

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Benwick Internal Drainage Board
held at Ramsey Golf Club on Monday 13^h June 2022

PRESENT

M Jackson Esq (Chairman)	E Jackson Esq
D J Caton Esq (Vice Chairman & DO)	M Smalley Esq
R G Few Esq	M Fisher Esq
P N Fountain Esq	A Miscandlon Esq
R Stacey Esq	

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

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

Mr M Smalley was welcomed to the Board as this was his first meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs D Laws and, R A Dring Esq, J M Palmer Esq, G Wakeham Esq and N G Thacker Esq.

B.1246 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No. 340).

The District Officer and Mr Few declared interests in minute nos. B.1257 and B.1272.

Cllr Miscandlon declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council's Planning committee.

B.1247 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 7th June 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1248 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That M Jackson Esq be re-appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.1249 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That D J Caton Esq be re-appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.1250 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership

Miss Ablett reported that Fenland District Council have re-appointed Councillors Mrs D Laws, Mrs K Mayor, A Miscandlon and R Wicks to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1251 Land at Turf Fen, Chatteris

Further to minute B.1218, Miss Ablett reported the Assistant Clerk had spoken with Shirley Pollard, of Maxey Grounds, who had advised that, for the reasons reported last year, the agricultural value of the land remained at £95 per acre.

Members discussed the value of the land and agreed that due to the uncertainty regarding the financial climate that the rent invoiced should remain unchanged.

RESOLVED

That the rent charged remains unchanged at £1,000 per annum.

B.1252 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett advised:-

i) COVID-19 Actions

That the majority of control measures have been removed now and normal office working has resumed (with the exception of trialling a degree of flexible working, which has been shown to be effective following the previous periods of enforced home working). Impacts now are largely confined to the high rates of COVID-19 illness cases in the UK.

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That an eighth Chair's Meeting was held on the 12th April 2022.

The meeting covered a wide variety of matters likely to affect IDBs. A summary of the key points and resolutions follows;

It was recorded that there had been a number of MLC staff changes over the period. These included the retirement of Deb Watts, Katie Hunt and Malcolm Downes. Also, Sarah Lemmon and Richard Lloyd had handed in their notice. New members of staff replacing them and linked with some restructuring of the finances and admin departments were Dave Bantoft (M&E Engineer), Sarah Bowd (Accounts Assistant), Polly Tombleson (PA Secretarial) and Claire Collings (Secretarial).

It was reported that following the successful telemetry grant bid for Local Levy £125K in grant had been secured and consequently an order had been placed for in excess of 45 new telemetry outstations. The MLC have tested the new system with the six stations they commissioned and were satisfied with its operation.

Training for Board members was covered and it was noted that ADA provide online training videos. Various methods for delivering these and recording attendance was discussed and it was finally resolved that the best way forward would be to ask all members to watch one or two videos a year and to record when they had been viewed. A record of who had watched which video would be retained and this information recorded at Board meetings and used to support DEFRA IDB1 returns.

A proposal to move from time charges to lump sum annual fees for planning and consenting matters was discussed and it was agreed that a proposal to move to this more efficient and effective way of working would be put to each Board. For similar reasons it was resolved that a proposal should be put forward which would reduce the scale of content reported to Boards under planning matters.

Inflationary pressures were touched upon and it was recognised that if this continues there will be pressure placed upon Boards to raise their rates more than has occurred in recent years. It was also recognised that along with these inflationary pressures there were increasing demands (with legal backing) evolving in relation to environmental gains and Boards should be aware of the costs of delivering on these. Examples are the government's commitment to protect 30% of all land by 2030 for the environment and of the Doubling Nature initiative in Cambridgeshire.

An update on work in relation to climate change and carbon reduction was given. Work currently in hand comprises of production of a carbon baseline for the MLC. Once complete the scale of the challenge to target carbon neutrality will be known and work will be undertaken to identify possible opportunities for reduction and mitigation, prior to production of a policy statement. During these next stages it is expected that Boards associated with the MLC will be similarly assessed and plan proposals made for them.

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

That the 84th Annual Conference of the Association was held on Wednesday the 10th November 2021.

The Conference was once again held virtually and was split into two parts; the Conference in the morning and AGM in the afternoon. It is expected that, whilst in

future years it is hoped to return to a face-to-face format, the clear separation between conference and AGM is likely to be retained.

Speakers this year included Rebecca Row MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Defra), Dieter Helm (economist) and Lord De Ramsey (then President of ADA).

Topics covered included the challenges of climate change and the need to step up to the plate in delivering on the aim to achieve a net zero target as soon as possible, the importance of partnership working and the importance of agriculture in feeding the nation. The latter included the need to better educate the population, who clearly desire to move forward on delivering climate change and ecological objectives, but do not fully appreciate the role of agriculture, its real impacts or even properly understood where and how food is sourced. One example given that challenged a common assumption that agriculture was bad for the environment was that recent monitoring of CO² release had shown that a well irrigated peat field of onions released less CO² than adjacent dry grassland.

In his speech Lord De Ramsey announced that he was stepping down as President and that his place would be taken by Henry Cator. He was warmly thanked by ADA for his many years of service and was presented with a painting by an artist which it is known he admires. Henry spoke about how pleased he had been to be invited to take over the role and that he looked forward to working with ADA to meet the future challenges of the industry.

The AGM that followed gave an update on the work of ADA, noting the likelihood that, despite vigorous lobbying, the expectation was that from 1st April 2022 IDBs would no longer be able to use red diesel for anything other than heating or to run generators. This will impact on costs and will provide challenges to the continued use of agricultural contractors. The passing of the Environment Bill was touched upon which will release barriers to the formation of new IDBs and will also provide opportunities for IDBs to explore extending their boundaries if it was clearly beneficial to do so. Innes Thomason spoke on the work of ADA and the consultations ADA had responded to, including proposals to extend beaver introduction and a water abstraction licencing charging review amongst other things. Finally, it was reported that the ADA Board had agreed to a 1% rise in subscriptions for the 2022/23 year and noted that with inflationary pressures a higher increase should be expected next year.

b) Annual Conference

That the Annual Conference of the Association of Drainage Authorities will be held on Wednesday the 9th November 2022, venue yet to be announced.

c) Meeting of the River Great Ouse Branch

That the Annual Conference of the River Great Ouse branch of the Association was held on Tuesday the 1st March 2022.

This was the first face to face meeting held since the COVID-19 outbreak but the format was restricted to the AGM only. It is planned however to reintroduce the popular and useful morning workshops for 2023.

Marc Heading was reappointed as chair with Councillor Doug McMurdo as vice chair. Topics covered included unsurprisingly red diesel, and water resources/the work of WRE.

Sofi Lloyd announced that Brian Stewart and Ian Hodge from the EA had recently joined the ADA Board and that DEFRA had asked ADA to liaise with them on the implementation of schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act. She was also pleased to be able to report that ADA had been instrumental in initiating an all-party parliamentary group with a remit to discuss and consider Sustainable Flood and Drainage Management.

Phil Hulme and Amanda Macloughlan spoke on behalf of the EA covering the challenging associated with significant staff changes at the EA and noted that with the capital program for this six-year cycle being double that of the previous one this would be generating considerable additional work load.

It was advised that this coming years revenue (maintenance) budget was £5.3M which was more than the previous year but what could be delivered within this budget could be impacted by inflation.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th March 2023.

e) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1150, ADA have advised that there was an error in the Model Byelaws relating to a Penalty Notice which referred to s37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, which was actually repealed on the 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020. Consequently, Defra has amended the Penalty Notice attached to the byelaws to include the correct reference. This Penalty Notice is not part of the Byelaws and, as such, is a simple correction. There is no requirement either to readvertise, or seek Defra approval and the version now uploaded to the website is the corrected one.

iv) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

Miss Ablett reported that the Board did not approve to progress with telemetry installation taking advantage of the 50% grant being offered by the EA through Local Levy.

v) Red Diesel

Following extensive lobbying and the efforts of ADA, DEFRA and Treasury have softened their stance on the potential loss of access to red diesel use by IDBs. Going forward then as long as the work undertaken by the IDB can be shown to have some agricultural benefit then red diesel use can continue. The exception will be construction works and works where the sole beneficiary is an urban area.

vi) Planning and Consenting Fees

Proposed changes to planning and consenting service supply charging

Two changes are proposed. The current arrangements and the proposed changes are outlined below.

1. The current arrangements for charging for Technical Services advice and support, for planning and consenting matters, is based upon a direct cost recovery arrangement. To achieve this all time spent on every item of work undertaken has to be logged and recorded in detail. This information is then pulled together and invoices prepared and checked before being passed to the Board Chairs for sign-off. This requires a considerable amount of time and effort and this time is of course included in the eventual fees paid. It is considered that a more efficient model would be to mirror the one used for charging for Clerking services which is based upon a lump sum annual fee. This has a number of advantages. It reduces internal workload which in turn releases time to carry out productive work. It also allows Boards to budget for the fees knowing at the time of rate setting what the annual fees will be.

To ensure that a fair assessment is made it is suggested that the last five years of fees are looked at and an average taken. If there is clearly one or two years where one or two planning matters have impacted heavily upon the figures then an appropriate adjustment will be made. The final fee will be converted into a fraction of the costs of overall cost of supplying planning and consenting services for all Boards including the MLC and this percentage will become fixed until such time that a review is called for.

In addition, we will still actively encourage developers and their agents to enter into Pre/Post application contracts. This will help keep the overall planning costs to a minimum. We will also be looking to move more and more to lump sum charges for developers for the same reasons outlined above, i.e. to reduce internal administration work and costs where possible.

It is not proposed that this change will extend to other Technical Services work, such as surveys, catchment analysis, and refurbishment/replacement/improvement scheme work or associated advice which will continue to be logged and charged on a “hours spent” basis.

RESOLVED

That a lump sum fee arrangement be agreed in principle, but figures to be presented to the Board at their June 2023 meeting.

2. Many members have noted that the reporting in relation to planning application comments and responses is comprehensive. Again, it often takes many hours to produce such detailed reports for which the Board is charged. This time could be spent in dealing with and taking action on planning and consenting matters. There is also the issue of the potential time lapse between any planning/byelaw issue raising its head and the meeting of the Board. It is of course normally advantageous to take action as soon as possible after any issue had become apparent. It is therefore proposed that going forward the Board nominate who they wish to be copied in on all planning correspondence, for example the Chair and Vice-Chair. They will then be able to liaise with the Planning Engineer if they wish to and will be conversant with discussions being undertaken. The Board may also wish to delegate decision making for initial actions for bylaw infringements to the Board nominee/s.

To ensure that the Board is consulted on the most important matters it is proposed that when it is wished for a matter to be raised within the Board report then a request from the Chair can be made and a detailed report would follow. This would normally be the case where

significant costs might be associated with enforcement, including perhaps incurring legal fees or where an unusually large or significant development is proposed.

Should the above change be agreed to, then going forward the Engineer's report will provide a list of all planning applications of interest to the Board and consents applied for/approved but unless requested by the Chair no detail will be provided.

RESOLVED

That no further detail be reported on individual planning matters in the Consulting Engineers Report unless requested by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

vii) Water Resources East (WRE)

A draft WRE plan went out for public consultation and responses to it were to be received by 28th February 2022. The latest news can be found by visiting www.wre.org.uk.

viii) Anglia Farmers

Miss Ablett reported that following the last meeting of each Board/Commissioners the Anglia Farmers electricity contract was renewed in October 2021 for a shorter period of 6 months to 31st March 2022 and this was due to the volatile energy market at the time. As there remains an enormous amount of volatility and uncertainty surrounding energy prices and as competition is very limited, it was decided that the Commissioners and Boards should remain within the Anglia Farmers buying group at the moment as there is likely to be little scope for us to negotiate better deals. The Clerk will also report a new contract has been signed for a 12-month period to 31st March 2023 with EDF Energy through Anglian Farmers.

The Anglia Farmers Energy team does not have to commit to buying energy for years ahead at the current price levels and the flexible contract that they have to buy energy from 1st April 2022 allows them to risk manage the portfolio for their Members, which means they will be well positioned to take advantage of any energy market normalisation ahead. When market conditions have settled down/normalised the Board/Commissioners will be asked whether they wish to remain with Anglia Farmers. But this may not be for several years based upon current market assessments.

ix) Fens Biosphere

Miss Ablett reported that this project is on hold and will remain so unless and until Fenland District Council is prepared to engage with a redefined brief and vision for it.

x) National Drainage Show & Floodex 2022

That the National Drainage Show & Floodex 2022 will be held at ExCel, London on the 23rd and 24th November 2022.

The Board considered the supplementary Report of the Consulting Engineers, viz;

Enc 1

Benwick I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – June 2022

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

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

Advanced notices of this year's machine cleansing programme (approved by the Board at its 2007 meeting) have been sent out.

The access issues at the manually cleansed weedscreen, on the culverted section of reach 14-16, were highlighted by the frequent visits required during the winter rainfall event of 2022. Following approval by the Board at its last annual meeting, improvement works incorporating steps, handrails and a working platform have been installed to ensure that in future all operatives can undertake their duties in a safe working environment.



**Dykemoor, reach 18-19
included in this year's Machine Cleansing
Programme**



A recent inspection of the Board's system has been undertaken. The inspection revealed that most watercourses are generally in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. However, stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation are now prevalent and showing visual signs of active regrowth throughout the district. It is recommended that Roundup herbicide is applied to drains within this year's phased machine cleansing works, and to any other Board's drains where it is deemed necessary to control reed and emergent weed growth. A sum for the cost of Roundup treatment has been included within the estimated costs.

It was also noted during the inspection that the short length of bank subsidence reported last year, in the Bettys Nose catchment to the west of Benwick Village, reach 55-67, has deteriorated further and will require intervention. It is recommended that approximately 60m of timber revetment will be required to stabilise the bank and return it to its original profile, preventing further deterioration and associated expenditure. In anticipation of the Board's approval of these works this year, a provisional sum has been included in the estimated costs.



Reach 55-67, to the west of Benwick

Flail mowing in advance of the machine cleansing works will be required to afford the machine operator maximum visibility. The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, have indicated that they are available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum for the completion of this work has been included within the Board's estimated costs.

A provisional sum has also been included within the Board's estimated costs for any emergency cleansing, culvert clearance or bank reinstatement works that may be required later in the year.

The estimated costs of this year's recommended maintenance works are as follows, see following plan for locations:

1 **Machine Cleansing (Phased Programmed Works)**

Copalder Area

Reach 12-13-14-15	500	m	@	1.50	750.00
Reach 13-16-17-18-19-20-21	1950	m	@	1.50	2925.00
Reach 22-21-23	540	m	@	1.50	810.00

Broadalls Area

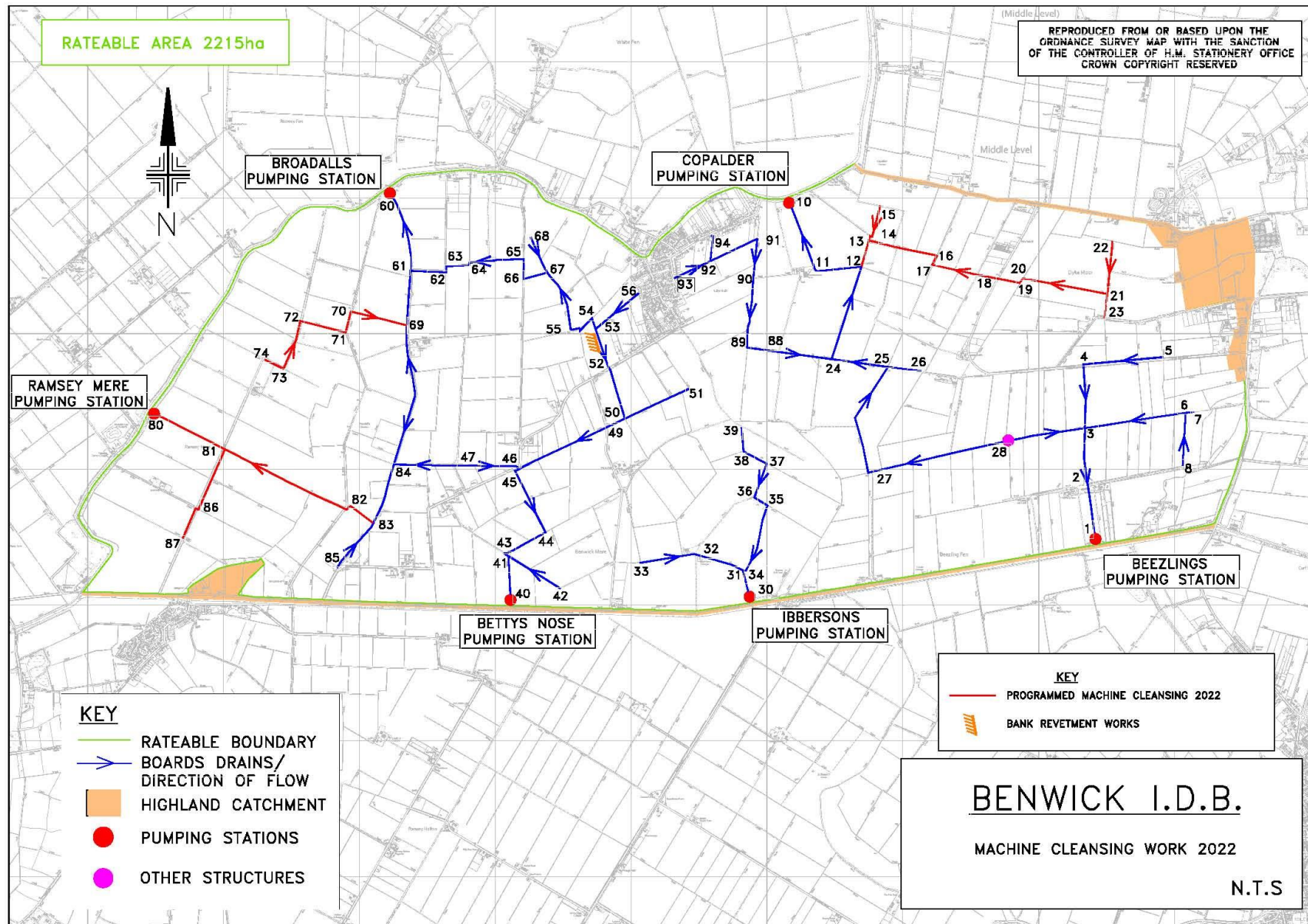
Reach 69-70-71-72-73-74	1450	m	@	1.50	2175.00
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Ramsay Mere Area

Reach 80-81-82-83	1750	m	@	1.50	2625.00
Reach 81-86-87	730	m	@	1.50	1095.00

2 **Provisional Sum**

Provisional Sum:			
Bank Revetment Works			
Reach 55-67	Item	Sum	<u>2500.00</u>
	Carried forward		12880.00



		Brought forward	12880.00
3	Allow sum for Roundup application to control reed and emergent aquatic weed growth	Item Sum	£1400.00
4	Flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing works	Item Sum	£4750.00
5	<u>Provisional Sum</u> Allow sum for emergency Machine cleansing, culvert Clearance or bank Reinstatement works	Item Sum	£2000.00
6	Fees for the inspection, Preparation & submission of report to the Board. Arrangement & supervision of herbicide applications & maintenance works	Item Sum	£2000.00
			£23,030.00

Please refer to the previous plan for locations.

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

Pumping Stations

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

Benwick Mere

As previously advised, whilst the pump appears in good order it has not been inspected since 1987 and could be seriously corroded. Due to the design of the station, it will be necessary to dam off and enter the wet well via the weed screen to inspect the pump, alternatively the pump could be removed for overhaul as a matter of course. The floor plates around the pump are corroded and should be replaced.

Bettys Nose

The cleaner is again currently switched off due to birds nesting in the overhead gantry; the nests will be removed later in the year when they are no longer in use.

Broadalls

The pump well was dewatered during autumn 2021, to allow it to be cleared of debris and for the pump to be fitted and the inlet slacker replaced. However, the pump could not be installed on the planned day due to high winds and will therefore be fitted this summer. The old pump has operated through the winter, although the insulation resistance readings are now critically low.

Copalder

The pump motor insulation resistance has been deteriorating for some time and is now at a level where the motor should be overhauled, the pump is noisier than usual which needs to be investigated.

Ramsey Mere

The pump is sound and appears to be operating well, however the pump bolts are starting to show signs of significant corrosion and it is the engineer's recommendation that they be replaced no later than 2023.

Benwick Pumping Hours						
	Beezlings	Benwick Mere /Ibbersons	Betty's Nose	Broadalls	Copalder	Ramsey Mere
	Pump Hours	Pump Hours	Pump Hours	Pump Hours	Pump Hours	Pump Hours
2013/2014	210	211	629	70	205	123
2014/2015	212	102	137	92	169	15
2015/2016	151	75	129	6	87	72
2016/2017	132	84	99	24	87	31
2017/2018	335	153	220	17	111	31
2018/2019	53	21	76	1	64	4
2019/2020	413	199	270	15	275	212
2020/2021	215	426	504	805	535	190
2021/2022	58	11	104	70	47	1

Asset Appraisals

As requested at the Board meeting on 7 June 2021, Asset Appraisals and Forecasts have been carried out for each of the Board's Pumping Stations, the reports follow:

BEEZLINGS PUMPING STATION



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Benwick IDB
Commissioned	c1966
Refurbished	2011
Pump	Allen Gwynnes 14" vertical spindle axial flow No.168302
Duty	257 l/s @ 5.6m TGH
Drive Motor	GEC SC No.70489 22kW @ 970 rpm
Gearbox	N/A
Control Equipment	Carlton Controls Star Delta (1992)
Automatic Level Control	Pulsar Vantage
Weed Screen Cleaner	Stainless Metalcraft 2019
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with syphon breaker
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 m high galvanised palisade to weed screen compound
Postcode	PE26 2XS

General

Beezlings is one of six stations in the Benwick Internal Drainage Board which in total serves an area of 2215Ha. The station serves the south east side of the catchment and discharges through pipework under the road into the Forty Foot Drain. The station was built in 1966 and its pump was refurbished in 2011.

Pump House



The building is generally in a good condition and the roof appears sound as viewed from the inside. The piles on the pump inlet are steel and have corroded at the water line. A structural survey would need to be carried out to determine the full stability of the building, integrity of the piles and condition of outfall.

Pump

The pump is an Allen Gwynnes 14" vertical spindle axial flow pump from 1966, it was last overhauled in 2011 and converted from grease to water lubrication. The electrical tests for the motor are positive, although the insulation resistance has fluctuated over the last few years which could be caused by water ingress meaning the motor will need to be rewound or replaced at some point.

Control Equipment



The pump control panel was manufactured by Carlton Controls Ltd and was installed in 1992 and should give another 10 years' service.



Weed Screen Cleaner



The weed screen cleaner is by Stainless Metalwork Ltd and was installed in 2019. The 12mm thick bar weed screen is manufactured of galvanised steel and has 60mm gaps between bars. The screen is in reasonable condition and should last a further 30 years unless damaged by the cleaning process. The cleaner is likely to need an overhaul after 20 years.

Telemetry

The station is not at present fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Surrounds

The compound is surrounded by a 2.1m high galvanised metal palisade fence and is in a satisfactory condition. The fence has a pedestrian and vehicular access gate.

Outlet/Inlets

The intake sump piles are steel and are corroded at the water level.



The outfall to the Forty Foot is brick built and a few courses of bricks are missing from the top in places.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Beezlings								
Internal Drainage Board	Benwick								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-32	2032-37	2037-42
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment	15k new panel with telemetry, 80k pump overhaul						15k	80k	
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment	overhaul								15k
Control Building	Dependant on survey / feasibility							10k	
Compound and Surroundings									
Wet well inspection							5k		
Need									
The pump does few hours a year and whilst the prediction is for another pump overhaul 2032-37 it may be that the station infrastructure will not be worthy of it. Therefore it is recommended that the buildings and wet well be inspected in 2032 to check if a pump overhaul is sensible or a new station is required. The cost for the wet well inspection will be influenced heavily by the costs incurred damming and dewatering. 15K Pumping and Control Equipment includes for telemetry									
Note - These are estimated capital cost and do not include regular maintenance costs.									

BENWICK MERE (Ibbersons) PUMPING STATION



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Benwick IDB
Commissioned	1954
Refurbished	Pump overhauled 1987
Pump	Allen Gwynnes 14" vertical spindle axial flow No.98706
Duty	255 l/s @ 5.2m TGH
Drive Motor	Brook Crompton Parkinson No. 2271072 WR 22KW @ 960 rpm
Gearbox	N/A
Control Equipment	G.E.Child (1988) D.O.L
Automatic Level Control	Millitronics Multiranger
Weed Screen Cleaner	Manual
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with syphon breaker
Telemetry	None
Fencing	Wooden post and rail to road
Postcode	PE26 2XL
Date	May 2022

General

Benwick Mere (Ibbersons) is one of six stations in the Benwick Internal Drainage Board which in total serves an area of 2215Ha. The station serves the south side of the catchment and discharges through pipework under the road into the Forty Foot Drain.



Pump House

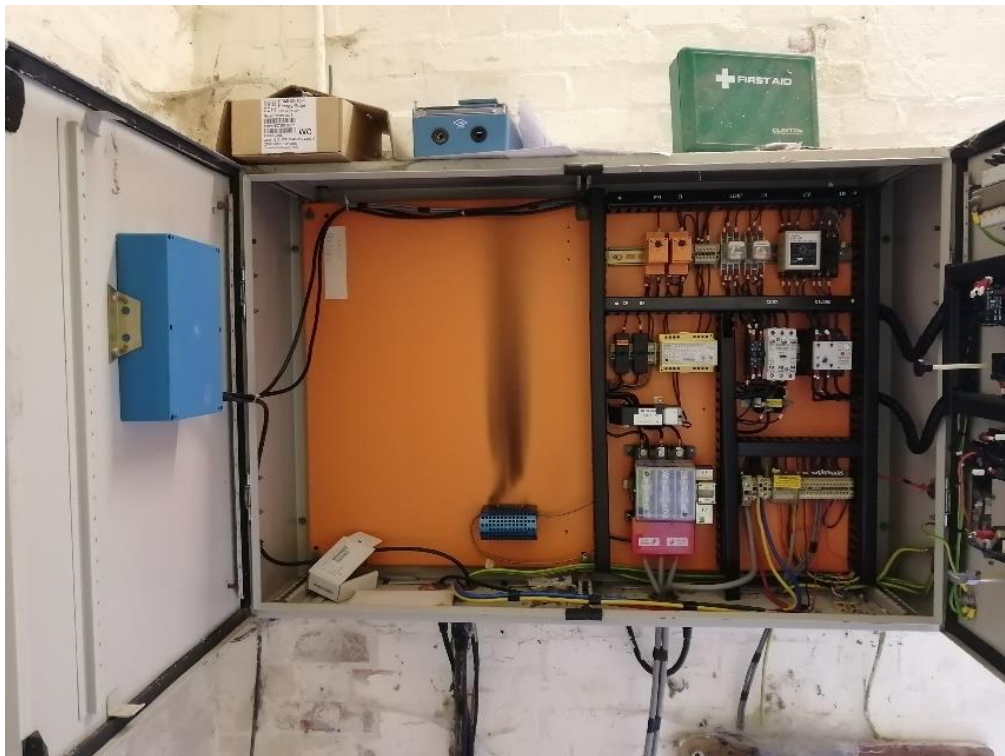
The building is generally in a serviceable condition and the roof appears sound as viewed from the inside. The building is showing its age and does have some cracking to the walls. The piles on the pump inlet are corroded heavily at the water line. A structural survey would need to be carried out to determine the full extent of the building movement and integrity of the piles.



Pump

The pump is an Allen Gwynnes 14" vertical spindle axial flow pump that is the original from around 1954 and the only record of an overhaul that can be found dates back to 1987. During this overhaul many parts were found to be worn and had to be replaced. The pump is due a thorough inspection and full overhaul or replacement. The motor test results are however good.

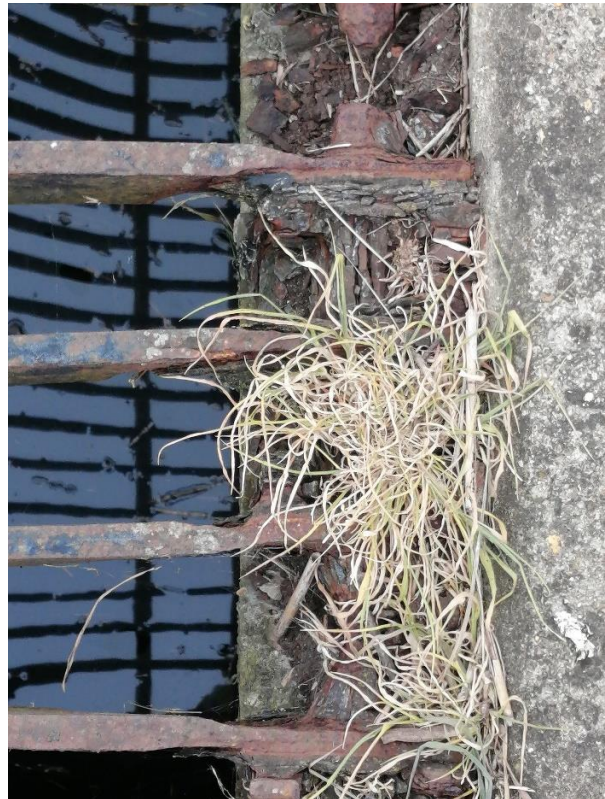
Control Equipment



The pump control panel was manufactured by G E Childs Ltd and was installed in 1988 around the same time that the pump was refurbished, many components are now obsolete and should be replaced in the next 5 to 10 years.



Weed Screen



The weed screen is believed to be the original and is poor condition and needs to be replaced. The 15mm thick bar weed screen has gaps varying between 60 and 80 mm. It is corroded badly at the water line and at the top. The concrete caps to the piles look good but the piles are heavily corroded.

Telemetry

The station is not currently fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Surrounds

There is a wooden post and rail fence facing the road with a galvanised steel gate providing access to the station.

Outlet/Inlets

The inlet penstock was replaced in May 2022 with a new stainless-steel unit from Aquatic Control Engineering Ltd.



The pump discharges through a steel pipe to a chamber. From this chamber water then flows through a pipe under the road and into the Forty Foot. The steel discharge pipe is corroded and has been patched and welded where it has leaked in the past. The grating above the chamber is corroded and should be replaced.



The concrete outfall to the river looks in good serviceable condition.



Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Benwick Mere (Ibbersons)								
Internal Drainage Board	Benwick								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-32	2032-37	2037-42
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment	15k new panel with telemetry, 80k pump overhaul		80k				15k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment	new bar screen		20k						
Control Building	Depending on survey and feasibility								
Compound and Surroundings									
Wet well inspection		5k							
Need									
The pump is due an inspection / overhaul and the bar screen needs replacement. Therefore it is recommended that the buildings and wet well be inspected to check if a pump overhaul is sensible or a new station is required. The cost for the wet well inspection will be influenced heavily by the costs incurred damming and dewatering. 15K Pumping and Control Equipment includes for telemetry									
Note - These are estimated capital cost and do not include regular maintenance costs.									

BETTYS NOSE PUMPING STATION



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Benwick IDB
Commissioned	1940'S
Refurbished	Electrified 1978, Pump 2009
Pump	BPL SB.40.09.06 400 mm subm. Bowl (c2009)
Duty	510 l/s @ 5.5m TGH
Drive Motor	45kW @ 970 rpm
Gearbox	N/A
Control Equipment	British Pleuger D.O.L. (1978)
Automatic Level Control	Millitronics Multiranger
Weed Screen Cleaner	CW-5000 (2009)
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with syphon breaker
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 m high galvanised palisade to weed screen compound
Postcode	PE26 2YB
Date	May 2022

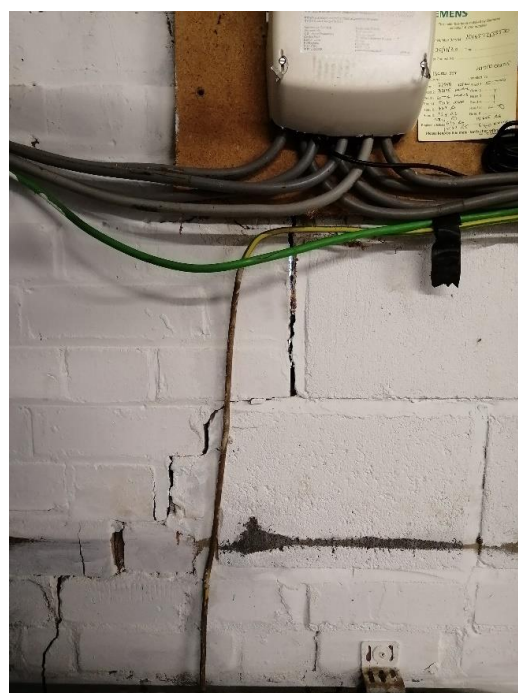
General

Bettys Nose is one of six stations in the Benwick Internal Drainage Board district which in total serves an area of 2215Ha. The station serves the south west side of the catchment and discharges through pipework under a road and into the Forty Foot Drain. The station was built in

the 1940s and refurbished in the 1970s. It had a British Pleuger Submersible pump but this was replaced in 2009 with one supplied by Bedford Pumps.

Pump House

The building is generally in a serviceable condition with the roof appearing sound as viewed from the inside. There are gutters missing that need to be replaced. The building is showing its age and does have some cracking evident in the walls. The piles on the pump inlet are concrete and look to be in good condition. A structural survey would need to be carried out to determine the full extent of the building movement and integrity of the piles.

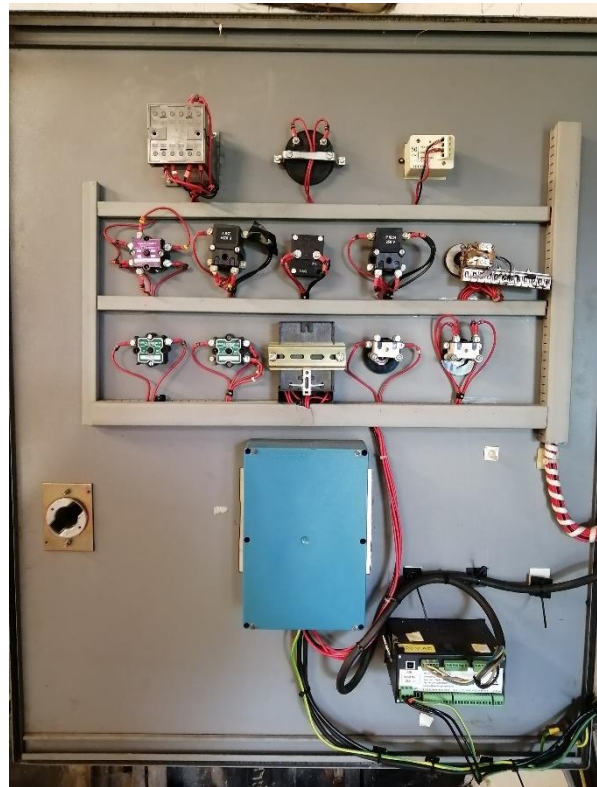
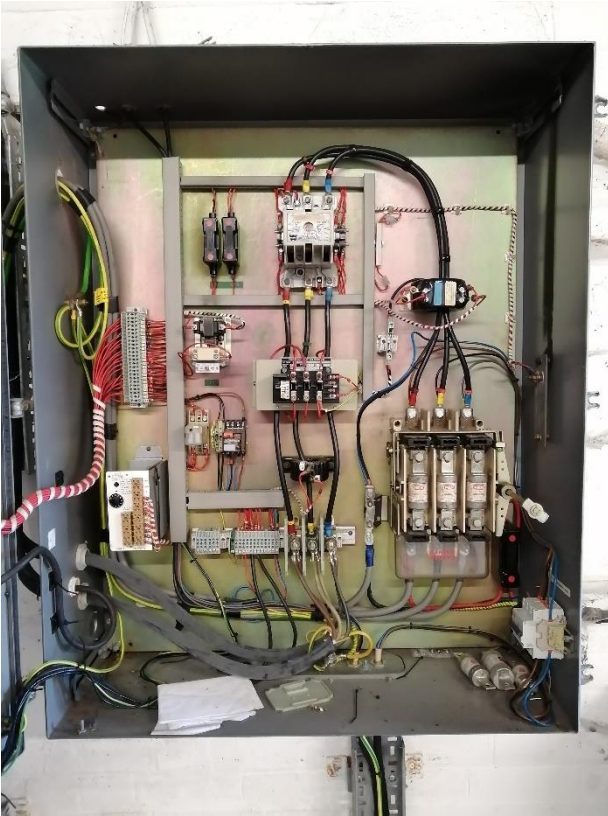


Pump



The pump is a Bedford Pumps BPL SB.40.09.06 400 submersible pump that was fitted around 2009. The pump condition monitor has failed and should be replaced. The pump electrical readings are good. The pump should last another 10 years although it is hard to gauge the lifespan of submersible pumps as water ingress can often be a problem with this pump type.

Control Equipment



The pump control panel was manufactured by British Pleuger Submersible Pumps Ltd and was installed in 1978, many components are now obsolete, it has exceeded its design life and should be replaced in the next 5 years.

Weed Screen Cleaner



The weed screen cleaner is a CW-5000 that was installed in 2009. The 12mm thick bar weed screen is manufactured of galvanised steel and has a 60mm gap between bars. The screen is in reasonable condition and should last a further 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process. The cleaner is likely to need an overhaul in 5 to 10 years.

The intake sump piles are concrete and look in good condition



Telemetry

The station is not currently fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Surrounds

The compound is surrounded by a 2.1m high galvanised metal palisade fence and is in a satisfactory condition. The fence has a vehicular access gate.

Outlet/Inlets

The discharge pipe is steel and is corroded, this has been patched and welded in the past. The inlet valve is cut into the discharge pipe. The outlet has concrete piles with a concrete capping beam which look in good condition.



Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Bettys Nose								
Internal Drainage Board	Benwick								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-32	2032-37	2037-42
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment	15k new panel with telemetry, 50k pump overhaul					15k	50k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment	overhaul						15k		
Control Building								10k	
Compound and Surroundings									
Wet well inspection						5k			
Need									
While the prediction is for another pump overhaul 2027-32 it may be that the station infrastructure will not be worthy of it.									
Therefore it is recommended that the buildings and wet well be inspected in 2027 to check if a pump overhaul is sensible or a new station is required.									
The cost for the wet well inspection will be influenced heavily by the costs incurred damming and dewatering.									
15K Pumping and Control Equipment includes for telemetry									
Note - These are estimated capital cost and do not include regular maintenance costs.									

BROADALLS PUMPING STATION

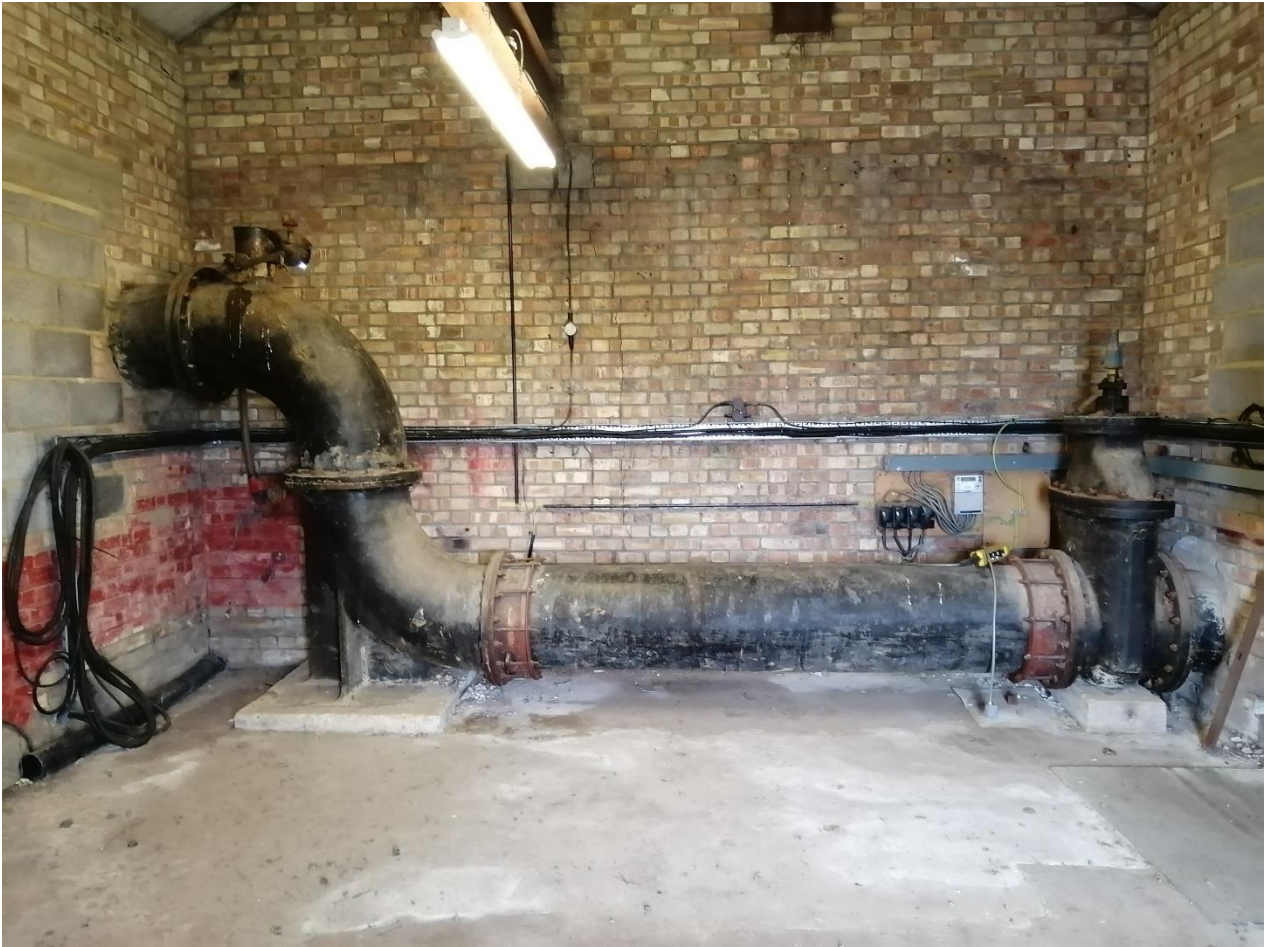


Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Benwick IDB
Commissioned	1940's
Refurbished	Electrified 1974
Pump	Sub BPL SB.40.09.06 400 mm (2004) to be replaced 2022
Duty	425 l/s @ 4.9m TGH
Drive Motor	Integral 36kW @ 970 rpm
Gearbox	N/A
Control Equipment	British Plueger D.O.L. (1973)
Automatic Level Control	Pulsar Ultra 4 (Sept 2020)
Weed Screen Cleaner	CW-5000 (2011)
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with syphon breaker and flap valve
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 m high galvanised palisade to weed screen compound
Postcode	PE15 0XR
Date	May 2022

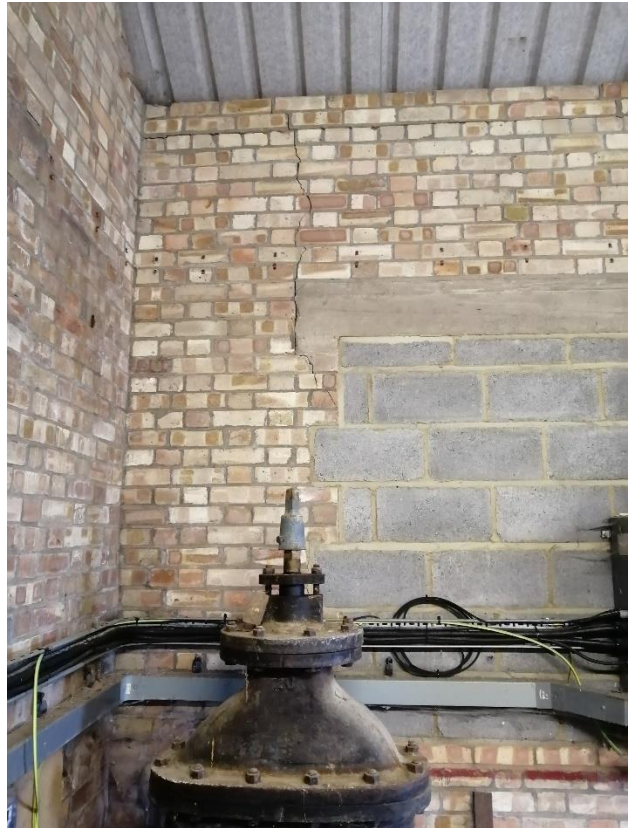
General

Broadalls is one of six stations in the Benwick Internal Drainage Board district, which in total serves an area of 2215Ha. The station serves the north west side of the catchment and discharges through pipework which passes under the bank and into the old course of the River Nene. The station was built in the 1940s and has since undergone several refurbishments/pump replacements.



Pump House

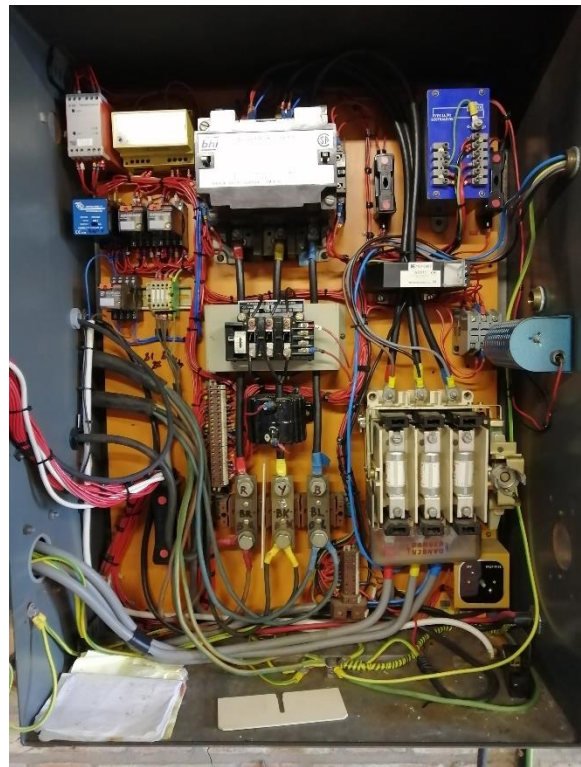
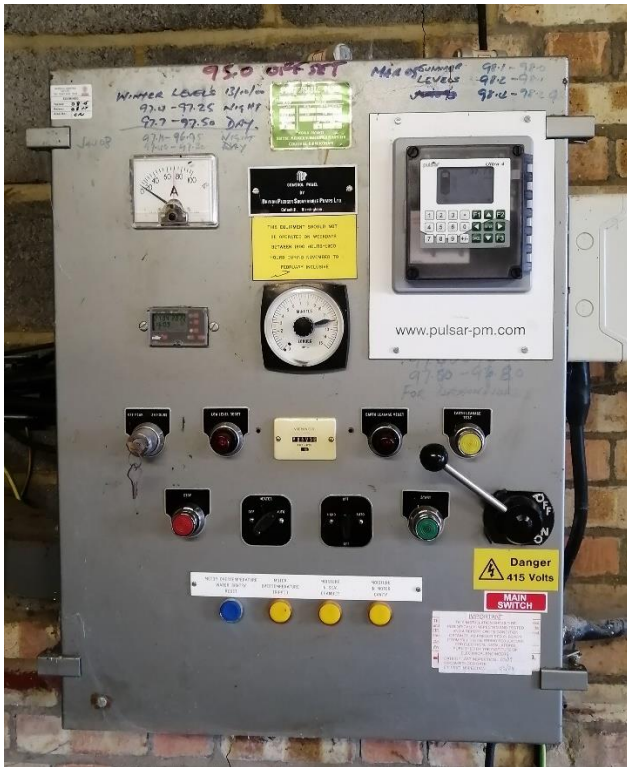
The building is generally in a serviceable condition with the roof appearing sound as viewed from the inside. The building is showing its age and does have some cracking to the walls. The piles on both the pump inlet and outlet are concrete. A structural survey would need to be carried out to determine the full extent of the building movement and integrity of the piles.



Pump

The current pump is a Bedford Pumps BPL SB.40.09.06 400 submersible pump that was fitted in 2004, overhauled in 2017 and will be replaced in summer 2022 due to low pump insulation resistance and moisture in its cavity. The pump well was dewatered during autumn 2021 to be cleared of debris, the new pump fitted and the inlet slacker replaced. The pump could however not be installed on the planned day due to high winds. Clearance of the large amount of debris in the sump was seen as necessary as it could have led to significant deterioration of the old pump.

Control Equipment



The pump control panel was manufactured by British Pleuger Submersible Pumps Ltd and was installed in 1974, many components are now obsolete, it has exceeded its design life and should be replaced in the next 3 years. Some components have been replaced over the years, most recently the Ultra 4 level controller which should be incorporated into a replacement panel.

Weed Screen Cleaner

The weed screen cleaner is a CW-5000 (2011) and was installed in 2011. The 12mm thick bar weed screen is manufactured of galvanised steel and has a 60mm gap between bars. The screen is in reasonable condition and should last a further 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process. The hoist is likely to need an overhaul in the next 10 to 15 years.

The intake sump piles are concrete and wingwall top concrete capping is cracked as the piles have moved.



Telemetry

The station is not currently fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Surrounds

The compound is surrounded by a 2.1m high galvanised metal palisade fence and is in a satisfactory condition. The fence has a vehicular access gate.

Outlet/Inlets



The inlet was completely replaced during the autumn of 2021.



The outlet flap valve was not visible so could not be inspected, the concrete wing walls look to be in good condition, the piles are concrete and look in good order.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Broadalls								
Internal Drainage Board	Benwick								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-32	2032-37	2037-42
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									20k
Pumping and Control Equipment	15k new panel with telemetry				15k				
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment	overhaul							15k	
Control Building								10k	
Compound and Surroundings									
Wet well inspection								5k	
Need									
While the prediction is for another pump overhaul 2037-42 it may be that the station infrastructure will not be worthy of it. Therefore it is recommended that the buildings and wet well be inspected in 2032 to check if a pump overhaul is sensible or a new station is required. The cost for the wet well inspection will be influenced heavily by the costs incurred damming and dewatering.									
Note - These are estimated capital cost and do not include regular maintenance costs.									

COPALDER PUMPING STATION



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Benwick IDB
Commissioned	Originally 1954
Pumps	Allen Gwynnes 30" vertical spindle screw. Overhauled 2006 4080hrs E originally diesel, electrified 1982 and New Brook split drive gearbox fitted
Duty	Originally 1730 l/s reduced to 1250 l/s
Drive Motor	Electric - Brook Crompton Parkinson 75 Kw @1450rpm Serial L60E-AL Diesel - (not used) Ruston 4VCB
Gearbox	New Brook SPL26 DD gearbox
Control Equipment	Wippendell Star Delta 1982
Automatic Level Control	Millitronics Multiranger
Weedscreen Cleaner	Brackett Bosker HD500 installed 2003
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with flap valve
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8m high galvanised palisade to weedscreen
Postcode	PE15 0UR
Date	May 2022

General

Copalder is one of six stations in the Benwick Internal Drainage Board district which in total serves an area of 2215Ha. The station serves the north east side of the catchment and discharges through pipework under the B1093 Doddington Road into the old course of the River Nene. The station was built in 1954 with one Allen Gwynnes 30" vertical spindle with gearbox and diesel engine. The pump was upgraded with an electric motor and split drive gearbox in 1982. The diesel is no longer used but is still coupled to the New Brook gearbox.



Pump House

The building is generally in a serviceable condition with the roof appearing sound as viewed from the inside. At 68 years old the building is showing its age and does have some cracking to the walls and under cutting of the concrete pad evident at the entrance to the station. The piles on both the inlet and outlet are corroding and delaminating. A structural survey would need to be carried out to determine the full extent of the building movement and integrity of the piles.

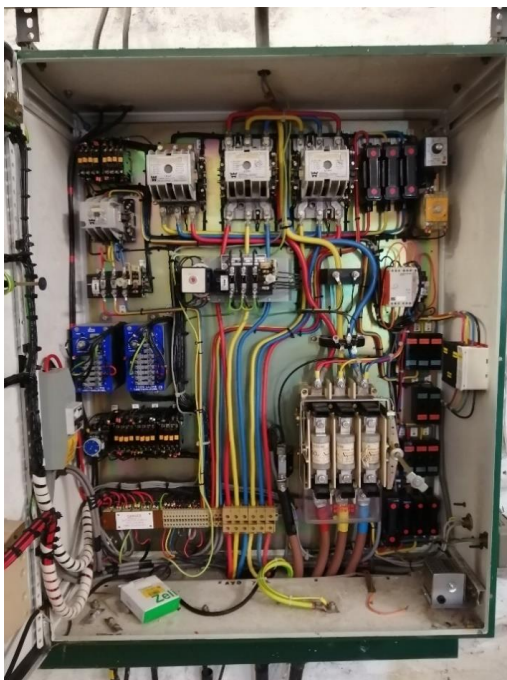




Pump

The pump is the original Allen Gwynnes 30" vertical spindle screw from 1954 which was first powered by a Ruston 4VCB diesel engine. In 1982 a New Brook split drive gearbox and Brook Crompton Parkinson 75 Kw electric motor were fitted with a Whipendell Star Delta starter arrangement. The pump was removed and overhauled in 2006 when it had 4080 hours recorded on the electric motor plus an estimated 4900 on the diesel engine. The pump is now approaching 7000 hours on electric. The pump is likely to need another refurbishment within the next 10 to 15 years. The motor insulation resistance is low and needs a refurbishment now.

Control Equipment



The pump control panel was manufactured by Whipendell Electrical and dates from 1982 when the electric motor was retrofitted to the pump. It is in reasonably good condition but, as many components are obsolete, the panel should be replaced with a modern unit in the next 5 years. The cabinet itself could be reused and just the internals replaced.

Weed Screen Cleaner

The weed screen cleaner is a Brackett Bosker HD500 unit that was installed in 2003. The 15mm thick bar weed screen is manufactured of galvanised steel and has 70mm gaps between bars. The screen is in reasonable condition and should last a further 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process. The cleaner is likely to need overhaul in the next 5 to 10 years.

The intake sump piles are corroded quite heavily at the water level and should be assessed to determine their integrity.



Telemetry

The station is not currently fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Surrounds

The compound is surrounded by a 1.8m high galvanised metal palisade fence and is in a satisfactory condition. The fence has a pedestrian and vehicular access gate.

Outlet/Inlets



The outlet flap valve was not visible so could not be inspected, the concrete wing walls and handrail look to be in good condition, the piles are corroded quite heavily at the water level and should be assessed to determine their integrity.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Copalder								
Internal Drainage Board	Benwick								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-32	2032-37	2037-42
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment	15k new panel with telemetry, 80k pump overhaul					15k	80k		
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment	overhaul						15k		
Control Building	Depending on survey and feasibility							10k	
Compound and Surroundings									
Wet well inspection						5k	5k		
Need									
While the prediction is for another pump overhaul 2027-32 it may be that the station infrastructure will not be worthy of it. Therefore it is recommended that the buildings and wet well be inspected in 2027 to check if a pump overhaul is sensible or a new station is required. The cost for the wet well inspection will be influenced heavily by the costs incurred damming and dewatering. 15K Pumping and Control Equipment includes for telemetry									
Note - These are estimated capital cost and do not include regular maintenance costs.									

RAMSEY MERE PUMPING STATION



Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	Benwick IDB
Commissioned	1969
Refurbished	Pump and motor 1997
Pump	Allen Gwynnes 15" vertical spindle axial flow No.C4/72645
Duty	325 l/s @ 4.7m TGH
Drive Motor	LSE SC No M432137 22KW @ 580 rpm
Gearbox	N/A
Control Equipment	Carlton Controls Star Delta (1993)
Automatic Level Control	Pulsar Ultra 4 (July 2021)
Weed Screen Cleaner	Bosker 1999
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with syphon breaker
Telemetry	None
Fencing	2.1 m high galvanised palisade to weed screen compound
Postcode	PE26 2XL
Date	May 2022

General

Ramsey Mere is one of six stations in the Benwick Internal Drainage Board district which in total serves an area of 2215Ha. The station serves the west side of the catchment and discharges through pipework passing under the bank into the old course of the River Nene. The station was built in 1969 and its pump refurbished in the 1997.



Pump House

The building is generally in a serviceable condition, the roof would benefit from being re-tarred and chipped. The brickwork has deteriorated in places and would benefit from repointing. A structural survey would need to be carried out to determine the full extent of the building condition and integrity of the piles.

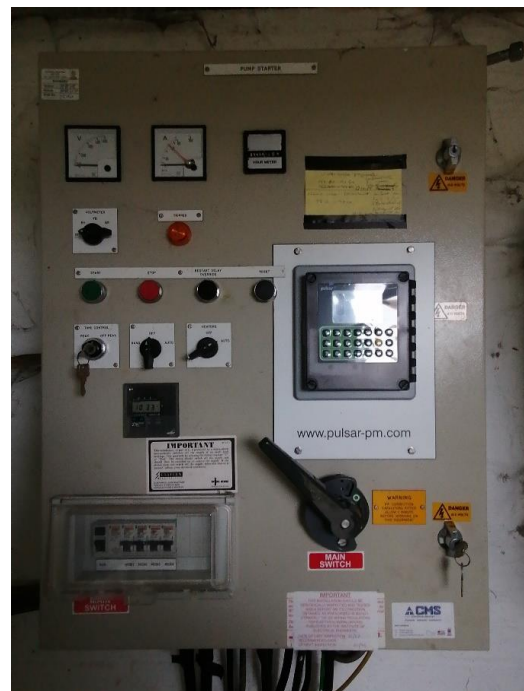
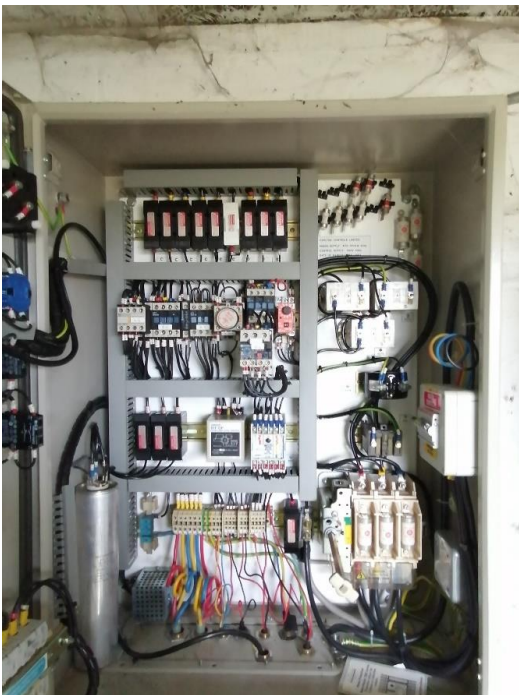




Pump

The pump is an Allen Gwynnes 15" vertical spindle axial flow pump from 1969 which was overhauled in 1997. The pump bolts are corroded and need to be replaced. The electrical tests for the motor are good although the insulation resistance has fluctuated over the last few years which could be caused by water ingress, meaning the motor will need to be rewound or replaced. When next refurbished consideration should be given to modifying the pump to be water instead of grease lubricated. The pump should be inspected/overhauled within the next 5 years.

Control Equipment



The pump control panel was manufactured by Carlton Controls Ltd and was installed in 1993 and should give another 10 years' service. The old Millitronics Multiranger level controller was replaced in July 2021 with a new Pulsar Ultra 4 unit.

Weed Screen Cleaner

The weed screen cleaner is a Bosker Bandit that was installed in 1999. The 12mm thick bar weed screen is manufactured of galvanised steel and has 65mm gaps between bars. The screen is in reasonable condition and should last a further 20 years unless damaged by the cleaning process. As the cleaner is now over 20 years old it may require an overhaul in the next 5 to 10 years.



The intake sump piles are concrete and look to be in good condition, the outer wing walls are steel piles that are heavily corroded at the water line.



Telemetry

The station is not currently fitted with telemetry.

Fencing/Surrounds

The compound is surrounded by a 1.8m high galvanised metal palisade fence and is in a satisfactory condition. The fence has pedestrian and vehicular access gates.

Outlet/Inlets

The inlet has recently been replaced and now comprises of a stainless-steel penstock by KWT.



The outlet concrete wingwalls are in good condition and the flap has recently been overhauled.

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast									
Pumping Station	Ramsey Mere								
Internal Drainage Board	Benwick								
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027-32	2032-37	2037-42
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment	15k new panel with telemetry, 80k pump overhaul				80k			15k	
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment	overhaul					15k			
Control Building				5k					5k
Compound and Surroundings									
Wet well inspection								5k	
Need									
The prediction is for another pump overhaul 2025-26									
The cost for the wet well inspection will be influenced heavily by the costs incurred damming and dewatering.									
15K Pumping and Control Equipment includes for telemetry									
Note - These are estimated capital cost and do not include regular maintenance costs.									

The Right to Connect

During the passage of the Environment Act through the House of Lords an amendment was sought which aimed to minimise the impact of new housing development on levels of local flood risk and the likelihood of storm discharges of untreated sewerage effluent into rivers and coastal waters. It aimed to ensure housing developers design systems according to a hierarchy of drainage options that seek to reduce to a minimum the volume of rainwater entering combined sewerage systems removing the current “right to connect” to public sewers.

As members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water Management (FloW) Partnership the Middle Level Commissioners and their associated Boards/Commissioners have been asked to consider taking the opportunity to write to government and voice concerns over the right to connect for new developments and how this is expected to increase risk in the future. The County Council in its role as the LLFA was going to prepare a letter requesting that the right to connect be stopped, or at the very least that a change be considered, but at this time nothing has yet been received for comment.

Members need to consider that there could be many currently unassessed beneficial or detrimental impacts on the Commissioners'/Boards' systems; the viability of developments, particularly the re-development of sites within older parts of town centres, as the more sustainable discharge points (ie where the system has capacity for extra rainwater discharge) for site drainage could be more costly requiring the provision of significant infrastructure, for example, new surface water sewers, pumping station, outfall structures etc.

In order to assist further discussion, the Board is asked to consider if it would support removal of the right to connect to public sewers or not.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 11 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
335	F/YR21/0737/RM	Mr A Dean	Residence	Doddington Road, Benwick
336	F/YR21/1254/F	Mr P Baxter	Residence and stable block	Forty Foot Bank, Ramsey
337	F/YR21/1340/RM	Mr A Dean	Residence	Doddington Road, Benwick
338	F/YR21/1495/F	Mr & Mrs G & L Robinson	Residence	Doddington Road, Benwick
339	F/YR22/0140/F	Mr & Mrs White	Residence	High Street, Benwick
340	F/YR22/0196/F	Mr Jackson	Residence	Benwick Road Doddington
341	F/YR22/0242/F	Mr G Ranganathan	Residence (Annexe)	High Street, Benwick
342	F/YR22/0372/F	Mr T Watson	Residence (Extension)	Ramsey Road, Benwick
343	F/YR22/0344/F	Mr & Mrs Few	Residence (Extension)	High Street, Benwick
344	F/YR22/0380/F	Mr & Mrs G Robinson	Residence	Doddington Road, Benwick
345	F/YR22/0409/F	Sakalis	Residence (Extension)	Doddington Road, Benwick

Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge waste 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 Checking Service have been received since the last meeting report.

The current position is being ascertained in respect of the following developments:

- *Residential development on land north east of 13 Doddington Road, Benwick - Harnson Homes Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 246 & 254) and Proway Building Ltd (MLC Ref No 302)*
- *Erection of a retail unit and 1 x 1-bed and 2 x 2-bed flats above involving demolition of existing building at land west of 40 Lilyholt Road, fronting High Street, Benwick – Mr B Sisodiya (MLC Ref Nos 249 & 259)*
- *Development at the Old Swan Bungalow, Benwick Road, Doddington – Mrs G Beecham (MLC Ref No 266) & Mr J Doran (MLC Ref Nos 326 & 334)*
- *Erection of up to 10 no dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at land south of 16A Doddington Road, Benwick – Mrs Mitchell (MLC Ref No 301)*
- *Erection of up to 15no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) involving demolition of buildings at land north of 17 Doddington Road, Benwick - Mrs J Montgomery & Mrs F Perry (MLC Ref Nos 306 & 311) & Client of MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd (MLC Ref No 315)*

Development of 3 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with double garages including construction of a new access and public footway involving the demolition of existing outbuildings at land west of 42 Ramsey Road, Benwick (plot 3 only) – Mr & Mrs A Berridge (MLC Ref No 272)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report, the application documents and the appropriate contribution payment have been received and the documents found to be satisfactory. Consent was issued by the Clerk for the disposal of treated foul water via a treatment plant.

Proposed grain store with additional lean to store and fan house at the Piggeries, Four Hundred Farm House, Whittlesey Road, Benwick - J A Caton and Sons (MLC Ref No 318)

Further to B.1187 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters vii), a letter was sent to the parties concerned and details of the infiltration pond proposed were forwarded along with the Option 2 soakaway application form and fee, which is required

for larger developments. The documents provided show that the infiltration pond will cater for a 1-in-100-year storm plus climate change and an acknowledgement was sent to the agent.

Development Contributions

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

Planning Updates & Consultations

To reduce the size of this consultant’s report and to increase public transparency the section of this report which provides information on the various strategic consultations and issues that may affect the Middle Level Commissioners and administered/associated Internal Drainage Board has been relocated to our website and can be found on www.middlelevel.gov.uk towards the bottom of the page under “Strategic Planning Consultation Responses”.

General Advice

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

- a) Bank Farm Ltd – An application for byelaw consent for the installation of 10 field underdrain outfalls into a district watercourse in the Benwick Mere area was recommended for approval.

Consulting Engineer

7 June 2022

Benwick(303)\Reports\June 2022

Mr Lakey reported on the works carried out over the past year and of future works, together with the associated costs.

Miss Ablett referred to the comments raised by the Consulting Engineer regarding both maintenance and capital works necessary at the pumping stations, together with the asset surveys and forecasts prepared, as requested by the Board.

Miss Ablett reminded members that the Board had resolved not to proceed with installation of telemetry, which was 50% funded by GIA, and advised that this would have provided data to assist Members in making decisions on where and when to upgrade the pumping equipment. She added that, with the increasing cost of electricity, telemetry would have enabled the Board to manipulate time and level settings to ensure maximum efficiency. Miss Ablett advised that the Consulting

Engineer had included costs for the installation of telemetry in his forecasts should the Board decide to install it at a later date.

She reported that some of the pumps were over 60 years old and, despite some having been overhauled, the pumps were single pump stations with no back up. She added that the control panels ranged from 30 years old to 50 years old.

Miss Ablett advised that if any capital works required were not carried out, when necessary, this would result in continued maintenance works being undertaken, where costs were increasing and reliability decreasing.

She further advised that from the information reported in the asset surveys and forecasts, the Board should consider continuing to raise funds in the future works account and to formulate a programme of capital works. She added that, although the Board had started to build up funds in the future works account, if the repairs highlighted by the Consulting Engineer were approved, this would result in a decrease in the fund of £13,000, therefore spending more than was raised in the preceding year.

Members discussed the comments made by Consulting Engineer, relating to both repairs and capital works required, in more detail and agreed that all recommended repairs should be carried out and funded from the future works account.

Members acknowledged it was necessary to undertake capital works to bring their pumping station equipment up to date and to a good state of repair, to continue raising funds for future works and to explore the possibility of obtaining GIA for the capital programme.

After further discussion relating to the capital work required at each pumping station, the costs involved with and the timing of those works it was agreed that the replacement of the pump, control panel and weedscreen bar at Benwick Mere pumping station, the replacement of the control panel at Broadalls pumping station and the replacement of the pump and control panel at Bettys Nose pumping station should be included in the Environment Agency's Project Application and Funding System for the current funding period.

It was also agreed that the replacement of the pump and control panel at Beezlings pumping station, Copalder pumping station and Ramsey Mere pumping station be included in the Environment Agency's Project Application and Funding System for next funding period.

Miss Ablett outlined the current position concerning the Right to Connect to public sewers and enquired whether the Commissioners would support removal of the Right to Connect to public sewers or not.

Following discussions amongst the Members it was agreed the Board did not support the removal of "Right to Connect".

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved
- ii) That the floor plates at Benwick Mere pumping station be replaced and this be funded from the future works account
- iii) That the motor at Copalder pumping station be overhauled and this be funded from the future works account
- iv) That the pump bolts at Ramsey Mere pumping station be replaced and this be funded from the future works account

v) That replacement of the pump, control panel and weedscreen bar at Benwick Mere pumping station, replacement of the control panel at Broadalls pumping station and replacement of the pump and control panel at Bettys Nose pumping station be included in the EA PAFS for this funding period.

vi) That replacement of the pump and control panel be included in the EA PAFS for the next funding period for Beezings pumping station, Copalder pumping station and Ramsey Mere pumping station.

vii) That the Board does not support the removal of the Right to Connect be public sewers

[Post Meeting Note]

Further to the Board's meeting and discussions regarding capital works, together with GIA and in view of the M & E engineer's comments made in his asset surveys and forecasts, Miss Ablett consulted with the civil engineer regarding the works required and GIA that may be available.

Miss Ablett prepared a schedule of the capital works required and of the M & E Engineer's recommendations, to which the Civil Engineer added his comments relating to the realistic timing of proposed capital works and GIA applications, together with estimated costs for the appraisal costs.

This schedule was sent to both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, together with proposals made by both the M & E Engineer and Civil Engineer for the Board to consider, for their comments.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman requested that the information be forwarded to all Members and a special meeting called for early December with both the M & E and The Civil Engineers for all Members to agree on how the Board should proceed.

B.1254 Capital Improvement Programme

Miss Ablett referred to the amended capital improvement programme, which had been sent separately to all Members. She advised that unfortunately the information provided in the Consulting Engineer's report was not available when the programme was prepared so had been superseded by the forecasts made by the Engineer, viz;

Benwick Internal Drainage Board

Capital Improvement Programme (2022/2023)

Broadalls p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0.0	2.5	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	32.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
Copalder p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	20.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0
Ramsey Mere p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	27.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Drainage Channels														
	Refurbishment of inlets/outfalls	3	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
		0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		3	8.0	95	52	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	225	393

No engineers asset appraisal report

No submissions made on PAFS 2020 forecast

Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished for the capital improvement programme to be updated in line with the Consulting Engineer's forecasts and kept under review.

Members agreed this course of action appeared sensible and agreed for the programme to be updated.

RESOLVED

That the capital improvement programme be updated in accordance with the Consulting Engineer's forecasts and kept under review.

B.1255 District Officer's Report

The District Officer advised there had not been much rainfall in the year and he didn't have much to add to the report already provided by the Mr Lakey. He reported there was concern regarding the amount of weed in the drains and Mr Lakey advised that work was undertaken on a 4-year rotation and weed spraying was carried out where possible.

B.1256 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter previously circulated to Members, viz;

Benwick IDB

Biodiversity Action Plan Report 2021-22

Environment Act (2021) and note on 2021-22 BAP report



The new Environment Act recognises the key roles IDBs play in nature conservation (Photo: PB)

The Environment Act (2021) passed into UK law in November 2021 with the aim of protecting and enhancing our environment for future generations. The Act includes bold aims to 'halt the decline in species by 2030', improve air quality, natural habitats and how look at how resources may be better used. For Internal Drainage Boards ADA describes the Act as bringing 'impacts and opportunities' which recognise the important role IDBs have to play in some of these targets. Areas of particular interest to IDBs are:

- Biodiversity Assessment and Reporting
- Species Conservation Strategies and Protected Sites Strategies
- An Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) to uphold environmental law

Following the note in the 2020-21 report, work is underway to update IDB Biodiversity Action Plans in line with the newly available ADA guidelines. As part of this process voluntary submissions for an IDB 'Biometrics survey' were issued by ADA in autumn 2021 and were submitted on behalf of the Board by the Conservation Officer. This survey aims to gather data relevant to key targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan with a view to putting IDBs 'on the front foot' with regards future Biodiversity reporting and assessment, like that laid out in the Environment Act above.

The Conservation Officer is happy to field any questions on the subject and will continue to work with Boards on existing and future plans.

For ease of use the BAP table has been omitted from this report but is available upon request.

Benwick IDB Report Summary

Invasive Species

None noted. Azolla has been very persistent across the Levels in 2022. Care should be taken when moving machinery between drains/catchments per biosecurity policies. Report large outbreaks to CO; the photo below (©CABI) shows a close-up view of the plant which can quickly blanket watercourses and varies in colour from pale green to mauve/red.



Water Voles

As always, Boards are reminded to contact the Conservation Officer *before* any bank reprofiling or other works that may impact water voles take place. If unsure, please contact the Conservation Officer regardless.

Water vole signs observed at several locations along Four Hundred Drove drain in May 2022.

Mink

Two mink were recorded in the vicinity of the district in the reporting period – one as roadkill on the Forty Foot Bank in September 2021 another trapped at Ramsey Hollow in November 2021. A full summary of the region-

wide project to date is available in the December 2021 Natural Level; report any sightings to the CO.

Other species/issues

The CO was approached by a community group in Benwick village to provide advice on wildlife-friendly management of the churchyard and a 'wildlife trail'. Some excellent resources for the community here and potential for further engagement.



Left: otter spraint on a culvert in Benwick IDB; right: good habitat for nesting birds along Four Hundred Drove – maintain the management regime.

Training

No training opportunities possible in 2021 due to Covid-19 guidelines. New sessions are planned in 2022 covering two important areas of our work; it is hoped that IDBs will be able to use the opportunities to refresh their knowledge on the subjects and/or enhance the skills of contractors/staff who may not have received such training before.

~~Tuesday 22nd March 2022: Non-native species workshop. Venue: Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March. 10-1pm.~~

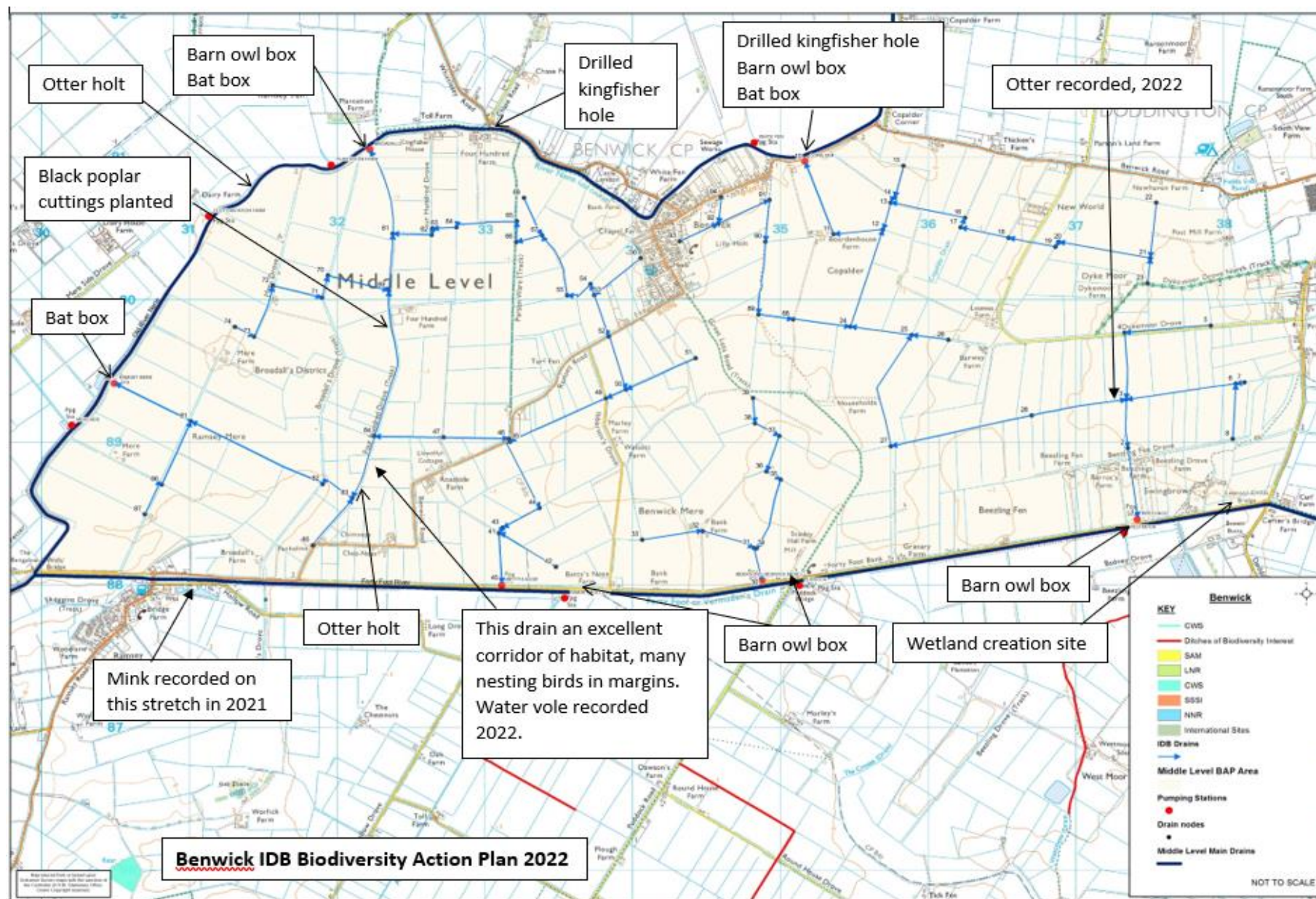
The culmination of our Floating Pennywort awareness project, this training morning will provide an up-to-date summary of invasive species, both flora and fauna, to look out for in the Middle Level. Guest speakers: Cliff Carson and Mike Foley. *This event has passed but the CO is happy to discuss or share presentations from it with Boards upon request.*

Date TBC: Water voles - ecology, legislation and mitigation: a guide for IDBs. Venue: Middle Level Offices, March (followed by visit to local drain)

This training will be led by Julia Massey CEnv MCIEEM a Principal Ecologist with many years of experience working with water voles in the fens. It will cover the key elements of the species' ecology and how it relates to the work of IDBs. Joining instructions to be sent shortly.

Peter Beckenham, Conservation Officer for Middle Level Commissioners

IDB Map 2021-22



Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1257 District Officer's Honorarium and Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's Honorarium for 2022/2023.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,009.00 be allowed for the District Officer's honorarium for 2022/2023.
- ii) That the Board agree that the District Officer be allowed the sum of £561.00 for undertaking health and safety duties for 2022/2023.

(NB) – The District Officer and Mr Few declared financial interests when this item was discussed.

B.1258 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 other than those already discussed.

B.1259 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that at the Environment Agency Flood Defence Committee meeting the Committee voted to adopt an indicative 2% increase in the precepts on Internal Drainage Boards for the next 6 years commencing from 2022/23, with the ability to revisit annually should exceptional circumstances indicate this is required. The Committee voted for a 0% increase (for exceptional circumstances) above the indicative 2% increase for the year ending 31st March 2023 - total of a 2% increase on the level of precept on Internal Drainage Boards for the year ending 31st March 2023.

The precept for 2021/2022 was £8421.00.

B.1260 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss Ablett reported that following his submission of claims for contributions the gross sum of £165.79 (£558.89 less £393.10 received on account) (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2020/21 based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £411.78 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022.

B.1261 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that ADA has increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022, from £642 to £648.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2022 be paid.

B.1262 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1263 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £68.49.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1264 Contribution from Developer

Miss Ablett reported that a contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received.

B.1265 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2020/2021

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2021, viz;

Benwick Internal Drainage Board
Notice of conclusion of the audit
Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2021

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 /234)

1 The Audit of accounts for the Benwick Internal Drainage Board for the year ended 31st March 2021 has been completed and the accounts have been published.

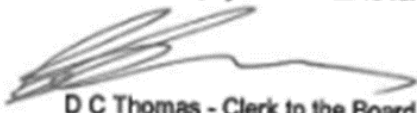
2 The Annual Governance & Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of Benwick Internal Drainage Board on application to:

The Clerk
Benwick Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0AH

between the hours of 9.00am and 4.00pm on Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays), when any local elector may make copies of the Annual Return.

3 Copies will be provided to any local elector on payment of £2.40 for each copy of the Annual Return

Announcement made by:


D C Thomas - Clerk to the Board

Date of Announcement:

6th September 2021

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed		Yes means that this authority:
	Yes	No	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	☒	☐	prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	☒	☐	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	☒	☐	has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	☒	☐	during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	☒	☐	considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	☒	☐	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	☒	☐	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	☒	☐	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	☐	☐	☐ has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

07/06/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1241

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

M. S. Jackson

Clerk

S. S. Hall

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	292,811	235,370	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	85,345	85,295	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	2,632	3,032	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	14,858	14,858	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	130,560	122,403	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	235,370	186,431	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	256,924	212,550	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	3,710,719	3,710,719	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	78,536	65,162	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLE).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
			N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

18 May 2021

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

07/06/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

B.1243

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

M. G. G. G.

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of **BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD – DB0007**

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2021; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General (see note below). Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

2 External auditor report 2020/21

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with *Proper Practices* and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

NONE

3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2021.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

05/09/2021

⁶ Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2021, viz;



MNH/BB/MM053
08 October 2021

Messrs. D Thomas and R Hill
Middle Level Offices
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambs.
PE15 0AH

Dear Messrs. D Thomas, R. Hill, and S Ablett,

MLC administered Internal Drainage Boards - Internal Audit 2020-2021

Having completed the internal audit work for the various Internal Drainage Boards administered by the Middle Level Commissioners officers for the year ended 31 March 2021, we are pleased to provide you with the following recommendations to be considered for implementation. We have included some general points and some points which are related to specific boards.

General points

1. Annual Return – Guidance notes

We note that there has been a subtle change within the guidance notes on completing Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21 from what was shown in 2019/20. Previously the guidance stated that “the authority **should** receive and note the annual internal audit report **if possible** before approving the annual governance statement and the accounts” this has been replaced by “the authority **should** receive and note the annual internal audit report before approving the annual governance statement and the accounts”. As such whilst we are satisfied that all of the administered boards have previously and remain compliant in this matter, due to this not being something that the boards **must** comply with, we would strongly urge a review of the wording within any future AGAR’s to ensure that, should this requirement come into force, you are able to adjust your plan of works in plenty of time. We would also request that should this take affect you contact us at your earliest convenience, so that we may tailor our own work programmes accordingly.

PARTNERS

Mark N Haydon CA
James D Carter FCA
Christopher D Ridgeon FCCA

Andrew P Winearts FCA
Ian C C Piper FCA
Barbara Nicholas CTA

Andrew R Sand FCA
Teresa J Nunn FCA
Keith J Day FCCA

Armanda E Newman FCA
Paul M Jefferson ACA
Jonathan P Moore ACCA

ASSOCIATES

Richard A Alecock ATT
Stephen D Malkin ACA
Ben Beech ACA

Scott R Bishop FCA
Nicholas Edgley CTA
Hannah R Wisbey ACA

PRACTICE MANAGER

Janet S Frostick

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BURY ST EDMUNDS | ELY | KING'S LYNN | MARCH | MILDENHALL | PETERBOROUGH | RAMSEY | ST IVES | ST NEOTS | WISBECH

2. Asset Valuations and Insurances

We note that there are a number of boards which have had revaluations within the year on their pumping station assets and that these are now valued in excess of what has been included within the insurance valuations and the accounts/annual return. We appreciate that the accounts/annual return value must remain at cost/deemed cost however we would suggest that as soon as the results of these valuations come to light you seek to change the insurance valuation accordingly, we understand that in many cases these amendments are carried out at the point of annual renewal.

In some individual cases it is noted that residential properties have been revalued during the audited year, but the underlying insurance values have not been increased. We recommend that, as with pumping station assets, the insurance valuation is increased to reflect the current market value and thereby ensure that such assets are adequately insured.

Finally, it is noted that, whilst a large proportion of boards have taken the option to revalue for insurance purposes their pumping station and residential assets during the year, there are some boards that have not followed suit. We have seen elsewhere that such revaluations have sometimes resulted in significant uplifts in value, and as such we would suggest that any remaining boards that have yet to carry out such an exercise do so at the earliest convenience.

We would recommend that in the absence of specific information to the contrary suggesting need for earlier review, that a revaluation exercise be performed for insurance purposes at least every 5 years on all major Board assets.

Client Comment:

All Boards are asked concerning valuations for insurances and it is a Board decision. Depending when the meeting is held and when the valuation is completed depends when the instruction can be given. However, once approved we look to update policies at that time. Where applicable, we are also looking into the viability of having certain values index linked but note that these will still need monitoring on a routine basis.

3. Employee Benefits - Vehicle Usage, and VAT recovery

In 2020 a high-level tax case was brought by HM Revenue & Customs against Coca-Cola European Partners Great Britain Limited relating to vehicles provided to employees of Coca-Cola and whether these 'dual purpose' vehicle should be classed as a van or a car for benefit-in-kind (BIK) and other taxation purposes. Typical example of such a vehicle being a double-cab pickup as operated by some boards.

This case was ruled in favour of HMRC where the use of three of its vehicles (2 Volkswagen Kombis and a Vauxhall Vivaro) should be treated as cars, rather than vans for tax purposes. The Vauxhall had been modified in a number of ways and an additional row of seats and windows were added along with a bulkhead to ensure goods being transported could not enter the passenger area. Both the VW Kombi vehicles were fitted with rear seats and additional racking was required by the driver for business use, for the Kombi version 2 this required a rear seat to be removed for racking. The Court of Appeal ruled that the vehicles were not sufficient to differentiate between them and therefore they should all be treated on a similar basis for BIK purposes, each vehicle was multi-purpose and capable of transporting goods or passengers, but neither type of vehicle was 'primarily' suited to the carrying of goods as required by current taxation legislation s.115(2).

At this point in time (drafting late June 2021) no updates to the tax rules have been issued by HMRC in the light of the ruling and therefore we are unable to determine whether the current vehicles owned by each board and allocated to an employee will be classed as a van or car. And until HMRC include any such updates and guidance we are unable to determine whether the vehicles held by each board will be liable for a van or car BIK on employees where the vehicle is not operated as a depot-based Pool vehicle. This case also has potentially wider implications relating to recovery or not of VAT on the vehicle when purchased and in commercial settings capital allowances.

Client Comment:

We are aware of this position and have also been checking with HMRC but as yet they have not issued guidance that can be passed onto Boards. There are significant tax implications, both for employer and employee and will continue to monitor the position.

4. Provisions

We are pleased to note that, in the main; provisions for amounts owing to and owed from applicable boards, are being monitored and written back should the underlying potential asset/liability be extinguished. There are still odd cases where provisions are “brought forward and carried forward” that relate in excess of the standard life of debt, being 6 years. On review in some cases whilst the underlying rationale of these balances are reasonable, we would question whether payments could still be enforced if chased, aside from in relation to development contributions. As such we would encourage continued review of provisions as a whole, with special consideration being made to aged provisions that have existed for a number of years.

We would recommend that any such old debts or provisions (part from development contribution provisions), say over 3 years old, be presented at the Board meeting annually and approved.

Client comment:

As part of the year end accounts procedures, provisions are looked at and decisions made on an individual basis as to retain or to write back.

5. Risk Management Policy and procedures

We noted in the 2019 most boards undertook a substantial risk management assessment process in 2014 leading to formal acceptance in April 2015 which is now subject to a brief review each year which is duly recorded formally in the board minutes. After recommendation in the prior year’s management letter, we are pleased to note that this processed has been carried out again for 2020 - 21.

The COVID-19 pandemic is, hopefully, the greatest challenge many of us will face in our lifetime. In the face of adversity there is also opportunity to embrace this emerging “new normal” and such an event should allow us to take a step back and look at the policies and procedures that underpin the organisation. With this in mind we would urge greater breadth of coverage of policies and procedures to include consideration and action points in relation to areas such as climate change, global pandemics, and disaster action & recovery – at the time of writing we are not aware of such bigger policy being in existence.

It may also be helpful to revisit and enhance appreciation by way of visual colour coding of the RAG rating numbers to better differentiate between the varying levels of risk and consequence. We would expect to see low risk items being colour coded green, middling items colour coded yellow and high-risk items in red.

Risk Management Policy and procedures - continued

Client comment:

Risk management is an evolving matter and we will continue to look at emerging risks and having effective policies concerning these and although no formal policies are in place at this time the matters you have mentioned have been under consideration. With regards to the existing policy, consideration will be given to updating the matrix when either next revised or reviewed.

6. Website Publication

We note that there has been, for a number of years, significant information available to the public. We note that for some boards the latest information does not appear to have been updated, for example in one case the 2019/20 payments list was still published when the 2020/21 payments list should have been displayed. We would recommend that all items are updated promptly on the website once the meeting has been carried out.

Client comment:

Every effort is made to update the relevant pages of all authorities in an efficient and timely manner and in accordance with the regulations. It should be noted that the JPAG requirements for display appear to differ from those of audit requirements so while not necessarily aligning both requirements could be met. (This matter is being looked into for further guidance).

7. Capital works

Currently the definition of capital works is limited to new items e.g., a new culvert but works involving a repair or maintenance will be wholly written out in the year even though there may be a not insignificant element of improvement involved.

8. Capital assets

Following on from item 7 above it follows those assets may be unrecognised in the Accounts of the Boards and not appear in their Assets register. In view of greater Government and public interest and concern for environmental and climate change factors, should the 'value' of the basic drainage system be recognised beyond the pumping stations and equipment? This may be important in future years in order to factoring a fair proportion of potential future national Government funding.

Capital assets - continued

Client comment:

Comment has been noted. While Boards own pumping facilities and their footprint they do not (generally) own the watercourses, designating the arterial system for maintenance. This is probably a matter that could be discussed on an "industry wide" level, maybe through ADA by its policy and finance committee to ensure, if recognised, would provide a uniform approach across the country.

9. Budget figures

We note that Budget figures are prepared annually in advance, but we note these are not updated in the late Autumn even when notable variances may have occurred for various factors. Whilst not necessary to do so for all boards, we suggest that Chairmen of individual Boards are given opportunity to request updated Budgets after the half year point for the remainder of the year and distribute to Board members if they feel it appropriate due to circumstances to date or anticipated during the year.

Client comment:

As part of the finance regulations, we are required to carry out a budget monitoring exercise during the course of the year. For those Boards that have a relevant meeting, this is reviewed by the Board at their autumn/winter meeting. For all other Boards the monitoring exercise is completed as at the end of the calendar year, at this point the majority of the drain maintenance works have been completed, as would be any planned maintenance works at pumping stations. The expenditure to-date is then forecast to the end of the financial year and compared to the budget and initially sent to the chairman for review. Depending on the outcome of the monitoring exercise depends on whether it is considered appropriate to hold an emergency meeting. However, it is likely that if there were an extraordinary event the Board would be aware "in real time" and appropriate action taken at that point. It is not policy to update budgets depending on levels of expenditure but to use these as comparative to analyse variances of actual expenditure against.

Specific Points

Sutton and Mepal IDB

See item 2 above – residential property value

Hundred of Wisbech IDB

See item 6 above

Conington & Holme IDB

See item 9 above

Client comment (Conington & Holme IDB):

The “overspend” against budget related to additional drain maintenance works that were required and a breakdown at the pumping station which occurred after the monitoring exercise had been completed. These events were managed at the time and appropriate action taken when setting the following years rate.

Waldersey IDB and Hundred of Wisbech IDB – Joint Pumping Arrangement

As in previous years it is noted that there is a discrepancy between debtor held in Waldersey IDB and the creditor held in Hundred of Wisbech IDB; due to the substantial rainfall pattern in late 2020-21 this amount was more significant than normal

Waldersey IDB – Debtor	38,459.99
Hundred of Wisbech IDB - Creditor	47,997.84
Difference	9,537.85

This difference arises due to the accounts of Hundred of Wisbech IDB being completed before Waldersey IDB, therefore a provision having to be included within the former’s books before more accurate figures become available. The difference is adjusted in the following year’s Accounts for Hundred of Wisbech but in the short term could be considered slightly misleading.

We note that there have been discussions to potentially amalgamate the two boards, this would eradicate the anomaly. However, in the absence of this, we wonder whether there is scope to bring the meetings and account preparation periods in line to address this issue.

Waldersey IDB and Hundred of Wisbech IDB – Joint Pumping Arrangement - continued

Client comment (Waldersey IDB and Hundred of Wisbech IDB – Joint Pumping Arrangement):

These costs relate to the contribution for the costs of the shared pumping facility and at the time of production of the year end accounting statements discussions were taking place concerning potential changes to the contribution as a result of changes in land use. A new proposal had been put forward which was broadly approved by the Hundred of Wisbech Board, whose meeting is held first. In completing their accounting statements they requested that, due to the impact of the winter rainfall event the new proposal be used in calculating the contribution. When the Waldersey Board held it's meeting no changes had been approved at therefore the existing contribution calculation was used in their accounting statements. With regards to the Hundred of Wisbech creditor, these "old balances" will be written back during this financial year. There are no current plans to change meeting dates so there will remain a creditor/debtor position in both sets of accounts although now settled, this should be cleared, generally a year in arrears.

Other Matters

As you will already be aware our firm underwent a change of business name from Whiting & Partners to Whitings LLP, with effect from 1 October 2021. As the world and our practice move forward, even in these challenging times towards a "new normal", we have also decided to rebrand and change our look to promote this.

As provided for under the clauses of our existing Terms of Business ongoing engagements under our standard Whiting & Partners Terms and Conditions remain unchanged and have rolled over seamlessly into Whitings LLP; these are available on our new and improved website www.whitingsllp.co.uk

We are immensely proud of the work we continue to do with you at Whiting and we would like to take this opportunity to thank your staff involved in our audit for their assistance and cooperation in achieving substantial completion by the stated target deadlines, especially in light of the operational challenges posed to us all by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitings LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. It is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Whitings LLP

B.1266 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2020/2021 which the Board noted and approved, viz;

F:\Admin\Word\Benwick\mins\13.6.22



Annual Report for the year ended

31 March 2021

The Law – the following annual report is provided in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the Land Drainage Act 1991.

No later than 30 September 2021 a copy must be provided to:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Flood Management Division, Floor 3, Seacole, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF via floodreports@defra.gsi.gov.uk
- National Flood and Coastal Risk Manager (Strategic Delivery), The Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH via rachael.hill@environment-agency.gov.uk
- The Chief Executives of:
 - all local authorities that pay special levies to the Board;
 - all County Councils or London Boroughs within which the Board is situated.

Please complete the form electronically. If you are unable to complete the form electronically, please complete in BLOCK LETTERS using black ink.

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £.

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Section A – Financial information

Preliminary information on special levies issued by the Board for 2021- 22

Information requested below is essential in calculating future formula spending share. It is not covered elsewhere on this form or by the external auditor's certificate.

Special levies information for financial year 2021-22 (forecast)	
Name of local authority	2021-22 forecast £
1. FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	25,000
2. HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	2,044
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	27,044

Section A – Financial information (continued)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2021

All Internal Drainage Boards must ensure that the Income and Expenditure information provided below is consistent with the Board's annual accounting statements which have been prepared in accordance with proper practices found in *Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – A Practitioners' Guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements March 2017*

	Notes	Year ending 31 March 2021 £
INCOME		
1. Drainage Rates		58,677
2. Special Levies		26,618
3. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		564
4. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		988
5. Government Grants (includes capital grants from EA and levy contributions)		0
6. PSCAs from EA and other RMAs		0
7. Loans		0
8. Rechargeable Works		0
9. Interest and Investment Income		300
10. Rents and Acknowledgements		1,000
11. Other Income		180
Total income		88,327
EXPENDITURE		
12. New Works and Improvement Works		30,900
13. Total precept to the Environment Agency		8,421
14. Watercourse maintenance		43,510
15. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		28,203
16. Administration		10,810
17. PSCAs		0
18. Rechargeable Works		0
19. Finance Charges		14,858
20. SSSIs		0
21. IDB Biodiversity and conservation (other than item 20 expenditure)		350
22. Other Expenditure		214
Total expenditure		137,266

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
23. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(48,939)
24. Developers Funds income not applied in year		10,932
25. Grant income not applied in year		7,415

Notes:

11. Include all other income, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).
12. State the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.
13. State the total precept demanded for the year as properly issued by the Environment Agency, in accordance with section 141 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Providing that the precept has been properly issued as before stated it should always be included here, even when the Board has appealed against the amount of contribution, in accordance with section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Where the Board knows with certainty the outcome of any such appeal, it should also include the appropriate accrual/prepayment.
14. State all costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme.
15. State all costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures.
16. Include the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms, stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front line services.
17. State all costs associated with the PSCA
18. State all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.
19. Include the cost of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase interest payable.
20. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – specifically for helping to achieve favourable condition on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In most cases, these costs will be incurred in implementing actions set out in SSSI Water Level Management Plans or SSSI River Restoration Plans.
21. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – that are likely intended to help conserve biodiversity (other than works on SSSIs). These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in an IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan or other conservation actions on non-designated sites.
22. Include all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).
23. For the disposal of assets, state the difference between any proceeds from the sale/disposal of the asset and the cost of the asset less accumulated depreciation.
24. Total balance of developer fund year end.
25. Unspent grant at year end.

Section B –IDB Reporting

Policy Delivery Statement

Boards are required to produce a publicly available policy statement setting out their plans for delivering the Government's policy aims and objectives. It is recommended that these statements be published on Boards' websites where they have them and reviewed every three years.

Is an up to date statement in place and copy (or weblink)

provided to Defra, and EA? Yes ☒ No ☐

Biodiversity

Please indicate whether your Board has a Biodiversity Action Plan Yes ☒ No ☐

If "yes" is the Biodiversity Action Plan available on your website?

Yes ☒ No ☐

What year was your Biodiversity Action Plan last updated?.....

2021

Have you reported progress on BAP implementation on your web site?..... Yes ☒ No ☐

When was biodiversity last discussed at a Board meeting (date)?

07/06/2021

Do you have a biosecurity process?..... Yes ☒ No ☐

SSSI water level management plans

Please indicate whether your Board is responsible for any SSSI water level management plans?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, which ones:

Area of SSSI with IDB water level management plans.....

Area of SSSI where IDB water level management activities are contributing to recovering or favourable condition?

Area of SSSI where IDB water level management actions are required to achieve recovering or favourable condition?

Access to environmental expertise

Does your IDB have access to environmental expertise? If so please tick all those options below through which environmental expertise is regularly provided to your IDB:

Appropriately skilled Board Members (e.g. Board member from an Environmental Body/Authority)

☐

Co-opted members

☐

Directly employed staff

☐

Contracted persons or consultants

☒

Environmental Partners/NGOs

☐

Other (please describe)

☐

Asset Management

What system/database does your Board use to manage the assets it is responsible for?

ADIS

☐

Paper Records

☒

Other Electronic System

☒

Has your Board continued to undertake visual inspections and update asset databases on an annual basis?

Yes ☒

No ☐

What is the cumulative total of identified watercourse (in km) that the Board periodically maintains?

29

How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

6

What is the cumulative design capacity of the Board's pumping station(s) (enter zero if no stations are operated)?

3.27 cumecs

Health and Safety

Does the Board have a current Health and Safety policy in place?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Does the Board have a responsible officer for Health and Safety?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Have there been any reportable incidents in the past year?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If so, please summarise in the box below:

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your IDB adopted a formal Scheme of Delegation? Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your IDB provided training for board members in the last year in the any of the following areas?

Governance

☐

Finance

☐

Environment

☐

Health, safety and welfare

☐

Communications and engagement

☐

Other (please describe)

☐

No training has been provided for board members during the year ended 31st March 2021.

Is your Board's website information current for this financial year? (Board membership, audited accounts, programmes of works, WLMPS, etc) Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your IDB adopted computerised accounting and rating systems? Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your board published all minutes of meetings on the website? Yes ☒ No ☐

Does the Board publish information on its website on its approach to maintenance works and provide contact details to allow for and encourage public engagement? Yes ☒ No ☐

When planning maintenance and capital works are environmental impacts taken into account and wherever possible best practice applied? Yes ☒ No ☐

Has your Board adopted the following governance documents?

Standing Orders Yes ☒ No ☐

Have the Standing Orders been approved by Ministers Yes ☒ No ☐

Byelaws Yes ☒ No ☐

If you have Byelaws, have you adopted the latest model byelaws published in 2012..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Have the Byelaws been approved by Ministers..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Code of Conduct for Board Members..... Yes ☒ No ☐

Financial Regulations.....Yes ☒ No ☐
 Register of Member's Interests.....Yes ☒ No ☐
 Anti-fraud and corruption policy.....Yes ☒ No ☐

Board membership and attendance

How many Board members (in total – elected and appointed) do you have on your IDB?	16
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	5
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	11
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	5
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	5
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	4

Have you held elections within the last three years?.....Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐
 Did elections comply with the requirements specified by the Secretary of State under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938?.....Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Complaints procedure

Is the procedure for a member of the public to make a complaint about the IDB accessible from the front page of its website?.....Yes ☒ No ☐

Number of complaints received in the financial year?	0
Number of complaints outstanding in the financial year?	0
Number of complaints referred to the Local Government Ombudsman?	0
Number of complaints upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman?	0

Public Engagement

Set out what your Board has done in this financial year to engage with the public (tick relevant box(es) below):

Press releases	☐
Newsletters	☐
Web site	☒
Meetings	☒
Shows/events (including open days/inspections)	☐
Consultations	☐
Notices	☒

Percentage (in value) of drainage rates outstanding at year end?

0.38%

Section B: NOTES

Guidance and Best Practice

Has your Board published **all** minutes of meetings on the web site? In answering this question, this should apply to all the main Board meetings held in the year and any appropriate meetings the Board has held with external stakeholders.

Board membership and attendance

When referring to **elected members** of the Board, this relates to the number of landowners/drainage rate payers that are elected to the Board.

When referring to **appointed members** of the Board, this relates to the number of members appointed by the local authorities to represent the local council taxpayers.

When referring to mean average number of elected and appointed members in attendance at meetings at each board meeting – **this should be expressed as a number of attendees** and not as a percentage attendance.

With regard to elections, under Schedule 1 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, elected members should hold office for three years, at which point a further election is held. When elections are held, they should comply with the requirements under Regulation 28 of the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 – to advertise and notify local stakeholders accordingly.

Section C – Declaration

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

I confirm that the information provided in sections A-C or with this form is correct.

Signature

S. Ablett

Date

27/09/2021

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

MISS SAMANTHA ABLETT

Designation

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Email address

Sam.ablett@middlelevel.gov.uk

B.1267 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2022, viz;

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2021/2022

	Estimated 2021/2022	Actual to 31.12.21	Forecast to 31.03.2022
1 Rates and Insurances	2,800	2,576	2,650
2 Repairs and renewals	9,500	7,713	9,500
3 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	40,750	39,581	48,500
4 Fuel	8,000	2,938	8,000
5 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	11,000	3,983	10,900
6 Loan Charges -			
Loan 1	0	0	0
Loan 2	0	0	0
Loan 3	8,804	8,804	8,804
7 Environment Agency - Precept	8,421	8,421	8,421
8 Improvement works Pumping stations	15,500	0	15,500
9 Improvement works - watercourses	0	0	0
10 Capital Reserve Fund	10,259	7,695	10,259
	115,034	81,712	122,534
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, rents etc	0		
	29,373	18,026	33,409
85,661	85,661	63,686	89,125
Rate requirement	16.70 p		17.38 p
Rate set	16.70 p	85,295	

Drainworks:	
Budget includes installation of Inlet - Broadalls p/s	12,000
- Actual costs	15,985
Provision for works to budget allocation	3,000
- Forecast made to budget provision	

- Provisions made per budget	
Broadalls pump installation	9,500
Clear out wet well - Broadalls p/s	5,000
Inspection of rising main - benwick Mere p/s	1,000

Includes funding:	
Capital fund - Improvement works	15,500
Balances - installation of inlet	15,985

B.1268 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

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

Miss Ablett advised that due COVID-19 challenges the current Internal Auditor, Whiting & Partners, had been approached and asked and had agreed to extend their contract beyond the originally agreed three-year term (under the original contractual terms). It was also noted that going forward auditors be invited to tender for a five-year term, the principle being that this gave both parties certainty over a longer period. For the Boards this meant that the investment in time in getting a new auditor up to speed represented better value.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve a further one-year extension of the appointment of Whiting & Partners as Internal Auditor and to support the proposal for a five-year contract to be tendered thereafter.

B.1269 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.
- b) The Board considered and approved the insured value of their buildings and from 1st April 2023 sums insured to be index linked, viz;

BENWICK IDB

INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS

	As At 31st March 2022
BEEZLINGS PUMPING STATION	654,550.00
BENWICK MERE PUMPING STATION	582,700.00
BETTYS NOSE PUMPING STATION	669,755.00
BROADHALLS PUMPING STATION	611,350.00
COPALDER PUMPING STATION	862,125.00
RAMSEY MERE PUMPING STATION	542,720.00
	3,923,200.00

B.1270 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.1271 Annual Governance Statement – 2021/2022

The Board considered and approved the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended on the 31st March 2022, viz;

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, that:

	Agreed		‘Yes’ means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors’ rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority’s accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each ‘No’ response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

DD/MM/YY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

B.1272 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £121,513.86 which had been made during the financial year 2021/2022, viz;

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Payments 2021/2022 (1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022)

Middle Level Commissioners - Grass seed bank revetment works at Broadalls pump drain	680.55
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Weed control and drain maintenance 2020/21, planning and development applications)	2,377.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Repair fence at Copalder pumping station	554.58
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract	5,598.53
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to panel at Bettys Nose pumping station	43.86
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Bank revetment works and drain maintenance	9,972.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply and fill automatic weedscreen cleaner with oil - Broadalls pumping station	186.36
Environment Agency - Precept	4,210.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of Highland Water claims	22.98
Public Works Loan - Loan Repayment	4,402.04
Countrywise Conservation - Grass cutting at pumping stations	504.00
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2021	770.40
Countrywise Conservation - Grass cutting at pumping stations	504.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Manufacture and fit serial plate to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Broadalls pumping station	94.51
Middle Level Commissioners - Installation of division dam at Point 85	726.87
Middle Level Commissioners - Installation of culvert access steps at Point 14	1,660.05
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply replacement inlet at Broadalls pumping station (Account from JKH Drainage)	4,351.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Installation of new ultrasonic cable and controller at Ramsey Mere pumping station	851.28
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	2,685.87
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges	4,229.35
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	747.35
Tim Fisher Landscape Services - Grass cutting at pumping stations	252.00
G Ashman - Flail mowing	2,940.00
Environment Agency - Precept	4,210.39
PKF Littlejohns LLP - Audit Fee (2020-2021 accounts)	480.00
G Ashman - Flail mowing	860.00
C J Mottram & Sons Ltd - Refund of rates	945.78
Bank charges (Refunded)	3.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2020-2021 accounts)	927.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Work in connection with the provision of information request relating to the purchase of land at Crawdam & Thickers Fam, planning and development applications)	270.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Clearing of birds nest from automatic weedscreen cleaner and repairs to brake wiring at Bettys Nose pumping station	259.27
Middle Level Commissioners - Site visit to Beezlings pumping station with UK Power Network to trace supply fault	284.60
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Programmed machine cleansing	15,096.00
Tim Fisher Landscape Services - Grass cutting at pumping stations	252.00
R Dring - Pumping station duties (Copalder pumping station)	545.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner - Copalder pumping station	392.24
Middle Level Commissioners - Remedial health & safety works at Benwick Mere Pumping station	141.46
Public Works Loan - Loan Repayment	4,402.04
R G Few - Pumping station duties (Beezlings pumping station)	545.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Chemical weed control of District drains	1,342.87
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Assistance with inlet installation and dewatering at Broadalls pumping station	5,277.07
N G Thacker - Pumping station duties (Betty's Nose pumping station)	545.00

J M Moulding - Pumping station duties (Broadalls and Ramsey Mere pumping stations)	1,272.00
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	40.00
Association of Drainage Authorities (River Great Ouse branch) - Subscription 2021-2022	30.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of Highland Water claims	38.52
J A Caton & Son - District Officer's fee and pumping station duties for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022	3,610.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Health and Safety re-charges for 2021-2022	720.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Contribution (Environmental Officer)	352.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	77.10
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges and stationery	5,456.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner - Bettys Nose pumping station	260.87
Middle Level Commissioners - Replacement inlet and dewater pump sump	9,554.24
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner - Broadalls pumping station	77.64
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to pump - Copalder pumping station	216.64
Middle Level Commissioners - Culvert pull through at Reach 25 to 26, together with piling works and grass seeding at Reach 69 to 70	1,914.38
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Bettys Nose pumping station)	808.64
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Beezlings pumping station)	1,236.64
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Benwick Mere pumping station)	617.84
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Broadalls pumping station)	884.16
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Copalder pumping station)	884.16
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Ramsey Mere pumping station)	2,220.72
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply (Bettys Nose pumping station)	1,299.93
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply (Beezlings pumping station)	735.71
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply (Benwick Mere pumping station)	976.83
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply (Broadalls pumping station)	566.75
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply (Copalder pumping station)	882.62
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply (Ramsey Mere pumping station)	306.67
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity metering charges - (Copalder pumping station)	212.02
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity metering charges - (Broadalls pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity metering charges - (Bettys Nose pumping station)	212.02
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity metering charges - (Bettys Nose pumping station)	111.24
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity metering charges - (Bettys Nose pumping station)	111.24
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity metering charges - (Bettys Nose pumping station)	111.24
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity data collection charges - (Copalder pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity data collection charges - (Broadalls pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity data collection charges - (Bettys Nose pumping station)	119.37
	<u>121,513.86</u>

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to J A Caton & Son.

B.1273 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2021/2022

The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ended on the 31st March 2022 as required in the Audit Regulations, viz;

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
GENERAL FUND

2022				2021		
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-			Apr-01	Balance brought forward	135,089.15
	Precept		8,420.79	2022		
	Rates & Insurances	2,576.27		Mar-31		
	Repairs & Renewals	9,130.77			Rate income & Special levies	85,600.99
	Fuel	8,314.24			Interest on Deposit Accounts	7.10
	Drainworks	27,585.26			Rents - Land	1,000.00
	Planning & Development Fees	961.04			Highland Water contributions -	545.48
	Administration charge, Audit fee,				Consents	100.00
	printing, stationery, advertising etc	10,572.29	59,139.87			
					Development Charges Account -	
	Public Works Loan Repayment -				Maintenance	550.00
	Principal	7,627.36				
	Interest	1,176.72	8,804.08			
					By Future works account	
	To Improvement Works:				Broadalls p/s pump replacement	3,006.27
	Broadalls Inlets	12,979.16				
	Broadalls Pump	3,006.27	15,985.43			
	Future Works Account - Rates raised 2p		10,259.00			
	Balance carried forward		123,289.82			
			225,898.99			225,898.99

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

Liabilities

Capital Provisions	3,645,556.24	
Public Works Loan Board -		
Loan outstanding	65,162.45	
		3,710,718.69

Assets

Freehold Land	32,400.00	
Pumping Stations (Valuation)	3,678,318.69	
		3,710,718.69

Revenue Section

General Fund	123,289.82	Ratepayers' Account - Arrears	691.36
Development Charges Account	10,682.66	Value added Tax - Refunds due	3,002.97
Future Works Account	31,417.51		
Commutation Fund (Doddington Road Culvert/Point 94)	16,246.95	Balance in hand -	
Sundry Creditors	9,124.87	Barclays - Treasurer's Account	193,460.05
E. A. Grant-in-Aid (Creditor)	7,414.75	National Savings - Treasurer's Account	1,022.18
			194,482.23
	3,908,895.25		3,908,895.25

Benwick Internal Drainage Board

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2022

Treasurers Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	211,527.49	Payments made during the year	121,513.86
31st March 2022			
Receipts during the year			
Clerk's collection account	103,436.73		
Interest on deposit accounts	<u>9.69</u>	Balance carried forward	193,460.05
	103,446.42		
	<u><u>314,973.91</u></u>		<u><u>314,973.91</u></u>

National Savings - Treasurers Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	1,022.08	Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2022			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.10	Balance carried forward	1,022.18
	<u><u>1,022.18</u></u>		<u><u>1,022.18</u></u>

Barclays Bank PLC

Clients Premium Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022	193,460.05
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
Add outstanding lodgements	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	<u><u>193,460.05</u></u>

Cash balances as at 31st March 2022

Barclays Bank PLC

Clients Premium Account	193,460.05
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National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	1,022.18
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<u>Total reconciled cash balances per accounts</u>	<u><u>194,482.23</u></u>
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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	235,370	186,431	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	85,295	85,601	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,032	1,955	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	14,858	8,804	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	122,408	83,546	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	186,431	181,637	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	212,550	194,482	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	3,710,719	3,710,719	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	65,162	57,535	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	N/A
			The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2022 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

16th May 2022

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Benwick IDB
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return
Financial year ended 31st March 2022

**Per Annual
Return**

Line 1	Balances brought forward		
	General Fund	135,089.15	
	Development charges account	10,932.09	
	Future works	24,163.51	
	Commutation fund	16,246.10	
	Asset Replacement fund	0.00	
		186,430.85	186,431
Line 2	Rates and Special Levies		
	Agricultural rates	58,617.11	
	Special Levies	27,044.00	
	Penalty	0.00	
	Costs	0.00	
	Write-off	-60.12	
		85,600.99	85,601
Line 3	Total other receipts		
	Interest		
	General fund	7.10	
	Development charges account	0.57	
	Future works	1.27	
	Commutation fund	0.85	
	Rent	1,000.00	
	Highland Water	545.48	
	Consents	100.00	
	Discharge Consent Contribution	300.00	
		1,955.27	1,955
Line 4	Staff costs		
	Wages/salaries	0.00	
	National insurance contributions	0.00	
	Pension costs	0.00	
	Travelling expenses	0.00	
		0.00	0
Line 5	Loan repayments		
	PWLB - Principal	7,627.36	
	PWLB - Interest	1,176.72	
		8,804.08	8,804
Line 6	All other payments		
	Precept	8,420.79	
	Rates, insurances, telephones	2,576.27	
	Repairs and renewals	9,130.77	
	Fuel	8,314.24	
	Drainworks	27,585.26	
	Administration	10,572.29	
	Improvement Work	15,985.43	
	Planning Fees	961.04	
		83,546.09	83,546
Line 7	Balances carried forward		
	General Fund	123,289.82	
	Development charges account	10,682.66	
	Future works	31,417.51	
	Commutation fund	16,246.95	
		181,636.94	181,637
Reconciliation			
Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6		181,636.94	
Balances carried forward			
Per Annual return		0.00	

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Return, on behalf of the Board, for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

B.1274 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2022/2023

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2022/2023 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 67.97% and 32.03%, viz;

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET 2022/2023

	<u>Estimated</u> 2021/2022	<u>Actual</u> 2021/2022	<u>Budget</u> 2022/2023
1 Rates and insurances	2,800	2,576	2,750
2 Repairs and renewals	9,500	9,131	10,750 ^A
3 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	40,750	41,525 ^B	29,500 ^C
4 Fuel	8,000	8,314	11,150 ^D
5 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	11,000 ^E	10,572 ^E	11,250 ^E
6 Loan Charges -			
Loan 1	0	0	0
Loan 2	0	0	0
Loan 3	8,804 ^F	8,804 ^F	8,804 ^F
7 Environment Agency - Precept	8,421	8,421	8,589
8 Improvement works Pumping stations	15,500	3,006 ^G	8,000 ^H
9 Improvement works - watercourses	0	0	0
10 Capital Reserve Fund	10,259	10,259	10,316 ^I
	115,034	102,609	101,109
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, rents etc	0 29,373	18,188 ^J	9,812 ^K
85,661	85,661	84,421	91,298
Rate requirement Rate set	16.70 ^p	85,600	17.70 ^p
General Fund Open Balance	135,089	135,089	123,290
Rates Raised	85,661	85,601	91,298
Net Expenditure use of balances	85,661 -12,000	84,421 -12,979	91,298 0
Closing Balance	<u>123,089</u>	<u>123,290</u>	<u>123,290</u>

5 Year Forecast (Estimated only)				
<u>Estimated</u> 2023/24	<u>Estimated</u> 2024/25	<u>Estimated</u> 2025/26	<u>Estimated</u> 2026/27	<u>Estimated</u> 2027/28
2,900	3,050	3,200	3,350	3,500
9,500	9,500	9,750	9,750	10,000
24,500	31,600	26,250	26,500	24,500
11,750	12,500	13,250	14,000	14,750
11,350	11,450	11,550	11,650	11,750
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
8,804	8,804	8,804	8,804	8,804
8,760	8,936	9,115	9,297	9,483
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
10,316	10,316	10,316	10,316	10,316
87,880	96,156	92,235	93,667	93,103
2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
85,680	93,956	90,035	91,467	90,903
0.1661	0.1822	0.1746	0.1773	0.1762

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**BUDGET 2022/2023**

Notes to the budget, 2022/2023

A - <u>Repairs 2022/2023 includes for :-</u>	
Standard maintenance rep[airs	
Works at Benwick Mere p/s	1,500
B - <u>Drainworks 2021/2022 includes for :-</u>	
Flail mowing	3,800
Slubbing	12,580
Access steps - Point 14	1,383
Replacement inlet - Broadalls p/s	12,979
	30,742
C - <u>Drainworks 2022/2023 includes provision for :-</u>	
Engineers maintenance programme	23,030
D - Provision based on 5 year average plus 50% for new contract rates	
E - Includes for new Health & Safety arrangements	
F - Loan 1: £30,000 Matured	
Date of advance, 30/03/09 - repayable over 10 years	
Loan 2: £50,000 Matured	
Date of advance, 07/03/11 - repayable over 10 years	
Loan 3: £80,000	
Date of advance, 14/12/18 - repayable over 10 years	
G - Dewater/clear sump - Broadalls p/s	3,006
	0
	0
	3,006
H - Provision for:	
Replacement pump - Broadalls p/s	2,500
Replace pump bolts - Benwick Mere p/s	1,500
Repalce penstock - Benwick Mere p/s	4,000
	8,000
I - Capital Reserve Fund to raise equivalent to 2.0p rate	10,316
Funds raised in year 2021/22 - £10,259	
J - Includes:	
Future works account - Broadalls sump clearance	3,006
General fund balances - Broadalls inlet	12,979
	15,985
K - Includes:	
Future works account	8,000
Use of balances -	0
	0
	8,000

Benwick Internal Drainage Board

Rate and levy requirements

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2022/2023 is:-

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector - 67.97%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levies issued to Councils:-

Fenland District Council - 29.66%

Huntingdonshire District Council - 2.37%

32.03%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £3,506.

In 2022/2023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levies would raise £5,158.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2022 - £123,290.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2022/2023 is £91,298 and equivalent to:-

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 17.70p

b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £27,078 and

c) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £2,166

In 2021/2022 a rate of 16.70p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £25,000 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £2,044 on Huntingdonshire District Council.

Members should give consideration to the current level of balances, possible use of balances in the current year, to possible future expenditure and the appropriate level of balances required, when setting the rate, taking into account balances reduced by £11,799 in 2021/2022.

D C THOMAS

Clerk of the Board

May 2022

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £91,298 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 £62,054 and £29,244 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 17.70p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v)
 - a) That a Special levy of £27,078 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
 - b) That a Special levy of £2,166 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 levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1275 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at Ramsey Golf Club.

B.1276 Any other Business

Councillor Miscandlon requested that a paper copy of this meeting's agenda be forwarded to him at Fenland District Council.

RESOLVED

That a paper copy of this meeting's agenda be forwarded to Councillor Miscandlon at Fenland District Council.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date