

SWAVESEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board
held at the Memorial Hall, High Street, Swavesey on Tuesday the 18th February 2020

PRESENT

K Wilderspin Esq (Chairman)
J E Dodson Esq (Vice Chairman)
J S Burgess Esq

Mrs S Dodson
W Handley Esq
N K Stroude Esq

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance. Mr Iain Smith attended as a member of the public.

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

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms A Malyon and Miss H Parish.

B.994 Declarations of Interest

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

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

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in minute nos. B.1000 and B.1003.

Mr Stroude declared an interest in minute no. B.1000.

B.995 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Board held on the 12th February and 28th June 2019 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.996 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.

(iv) That in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations the minutes record that approval of the accounts was given on 28th June 2019.

(v) That the Chairman was authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

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

B.997 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.

All Members present at the meeting indicated a willingness to stand again for the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Register be approved.

B.998 Main River Issues

Mr Smith reported, in his capacity as a member of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, with regard to the river bank at Mare Fen that Homes England were to chase the contractors about this work. He reported that the contractors had to apply to the Environment Agency for consent but this was not yet forthcoming and it would be useful if the Planning Department at South Cambridgeshire District Council could be asked to chase up this matter with Homes England. He was concerned that, to date, Homes England had not sent anything to the Environment Agency and there had been no response to Paul Burrows' letter or the Chairman's letter.

On the issue of the low river embankment, Mr Smith stated that he had spoken to the Environment Agency about this and that the Environment Agency were to arrange a meeting to discuss the matter with David Thomas. He commented that the future proposed development in the Oxford/Cambridge Arc and the infrastructure and houses proposed as a result of this development would only add to the problems experienced on the Main River.

The Board considered that the work to be carried out should be seen as maintenance and it would like the bank raised back to its' original height.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk continue his discussions with the Environment Agency about bank raising, following the Environment Agency's remodelling of the river.

B.999 A14 Improvement Scheme

Further to minute B.958, the Chairman reported that works to the A14 were nearly completed and he had nothing further to report other than the order for the A14 had now been agreed and Swavesey IDB had been excluded from the order.

B.1000 Proposed Northstowe Development and other developments draining to Uttons Drove STW Northstowe and Effluent Discharge to Swavesey Drain

a) Further to minute 959(a), the Chairman reported that the pipeline had now been installed and that consent had been granted for these works and the drain had been widened to Webbs Holes pumping station.

b) Effluent Discharge to Swavesey Drain

Further to minute B.959(b), the Chairman reported that there had been no further update on this matter.

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

B.1001 Outstanding drainage rates

Further to minute B.962, Miss McShane reported on the outstanding drainage rates which related back to 2012. The sum of £1,770.25 was still outstanding and although the bailiffs had attended on several occasions there had been no goods on which to levy distress.

RESOLVED

That, whilst the Board acknowledged that there was difficulty in recovering the outstanding rates and there was no further action that could be taken at the present time and they did not wish the outstanding rates to be written off at this stage.

B.1002 Electric fence connection to pumping station energiser

Further to minute B.963, Miss McShane reported that further to previous discussions on this matter an agreement between the Chairman and Mr Dodson, Vice Chairman, had been completed to regularise the electric fence connection to the pumping station and this was presently with Mr Dodson for signature.

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

B.1003 Visit to St Germans

Further to minute B.964, the Chairman reported on the visit to St Germans Pumping Station which had taken place on Thursday the 9th May 2019 and requested that the Board's thanks be conveyed to Richard Lloyd for his talk to the Members on the pumping station.

B.1004 Defra consultation on the rating system

Further to minute B.968, Miss McShane reported that the New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill was currently in the Committee stage at the House of Lords and a further report would be provided on the progress of the Bill to Parliament.

B.1005 Works upstream of Webbs Hole Sluice

Further to minute B.993, the Chairman reported that these works had now been successfully completed under the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement with the Environment Agency.

B.1006 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:-

i) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a third Chair's Meeting was held on the 11th March 2019 and that discussions at this centred around :-

- 1) The provision of increased support to IDBs on Health and Safety management and control.
- 2) The Future investment planning for the Lower River Great Ouse catchment.
- 3) Future planning for IDBs and DDCs administered by the Middle Level Commissioners.
- 4) Member training.

One option for future Board arrangements discussed at the second and third meetings was the subject of a briefing paper.

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.

ii) Applications for byelaw consent

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

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date Consent Granted</u>
South Staffordshire Water plc	Replace failing A/C Water Main with new MBPE pipe crossing Board's culverted watercourse TL368104 692484	10 th May 2019
South Staffordshire Water plc	Replace failing A/C Water Main with new MBPE pipe crossing Board's culverted watercourse TL365956 689871	10 th May 2019

RESOLVED

That the action taken in granting consents 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 will be held on Tuesday the 3rd March 2020. The format will be as per the 2019 conference with a workshop in the morning and the conference in the afternoon.

d) Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Board Members

That ADAs workshops were well attended and are helping to deal with the questions being raised by Defra following the Audit Commission Report which criticized aspects of IDB governance. At least one member of this Board attended one of the two local workshops in the area and hence the Board will be able to record in the IDB1 Defra return that training has been provided on Governance. In addition to governance Defra appear to expect over time that training will be given for the following; Finance, Environment, Health, safety and welfare and Communications and engagement. The Board may wish to consider an order of priority for future training and a timetable for delivery.

e) Workstreams

That ADA annually review their workstreams and an update is included.

f) Further Research on Eels

Further to minute B.920, 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 acknowledge the valuable research work being carried out Hull University, however, because of its' size they did not feel able to make any financial contribution this year but would review next year in light of the Board's financial situation.

g) Floodex 2020

That Floodex 2020 will be held at The Peterborough Arena on the 26th and 27th February 2020.

h) 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.

iv) The New Rivers Authorities & Land Drainage Bill

That this Bill has completed its Committee stage in the House of Commons and passed through its Third Reading. It has now started its progression through the House of Lords.

The Bill, which has been prepared by Defra, aims to put the Somerset Rivers Authority onto a statutory footing as a precepting body, but it would also enable the reform of IDB ratings annual value lists. It does this by recognising the need to ensure that the methodology through which IDBs calculate and collect drainage rates and special levy sits on a sound legal basis that can be periodically updated to contemporary values better reflecting current land and property valuation.

With the above in mind ADA has been working with Defra and a number of IDBs to test a new methodology using contemporary valuation and Council Tax lists that could be applied via this legislative change.

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.

vi) Tactical Plans for the Fens Agreement

That the Environment Agency have set up a multi-partner group (FRM for the Fens) to steer work on developing strategic plans for managing flood risk in the lower Great Ouse catchment. This work is considered necessary to address the impacts of population growth and climate change, which are particularly relevant in this area. The EA is requesting approval to the approach being taken in principle and follows the letter sent in January 2019. The perceived value of this work is that it pre-apportioned 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.

Iain Smith advised the Board that the Regional and Coastal Flood Committee were trying to get the government to take other factors into account such as food production and infrastructure as well as the development of houses.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve in principle

vii) Water Resources East (WRE)

That the Middle Level Commissioners' Chief Executive has been appointed as ADA's area representative on the Board of WRE. He will act as spokesman for IDBs who have an interest in the future management and provision of water in the East of England. This is

particularly important as government consider plans to make the area more resilient and as the impacts of climate change start to bite in an area of rapid housing growth.

To facilitate a place on the Board requires a modest financial contribution from all IDBs within the area covered by WRE. The MLC contribution is their Chief Executive's time spent representing the Boards. For this Board the requested annual contribution is £50.70.

RESOLVED

That the Board felt that some of the issues considered by the new Board of WRE were not relevant to the Board and did not wish to pay the requested annual contribution of £50.70 to the organisation.

viii) Vision for the Future of Boards administered by the MLC

That Members will be aware that the Chair's meetings hosted by the MLC has had an item on the agenda for the last few meetings on future planning of administration and delivery of operations for the Board's collectively. As part of this process it has been agreed that members thoughts should be sought on what they envisage the collective future can and should look like to ensure the most resilient, delivery focused approach that can be achieved. Members should when developing their vision of water management in the fens in 2030 consider the challenges of maintaining representation, improving financial resilience, reducing duplication of work, the potential for cost savings, advantages and disadvantages of the various options available, the impacts of technology and sharing of resources and knowledge.

The information gathered from individual meetings will be collated and presented to the autumn 2020 Chairs meeting for their consideration.

RESOLVED

That the Board were concerned about the age of Board Members and that there was a reduction in the number of people eligible for membership of the Board. The Board were strongly of the opinion that local knowledge was very important to membership of the Board.

B.1007 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Swavesey I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – January 2020

Environment Agency/Swavesey IDB/Middle Level Commissioners' PSCA Works 2019



An initial meeting with representatives from the EA was held in June last year to discuss the possibilities of undertaking routine maintenance works under a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement, (PSCA) on watercourses under the control of the EA in the Swavesey area. A schedule of works was provided and this included flailmowing and machine cleansing/weed clearance. An element of bush flailing to clear inaccessible banks and hand clearance where bankside access was not available for

machinery in the village areas was also included within the works.

Following the initial meeting, a subsequent site inspection of EA watercourses in the Swavesey area was undertaken by the Board's Chairman/Superintendent and Middle Level Commissioners' (MLC) Operations Engineer.

It was agreed that a collaborative approach to the proposed works between the Board and MLC was feasible for the 2019 season on a trial basis. The agreement allowed the MLC to arrange and undertake the works utilising their own and contracted plant and machinery, with close liaison with adjacent landowners/occupiers and on-site supervision and advice being provided by the Board's Chairman/Superintendent. These works were undertaken using the pre-existing MLC PSCA.

In general, the works progressed well. Timing of the machine cleansing/weed clearance works was unavoidably delayed due to concerns with low DO (Dissolved Oxygen) levels in watercourses earmarked for subsequent cleansing. As autumn temperatures dropped and with subsequent

rainfall, DO levels recovered sufficiently to allow machine cleansing/weed removal work to commence. This element was completed in mid-December. Feedback received from the EA thus far has been positive. At the time of reporting, an 'end of season' debrief meeting has been arranged with the EA for the Board's Chairman/Superintendent, Clerk and MLC Operations Engineer attending.

All works undertaken with the PSCA at Swavesey were on a fully rechargeable basis to the EA.

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

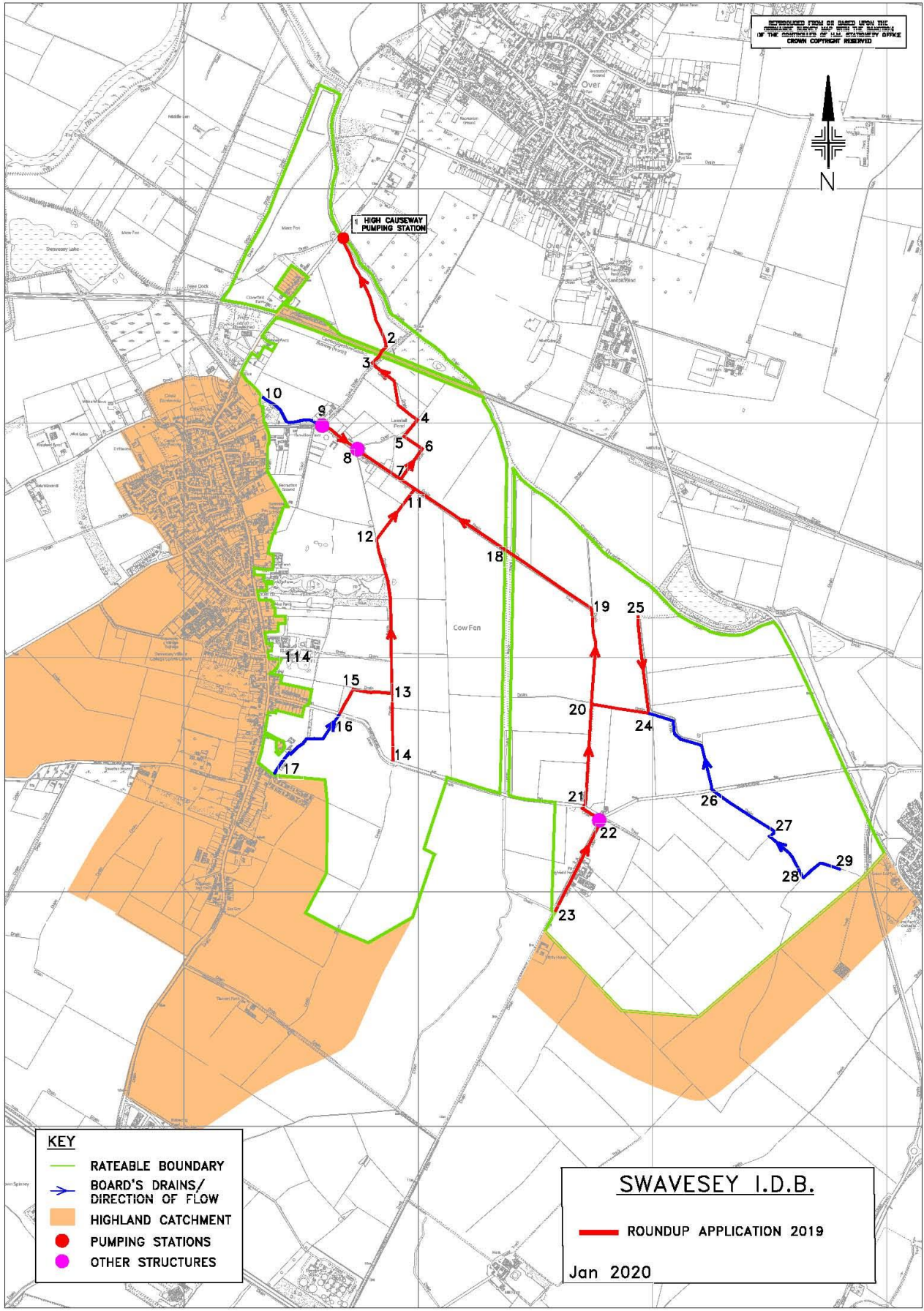
The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the recommendations approved by the Board at its last Annual Meeting.

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

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

Following an exceptionally warm dry summer last season, many of the Board's drain beds dried out. This reduced pumping requirements and water conveyance for the early part of the season. As emergent weed within the channel beds had already been treated with a Roundup application, the watercourses were deemed to have retained their general good condition and no apparent machine cleansing was required at this time. As autumn progressed it finally started to rain and this continued to increase throughout the winter. Maintenance works carried out in previous years ensured the system continued to operate efficiently and as intended. To this end, and with the Chairman's/Superintendent's approval, a late spring/early summer joint inspection of the Board's drains will be undertaken again this year. The inspection should highlight herbicide application requirements, and give an opportunity to forward plan any other works required to maintain the Board's drains to a satisfactory standard.

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

SWAVESEY I.D.B.
 ROUNDUP APPLICATION 2019
Jan 2020

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

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

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

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

Pumping Station

The last report highlighted the poor condition of the level probes and at the February Meeting the Board instructed MLC to upgrade the level controls to a web based ultrasonic unit that could be accessed over the internet. The new unit was installed in May 2019 and despite a number of teething troubles has worked well and has enabled the District Superintendent to visit the station considerably less often whilst still being sure all is as it should be. The station underwent its 5 year electrical condition report in March with no remedial actions required.

Pumping Hours

Hours Run	17/1/19 - 14/1/20	9/1/18 - 16/1/19	12/1/17 - 9/1/18	11/1/16 - 12/1/17	21/1/15 - 11/1/16	6/1/14 - 21/1/15	28/1/13 - 6/1/14
Pump 1	273 (6867)	173 (6594)	92	101	2	227	3
Pump 2	18 (7486)	191 (7468)	80	71	173	801	295

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 18 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
349	S/4562/18/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
350	S/0163/19/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
351	S/0161/19/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
352	S/0297/19/FL	Mr S Pryor	Residence (Extension)	Thistle Green, Swavesey
353	S/0342/19/FL	Mr & Mrs Bond	Residence (Extension and garage)	Moat Way, Swavesey
354	S/0607/19/FL	Mrs S Raven	Residence (Extension)	Black Horse Lane, Swavesey
355	S/0540/19/FL	Environment Agency	Replacement of Church End V-doors	Station Road, Swavesey
356	S/3022/17/FL	Stoneglen Limited	Residential (24 plots)	Cygnus Business Park, Swavesey*
357	S/1888/19/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
358	S/1896/19/RM	Bushmead Homes Ltd	Residential (Up to 70 plots)	Middle Watch, Swavesey*
359	S/1890/19/DC	Bushmead Homes Ltd	Residential (Up to 70 plots)	Middle Watch, Swavesey*
360	S/2090/19/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
361	S/2089/19/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*
362	Enquiry	Client of the Mace Group	Restoration of Borrow Pits 5 & 6	A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Road Improvements
363	S/1992/19/IP	Ms J Jordan	Residential (2 plots)	Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey
364	S/3115/19/DC	Mr J Moore	Residential (2 plots)	Wallmans Lane, Swavesey
365	S/3540/19/FL	Ms F M Campos	Residence (Extensions)	Moat Way, Swavesey
366	S/4022/19/DC	Bloor Homes Eastern	Residential (Up to 99 plots)	Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey*

***Planning applications ending 'COND', 'DISC' or 'DC' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Planning applications ending 'PIP' and 'IP' relate to Permission in Principle***

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

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

- Mr & Mrs S Pryor - Extensions at Thistle Green, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 352)
- Mrs S Raven – Extensions at Black Horse Lane, Swavesey (MLC Ref No 354)

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

- Bloor Homes (Eastern) (MLC Ref Nos 349, 350, 351, 357, 360, 361 & 366)

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

- *Residential development comprising 18 market and 12 affordable units plus open space, children's play area and landscaping at 18 Boxworth End, Swavesey – Mr & Mrs R Mallidine (MLC Ref No 271) and Matthew Homes (MLC Ref No 346)*
- *Demolition of farm outbuildings and the erection of up to 90 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point from Boxworth End with all other matters reserved except for means of access on land off Boxworth End, Swavesey - Client of L K Group /Gladman Developments Ltd & Burgess (MLC Ref No 293) & Gladman Developments Ltd & Burgess (MLC Ref No 313)*
- *Erection of 56 dwellings including new access at field north of Home Close and west of Moat Way, on land north of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey - Laragh Homes Ltd (MLC Ref No 314)*

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

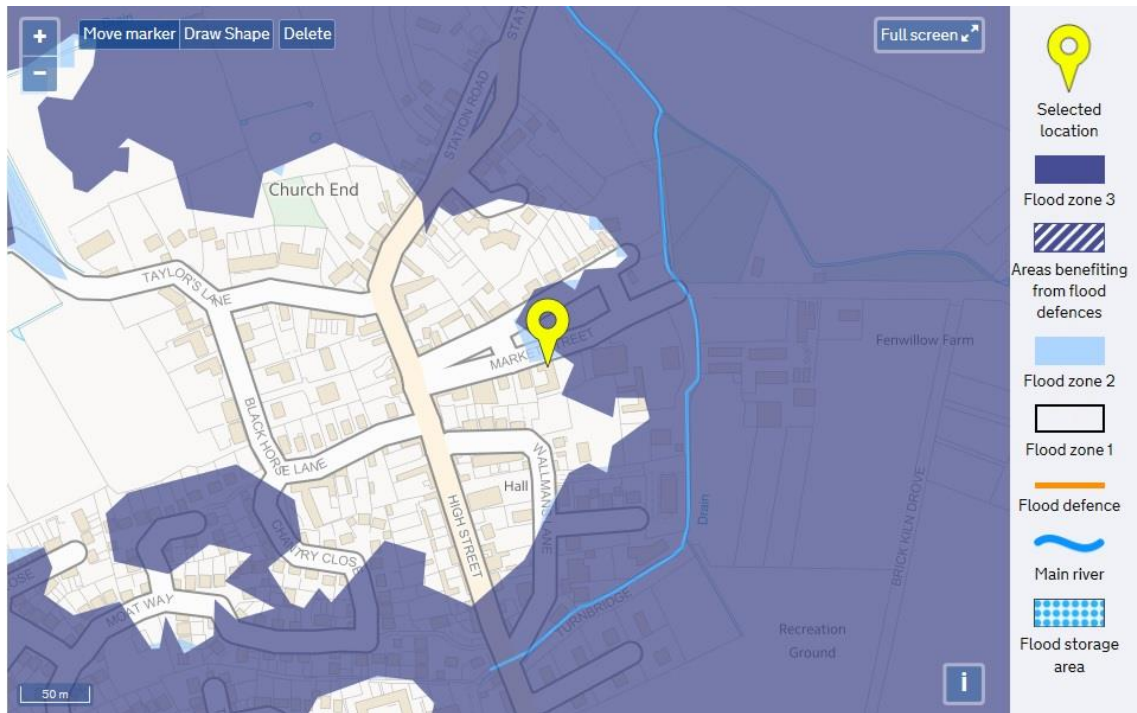
Proposed development to the rear of Cygnus Business Park (Mill Farm), Middlewatch, Swavesey - Nationwide Ltd (MLC Ref No 123) and Starburst Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 182 & 243) and Starburst Property Ltd (MLC Ref No 305)

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

In order to guide further discussion, it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and instruction on what action it would like to take to bring the matter to a conclusion.

Repair and alterations to the listed building including demolition and replacement of rear extensions together with the construction of two new dwellings and associated access at 37 Market Street, Swavesey – Cardinalis Development Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 199 & 311)

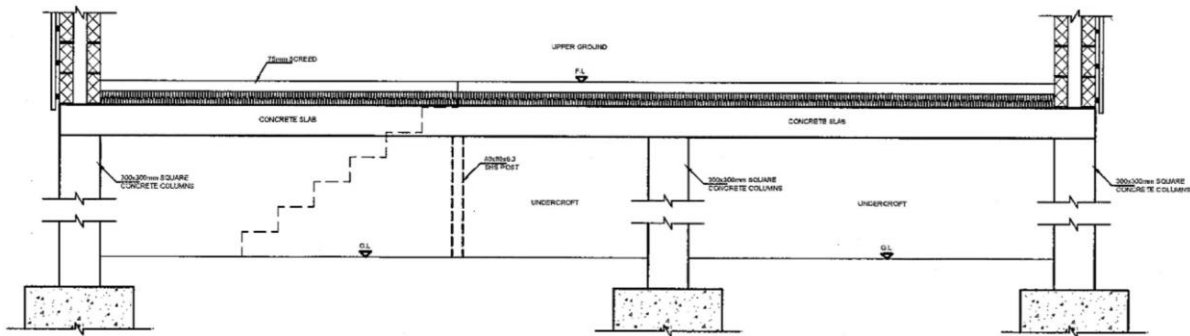
Members will recall that this site, which is adjacent to Church End Drain, involves repair and alterations to 37 Market Street and the erection of two new dwellings.



Extract from the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning showing the Market Street area

As can be seen from the extract from the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning the site is within Flood Zone 3 and members will be aware that Government and local policy is to steer new highly and more vulnerable development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding with development only being permissible in areas at a higher risk of flooding in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that there are no reasonably available sites in areas of lower risk, and that the development provides wider sustainability benefits that outweigh the risk of flooding. Such development should incorporate mitigation/management measures to minimise risk to life and property should flooding occur.

In order to minimise the loss of storage within the floodplain it was proposed that the new dwellings would feature a raised ground floor placed on stilts with a void below, as seen on the extract from Gawn Associates Drawing No 217/0453/01 Rev P1 overleaf.



Extract from Gawn Associates Drawing No 217/0453/01 Rev P1 illustrating the proposed void under the new dwellings

Despite objections raised by the Environment Agency, the District Council refers in its Delegation Report to Paragraph 140 of the March 2012 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was current at that time, which states that:

“140. Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.”

The report adds:

“In this instance, the impacts of the character of the area, setting of the listed building and reduction in flood capacity are not considered to outweigh the significant benefit which would be to protect the future conservation of 37 Market Street.

In this instance the adverse impacts would not significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the framework as a whole in accordance with para. 14 of the NPPF.”

Paragraph 14 is a key component of the NPPF which encourages a “presumption in favour of sustainable development”.

Planning permission was granted by the District Council subject to the imposition of planning conditions, including those related to flood risk and surface water disposal, in January 2018.

A “draft” application for surface water disposal into the Board’s system was submitted by the applicant’s engineering consultants, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd [MTC], in June for those occasions when Church End Drain discharges into the Board’s system and the Station Road floodgates are closed.

The proposals for surface water discharge from the site have been reviewed along with detailed calculations provided by the developer’s consultant. It is proposed that an attenuated discharge restricts flows to 2 l/s for all events up to and including the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), a 1 in 100yr event, together with a 40% allowance for climate change. Attenuation is provided by a stormwater crate attenuation system providing a storage volume of 12.92m³. During such an event Church End Drain is likely to be at capacity which will cause flooding on the site. The calculations indicate that during such an event the surface water disposal system will be overloaded and become ineffective with approximately 21m³ of water volume ponding on site. However, the submission documents advise that this will be contained by the topography of the site thus alleviating adverse impacts on surrounding areas.

Residential development with associated access, infrastructure and open spaces at land south of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey – Bloor Homes (Eastern) (MLC Ref Nos 284, 349, 350, 351, 357, 360, 361 & 366), Pegasus Group (MLC Ref No 285) and Bloor Homes (Eastern) & Mr A Johnson (MLC Ref Nos 291, 315 & 344)

Seven new Discharge of Condition applications were submitted to the District Council within the reporting period (MLC Ref Nos 349, 350, 351, 357, 360, 361 & 366). Of these the ones predominantly of interest to the Board are S/4562/18/DC (MLC Ref No 349) including Discharge of Condition 9 [foul water drainage] and Condition 10 [surface water drainage] which was submitted and then subsequently withdrawn in December 2018; S/0161/19/DC (MLC Ref No 351) Condition 10 [surface water drainage] and S/0163/19/DC (MLC Ref No 350) Condition 9 [foul water drainage] which were submitted in January and subsequently withdrawn in February 2019.

A further application was submitted to the District Council in May. This included the discharge of conditions 4 and 5, S/1888/19/DC (MLC Ref No 357), which refer to the surface water drainage maintenance plan and the Sluice.

Further applications for Discharge of Condition 9 [foul water strategy] and Condition 10 [surface water drainage] were submitted in June 2019 under references S/2090/19/DC (MLC Ref No 360) and S/2089/19/DC (MLC Ref No 361) respectively and were discharged in October 2019.

It is interesting to note that in the County Council's response, in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), dated 6 August in response to S/1888/19/DC (MLC Ref No 357) it requested:

“....confirmation from the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Board that the works are acceptable as the system interacts with their system”

but in its response dated 9 September in response to S/2089/19/DC (MLC Ref No 361) the County Council advised that:

“We have reviewed the additional documents including calculations, drainage areas plan and details of the proposed telemetry system.

Based on these we can remove our objection and recommend discharge of Condition 10 of planning permission S/1027/16/OL.”

However, neither the Environment Agency Nor the Board, the bodies who receive and have to transfer the run-off concerned responded.

Similarly, the Decision Notice advises that:

“The details submitted have been assessed in consultation with the Council’s Sustainable Drainage Engineer, Anglian Water and the Lead Local Flood Authority.”

The final application S/4022/19/DC (MLC Ref No 366) for the Discharge of Condition 4 [surface water management] was submitted in November 2019 and according to the Council’s webpage is currently “out for consultation”. In its response the LLFA advises that:

“We have reviewed the submitted documents and agree with the Sustainable Drainage Engineer that details of the actual management/maintenance company should be provided to discharge the condition.”

Members will be aware that the timing of any discharge entering the downstream systems together with the design and the long-term ownership, funding and future maintenance requirements of the surface water disposal including the proposed balancing pond and adequate access to it are the main concerns.

With the exception of some discussion with the Board’s Chairman to ascertain its position no further consultation has occurred with either the applicant or its engineering consultant; the Environment Agency; Anglian Water Services or the District Council.

In respect of the Discharge of Conditions application Anglian Water confirms its position, as detailed above; the LLFA has no objection to “...the design of the system itself but refers to the dual function of the attenuation pond and the proposed telemetry system and the Council’s Sustainable Drainage Engineer refers to the provision of full details concerning the operation, management and maintenance of the telemetry system and the organisation that is responsible for it.

In order to guide further discussion, it would be beneficial to receive the Board’s opinion and instruction on what action it would like to take to bring the matter to a conclusion.

Residential development on land to the rear of 130 Middlewatch, Swavesey - Swavesey Ventures Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 294 & 310) and Bushmead Homes (MLC Ref Nos 358 & 359)

Following discussions with Bushmead Homes engineering consultant, SDP Consulting Engineers, it was agreed that any further discussion would be undertaken as part of a detailed post-application consultation process.

A meeting attended by a representative from SDP Consulting Engineers together with the Commissioners' Planning Engineer and the Board's Chairman was held on 10 July. No subsequent correspondence or technical detail has been received to the issues raised at this meeting.

Two further planning applications were submitted to the District Council in May 2019. A Reserved Matters application S/1896/19/RM (MLC Ref No 358), referring to the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping of the development following the approval of the outline planning permission S/1605/16/OL (MLC Ref No 294) and S/1890/19/DC for the Discharge on Conditions including Condition 11 [foul water drainage] and Condition 13 [surface water drainage] both are currently "out for consultation".

In respect of the Reserved Matters application the Sustainable Drainage Engineer has advised that the proposed development is acceptable subject to the imposition of planning conditions but refers to the provision of a low flow channel within the attenuation basin and planting; the Environment Agency advises that it has "..... no objection to the proposal provided that all outstanding pre-commencement conditions are discharge prior to development"; and Anglian Water advises that it "... is in agreement that a portion of the surface water flows can be discharged to the existing public foul water network at a maximum rate of 1 l/s."

In order to guide further discussion, it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and instruction on what action it would like to take to bring the matter to a conclusion.

Development Contributions

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

Northstowe

Phases 1 & 2

An enquiry was received from the District Council in respect of a planning application from Taylor Wimpey concerning a site off Pathfinder Way which is outside the Board's area of interest.

Phase 3b

In July the Board was approached by the developer's engineering consultant, Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd, concerning the proposed approach to assessing the Swavesey Drain system to determine a suitable allowable discharge regime from Phase 3B. The contents have been considered and discussed with the Board's Chairman and Arcadis was advised that, on the whole, the proposed methodology was acceptable, however, it was noted that there have been at least

twenty significant events in just over 18 years of data (slightly over 1 significant event a year!) and that the model will include both extreme and lower return period events but only refers to events up to the 5% AEP (1 in 20 year) event which are not considered to be extreme and are well below the normal standard expected. Arcadis was also advised that the Board may require that the model is verified by an independent consultant.

In addition, the Board's Chairman has discussed the issue with a representative from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and has advised him that the success of the operation of the Swavesey Drain will be dependant, amongst other matters, on an exceptionally good maintenance regime and that the original Mare Fen Scheme proposal is completed.

Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd agreed to undertake any discussions as part of a pre-application consultation procedure, therefore, any discussions to ensure that the Board's requirements will be met will be charged to them and not the Board.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan and associated Evidence Base

The Local Plan (sometimes referred to as 'The Local Development Plan') is a set of policies and land allocations that will guide the future of South Cambridgeshire for the period 2018 up to 2031.

Members will be aware that the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, against which planning applications are now assessed was adopted in September 2018. However, the preparation of a joint Local Plan covering the areas of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, known as the Greater Cambridge area, starts in January 2020.

Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Management Study (IWS)

As part of its evidence base for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is preparing an Integrated Water Management Study (IWS) which will include both a water cycle study (WCS) and strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA). In November the Commissioners were requested to provide a representative to sit on the steering group to assist in the production of the IWS. Both Swavesey IDB and Over and Willingham IDB, the Boards within the SCDC area that are administered by the Commissioners, have agreed to the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer representing them.

Comments were made just before Christmas on the draft Invitation to Tender (ITT) brief that was being prepared for issue to prospective consultants.

When the consultants have been appointed an Inception Meeting will be held followed by an Information Request for details on the respective Boards' systems.

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

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

Further to the last Board meeting CWC has finalised and published its Water Resources Management Plan 2019 (WRMP19). It can be found at the following link to the updated section of the Cambridge Water website:

<https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/our-water-resources-plan>

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership (CFRMP)

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

Future Meetings

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

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

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

Members of the partnership generally considered that amongst other matters the consultation could have been more ambitious; sought greater RMA involvement; and that surface water flooding should have been included.

Following the consideration of the responses it is intended to publish the final national FCERM strategy for England in 2020.

Local FRM Strategy

Both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategies are due to be reviewed soon and may be a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough response.

The Environment Agency's Joint Assurance Group

This group provides support to the RMAs on the delivery of Grant-in-Aid (GiA) funded projects and meets on a monthly basis to discuss business cases.

Partnership members generally agreed that it would be beneficial to understand what the EA, in its role as the approval body, would like to see in business cases and requested suitable good examples that could be used as guidance.

The EA advised that:

- (i) The lack of sharing of suitable business case examples may be for GDPR/commercially sensitive/economic reasons and advised that whilst the EA cannot 'circulate' these, other RMAs can.
- (ii) Due to the specialist nature of projects within The Fens it may not be possible to find enough suitable projects.

Property Flood Resilience Pathfinder Project

A £700k grant bid was made by a consortium of LLFAs. Confirmation of a successful bid is awaited.

Further details on the project can be found in Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder Evaluation Final Evaluation Report October 2015.

Further details can be found at the following link:

<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, 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 23 schemes ongoing within the County, eleven of which are within the South Cambridgeshire district with only the works at Gibraltar Lane being within Swavesey.

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

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

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

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

Good Governance for Internal Drainage Board Members

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

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

https://www.ada.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Good_Governance_Workshop_Slides_2019.pdf

Public Sector Co-operation Agreements (PSCA)

Following a problem encountered within North Level District IDB which required close liaison with Peterborough City Council, in its role as the Highway Authority, the possibility of arranging PSCAs with IDBs and Councils was raised but has not yet been concluded.

Updates on Highways England (HE) Scheme

The former areas 6 and 8 now form the East Region and the new term contractor is Ringway. The previous short-term Asset Support Contracts (ASC) have been replaced by a 15-year Road Investment Strategy (RIS) contract in order to ensure a consistent long-term approach.

Anglian Water Services Limited (AWSL) Price Review 2019 (PR19)

OFWAT like what is being proposed but not the associated costs. AWSL contends that it is trying to be "proactive and not reactive". **Note: In order to reduce charges on its customers AWSL**

currently appears reluctant to incur any unnecessary additional costs beyond what it is obliged to accept.

Requests have been made for suitable applications to be submitted to its project funding programme. It is hoped that a meeting with AWSL's Flood Partnership Manager will be arranged soon.

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme

Re-classification of the A14

In 2018 the Road's Minister asked Highways England to make an application to re-classify the improved road as a motorway. An application for a non-material change to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Development Consent Order was subsequently submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2019.

It was considered that this re-classification would have little adverse impact on the Board's operations. However, it is understood that this application has recently been withdrawn.

Surface Water disposal

Further to the Board's minute B.958 A14 Improvement Scheme the issue of surface water from the new A14 discharging into the Board's system either directly or indirectly has been raised with both the Environment Agency and the County Council, in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

The Environment Agency advised that:

"... we were not the final statutory determiner for the SW drainage at that time but I can see you have also sent the query to Cambs LLFA as well and I am sure they will get back to you."

Despite several attempts a response from the LLFA has not yet been received.

Restoration of Borrow Pits 5 & 6

During July an enquiry was received from Highways England concerning the restoration of borrow pits created as part of the improvement scheme. The Board's Chairman, advised that as far as he is aware the proposals will not detrimentally affect the Board either directly or indirectly.

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.

Consulting Engineer

30 January 2020

Swavesey(360)\Reports\January 20

The Chairman reported that the maintenance works had been carried out in accordance with the recommendations approved by the Board at their last meeting and Roundup herbicide treatment had been applied where required within the Board's drainage district to control strands of emergent aquatic weed and vegetation growing within the dry and semi-dry drain beds. A sum had been included within the estimated costs for next year of undertaking similar herbicide applications throughout the district.

The Board's flail mowing requirements had been carried out by Lattenbury Services Ltd who had been approached to undertake the flail mowing of the Board's drains again during the current year and a sum for this had been included in the estimates.

The Chairman advised that the telemetry system was now working well.

The Public Sector Co-operation agreement works carried out on behalf of the Environment Agency had now been completed satisfactorily and the works had progressed well. The Environment Agency were happy for the Board to do more work in the future and the Chairman was pleased with how these works had been progressed under the pre-existing MLC/PSCA. It was noted that all the work undertaken with the PSCA at Swavesey were carried out on a fully rechargeable basis to the Environment Agency.

Planning Applications

Residential development at Boxworth End, Swavesey (MLC Ref Nos. 271 & 346)

Demolition of farm outbuildings + erection of 90 dwellings on land off Boxworth End, Swavesey (MLC Ref Nos. 293 & 313)

Erection of 56 dwellings on land north of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey (MLC Ref No. 314)

Residential development on land to the rear of Middlewatch, Swavesey (MLC Ref Nos. 294, 310, 358 & 359)

These developments were noted by the Board and it was confirmed that no further action was required by the Planning Engineer.

Northstowe Phase 3b

The Engineer reported that in July 2019 the Board was approached by the developer's engineering consultant, Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd concerning the proposed approach to assessing the Swavesey Drain system to determine a suitable allowable discharge regime from Phase 3B. Proposals were discussed and considered with the Board's Chairman and Arcadis were advised that, on the whole, the proposed methodology was acceptable. However, it was noted that there had been at least 20 significant events in a period of just over 18 years data and that the model will need to include both extreme and lower return period events. Arcadis were also advised that the Board may require that the model is verified by an independent consultant. In addition the Board's Chairman discussed the issue with a representative from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and has advised him that the success of the operation of the Swavesey Drain will be dependent amongst other matters on an exceptionally good maintenance regime and that the original Mare Fen Scheme proposal was completed.

Arcadis Consulting Ltd agreed to undertake any discussions as part of a pre-application consultation procedure, therefore, any discussions to ensure that the Board's requirements will not be charged to them.

The Board received an update on the Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership.

Cambridgeshire County Council Capittally Funded Highway Drainage Schemes.

The Engineer reported that schemes had now been assessed and prioritised based upon level of flooding reported ie high priority is property flooding or risk to life, low priority is highway only flooding. The schemes will be developed to provide estimated costs and prioritised to be delivered to available budget. There was an annual highway drainage budget of £1,000,000. This needed to cover all staff, investigation, design and construction costs and therefore not all the schemes would be delivered in the current financial year. There were currently 23 schemes ongoing within the County, 11 of which were within the South Cambridgeshire district. Only the works at Gibraltar Lane are within the Swavesey district.

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

The Engineer reported that in 2018 the Roads Minister asked Highways England to make an application to re-classify the improved road as a motorway. An application for a non-material change to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme Development Consent Order was subsequently submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July 2019.

The Engineer reported that it was considered that this re-classification would have little adverse impact on the Board's operations, however, it was understood that this application had now been recently withdrawn.

RESOLVED

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

ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the maintenance works contained in the Report be undertaken.

iii) Proposed development to the rear of Cygnus Business Park (Mill Farm), Middlewatch, Swavesey (MLC Ref Nos. 123, 182, 243 & 305)

That the Planning Engineer send a letter to obtain the further information that was required in order to grant consent.

iv) Residential development south of Fen Drayton Road, Swavesey (MLC Ref Nos. 284, 285, 291, 315, 344, 349, 350, 351, 357, 360, 361 & 366)

That the Planning Engineer write to South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning about the discharge of conditions and the SUDS scheme for the development.

B.1008 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.1009 District Superintendent's Report

The District Superintendent reported that most of the items he wished to bring to the Board's attention had been covered by the Consulting Engineer's Report.

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1010 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

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

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1011 District Superintendent

a) Record of hours worked

Miss McShane reported that Mr K Wilderspin had worked 95 hours as District Superintendent between February 2019 and January 2020.

b) Fee

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

RESOLVED

i) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,784 be allowed for the services of the District Superintendent for 2020/2021.

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

c) Telephone Expenses

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

RESOLVED

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

d) Casual Labour

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

RESOLVED

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

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

B.1012 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.

Update on the EA grant-in-aid position

Mis McShane 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.

Some members will recall that in 2009 asset surveys were carried out on all IDB pumping stations. As ten years has now passed it might be timely to revisit and update these to reflect any changes that might have occurred and for this updated information to be used to plan for future investment needs. Similarly, as it is five years since these assets were valued for insurance reasons, it is also considered worthwhile revising the rebuilding estimates to reflect construction cost inflation.

RESOLVED

- i) That no proposals be formulated at the present time.
- ii) That the Consulting Engineers be requested to undertake an asset survey and recalculate the pumping station valuations.

B.1013 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss McShane reported that the RFCC had set the increase for precept payment for 2020/2021 at 2.5% (the precept for 2019/2020 being £1,752.58).

B.1014 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss McShane reported that the sum of £376.14 (£4,329.03 less £3,952.89 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) had been received from the Environment Agency based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for the financial year 2018/2019 together with the sum of £3,916.23 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2019/2020.

B.1015 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

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

RESOLVED

That the increased ADA subscription be paid for 2020.

B.1016 Planning Fee Burden for IDBs

The Chairman reported on the increasing planning fee burden for Internal Drainage Boards dealing with planning applications. A high demand for residential developments in the area was putting an increasing burden on small Internal Drainage Boards such as Swavesey. It was hoped that by encouraging Developers to enter into pre and post planning application consultations that some of this consultation could be paid for by the Developers.

B.1017 Contravention of Byelaws – Starburst Limited

Miss McShane reported that there was an outstanding discharge consent for this development and as part of the Consulting Engineer's report it was agreed that the Planning Engineer write a further letter to the Developer requesting information needed to approve the consent.

B.1018 Contributions from Developers

With reference to minute B.303, Miss McShane reported that contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received.

B.1019 Health and Safety

a) Further to minute B.979(b), Miss McShane reported that quotes were sought and a letter sent to the Chairman on the 25th April 2019 advising that it had been agreed at the Chairs meeting to enter into a 3 year contract with Cope Safety Management with the annual payment being split between the Boards. Assuming all Boards joined the arrangement, the cost to the Board would be £200 per annum. However it was understood that, particularly in the first year or so, extra support may be needed and this could be provided at a day rate of £500 or at an hourly rate of £85 for part days.

Miss McShane advised that the Chairman had confirmed that the Board wished to be included in the arrangement with Cope Safety Management.

RESOLVED

That the actions of the Chairman be approved.

b) Further to minute B.979(a), the Chairman referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on the 29th October 2020 and reported that he had discussed the report with Miss Parish and had approved the actions highlighted in the report for attention.

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

B.1020 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2019/2020

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

B.1021 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.1022 Review of Internal Controls

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

B.1023 Risk Management Assessment

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

Members considered the Board's Risk Register.

RESOLVED

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

b) The Board considered and approved the insured value of their buildings and noted that as resolved earlier the assets would be revalued for insurance purposes.

B.1024 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1025 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.1026 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £7,254.03 which had been made during the financial year 2018/2019 (1st February – 31st March 2019) and £25,581.15 made during the financial year 2019/2020 (1st April 2019 – 31st January 2020).

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

B.1027 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 :-

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

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £19,389 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- iii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £13,091 and £6,298 respectively.
- iv) That drainage rates in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District as follows:-

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

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

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

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

B.1028 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.1029 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday the 9th February 2021.