

RAMSEY FOURTH (MIDDLEMOOR) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Ramsey Fourth (Middlemoor) Internal Drainage Board
hosted at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 18th June 2020

PRESENT

A C Roberts Esq (Chairman)	J M Palmer Esq
M J Smith Esq (Vice Chairman)	Miss A C Swales
J R Clarke Esq	M Swales Esq
L Croft Esq	S W Whittome Esq

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

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from T G Few Esq and D C Roberts Esq.

B.822 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.823 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 and Mr Swales declared interests in minute no. B.843.

Councillor Clarke declared interests in the planning applications (MLC Ref Nos. 234 & 240) received for Mr J Clarke and (MLC Ref No. 437) received for Ramsey St Marys Village Trust.

The Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to D C Roberts & Son.

Councillor Clarke and Mr Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) and took no part in discussions relating to the Middle Level Commissioners.

B.824 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 20th June 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.825 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That A C Roberts Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.826 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That M J Smith Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.827 Appointment of District Officer

RESOLVED

That J Edwards Esq be appointed District Officer to the Board during the ensuing year on a self-employed basis.

B.828 Appointment of Clerk

RESOLVED

That the Middle Level Commissioners be appointed Clerk to the Board for the ensuing year.

(NB) – Councillor Clarke and Mr Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) when this item was discussed.

B.829 Clerk's fee

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

RESOLVED

That there be no increase in the fee paid to the Clerk for the year 2020/2021.

B.830 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

That the Register be approved.

B.831 Board Membership

Further to minute B.791(b), Miss McShane reported that Mr Lynden Croft had accepted the invitation to become a Member of the Board.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Croft who was attending his first meeting of the Board.

B.832 Property – Riverview - Middlemoor Pumping Station Bungalow

Further to minute B.795, the Chairman reported that the property had a new tenant who had carried out a number of improvements to the property such as re-plastering, a new bathroom and new carpets. He was really looking after the property and the work was being carried out to a very high standard. There had been a fault with the oven which had proved impossible to repair and this had been replaced with a new oven. The Chairman further reported that the tenant had requested permission to install some insulation in the roof of the property and he had agreed these works and also that the Board would contribute a sum towards the insulation materials.

RESOLVED

- i) That the actions taken by the Chairman in authorising the works at the Board's property and the purchase of a new oven be approved.
- ii) That the Board agree to contribute a sum towards the insulation materials.

B.833 Purchase of land adjacent to the Board's holdings – Drapers Delph, Ramsey St Mary's

Further to minute B.796, Miss McShane reported that this land was now owned by the Board and she would regularise the tenancy agreements.

RESOLVED

That, as a matter of urgency, the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk arrange for tenancy agreements for the Board's purchase of land at Drapers Delph and the change of tenancy from Mrs Pickard be drawn up and the Vice Chairman be authorised to deal with any matters on behalf of the Board.

B.834 Water Transfer Licencing

Further to minute B.749, 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.835 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:-

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date Consent Granted</u>
Mr Terry Burgess	The piping and filling of approx. 12 metres of Board's District watercourse near Herne Road between points 41 and 42	23 rd October 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) 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.720(d), 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) 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-aided works to progress during this time on a hold-the-line basis.

Miss Swales asked whether the Board had a sight of the current flood plan for this District. She added noting the increasing interest the local population had in local matters and that many who lived here knew of the IDBs and their activity, she was keen for the Board to be appraised of what the situation was for a flooding event in this District, particularly as the Board had several new members. For example, which assets were classed as being of greatest benefit to flood, which assets were classed as priority not to flood. Also, how would the flooding event be managed from the point of view of the Environment Agency. The flooding in Lincolnshire appeared to require support from a number of different external groups being offered to the Environment Agency to solve the issue. Maybe a single

contingency plan that was known about by Board Members would be of benefit and allow a quick and efficient response to a flooding event. The flooding events of last winter were ever more possible and the Members should be prepared to understand what the consequences were, particularly for this area.

In response to Miss Swales, Miss McShane reported that the Tactical Plans for the Fens were all about the defining of the long-term needs for the Lower Great Ouse Catchment and how this would be funded. For example, was a barrier at Kings Lynn needed or were there areas of land which could/should be sacrificed in major events? This was needed to address that challenges that are presented by climate change and by changing land use and economic drivers. At this point in time there was no detailed information on costs or any advanced discussions on where the funding may be sourced from and it was recognised that it will take some time to develop these. Therefore, over the next 15 years a plan was being put in place to 'hold the line', ie to invest to allow the current level of flood protection to be maintained.

On flood risk management in this area it was very complex with some land protected by multiple sets of defences, and successful drainage often being reliant on pumping. Large areas of the district will be pumped multiple times, water being lifted more than once to get it out to sea. For this area the Board and the Middle Level Commissioners were of course the key players and there was no wholistic contingency plan in place per say as no two events were alike and benefit was gained from the wealth of experience and local knowledge within the organisations to be able to react to any probably likely event in the most appropriate manner, as was the case in Easter 1998. All agencies did work together and the routes of communication and action were clear and would be coordinated ultimately by the Environment Agency.

Miss McShane also reported that a visit to the Middle Level offices and an hour or so spent with one of the Consulting Engineers would allow for a more detailed understanding to be gained.

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.836 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Ramsey Fourth (Middlemoor) I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – June 2020

Pumping Stations

Other than any matters described below or previously reported to the Board, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting

Daintree

The winding resistance to earth of the pump drive motors remains at a satisfactory level.

As can be seen below the weedscreen is badly corroded and will soon require replacement.



Middlemoor

The low insulation resistance of both submersible pump drive motor winding/cables to earth has continued to be monitored and it was recently found that the resistance of pump motor 2 has dropped dramatically to a very low level (below the safe minimum value), the pump therefore requires an urgent overhaul or replacement. Pump 2 was installed in 1994 and was last overhauled in 2004.

Pump 1 was installed in 1999 and has, to date, not been overhauled. However, its insulation resistance remains at around the same value as at this time last year.

As previously reported the weedscreen is badly corroding and it is recommended that it is replaced this year.



Pumping Hours

Daintree Pumping Station

Total Hours Run	April 12- April13	April 13- April 14	April 14- April 15	April 15- April 16	April 16- April 17	April 17- April 18	April 18 – April 19	April 19 – May 20
No 1	697	115*	330*	65	171	158*	66	393
No 2	251	250*	250*	182	61	183*	31	326

Middlemoor Pumping Station

Total Hours Run	April 12- April13	April 13- April 14	April 14- April 15	April 15- April 16	April 16- April 17	April 17- April 18	April 18 – April 19	April 19- May 20
No 1	366	175	170*	92	52	136*	56	257
No 2	376	196	150*	156	77	126*	60	280

Pumping Station Asset Appraisals

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

Daintree



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Ramsey 4 th (Middlemoor)
Commissioned	1963
Refurbished	2005 and 2007 (pump 2 had new head bearing 2017)
Pumps	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 14" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No. S11316/7Z
Duty	255 l/s @ 4.7m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	WH Allen SC 19kW @ 967 rpm
Gearbox	None
Control Equipment	Carlton Control Stat Delta
Automatic Level Control	Pulsar Ultra 5 Ultrasonic
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	Brick with felt covered timber roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8m high palisade

General Comments

Daintree pumping station is one of two in the Ramsey 4th (Middlemoor) Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain an area of land around the Ramsey St. Mary village. The two Allen Gwynnes pumps discharge via an inverted siphon (open to atmosphere) and to two 18" diameter concrete pipes into the River Nene.

The station was constructed in 1963 and remains generally unaltered since installation.

Weedscreen



The metal weedscreen is manually raked and consists of 12mm section bars at 50mm centres. The screen is in a very poor condition and needs replacing urgently.

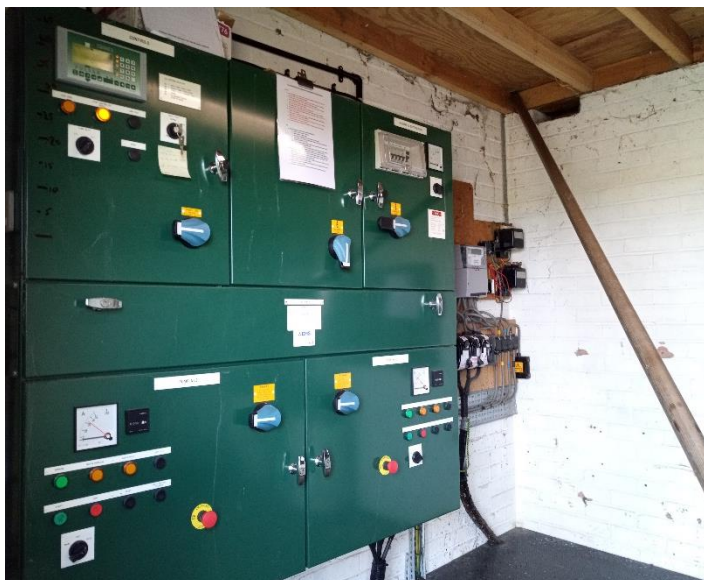
Control House

The brick-built control building houses the control panel and electricity meter. The brickwork is spalling in places but is generally sound with no cracking or subsidence. The structure should last a further 30 years. The roof is constructed using timber beam and boarding and is covered with mineral felt. There is no insulation or ceiling panels. The felt is in reasonable condition but will require replacing in around 5 years' time.



There are no windows in the building and lighting is artificial with a single fluorescent light.

Control Equipment/Pumps



The 1970's panels (separate units for pumps 1 & 2) were replaced by a form 4 control panel built by Carlton Controls in 2013. The panel incorporates a Pulsar ultrasonic level controller and is in an excellent condition and should last at least a further 20 years.

The station has two Allen Gwynnes 14" vertical spindle axial flow pumps powered by vertically mounted motors. In 1981 both pumps and motors were overhauled with the bearings and tubes replaced. In 1990 low insulation resistance was found in the no 1 motor and it was overhauled. In 1995 the insulation resistance in both motors fluctuated with the seasons, which indicates damp ingress.



One of the pumps and motor was taken out for overhaul in 2005 and the other in 2007. For reasons that were not clear pump 2 required a new head bearing in 2017 and whilst both pumps seem to operate satisfactorily, they are 57 years old and must be coming to the end of their serviceable life. The Board may wish to consider replacing the pumps with cheaper submersible pumps in the next 5-10 years to cover the remaining life of the station.

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

The depth of submergence between the current winter level and the minimum pumping level is in the region of 1.0 metre which should ensure that there is sufficient scope for lowering of the levels for up to 20 more years before consideration needs to be given to lowering of the sump or replacing the station.

The station does not have telemetry installed.

Fencing/Compound

Access to the station is via a stone and grassed access road. The compound is bounded by a 1.8 metre high palisade fence which is in good condition and should last a further 30 years.

The station compound is unmade and generally overgrown and could do with some improvements.

Inlets/Outlets



The inlet wingwalls are constructed with sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The piles appear to be in reasonable condition and should last a further 20-30 years. The inlet is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with no signs of concrete deterioration and should last a further 30-40 years.

The inlet has 1.2m high galvanised handrailing which is in good condition with a further 20 years' life.

The outfall bay is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in good condition with a further 30 years' life. There is no handrail to the outfall bay. The flapvalves are submerged and the condition could not be determined. However as there is no siphonic recovery there is no need for a working flap valve on the outfall.



Pumping Station Valuations-Ramsey 4th IDB				
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		Ramsey 4th IDB - Daintree Pumping Stn.		
Site Data				
No. Pumps		2		
Station Capacity		0.5 cumecs		
Station built		1963, Plant Overhauled 2005 and 2007		
Description of Station		2 no. Allen Gwynnes 14" Vertical Spindle Axial Flow No. S11316/722 WH Allen SC 19kW @ 967 rpm. Carlton Controls Star-delta auto controls installed 2014. Brick control building with felt covered timber flat roof.		
Valuation				
Civils Works	✓		£458,547.00	
M&E	✓		£185,470.00	
Other	✓		£43,000.00	
Total			£687,017.00	
Breakdown of valuation				
Civils Works				
Pump sump/pipework	✓		£370,650.00	
Hard standing				
Fencing	✓		£3,177.00	
Outfall bay	✓		£52,950.00	
Pumphouse	✓		£21,180.00	
Other	✓		£10,590.00	
M&E				
Pumps	✓		£109,100.00	
Control Equipment/cabling	✓		£21,820.00	
Power Supply			Public liability	
Motors	✓		£10,910.00	
Installation	✓		£32,730.00	
Weedscreen	✓		£10,910.00	
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	Daintree								
Internal Drainage Board	Ramsey 4th								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025 - 2030	2030 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment							80k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment		15k							
Control Building		3k							
Compound and Surroundings		3k							
Telemetry									
Need									
80k Pumps may well need replacing in next 5-10 years									
15kThe weedscreen is in need of urgent replacement									
3kThe control building will need new roof covering fascia etc									
3k General tidy up of compound									
Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.									
- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.									

Middlemoor



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Ramsey 4 th
Commissioned	1940
Refurbished	1975/94/99
Pumps	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 27" Diesel, 2 no. BPC Submersible Mixed Flow Bowl No.P0207 & P0463
Duty	767 l/s and 640 l/s 4.7 metres total head
Drive Motor	2 no. Ruston 9XHR Diesels and 2 no. BCP Integral Motors 46kW @ 970 rpm
Gearbox	none
Control Equipment	Carlton Controls Auto Transformer
Automatic Level Control	Milltronics Multiranger Ultrasonic
Weedscreen Cleaner	Manual
Control Building	Brick with pitched corrugated sheet roof
Telemetry	None
Fencing	None

General Comments

Middlemoor is one of two pumping stations in the Ramsey 4th (Middlemoor) Internal Drainage Board catchment. It serves to drain an area of land around Ramsey St. Mary's which lies approximately 2km northwest of Ramsey.

The existing diesel station was commissioned in the early 1940's with two diesel driven pumps housed in a brick pump house. In 1975 a new concrete sump was built and pipework laid to a new outfall. A single electric submersible pump (pump 1) was then

installed which was again replaced in 1999. A second submersible pump was added in 1994. The diesel driven pumps have not been run for more than 10 years and whilst they may operate it is very likely the intake screen would collapse hence they must be considered inoperable.

The pumps discharge to the River Nene.

Weedscreen



There are separate weedcreens for the electric and diesel pumps. The weedscreen for the electric pumps is in a very poor condition and needs replacing urgently.

The weedscreen for the diesel pump is likely to be the original one installed during construction of the station in the 1940's. It is in an even worse condition with bar sections missing and heavy corrosion and is considered unusable.

Control House



The control building was constructed to house the diesel pumps and engines. At nearly 60 years old the station should be approaching the end of its design life. However, the building is actually in reasonable condition for its age with some spalling of the brickwork but no major cracking or subsidence.

The pitched roof is constructed with metal rafters and likely to be supported on timber beams. The roof covering appears to be tiles made of asbestos cement that are in good condition, but their composition should be confirmed to inform the Board's asbestos register. The underside of the roof is timber boarded and there are signs of water staining indicating rainwater penetration. The building structure should last a further 20 or more years before major expenditure is required.

The guttering and downpipes have been replaced with plastic ones which are in good condition with a further 20 years life. The fascias and eaves are constructed of timber which are sound but require painting to preserve their life or alternatively could be replaced with plastic ones. The timber access door is in reasonable condition being protected by an entrance canopy.

Both natural and artificial lighting levels are good.

Control Equipment/Pumps

When the station was electrified in 1975 a new separate concrete sump was constructed adjacent to the existing building and a single British Pleuger pump with a duty head of 640 l/s at a total gauge head of 4.7 metres was installed with ductile iron delivery pipework. The sump was constructed to allow for the installation of an additional pump at a later date. The pumped water discharges to a concrete surge chamber before outfalling, through a 900mm diameter ductile iron pipe, to the outfall in the River Nene.



The current control panel was installed in 1994, manufactured by Carlton Controls it is in a fair condition and should last a further 15 years with regular maintenance.



In 1994 a second submersible pump was installed in the space originally provided for it. The Bedford Pumps' manufactured unit is a mixed flow type and capable of delivering 640 l/s at a total gauge head of 4.7 metres.

The original pump 1 (British Pleuger) was replaced in 1999 with one from Bedford Pumps to match the unit installed in 1994.

In 2001 insulation resistance on pump motor number 2 had deteriorated and it was removed for inspection. Moisture had entered the terminal box enclosure via a damaged instrument cable, which was the result of rodent activity. Although the pump was found to be in generally good condition with no major deterioration of parts it was given a general overhaul. Regrettably a similar problem was detected in April 2020 and costs are being obtained to replace this pump as evidence suggests submersible pumps do not fare well with multiple overhauls.

The submergence between the impellers and the lowest winter level is in the region of 2.0 metres and this should allow for some lowering of the water level to allow for shrinkage of the surrounding ground.

The station is not on telemetry.

Fencing/Compound

The compound is not fenced; however, it is in a remote location and is not subject to vandalism.

Access to the site is along a stone/grass track and is in reasonable condition.

Electricity is supplied to the station from an adjacent electricity sub-station which is fenced with a 1.8 metre high wooden fence.

Inlets/Outlets



The electric pump inlet bay is constructed of concrete and is in good condition with no signs of spalling or cracking. The inlet has a 1.2 metre high galvanised post and rail handrail that is in good condition with a further 20 years life.

The inlet wingwalls to the sump are constructed using sheet steel piles and are concrete capped. The sheet piles are showing signs of corrosion but should last a further 20 years.

The outlet bay to the electric pumps is constructed of reinforced concrete and is in reasonable condition and should last a further 40 years. The flap valve is painted in an anti-corrosion paint and appears to be in good condition but it would need to be lifted to fully determine its condition.



Pumping Station Valuations-Ramsey 4th IDB				
<p><i>The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.</i></p>				
Site Name		Ramsey 4th IDB - Middlemoor Pumping Stn.		
Site Data				
No. Pumps		2 electrics (2 standby diesels)		
Station Capacity		1.3 cumecs (electrics)		
Station built		1975 (electrics) replacement electric pumps installed 1994/1999 1940 (diesels)		
Description of Station		2 no. BPC Submersible Mixed Flow Bowl No.P0207 & P0463 with BCP Integral Motors 46kW @ 970 rpm. Carlton Controls Auto Transformer auto controls installed 1994. (2 no. Allen Gwynnes 27" Diesel with Ruston 9XHR Diesels Standby Pumps) Brick pumphouse/control house with pitched corrugated sheet roof.		
Valuation				
Civils Works	✓		£582,450.00	
M&E	✓		£190,925.00	
Other	✓		£43,000.00	
Total			£816,375.00	
Breakdown of valuation				
Civils Works				
Pump sump/pipework	✓		£370,650.00	
Hard standing				
Fencing				
Outfall bay	✓		£52,950.00	
Pumphouse	✓		£84,720.00	
Other/surge chamber	✓		£74,130.00	
M&E				
Pumps	✓		£109,100.00	
Control Equipment/cabling	✓		£38,185.00	
Power Supply			Public liability	
Motors			incl submersible	
Installation	✓		£32,730.00	
Weedscreen	✓		£10,910.00	
Other				
Approvals	✓		£10,750.00	
Liaison and consultation	✓		£5,375.00	
Design	✓		£16,125.00	
Supervision	✓		£10,750.00	
		2 no. Ruston 9XHR Diesel standby pumps and ancillaries not included in valuation		

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Middlemoor								
Internal Drainage Board	Ramsey 4th								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025 - 2030	2030 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment		40k				40k			35k
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment		20k							
Control Building									
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry									
Need									
40k New pump 2									
40k new pump 1									
35k new control panel									
20k new weed screen									
Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.									
- These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.									

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.

The Board may consider that similar discussions with Huntingdonshire District Council may be of benefit.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 19 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, 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>
230	H/19/00994/PMBPA	Mr D Howell	Residence	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
231	H/19/01020/OUT	Mr D Howell	Residence (Access)	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
232	H/19/00702/OUT	Mr & Mrs Massey	Residence	Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys
233	Pre-application Consultation Enquiry	Legrant Building Services	Residential (3 plots)	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
234	H/19/01196/OUT	Mr J Clarke	Residential (4 plots)	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
235	H/19/01197/FUL	Abbots Ripton Farming Company Ltd	Residence	Herne Road, Ramsey St Mary's
236	Flood Information Request	Client of UK Flood Risk	Residential (TBC)	Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys
237	H/19/01123/FUL	Ms L Hyndman	Residence	Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mererside
238	H/19/01300/OUT	Legrant Building Services	Residential (3 plots)	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
239	H/19/01604/FUL	Mr S Bowens	Residence	Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys
240	H/19/01653/OUT	Mr J Clarke	Residential (4 plots)	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
241	H/19/01766/HHFUL	Mr P Rose	Residence	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys

			(Annexe)	
242	H/02077/OUT	Mr P Stratton	Residential (6 plots)	Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys
243	H/19/02026/FUL	Mr & Mrs Oswald	Residence	Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside
244	H/19/01909/FUL	Hydra Park Properties Ltd	Residential (4 plots)	Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside
245	H/19/02467/FUL	Mr S Bowens	Residence	Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys
246	H/20/00128/AGDET	Mr J Roberts	Agricultural (Store)	St Marys Road, Ramsey St Marys
247	H/20/80074/COND	Mr & Mrs J Oswald	Residence	Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside
248	H/20/00515/AGDET	Mr B Croft	Agricultural (Store)	St Marys Road, Ramsey St Marys

Planning applications ending 'PMBPA' relate to Prior Approval - Agricultural to Dwellings
Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder applications for Full Planning Permission
Planning applications ending 'AGDET' relate to Agricultural Determination
Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions

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

No applications for Infiltration Device Self Certification or the associated Checking Service have been received since the last meeting report.

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

- *Proposed erection of open storage shed for ice cream vans and proposed erection of portal framed building for the manufacture and repair of ice cream vans for owner's use only (retrospective) including sanitary accommodation, deep bore hole water supply and drainage to septic tank at land far west of Romany Cottage Bucks Drove Ramsey St Marys - Mr F Cannata (MLC Ref Nos 192 & 193)*

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

Demolition of existing bungalow, erection of dwellings and alterations to access at 161 Herne Road, Ramsey St Mary - Mr P Stratton (MLC Ref Nos 176, 188 & 242)

Further to the 2017 Meeting Report, another outline planning application (MLC Ref No 242) has been sought for this site. Members will recall that planning permission (MLC Ref No 188) was previously granted by the District Council in July 2016 subject to the imposition of conditions including surface water disposal but this has not yet been implemented.

According to the relevant page of the District Council's Simple Search webpage a decision is pending.

Proposed Residential Development off Middlemoor Road, Ramsey St Mary – Solas Development Services/V E Parrott (Oakley) Ltd (MLC Ref No 180) & Luminus Homes (MLC Ref No 207)

Further to the Board's last meeting, it is understood from the relevant page of the District Council's Simple Search webpage that there has been some discussion with relevant parties.

The County Council, in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has now removed its previous objection to the proposed method of surface water disposal advising that:

“.. surface water from the proposed development can be managed through the use of permeable paving being installed across all the impermeable surfaces throughout the site. Surface water will infiltrate through the sub-base of the permeable paving into the ground below.”

The County Council also requested the imposition of a suitable planning condition. Its response included an informative advising the applicant of the potential need to seek the Board's prior written consent.

According to the aforementioned District Council's web page a decision remains pending.

Residential development following demolition of existing outbuildings at land adjacent 233 Oilmills Road, Ramsey, Mereside - Mr P Mossman (MLC Ref Nos 197, 200 & 223)

Further to the Board's last Meeting Report, the relevant page of the District Council's Simple Search webpage advises that planning permission was granted subject to the imposition of planning conditions in June 2019.

The imposed planning conditions relate to flood proofing, surface water disposal and biodiversity/ecology. The Decision Notice does not include a suitable informative advising the applicant of the potential need to seek the Board's prior written consent.

The position is currently being ascertained with the applicant's agent.

Proposed replacement dwelling at Rorkes Drift Farm, Oilmills Drove, Ramsey Mereside, – Miss J Freeman (MLC Ref No 203)

Further to the Board's Minute B.801 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters, no further instruction has been received concerning the potential contravention of the Board's Byelaws at this location.

Change of use of agricultural land to create a Community Recreation Ground at land between Harebell Close and Holme Road, Ramsey St Marys – Ramsey St Marys Village Trust (MLC Ref No 219)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report, discussion has continued with the relevant parties and the previously provided byelaw consent application is currently being processed.

Demolition of existing structurally unsound dwelling and erection of new detached family dwelling and associated works at 497 Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside - Ms Lorna Hyndman (MLC Ref No 437)

A planning application was submitted to, and subsequently approved by, the District Council for a replacement dwelling.

The curtilage of the property forms the northern boundary of the Board's Drain between Points 12-14. However, the proposal does not extend into the associated 9.0m wide maintenance access strip which is largely inaccessible due to the presence of an established hedge.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Local Plan to 2036

Infrastructure Planning and Delivery

In May 2019 the following was received from the District Council:

"I am writing with regards your continued input into the infrastructure needs for Huntingdonshire.

Thank you for your agency/company engagement over the last 18 month in the development of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). This was used to support the new Local Plan to 2036 which was considered for adoption by Full Council on 15th May. Please visit the following link and specifically documents INF/01 – 03 to view the final documents again <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/new-local-plan-to-2036/local-plan-document-library/>"

Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Huntingdonshire District Council is currently reviewing the 2011 Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). To inform the development of the SPD it needs to better understand current and future infrastructure requirements, what would trigger a developer contribution and how any Section 106 money that has previously been received has been spent. Also, what infrastructure has been delivered as a result thus enabling the District Council to test a revised Developer Contributions and CIL schedule against development viability and hence provide practical up-to-date guidance together with a schedule for land owners, developers and development management officers.

A Public Consultation (using a questionnaire format) was held between Tuesday 16 July and Friday 6 September but it was not considered appropriate to respond, primarily because the Commissioners and associated Boards do not currently have any infrastructure projects which are likely to require developer contributions through the planning process. However, the opportunity was taken to advise the District Council of the current and potential future funding processes in respect of our interests ie Grant-In-Aid funding, Green Infrastructure, Navigation and Partnership Working.

The response included the following summary:

“As discussed above, there are procedures in place for external funding which are available to the Commissioners and associated Boards and, therefore, they do not currently have any projects for the delivery of infrastructure that require developer contributions through the planning process. It is likely that this will remain the case in the short to medium term.

However, as the findings of the above projects and studies are completed and assessed, together with impacts as a result of changes to Government policy, seeking funding via the planning process may become necessary in the longer term. However, the extent, location and value of this is currently unknown and may take some time to determine.”

Validation Checklist Consultation

A consultation was held between 5th March and 17th April on the District Council's Validation Checklists. Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide a response to this consultation.

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document

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

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

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

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

<https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/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 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/ccs_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 & Peterborough Flood & Water (C&P FloW) Partnership

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

Future Meetings

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

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

A public consultation on the draft FCERM Strategy for England document was held between May and June 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, 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, three of which are within the Huntingdonshire district but none are within the Board's area.

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

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

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

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

Good Governance for Internal Drainage Board Members

In March and April 2019 ADA ran a series of five Good Governance Workshops for IDB Members. The recordings from these events 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.

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

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

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

The project is further discussed under a separate Agenda item.

General Advice

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

- a) Terry Burgess – An application for byelaw consent to fill and pipe a 12 metre section of district watercourse between Points 41 and 42, adjacent Herne Road, Ramsey St. Mary's, using a 1.2 metre diameter plastic pipe was recommended for approval.

Consulting Engineer

4 June 2020

Ramsey Fourth (326)\Reports\June 2020

Mr Lloyd reported that with regards to Daintree pumping station the winding resistance to earth of the pump drive remained at a satisfactory level. However, the weedscreen was badly corroded and would soon need replacement. The pump at Middlemoor pumping station had continued to be monitored and it was recently found that the resistance of the pump motor 2 had dropped dramatically to a very low level (below the safe minimum value) and the pump therefore required an urgent overhaul or replacement. Pump 2 had been installed in 1994 and was last overhauled in 2004. Pump 1 was installed in 1999 and had to date not been overhauled, however, its insulation resistance remained at around the same value as it did when it was inspected at this time last year. As reported previously the weedscreen was badly corroding and it was recommended that it be replaced in the current year.

Mr Lloyd discussed the options for replacement of the pump at Middlemoor pumping station and discussed the various quotations and options with the Board. He stated that a reconditioned pump would cost in the region of £15,000 but that was not a good solution as it was likely it would only last in the region of 5 years and therefore a new pump was a better option as it would have a design life of 25 years. Mr Lloyd explained the design of the Sulzur cannister pump. This was a mass produced pump and could be joined to the existing pipework however there would need to be considerable fabrication work and engineering works carried out. Mr Lloyd explained that there were still issues to be resolved regarding the replacement pump and he would report further to the Board and if necessary, a further meeting of the Board could be arranged to discuss the replacement pump.

Planning applications

The Planning Engineer reported that since the last meeting, in addition to matters concerning previous applications, he had received 19 new development related matters and, where appropriate, dealt with, viz:-

- Residence, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr D Howell (MLC Ref No. 230)
- Residence access, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr D Howell (MLC Ref No. 231)
- Residence, Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr & Mrs Massey (MLC Ref No. 232)
- Residential development, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Legrant Building Services (MLC Ref No. 233)
- Residential development, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr J Clarke (MLC Ref No. 234)
- Residence, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Abbots Ripton Farming Co Ltd – (MLC Ref No. 235)
- Residential development, Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys – Client of UK Flood Risk (MLC Ref No. 236)
- Residence, Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside – Ms L Hyndman (MLC Ref No. 237)
- Residential development, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Legrant Building Services (MLC Ref No. 238)
- Residence, Daintree Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr S Bowens (MLC Ref No. 239)
- Residential development, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr J Clarke (MLC Ref No. 240)
- Residence annexe, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr P Rose (MLC Ref No. 241)

- Residential development, Herne Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr P Stratton (MLC Ref No. 242)
- Residence, Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside – Mr & Mrs Oswald (MLC Ref No. 243)
- Residential development, Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside – Hydra Park Properties Ltd (MLC Ref No. 244)
- Residence, Daintree Road, Ramsey Mereside – Mr S Bowens (MLC Ref No. 245)
- Agricultural Store, St Marys Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr J Roberts (MLC Ref No. 246)
- Residence, Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside – Mr & Mrs J Oswald (MLC Ref No. 247)
- Agricultural Store, St Marys Road, Ramsey St Marys – Mr B Croft (MLC Ref No. 248)

Proposed erection of open storage shed for ice creams vans and proposed erection of portal framed building for the manufacture and repair of ice cream vans for owner's use only (retrospective) including sanitary accommodation, deep borehole water supply and drainage to septic tank at land far west of Romany Cottage, Bucks Drove, Ramsey St Marys – Mr F Cannata (MLC Ref Nos. 192 & 193)

The Planning Officer reported that no further correspondence had been received from the applicants or the applicant's agents concerning this site and no further action had been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

Demolition of existing bungalow, erection of dwellings and alterations to access at 161 Herne Road, Ramsey St Mary – Mr P Stratton (MLC Ref Nos. 176, 188 & 242)

The Planning Officer reported that a further outline planning application had been made for this site and the Planning Committee's decision was pending.

Proposed residential development off Middlemoor Road, Ramsey St Mary – Solas Development Services/V E Parrott (Oakley) Ltd (MLC Ref No. 180) & Luminus Homes (MLC Ref No. 207)

The Planning Officer reported that the County Council in its' role as the Lead Local Flood Authority had now removed its previous objection to the proposed method of surface water disposal and had requested the imposition of a suitably worded condition. The County Council response included an informative advising the applicant of the potential need to seek the Board's prior written consent.

Residential development following demolition of existing outbuildings at land adjacent to 233 Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside – Mr P Mossman (MLC Ref Nos. 197, 200 & 223)

The Planning Officer advised that planning permission had been granted subject to planning conditions in June 2019. The imposed planning conditions relate flood proofing, surface water disposal and biodiversity/ecology and the current position regarding this planning application was being ascertained with the applicant's agent.

Proposed replacement dwelling at Rorkes Drift Farm, Oilmills Drove, Ramsey Mereside – Miss J Freeman (MLC Ref No. 203)

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by Mrs Freeman in connection with the erection a fence 5.5 metres from the drain. He confirmed that he had visited the site and

determined that it was possible to undertake the flail mowing within this distance and recommended to the Board that this be approved, subject to an application and formal consent.

Change of use of agricultural land to create a Community Recreation Ground at land between Harebell Close and Holme Road, Ramsey St Marys – Ramsey St Marys Village Trust (MLC Ref No. 219)

Further to the last Board meeting, the Planning Engineer reported that the Byelaw consent application was currently being processed.

Demolition of existing structurally unsound dwelling and erection of new detached family dwelling and associated works at 497 Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside – Ms Lorna Hyndman (MLC Ref No. 437)

The Planning Engineer reported that a planning application had been submitted for this development and approved by the District Council. The curtilage of the property forms the northern boundary of the Board's drain between Points 12-14, however, the proposal does not extend into the associated 9 metre wide maintenance access strip.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved.
- ii) That the works required to the weedscreens at Daintree and Middlemoor pumping stations be approved.
- iii) Proposed erection of open storage shed for ice creams vans and proposed erection of portal framed building for the manufacture and repair of ice cream vans for owner's use only (retrospective) including sanitary accommodation, deep bore hole water supply and drainage to septic tank at land far west of Romany Cottage, Bucks Drove, Ramsey St Marys – Mr F Cannata (MLC Ref Nos. 192 & 193)

That no further action was required in relation to this planning application.

- iii) Proposed replacement dwelling at Rorkes Drift Farm, Oilmills Drove, Ramsey Mereside – Miss J Freeman (MLC Ref No. 203)

That the request to erect fencing 5.5 metres from the drain be approved in principle subject to a formal application and consent.

(NB) - Councillor Clarke declared interests in the planning applications (MLC Ref Nos. 234 & 240) received from Mr J Clarke and (MLC Ref No. 437) received from Ramsey St Marys Village Trust.

B.837 Capital Improvement Programme and Future Works Funding

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme and future works funding.

The Board discussed funding requirements for replacement of pump no. 2 and the Consulting Engineer's advice on pump no. 1 which was installed in 1991 and has to date not been overhauled. The Board discussed funding of the replacement pump and considered it necessary to hold onto balances in their accounts for future pump requirements. In total a sum of £75,000 was needed to be borrowed as a Public Works Loan to carry out the works detailed by the Consulting Engineers.

The Board considered the disposal of the bungalow. It was felt that this was not prudent financially and was a matter for future consideration.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Capital Programme be approved in principle.
- ii) That an amount not exceeding £75,000 be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board; repayable over a maximum period of 7 years, although consideration would be given in the future to this loan being paid off at an earlier date.

B.838 District Officer's Report

The Board considered the Report of the District Officer.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and that the Officer be thanked for his services over the preceding year.
- ii) That the District Officer be authorised to arrange for drainworks to be carried out for the coming year.

B.839 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 £6,461.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2020/2021.

B.840 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

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

The Board considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.841 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.842 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss McShane reported that the Environment Agency had issued the precept for 2020/2021 in the sum of £5,886.00 (the precept for 2019/2020 being £5,742.72).

B.843 Rents for the Slamp

Further to minute B.807, Miss McShane reported on the current rents for the Slamp.

The Board considered whether any change was appropriate in the levels of rental being obtained for their land at the Slamp. (Present rental - £100 per acre)

RESOLVED

That no change in the levels of rental be made at the present time, and the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Board.

(NB) - The Chairman and Mr Swales declared interests when this item was being discussed.

B.844 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss McShane reported that it was proposed by ADA to increase subscriptions by approximately 2% in 2020, viz:- from £553 to £565.

RESOLVED

That the increased subscription be paid for 2020.

B.845 Determination of annual values for rating purposes

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

RESOLVED

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

B.846 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £1.66.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.847 Health and Safety

- a) Further to minute B.765(i), 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.809, the Chairman referred to the reports received from Cope Safety Management following their visits to the District on the 19th November 2019 and 3rd March 2020.

The Chairman reported that a medium level risk had been reported on for Middlemoor pumping station and that there was no perimeter fencing around the station which could create a hazard for members of public gaining access to the slacker tower and the weedscreen area. It was recommended that a suitable perimeter fencing be erected. He had obtained a quotation for this work from Ramsey Fencing in the sum of £2,615.00 + VAT. The report had also recommended that rails be fitted at Middlemoor and Daintree pumping stations.

RESOLVED

- i) That the quotation from Ramsey Fencing in the sum of £2,615.00 + VAT be accepted.
- ii) That the Middle Level Commissioners be requested to fit rails at Middlemoor and Daintree pumping stations.

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.848 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.849 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.850 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.851 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.852 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 reviewed the insured value of their buildings and considered having a revaluation of the Board's real estate assets, as required for audit purposes.

RESOLVED

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

B.853 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.854 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.855 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £40,340.42 which had been made during the financial year 2019/2020.

(NB) – Councillor Clarke and Mr Whittome declared interests (as Members of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

(NB) - The Chairman declared interests in the payments made to D C Roberts & Son.

B.856 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.857 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 special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 59.97% and 40.03%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £45,734 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 £27,427 and £18,307 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 13.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £18,307 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire 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.858 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.859 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 17th June 2021 and the Chairman be authorised to make arrangement for an Inspection prior to the meeting.

B.860 Public Rights of Way along the Slamp

In response to a request from Miss Swales, the Board discussed rights of way across the Slamp and requested the Clerk to investigate the prevention of public rights of way along the Slamp and report further at the next meeting of the Board.