works later this summer. The same areas of bank subsidence were identified in last year's Board report and, as the Board agreed, they have been monitored throughout the last season. However, they have since deteriorated further, hence requiring revetment works to return the bank to the original profile and improve bank stability. A provisional sum has been included in the estimate for these works to be implemented when access allows.

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RATEABLE AREA 687ha.



KEY

- RATEABLE BOUNDARY
- BOARD'S DRAINS/
DIRECTION OF FLOW
- HIGHLAND CATCHMENT
- PUMPING STATION

KEY

- PROPOSED MACHINE CLEANSING WORKS 2020
- BANK REVETMENT WORKS

NIGHTLAYERS I.D.B.

DRAIN MAINTENANCE WORKS 2020

April 2020

Scale 1:25000

It was additionally noted that a tree which had been growing on the side sloping bank along reach 21-22 of the Campole Drain had been uprooted by the storms during the early part of this year and will require removal. A short section of bank re-profiling will also be required to reinstate the bank profile where the tree was previously situated. It is proposed the contractor's machine can undertake the necessary work during the proposed machine cleansing works.



Windblown tree, reach 21-22, Campole Drain

At the Chairman's request, a provisional sum has been allocated within this year's estimated expenditure for any other emergency machine cleansing, cott removal, culvert clearance or bank slip repair works that may be required within the Board's drains later in the year.

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 Board's drains for the ensuing year has been included in the estimated costs.

The recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance programme is as follows, see previous site plan for locations:

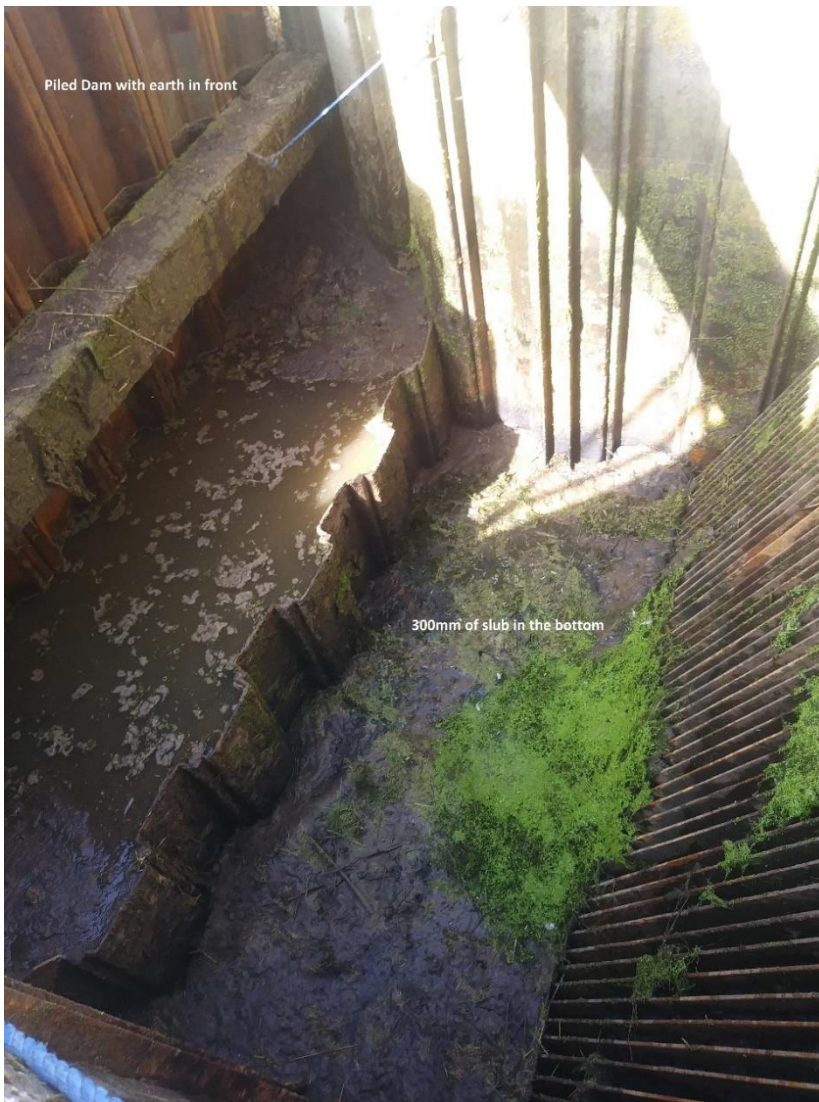
1)	Roundup applications to control emergent aquatic weed and reed growth in District Drains	Item	Sum	1200.00
2)	<u>Machine Cleansing</u>			
	Reaches 19-21-22-23-24-25-26-27	2500m	@ 1.10	2750.00
	Reaches 18-19-20	400m	@ 1.10	440.00
3)	<u>Provisional Sum</u>			
	Bank Revetment Works Campole Drain	Item	Sum	3000.00
4)	Allow sum for emergency machine Cleansing, Cott removal, culvert clearance works in Board's Drains	Item	Sum	1500.00
5)	Flail mowing district drains	Item	Sum	2500.00
6)	Fees for inspection, preparation and Submission of report to the Board, Arrangement and supervision of herbicide Applications and maintenance works	Item	Sum	1000.00
TOTAL				£12,390.00

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

Pumping Station

During August 2019 the electric pumpset developed a trip fault which could not be reset, this was found to be due to an issue with the star contactor causing an electronic overload to trip, a replacement assembly was therefore obtained and fitted.

In addition, the diesel engine would start but shut down after 20 seconds. The problem was found to be that the engine/gearbox coupling had lost its drive shot (small metal beads) due to overheating caused by the pump being stopped suddenly by debris.



With a question mark over the robustness of the overhead crane (runway supports are badly cracked) it was decided to dam off and dewater the sump and remove the blockage as the pump had operated less than 3000hrs and was likely to be in good condition

A piled earth dam was installed and the sump dewatered, see photo left.

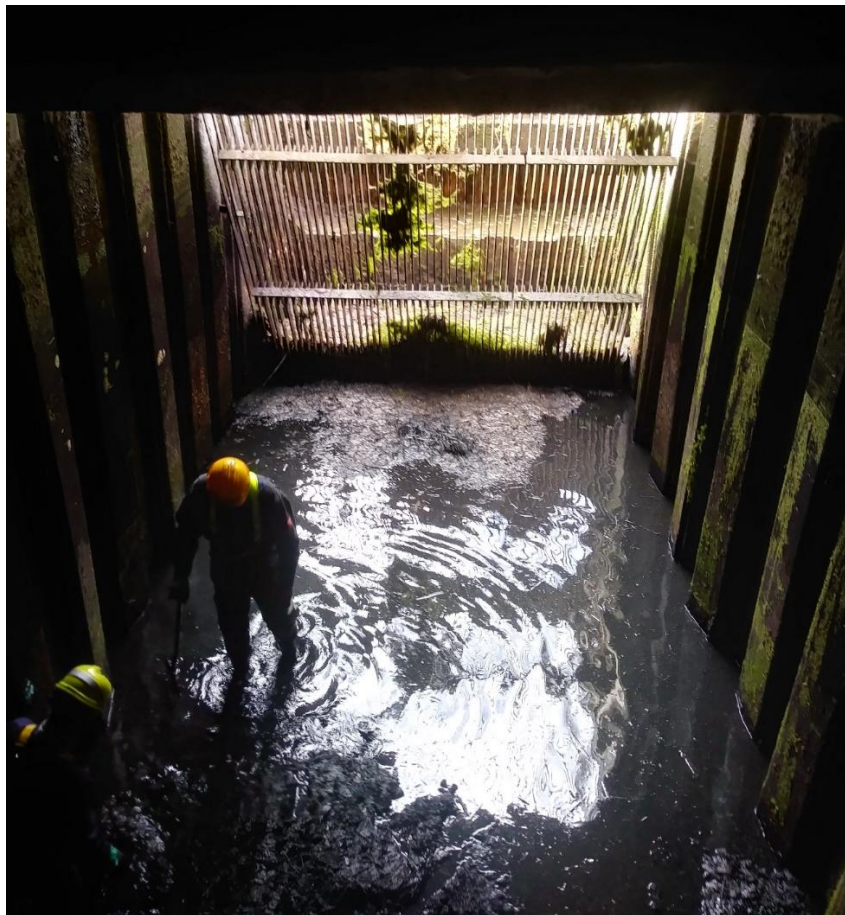
With the wet well dewatered the debris in the pump was removed together with other pieces from the wet well including sheet piles, toe board, breeze block and brick etc.

After the sump was cleared of the debris the pump hydraulics were

inspected and found to be in excellent condition and with the gearbox disconnected the pump was found to turn smoothly by hand.

The pump/gearbox coupling was filled with new shot and new fusible plugs from stock. However, it should be noted for the future that these couplings are no longer manufactured and parts are generally unavailable.

The photo below shows the wet well.



The area directly under the pump and 1m from the pump was clear and free from silt. The floor 1m to 4m from the pump was covered in silt to a depth of 200mm. The area beyond that was silted to a depth of around 50mm.

During the works the weedscreen cleaner failed and a check revealed that the down timing arm was badly bent and ready to break off from its boss. This was therefore removed, re-welded, re-fitted and adjusted accordingly. However, the cleaner repeatedly failed on broken rope when hitting large amounts of weed on the screen. Investigation found that the slack rope switches were incorrectly set and these were re-set and the cleaner returned to service.

In late September the electric pump again failed, on this occasion the Delta contactor coil had blown which was repaired using parts from the recently replaced star contactor.

The diesel pump engine was also not available in auto, it operated in manual but shook violently due to the fixing bolts from both front mountings being missing and the rear mounting loose. The engine was re-mounted and aligned. Following testing in manual, all appeared normal. The fault with working in automatic was the ultrasonic level controller which was repaired.

The weedscreen cleaner had also failed on hoist down limit switch, but visual inspection showed the switch assembly to be satisfactory. It is recommended that the de-bounce time between the two hoists up and two hoists down switches be increased by 0.2 seconds, this will require the services of a software engineer to access the programme.

None of the above failures were connected, however the control panel is quite old, too small and overly crowded with components (most of which are obsolete) making it difficult to work on or repair. The Board may wish to consider requesting a full report with recommendations covering the medium to long term life of the Station as there are many other Station issues that are less than satisfactory.

In addition, the telemetry outstation, which is now obsolete, has recently failed and cannot be repaired. We have just installed a system from Lee Dickens at another IDB site which appears to be working well, the Board may wish to obtain quotes from this company for a replacement.

There has also been some fluctuation of the insulation resistance of the electric pump drive motor, it is currently at a satisfactory level and will be monitored.

Weedscreen Cleaner

The Board was advised at its last meeting that EA grant-in-aid (GiA) was fully committed until 2021 and hence no funding is likely until after that time at the earliest and this remains the case. Also the Board is reminded that the EA will generally not offer grant for stand-alone works required for Health and Safety reasons (unless the site has been closed down by the HSE hence is inoperable) and if they were to wish to pursue a grant application it will be necessary to define benefits in terms of a tangible reduction to flood risk to property.

Pumping Hours

Total Hours Run	May 16 – May 17	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – April 19 (Approximate figure)	May 19 – April 20 (Approximate figure)
No 1 electric	264	533	180	530
No 2 diesel	59	13	45	50

Total Hours Run	May 11 – March 12	March 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16
No 1 electric	126	565	418	475	404
No 2 diesel	2	252	94	31	11

Pumping Station Valuations-Nightlayers Internal Drainage Board			
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		Nightlayers IDB-Nightlayers Pumping Station	
Site Data			
No. Pumps		2	
Station Capacity		1.8 cumecs	
Station built		1952/1979 (new diesel installed & pump overhauled 1996 new electric 1997 overhauled 2013)	
Description of Station		1 no. Allen Gwynnes 24" VSAF (Diesel) and 1 no. BPL Submersible SB.60.09.8C no. P0275/1 driven by Perkins 1000TG (Diesel) 75kW @ 1750 rpm and Morley DM39CP Integral Submersible 75kW motor. Rossi RV320 gearbox (Diesel). Roomfoss control equipment Star Delta electric, Modex diesel, C W Engineering weedscreen cleaner. Pumps refurbished electric-2013, diesel-1996	
Valuation			
Civils Works		£725,415.00	
M&E		£409,125.00	
Other		£43,000.00	
Total		£1,177,540.00	
Breakdown of valuation			
Civils Works			
Pump sumps/pipework		£529,500.00	
Hard standing			
Fencing		£5,295.00	
Outfalls		£84,720.00	
Pumphouse		£84,720.00	
Weedcreens		£21,180.00	
M&E			
Pumps/gearbox		£174,560.00	
Control Equipment, cabling		£38,185.00	
Power Supply		incl in public liability	
Diesel powerpack fueltank/systems		£65,460.00	
Installation		£32,730.00	
Weedscreen raker		£98,190.00	
Other			
Approvals		£10,750.00	
Liaison and consultation		£5,375.00	
Design		£16,125.00	
Supervision		£10,750.00	

Planning Procedures Update

Further to the last Board meeting the Clerk to the Board 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 30 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
787	Enquiry	Client of Royal Haskoning DHV UK Ltd	Residential development	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
788	F/YR19/0347/PNC07	Chatteris Enterprises Ltd	Residence	New Road, Chatteris
789	F/YR19/0378/RM	FRW (UK) Ltd	Residential (3 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris
790	F/YR19/0386/SC	Barmach Ltd	Residential (up to 250 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
791	F/YR19/0445/F	Mr O Hills	Residence (Extension)	The Orchards, Chatteris
792	F/YR19/0493/O	Mr J Rowell	Residential (2 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris
793	F/YR19/0523/O	Mr S Colgrave	Residence	King Edward Road, Chatteris
794	F/YR19/0561/F	Aerotron Leasing Services Ltd	Industrial (Extension)	Fenton Way, Chatteris*
795	F/YR19/0599/F	Mr & Mrs Dolby	Residence (Garage)	Ravenscroft, Chatteris
796	F/YR19/0607/F	Mr & Mrs Ager	Residence (Extension)	Willey Terrace, Doddington Road, Chatteris
797	F/YR19/0649/F	Mr & Mrs Hawkins	Residence (Extension)	Fenton Way, Chatteris

798	F/YR19/0683/F	Mr & Mrs Hawkins	Residence (Annexe)	Fenton Way, Chatteris
799	F/YR19/0726/O	Mr G Caulfield	Residence (Garage)	St Francis Drive, Chatteris
800	F/YR19/0747/F	Mr D Lewis	Residence	George Way, Chatteris
801	F/YR19/0763/O	Mr A Pilgrim	Residence	Doddington Road accessed from Albert Way, Chatteris
802	F/YR19/0818/O	Messrs A & P Sole	Residence	Park Street, Chatteris
803	F/YR19/0822/O	Mr D Brooks	Residential (2 dwellings)	High Street, Chatteris
804	F/YR19/0834/O	Triman Developments Ltd & Robertson Strategic Asset Management Ltd	Residential (up to 249 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
805	F/YR19/0866/RM	FRW (UK) Ltd	Residential (2 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris
806	F/YR19/0860/FDC	Fenland District Council	Residence	Glebe Close, Chatteris
807	F/YR19/3104/COND	Produce World Ltd	Industrial/ Commercial	Fenton Way/Iretons Way, Chatteris*
808	F/YR19/0948/O	Mr P Hall	Residence	Doddington Road, Chatteris
809	F/YR19/0982/F	Mrs Rowe	Residence	Wenny Road, Chatteris
810	F/YR19/1031/O	Mr & Mrs P Guy	Residential (3 plots)	Willey Terrace, Doddington Road Chatteris
811	F/YR19/1054/FDC	Fenland District Council	Residential (2 plots)	The Elms, Chatteris
812	F/YR19/3141/COND	Aerotron Leasing Services Ltd	Industrial (Extension)	Fenton Way, Chatteris
813	F/YR20/3017/COND	Produce World Ltd	Industrial/ Commercial	Fenton Way/Iretons Way, Chatteris *
814	F/YR20/0119/F	Mr J Steer & Miss A Keating	Residence	High Street, Chatteris
815	F/YR20/0139/F	Mrs T Wickes	Residence	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
816	F/YR20/0197/F	Mr B Muthwill	Residence (Extension)	London Road, Chatteris

Planning applications ending 'PNCO' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Planning applications ending 'SC' relate to screening/scoping opinions
Planning application ending 'FDC' relate to Fenland District Council
Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions

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

Some of the above are likely to discharge treated foul effluent water into the Board's system via Nightlayers' Water Recycling Centre (WRC).

Mr & Mrs Darr chose to use the infiltration device self-certification process for surface water disposal from an extension at 61 Gull Way, Chatteris (MLC Ref No 781) 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.1041 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (v) the current position is being ascertained in respect of the following developments:

- *Erection of 20 dwellings with associated garages, parking and landscaping on land to the south of 116 - 122 New Road, Chatteris - Beauville Properties Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 312 & 766)*
- *Erection of workplace homes - Mr G Collett (MLC Ref Nos 370 & 551) & Midland Ventures Ltd (MLC Ref No 492) and Erection of up to 3no dwellings at land south west of (Womb Farm) Doddington Road [George Way], Chatteris - Mr G Collett (MLC Ref No 726)*
- *Residential development with associated landscaping, open space and infrastructure at land east of Wenny Road, Chatteris - Cannon Kirk (UK) Homes (MLC Ref Nos 535 & 698) and Client of Cannon Consulting Engineers (MLC Ref Nos 667 & 676)*
- *Erection of a 3-storey block of 6 x flats comprising of 4 x 2 bed and 2 x 1-bed flats involving the demolition of existing building at 26 Bridge Street, Chatteris - Mrs R Jinks (MLC Ref 588 & 683) & Green Deal Construction Ltd (MLC Ref No 708)*
- *Developments at Medcalfe Way, Bridge Street, Chatteris – Eclipse Scientific Group (MLC Ref No 605) & ALS Food & Pharmaceutical (MLC Ref Nos 740 & 764)*
- *Residential development on land north and east of 209 New Road, Chatteris – Client of Opus International Consultants (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 617), King Partnership Homes (MLC Ref Nos 617 & 620) & Langwith Construction (MLC Ref No 718)*
- *Extension & alterations to former Co-operative Store, Bridge Street, Chatteris – Client of Stirling Maynard (MLC Ref No 675) & Aldi Food Stores (MLC Ref No 680)*
- *Erection of 2 x 2-bed flats at land east of 22C Pound Road, Chatteris - Mr J Capper (MLC Ref No 705)*
- *Residential Development at land west of 9 Doddington Road, Chatteris – Mr George Munns (MLC Ref Nos 720 & 737)*
- *Erection of 10 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings including 1 x with detached single garage, 2 x with detached double carports on land north east of 81 - 87 High Street accessed From Slade Way, Chatteris - Mr T Mannion (MLC Ref No 752)*
- *Erection of up to 4 x dwellings involving the demolition of existing dwelling and associated outbuildings at 14 - 16 Wenny Road Chatteris – Ms C Morley (MLC Ref No 753)*

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.

Proposed development at Womb Farm south west of Doddington Road, Chatteris – Client of Gifford (MLC Ref No 446), Colliers CRE (MLC Ref No 459), Triman Developments (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 463), Client of Royal Haskoning DHV UK Ltd (MLC Ref No 787), Barmach Ltd (MLC Ref No 790) & Triman Developments Ltd & Robertson Strategic Asset Management Ltd (MLC Ref No 804)

Note. A Scoping Opinion is a planning process where the applicant asks the relevant Local Planning Authority for its formal opinion as to what information should be included within an Environmental Statement to accompany an application for planning permission for the related proposal.

Further to previous meeting reports, circa 2007/2008, concerning the development of this land, which is also within the neighbouring Warboys, Somersham & Pidley IDB and partly abuts its Fillenhams Drain, for *Light Industry and Storage & Distribution Use*, a Scoping Opinion was submitted to Fenland District Council (FDC) by Barmah Ltd for a residential development of up to 250 dwellings in May 2019.

The District Council subsequently concluded that:

“The location of the site is not considered to be environmentally sensitive as set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations and it is concluded that significant environmental impacts from the proposed development are unlikely and those potential impacts identified above whilst not significant for EIA purposes could be adequately addressed through the submission of technical reports and identified mitigation submitted in support of any future planning application.”

An outline planning application (MLC Ref No 804) has recently been submitted and is currently being considered by FDC.

The County Council, in its role as the LLFA, originally objected to the application due to the absence of infiltration testing or a viable alternative surface water strategy and the need to meet the Board's requirements. However, it subsequently removed its objection advising that:

“....surface water from the proposed development can be managed through the use of permeable paving to allow water to infiltrate into the ground in areas found to be viable for infiltration from soakaway testing that has been completed in line with BRE DG 365 standards. As the western part of the site is not suitable for infiltration, it has been proposed to attenuate surface water here in a large attenuation basin before it is discharged into the Fillenham's Drain at QBAR greenfield rate for all events up to and including a 1 in 100 year event plus a 40% allowance for climate change.”

and suggested the imposition of relevant planning conditions. The LLFA's response also included an Informative advising of the need to seek the Board's consent.

With the exception of some initial discussion with the applicants' engineering consultant, Royal HaskoningDHV, as part of a post-application consultation procedure the Board has yet to be formally contacted.

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage a decision remains pending.

Site of former bridge
at Womb Farm

Tesco
Roundabout



Extract from Cassidy and Ashtons Indicative Site Masterplan Drawing No 9377 MP07 Rev A
Aerial photograph of the site of the reach concerned prior to the completion of the diversion works

Development at the Produce World sites, off Fenton Way, Chatteris

Development of land west off Fenton Way and east of Iretons Way, Chatteris [to the north of the existing facilities] - R W Simpson Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 464 & 570); Client of Grounds & Co (MLC Ref No 560); Allpress Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 566); Produce World (Chatteris) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 659, 663 & 754) & Produce World Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 807 & 813)

Further to previous Board Reports two Discharge of Conditions applications have been submitted to the District Council. The initial application (MLC Ref No 807) included the discharge of conditions related to surface water disposal and flood risk but were not discharged. However, the subsequent application (MLC Ref No 813) was discharged.

In its response, the LLFA advised that based on the submission documents it could:

“....recommend discharge of Condition 13 and 17 of planning permission F/YR15/0205/F. The above documents demonstrate that surface water can be drained from the site through the use of a large attenuation basin serving the wider site. This basin will grow in size as the phases are developed to ensure the basin provides the adequate volume of storage required for the impermeable areas from the plots, for all storm events up to and including the 1% AEP storm event including a 40% allowance for climate change.”

The response did include an informative but to date no contact has been made with the Board.

The Old Onion Building – Rustler Growers Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 470 & 473), Produce World (Chatteris) Ltd (MLC Ref No 663) & Aerotron Leasing Services Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 794 & 812)

A full planning application (MLC Ref No 794) was submitted to and subsequently granted permission by the District Council in respect of the erection of an extension and insertion of a mezzanine floor.

The Decision Notice advises on the conditions imposed including those related to surface water disposal as requested by the LLFA and included a Drainage Advisory Note.

In its response the LLFA advises that:

“The above documents demonstrate that surface water from the proposed development will connect into the existing surface water infrastructure which

consists of an existing on-site attenuation pond. As there is no increase to the impermeable area there will be no impact on the existing drainage network.”

An application for the discharge of conditions (MLC Ref No 812), including surface water disposal, was subsequently processed by the District Council.

Mixed Use Development on land south east of London Road, Chatteris - Hallam Land Management Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 481 & 537)

According to Fenland District Council's Public Access web page, discussions between the District Council and the applicant's agent, Bidwells LLP, continue in respect of concluding the Section 106 agreement but a decision on this site still remains pending.

The Board has yet to be formally contacted.

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

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

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

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.”

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.

Response to 2020 Revision of Local Validation Guidance

During February comments were sought on its Local Validation List which details the documents that are required to 'validate' planning applications.

A similar response to that sent to Cambridgeshire County Council in April 2019, see below, was issued to the District Council for consideration. However, rather than the more promising response received from the County Council the District Council simply advised that:

"The project group have met to consider your comments, and concluded that they relate to the quality of information submitted, and therefore sits with the decision making process rather than the validation process."

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/ccclive/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/ccclive/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/232/Committee/8/Default.aspx>

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

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

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.

Further to Minute B.1041 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters (iii) on-going discussions have commenced with some of the parties responsible for the poorly maintained watercourses adjacent to the South Fens Business Centre and Anglian Water's WRC.

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.

Consulting Engineer

13 May 2020

Nightlayers(320)\Reports\May 2020

Miss Ablett referred to the Consulting Engineer's comments relating to several issues that had arisen during the year at the pumping station and enquired whether the Board wished for a full report with recommendations covering the medium to long term life of the station to be prepared which may prove useful when reviewing grant-in-aid and planning for future works.

Miss Ablett advised that in 2009 asset surveys were carried out on all IDB pumping stations and this could be updated in conjunction with a full report as there would be some overlap of information.

The Chairman advised that as the Board may be looking at applying for grant-in-aid in the future it would be sensible to have all the necessary information made available for the next meeting so any application could be discussed further. This was agreed by the Members.

Miss Ablett referred to the Consulting Engineer's comments relating to the telemetry outstation and advised of a system from Lee Dickens, which appeared to be working well at another station, and enquired whether the Board wished to obtain a quotation from this company for a replacement system.

The Chairman advised that as the telemetry system had failed and could not be repaired he considered a quotation should be obtained for discussion at the next meeting of the Board.

With reference to minute B.1041(iv), Members considered having a business case prepared for a grant-in-aid scheme relating to a new automatic weedscreen cleaner and a wider weedscreen.

Miss Ablett reported that the Clerk had advised that 2021 marked the end of the six-year funding commitment and it was not yet known whether changes would be made to the funding model, what outcome targets would be or the process of securing grant.

The Chairman confirmed that, as discussed earlier, the Board should discuss the grant-in-aid position when a face to face meeting could be held, once the asset survey had been completed. He added that by this time further information may be available regarding the amount of grant-in-aid funds that would be available in future years and of any changes to the funding model.

With regards to the repairs to the support piers of the gantry crane, the Chairman reported that he had spoken with the Consulting Engineer who had obtained a quotation in the region of £3,000 and that, as the quotation had been reasonable and in view of the health and safety implications, he had instructed the Middle Level Commissioners to arrange for the works to be carried out so the crane could be used safely should it be needed in an emergency.

Proposed development of up to 250 dwellings at Womb Farm, south west of Doddington Road, Chatteris (MLC Ref Nos. 446, 459, 787, 790,& 804)

Miss Ablett reported that an outline planning application had been submitted to Fenland District Council and would be discussed by the Planning Committee by video conference on the 3rd June. The Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Officer had advised that if permission was granted it would be subject to the imposition of planning conditions and the LLFA had also included an informative advising of the need to seek the Board's consent.

Miss Ablett advised that the site was within the catchment area of both this Board and Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB, and it was currently proposed to discharge surface water into the latter Board's Fillenhams Drain.

Several years ago both Boards had agreed to the inter-catchment transfers of surface water and Miss Ablett advised that, should this development proceed, Nightlayers IDB would receive the

subsequent treated foul effluent water from Chatteris WRC and that a discharge contribution in the region of £100 per dwelling was likely to be payable to the Board.

She enquired whether Members were satisfied with the proposals and if they wished for the Planning Officer to continue dealing with the application on the Board's behalf.

Members considered the surface water should be discharged into Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB's Fillenhams Drain, the treated foul effluent water from Chatteris WRC should be dealt with by this Board and the Planning Officer should continue to deal with this application on their behalf.

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 Consulting Engineer prepare a full report to include an update of the assets survey with recommendations covering the medium to long term life of the station.
- iv) That the actions of the Chairman in authorising repairs to the support piers on the gantry crane be approved.
- v) That the Consulting Engineer be requested to obtain a quotation from Lee Dickens for a new telemetry system.
- vi) Proposed development of up to 250 dwellings at Womb Farm, south west of Doddington Road, Chatteris (MLC Ref Nos. 446, 459, 787, 790,& 804

That the surface water be discharged into Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB's Fillenhams Drain, the treated foul effluent water from Chatteris WRC be dealt with by Nightlayers IDB and the Planning Officer continue to deal with this application on behalf of the Board.

B.1075 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme.

RESOLVED

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

B.1076 District Officer's Report

The Chairman reported that last year's drain maintenance had gone well and although there had been a few small problems, as identified in the Consulting Engineer's Report, all drains were in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard.

The Chairman referred to the problems highlighted by the Consulting Engineer relating to the pumping station . He reported that the control panel needed attention at some time and although working satisfactorily at the present time, a new panel would be required, which could be included in any grant-in-aid scheme. He advised that if the Board required a new one before then it would have to be replaced without grant.

He reported that COPE Safety Management had been appointed as health and safety consultants to the Board and had carried out an inspection of the District with the Vice Chairman where it had been identified there were not too many issues.

RESOLVED

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

B.1077 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's newsletter, dated December 2019, previously circulated to members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

RESOLVED

That no action be taken concerning mink traps at this point.

B.1078 District Officer's Fee

The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2020/2021.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of £3,965.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2020/2021.

(NB – The District Officer declared a financial interest when this item was discussed).

B.1079 State-aided Schemes

a) 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.

b) Update on the EA grant-in-aid position

Miss Ablett reported that the EA undertook a 'refresh' of its grant allocation schedule and optimised it to increase the likelihood of meeting the government outcome measure targets. As part of this some schemes were deferred in favour of those which could be delivered within the next two years with certainty and the programme has, as a consequence, become financially oversubscribed. This effectively means that there will be little or no chance of receiving grant for any new schemes between now and 2021 (at the earliest). This

date marks the end of the six-year funding commitment and whilst it is understood that the EA are pressing hard to have another six-year settlement and, if agreed to by treasury, for this to be larger than the previous one to help address the increasing investment required to tackle climate change driven impacts. At this point in time we do not know what will happen and changes could be made in any event to the funding model, what outcome targets are or the process of securing grant. What is clear is that the further ahead that IDBs collectively plan their investment needs the more likely whatever grant is available will be accessible by them.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

B.1080 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2020/2021 in the sum of £3,370.00 (the precept for 2019/2020 being £3,288.21).

B.1081 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss Ablett reported that the sum of £562.36 (£3,802.16 less £3,239.80 received on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2018/2019 based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £2,693.40 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.

B.1082 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2019, viz:- from £553 to £565.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2020.

B.1083 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £14.14.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1084 Health and Safety

a) Further to minute B.1050(b), the Vice Chairman referred to the reports received from Cope Safety Management following their visits to the District on the 28th August 2019 and 28th January 2020. He confirmed that he had met with COPE and had received all

information and risk assessments from them which he had copied and placed in a folder to be kept at the pumping station.

Mr Lakey advised that now the Board had approved to repair the crane most points raised had been dealt with. He referred to the matter of the fire extinguisher mentioned in the report and advised that, due to there being no pump attendant on site, some Boards were removing these and enquired what action the Board would be taking.

The Vice Chairman advised that a fire extinguisher would be kept at the pumping station and inspected annually so the Board had one in case of emergencies.

Miss Ablett 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.

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

B.1085 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.1086 Defra IDB Returns

Miss Ablett referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2018/2019 and to the letter from the Minister and Annual report summary and analysis received from Defra dated August 2019.

B.1087 Budgeting

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

B.1088 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1089 Risk Management Assessment

a) Miss Ablett 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.1090 Exercise of Public Rights

Miss Ablett 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.1091 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.1092 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £49,162.90 which had been made during the financial year 2019/2020.

(NB) - The District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to him.

B.1093 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.1094 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 Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 21.14% and 78.86%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved; including a sum of £3,000 for repairs to the support piles on the gantry crane.
- ii) That a total sum of £27,509 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £5,815 and £21,694 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 4.50p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £21,694 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1095 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.1096 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 27^h May 2021.

B.1097 Inspection of the District

Councillor Hay enquired whether in view of the new Members on the Board it would be possible for them to be shown around the District which would assist in understanding the items discussed at Board meetings.

RESOLVED

That, to assist new members and once COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, an inspection be arranged for all Board members.

B.1098 Information

Councillor Hay asked that an A3 District map and a copy of the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members be sent to her.