

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March East Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday 9th June 2022

PRESENT

C E Martin Esq (Chairman)	A J N Gee Esq
C W Albutt Esq (Vice Chairman)	J E Heading Esq
R D Gladwin Esq.	D S Morris Esq
A Dunham Esq	M Purser Esq
Mrs J French	G Dunham Esq
Cllr J F Clark	Cllr M Cornwell

Ms A Morris

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

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

The Chairman welcomed Ms Morris as she was attending her first meeting of the Board.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from A Coulson Esq, P Fisher Esq, Mrs M Davis, D Henson Esq, P M Tegerdine Esq, Cllr D Topgood and F H Yeulett Esq

B.1375 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 interests in matters relating to minute no's B.1387 and B.1402.

Mr Heading declared an interest (as a Member of the Middle Level Board) in any matters relating to the Middle Level Commissioners.

Cllrs Cornwell, French and Purser declared interests (as councillors of Fenland District Council) in matters relating to planning applications.

B.1376 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 3rd June 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1377 Election of Board Members

Miss Ablett reported that the term of office of the Members of the Board will expire on the 31st October 2022 and will submit the proposed register of electors which is applicable to the 2022 election.

Miss Ablett referred to an email from Mr Paul Fisher stating he would not be standing for re-election.

RESOLVED

That a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Paul Fisher.

B.1378 Amalgamation with Euximoor IDB

Further to minute B.1344, Miss Ablett reported the Assistant Clerk had advised that Defra have been working through their domestic back-log slowly and that she had recently spoken to Carol Titmarsh of Defra. Miss Ablett further reported the Assistant Clerk had agreed to forward updated financial information to Defra so the amalgamation could be finalised.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Clerk continues to chase Defra and that every effort is made to have the amalgamation concluded within 12 months.

B.1379 Drain Maintenance – Point 177 – Grounds Avenue

Further to minute B.1345, Miss Ablett reported the Consulting Engineer had advised that efforts had been made to resolve the issues associated with the watercourse at Silt Road, as problems had been experienced in seeking a response from Anglian Water following some staff changes, but this matter was progressing.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineer continues to progress the matter.

B.1380 Infilling of drainage ditch at land south east of Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane, March

Further to minute B.1347, Miss Ablett reported a consent application had recently been received and the Consulting Engineer had requested further information before considering the application.

Councillor French reported the infilling of ditches was a problem the Council had identified as part of the work undertaken with Cambridge & Peterborough Flood & Water Partnership. She advised that, as March had been mapped out, the Council was now aware of where the dykes and ditches were. She added that people who had infilled any of these may have to dig them back out or install new pipes in them to ensure they could work as originally intended to.

Councillor French advised that members on the FDC planning committee would not be approving any developments unless the Middle Level Commissioners were satisfied all requirements relating to flood risk have been met.

B.1381 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.

d) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1266, 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) Environment Act

In November 2021 Defra announced that the Environment Act became law. The stated aim of this Act is to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve the natural environment. However, the Act also includes powers (specific to IDBs) which amend the Land Drainage Act 1991, addressing the technical issue of missing or incomplete data, which is preventing existing internal drainage boards from expanding and new ones from being established. Defra have stated that they will be working on the associated secondary legislation over the coming year and will be engaging with IDBs through ADA on this.

v) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

Miss Ablett reported that an order has been placed for telemetry to be installed at all three of the Board's pumping stations. Installation and commissioning should be undertaken over the summer period. The cost to the Board of the three stations will be £6.7K and includes all costs plus five years of data and central website support.

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, ie 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 the Consulting Engineer continues providing information as he has in the past and the point of contact remain as the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

vii) 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.

viii) 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.

ix) 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.

x) Land Registry

That whilst it is a legal requirement for land occupiers to notify the Board of any change of occupation, including releasing contact details for the new occupiers, on many occasions this does not occur and time is spent trying to determine who the new occupier is. When the normal avenues fail to deliver any meaningful information we now use our Land Registry account to gain details of the current land owner. The costs of making an application via this method are small (currently £6) but obviously this will show up on the Board accounts, hence the need to draw this new way of working to the Boards attention.

xi) 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.

xii) 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.

B.1382 Refurbishment of Latches Fen Pumping Station.

Further to minute B.1350, Miss Ablett apologised that a business case had not yet been prepared for the refurbishment of Latches Fen Pumping Station anticipated in 2024-2025, as instructed last year, but confirmed the £150,000 for the replacement pumps and control equipment was still identified on the Environment Agency's Project Application and Funding System for works to be carried out in 2024-2025.

Miss Ablett enquired whether Members still wished for a business case to be prepared and a GIA application made. She reminded the Board that if an application was not fully funded the cost of the business case would still be payable by the Board.

RESOLVED

That a business case be prepared for replacement of the pumping and control equipment for 2024/2025.

That the Environment Agency be advised of the likely increase in costs if in excess of £150,000.

That the cost of the business case be funded from the development contributions account if the GIA application is not fully funded.

B.1383 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

March East I.D.B.**Consulting Engineers Report – June 2022****Weed Control and Drain Maintenance**

The maintenance works carried out last year generally accorded with the phased maintenance programme approved by the Board in 2008.

Provisional notices for the 2022 phased programmed machine cleansing works were issued last year. The extent of this year's works is shown on the following site plan.

Last year's programmed machine cleansing works to the east of reach 51-53-54 were postponed due to the late harvest of an adjacent crop. Works will be carried out this year as part of the planned machine cleansing programme.

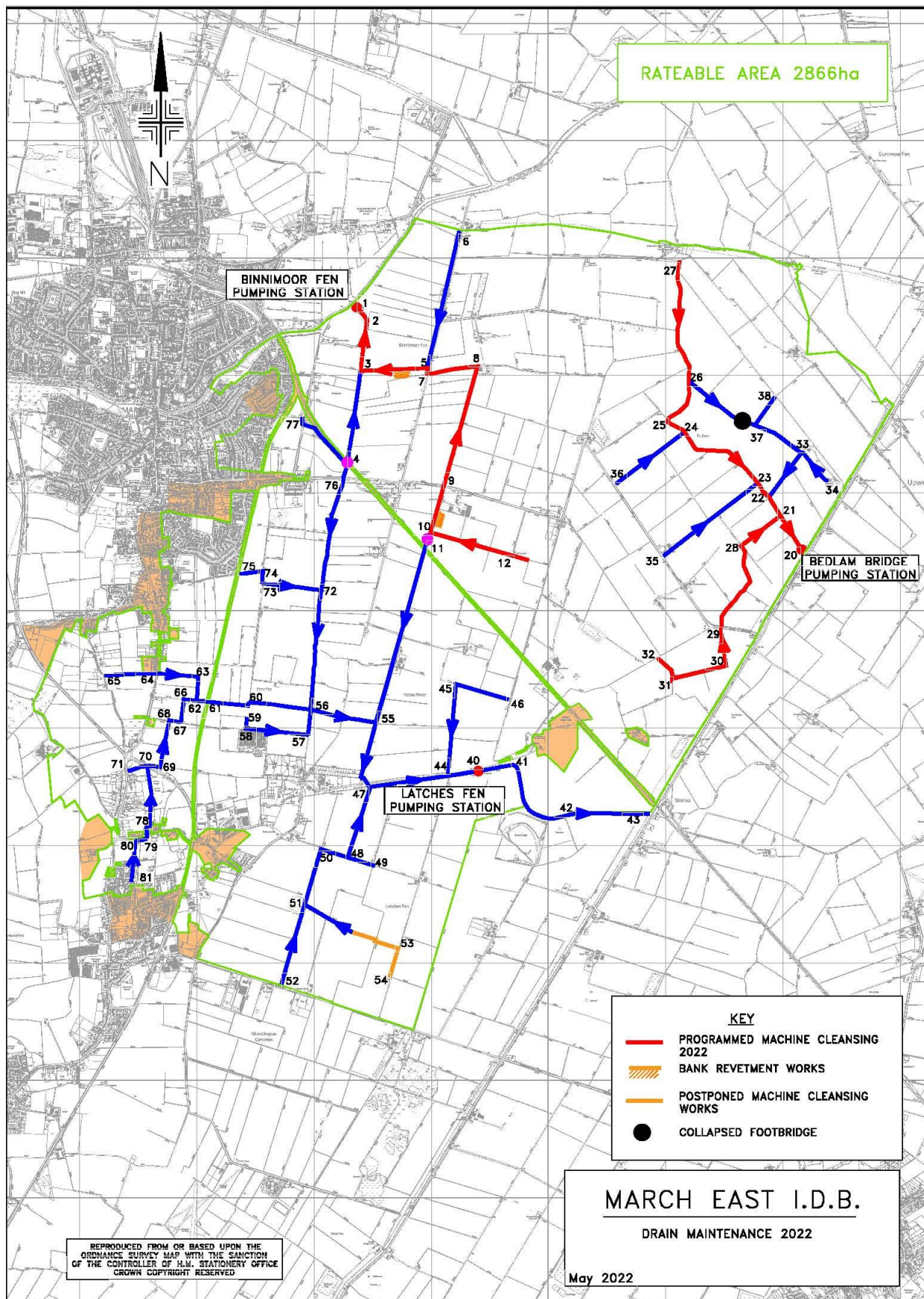
A recent inspection of the Board's district drains has revealed that the majority of the drains are in a satisfactory condition and being maintained to a good standard. The inspection indicates that many of the Board's drains that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.

The inspection did highlight two small areas of bank subsidence in the Binnimoor Pump catchment drains, along reaches 3-5 and 9-10. Fortunately, these reaches are included in this year's annual machine cleansing programme and remedial bank revetment works will be carried out whilst the contractor's excavator is in the area. A sum for the completion of these works, has been included within this year's estimated costs.

It was also noted that a private timber footbridge has deteriorated and collapsed into the drain on reach 26-37. At the time of the inspection it is not causing any obstruction to water conveyance and, if not removed by the landowner, the contractor's excavator will be utilised to remove any remains this autumn during the programmed machine cleansing for this reach.



Collapsed Footbridge, reach 26-37



The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Ashman, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. A sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for flail mowing of the district drains.

A provisional sum has also been included within the Board's estimates for any bank slip repair, emergency cleansing, Cott removal or culvert clearance that may be required later in the year.

The estimated costs of this year's weed control and drain maintenance works are as follows. An additional allowance has also been included in the estimates, in anticipation of an increase in contractors' rates this year, due to general economic uncertainties and the current rise in fuel costs.

1. Machine cleanse the following drains:				£	£
<u>Bedlam Bridge Pumping Area</u>					
(i) Reach 20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27	3200	m	@	1.50	4800.00
(ii) Reach 21-28-29-30-31-32	2300	m	@	1.50	3450.00
<u>Binnimoor Fen Pumping Area</u>					
(i) Reach 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12	4000	m	@	1.50	6000.00
<u>Latches Pumping Area</u>					
(i) Reach 51-53-54	580	m	@	1.50	870.00
2. <u>Provisional Item</u>					
Bank Revetment works Binnimoor Pump Area	Item	Sum			3500.00
Reaches 3-5 & 8-9					
2. Roundup application to control reed water cress and other emergent weed growth in district drains	Item	Sum			1750.00
3. Allow sum for flail mowing.	Item	Sum			8600.00
4. <u>Provisional Item</u>					
Allow sum for bank revetment, emergency Cleansing, cott removal or culvert clearance works	Item	Sum			2000.00
5. Fees for inspection, preparation, and submission of report to the Board, arrangement, and supervision of chemical applications and maintenance works.	Item	Sum			2000.00
TOTAL					£32,970.00

Please refer to the site plan on the previous page for locations.

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

Bedlam

The weedscreen cleaner hose was replaced in August 2021.

Latches Fen

The floor plates around the electric pump are corroded, the hinges have been freed off to make them useable but the plates' supporting frame should be replaced. The engine has not been serviced since 2016 and although it has only run for around 200 hours it should now be serviced to ensure filters are clear of moisture and debris from the tank. The temperature gauge has also failed.

In September 2021 the new adaptor plate and shaft were fitted to the engine. Alignment between the two drive couplings is now around 0.3mm. The engine/pump now runs with considerably less vibration and there are no signs of stress or heat build-up along the complete drive train. The Van der Graff shot clutch is now obsolete so if it failed a replacement would need to be sourced and engineered to fit.

The Board is asked to confirm if it would like to pursue a new fluid coupling which is likely to cost around £10k.

The weedscreen needs a replacement exercise timer and new wire ropes for the hoist.

Pumping Hours

Bedlam Pumping Station

Hours Run	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – May 19	May 19 – May 20	May 20 – May 21	May 21 – May 22
No 1	12303 - 12501 =198	12501 - 12556 =55	13005-12566 =449	13330-13005 = 325	13348-13305 = 43
No 2	10949 - 11486 = 537	11581 11486 =95	11934-11581 =353	12641-11934 = 707	12835-12641 = 194
Total	735	150	802	1032	237

Hours Run	May 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16	May 16 – May 17
No 1	11114 – 11322 = 208	11322 - 11536 = 214	11536 – 11731 = 195	11731 – 12082 = 351	12082 - 12303 = 221
No 2	9052 – 9778 = 726	9778 – 10136 = 358	10136 – 10877 = 741	10877 - 10936 = 59	10936 - 10949 = 13
Total	934	572	936	410	234

Binnimoor Pumping Station

Hours Run	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – May 19	May 19 – May 20	May 20 – May 21	May 21 – May 22
No 1	1300 - 1532 = 232	1560 - 1532 =28	1902-1560 =342	2001-1902 = 99	2067-2001 =66
Total	232	=28	342	99	66

Hours Run	May 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16	May 16 – May 17
No 1	99 – 421 = 322	421 – 646 = 225	646 – 1020 = 374	1020 – 1194 = 174	1194 – 1300 = 106
Total	322	225	374	174	106

Latches Fen Pumping Station

Hours Run	May 17 – May 18	May 18 – May 19	May 19 – May 20	May 20 – May 21	May 21 – May 22
No 1	22528 - 23375 = 847	23768 - 23375 =393	24824 - 23768 =1056	26495 - 24824 = 1671	.
No 2	643 - 652 = 9	654 - 652 =2	667- 654 =13	809- 667 = 142	
Total	856	=395	1069	1813	

Hours Run	May 12 – May 13	May 13 – May 14	May 14 – May 15	May 15 – May 16	May 16 – May 17
No 1	18380 – 19915 = 1535	19915 – 20744 = 829	20744 – 21621 = 877	21621 – 22134 = 513	22134 - 22528 = 394
No 2	466 – 524 = 58	524 – 552 = 28	552 – 589 = 37	589 – 640 = 51	640 - 643 = 3
Total	1593	857	914	564	397

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 51 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
945	F/YR21/0352/RM	Mr C Waters	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
946	F/YR21/0340/F	Mr T Philpott	Residence (Extension)	Badgeney Road, March
947	F/YR21/0328/F	Construct Reason Ltd	Residential (21 plots)	Willow Gardens, Wimblington*
948	F/YR21/0356/F	Mr J Boswell	Travellers' site (5 mobile homes and 9 touring caravans [retrospective])	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
949	F/YR21/0455/F	Mr C Waters	Residential (3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
950	F/YR21/0433/F	Mr S Perinpanathan	Residence (Extension)	Ireton Way, March
951	Enquiry	Mrs N Houghton	Residence	Rodham Road, March
952	F/YR21/0662/F	Mr & Mrs Smith	Residence (Extension)	Manea Road, Wimblington
953	Consultation	Network Rail	Ely Area Capacity Enhancements (EACE) Programme	Badgeney Road, Horsemoor & Stonea
954	F/YR21/0677/F	Mr D Jonaitis	Residence (Extension)	Eastwood Avenue, March
955	F/YR21/0768/F	Mr P Brinkley	Travellers' site (1 mobile home and 2 touring caravans)	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
956	F/YR21/0713/F	Jordan & Steven Davies	Travellers' site (3 static and 3 touring caravans)	Horsemoor Road, Wimblington
957	F/YR21/0787/F	Mr Vawser	Residence (Extension)	Grounds Avenue, March
958	F/YR21/0856/F	Mr A French	Residence (Extension)	Hook Road, Wimblington
959	F/YR21/3071/COND	Mr & Mrs C Waters	Residential (Up to 3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
960	F/YR21/0811/O	Mr A Hauptert	Residential (Up to 8 plots)	Upwell Road, March

961	F/YR21/0898/F	Mr & Mrs Ward	Residence (Extension)	Knights End Road, March
962	F/YR21/0997/RM	Mr P Jolley	Residential (Up to 3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
963	F/YR21/1010/RM	Mr & Mrs C Grey	Residence	Upwell Road, March
964	F/YR21/3087/COND	Mr & Mrs C Grey	Residential (Up to 9 plots)	Upwell Road, March
965	F/YR21/1011/RM	Mr & Mrs C Grey	Residence	Upwell Road, March
966	F/YR21/1030/F	Mr Van Der Gaag	Residence (Extension)	Jobs Lane, March
967	F/YR21/1055/O	Mr A Harper	Residential (Up to 8 plots)	Addison Road, Wimblington
968	F/YR21/1148/F	Mr & Mrs C Grey	Residence (Access)	Upwell Road, March
969	F/YR21/1113/F	Mr & Mrs Hedges	Residence (Extension)	Eastwood Avenue, March
970	F/YR21/1133/F	Mr & Mrs Plitsh	Residence (Extension)	Percheron Drive, March
971	Drainage Search Enquiry	Roythornes Limited	Residential	Eaton Estate/Bridge Lane, Wimblington*
972	F/YR21/1193/RM	Mr A Forvargue	Residence	Upwell Road, March
973	F/YR21/1192/RM	Mr & Mrs Topping	Residential (2 plots)	Mill Hill Lane, March
974	F/YR21/1293/O	Ashwell Developments	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
975	F/YR21/1292/O	Ashwell Developments	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
976	F/YR21/1320/F	Mr J Overland	Canine (Dog kennel block, a day care unit, office cabin, and fence)	Coleseed Road, March
977	F/YR21/1343/O	Mr M Henson	Residential (9 plots)	Upwell Road, March
978	F/YR/1454/F	Mrs M Arnold	Residence (Extension)	Olivers Way, March
979	F/YR21/1442/F	Whitings LLP	Office	Wimblington Road, March
980	F/YR21/1465/AG1	George Heys Farming Ltd	Agricultural	Coleseed Road, March
981	F/YR21/1535/F	Mr D Henson	Residence (Extension)	Upwell Road, March
982	F/YR21/1527/F	Mr & Mrs Pooley	Residence (Extension)	Thirties Farm, Upwell Road, March
983	CCC/21/247/FUL + F/YR22/2002/CCC	Datashredders Ltd	Waste (Replacement Facilities)	Eastwood End, Wimblington
984	F/YR22/0087/F	Mr D Ogden & Ms R Lilley	Residence (Extension)	Green Street, March
985	F/YR22/0053/F	Mr & Mrs Houghton	Residence	Rodham Road, March
986	F/YR22/0038/F	Mr & Mrs White	Residence (Annexe)	March Road, Wimblington
987	F/YR22/0062/O	Allison Homes	Residential (Up to 110 plots)	Upwell Road, March
988	F/YR22/0192/F	Mr B Singh	Residence (Extension)	Norfolk Street, Wimblington
989	F/YR22/0233/F	Mr J Dalliday	Residence (Garage)	Upwell Road, March
990	Enquiry Pre-application	Client of Amazi Consulting Ltd	Residential (Up to 53 plots)	Wimblington Road, March*
991	F/YR22/0322/FDC	Mr A Forvargue	Residence	Upwell Road, March
992	F/YR22/0332/F	Mr & Mrs T M Butcher	Residential (4 plots)	March Road, Wimblington

993	F/YR22/0307/RM	Grandford Homes Ltd	Residential (3 plots)	Upwell Road, March
994	F/YR22/0065/VOC	Mr King	Residence	Eastwood End, Wimblington
995	F/YR22/0358/RM	Mr & Mrs Munden	Residential (Up to 3 plots)	Eastwood End, Wimblington

Planning applications ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters
Planning applications ending 'COND' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'AG1' relate to Agricultural Notification
Planning applications ending 'CCC' relate to Cambridgeshire County Council
Planning applications ending 'VOC' relate to variation of condition

Developments that are known to propose direct discharge are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder are understood to propose waste water disposal to soakaways/infiltration systems or sustainable drainage systems, where applicable. The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

The following applicants have chosen to use the Infiltration Device Self-Certification or Checking Service and, in doing so, agreed that if the device was to fail in the future the land owner would be liable for any remedial works to rectify the situation:

- (a) Mr Van de Gaag - Jobs Lane, March (MLC Ref No 966)
- (b) Mr & Mrs White - March Road, Wimblington (MLC Ref No 986)

No further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants' agents concerning the following developments and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests. The current position is being ascertained in respect of the following developments:

- *Erection of 22 dwellings involving demolition of 2 no existing dwellings on land south east of 93-113 Grounds Avenue (Cygnet Crescent), March - Fenland District Council (MLC Ref No 552), Client of URS Scott Wilson (MLC Ref No 576) & Lovell Partnership (MLC Ref Nos 579 & 629)*
- *Erection of 3 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings with detached single garages, 6 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with detached double garages and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached double garage at land south east of Orchard Lodge, Jobs Lane, March – Mr H Fisher (MLC Ref Nos 558 & 587) & James Development Co Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 703 & 767 & 842)*
- *Erection of 7 dwellings involving demolition of existing stables and outbuildings on land east of 54-62 March Road, Wimblington – Mr & Mrs P Salter (MLC Ref Nos 655, 677 & 810)*
- *Proposed extension to Cavalry Primary School, Cavalry Drive, March - Client of Pick Everard (MLC Ref No 659) & Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 673)*
- *Residential development at 2A Bridge Lane, Wimblington - Ms K Grange (MLC Ref Nos 663, 691 & 818)*
- *Anaerobic Digestion Facility on land east of Fengrain, Hook Lane, Wimblington – G P Planning Ltd (MLC Ref No 676) & Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 681, 684, 686 & 711)*

- *Proposed residential development at Kings Street, Wimblington – Construct Reason Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 716, 797 & 863)*
- *Two storey office building and associated parking including packaged sewage treatment plant at land north of Mill Hill Garage, Wimblington Road, March – Whiting & Partners (MLC Ref Nos 717, 721 & 726) & Client of MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd (MLC Ref No 861)*
- *Erection of 4no dwellings comprising of 2 x 2-storey 4-bed with integral double garages; 1 x 2-storey 4-bed with 1-bed annexe and detached double garage and 1 x 2-storey 4-bed with detached garage and workshop involving demolition of outbuildings at land north and south of 35 King Street, Wimblington – Mr J Wilson (MLC Ref Nos 766 & 823)*
- *Erection of a 2-storey extension to existing building and additional parking area including temporary portacabin during works - Fengrain Ltd (MLC Ref No 780)*

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

Further to the entry in the “Planning Updates & Consultations” document entitled “Long-term Ownership, Funding and Maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)” it is presumed that the Board will require its interests to be protected by ensuring the provision of adequate arrangements for the long-term ownership funding, management and maintenance arrangements for the upkeep of any water level and flood risk management system, whether on or off site, in perpetuity.

In order to assist further discussion when dealing with development related matters, the Board is asked to consider the proposal, advise on any requirements it may have and provide instruction on how it would wish us to proceed.

March (General area rather than parish/town boundaries)

Developments off Upwell Road, March

Erect up to 6 x dwellings involving upgrade to access on land to the south of 85 - 89 Upwell Road, March - The Executors of W Feary (MLC Ref Nos 788 & 937)

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

Proposed residential development on land at Ashfield House to the north of 86-124 Upwell Road and east of 16-64 Smiths Drive, March – Client of WSP UK Limited (MLC Ref No 825) & Client of JPP Consulting Ltd (MLC Ref No 935)

The previously anticipated instruction for a pre-application consultation concerning this site has not been received.

Erect up to 9no dwellings at land south of 137 Upwell Road, March – Mr & Mrs Gray and Mr & Mrs Rankin (MLC Ref No 897) and Mr & Mrs C Grey (MLC Ref Nos 963, 964 & 965)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report, three additional planning applications associated with plots 4 and 6 have been submitted and these are currently being considered by the District Council.

It is currently proposed that surface water from the development will utilise tanked permeable paving to store any run-off which is then pumped into an adjacent watercourse. It is considered that the use of private pumps is unsustainable and presents a significant residual risk if they are not maintained correctly or fail during a storm event, as has happened elsewhere within the town during high rainfall events. The length of the rising main required is likely to require a large pump and it is considered that, whilst any discharge would be lower than an unregulated site, the pumped discharge would not be at greenfield rates of run-off.

If this proposal proceeds it is suggested that the Board will require its interests to be protected by ensuring the provision of adequate arrangements for the long-term ownership funding, management and maintenance arrangements for the upkeep of any water level and flood risk management system, whether on or off site, in perpetuity.

The applicants engineering consultant, Rossi Long Consulting Ltd, has submitted a completed post-application consultation process request. The proposals are currently being considered.

Developments off Mill Hill Lane, March

Residential development on land to the south and west of 4-5 Mill Hill Lane, March – Mrs S Duncan (MLC Ref Nos 574 & 592) & Mr M Topping (MLC Ref Nos 868, 914 & 973)

Further to previous Board Meeting reports, a reserved matters application for two single storey dwellings on land to the south and west of 4 - 5 Mill Hill Lane, FDC Refs F/YR20/0335/F and F/YR21/1192/RM (MLC Ref Nos 914 & 973) was approved by the District Council in February.

During discussions, the applicants' agent, Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd, has advised that Anglian Water will not permit pumped flows into its vacuum system and it is, therefore, not possible to connect to the public sewer at the northern end of Mill Hill Lane. The agent is currently looking into possible alternative solutions.

Erect up to 4 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) on land to the south of Field View, Mill Hill Lane, March – Miss C Marshall (MLC Ref No 942)

Further to the last Board Meeting report, this planning application was refused planning permission by the District Council in July 2021.

Wimblington (General area rather than parish/town boundaries)

Developments at Eastwood End, Wimblington

Development at Unit 1, Eastwood Industrial Estate, Eastwood End, Wimblington - Plasgran Ltd (MLC Ref No 274) & Recyplas Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 870 & 932)

See the Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group entry below.

Erection of up to 3 x dwellings and construction of footpath at land south of 6 Eastwood End, Wimblington – Mr P Jolley (MLC Ref Nos 881 & 944) and Mr & Mrs C Waters (MLC Ref Nos 945 & 959)

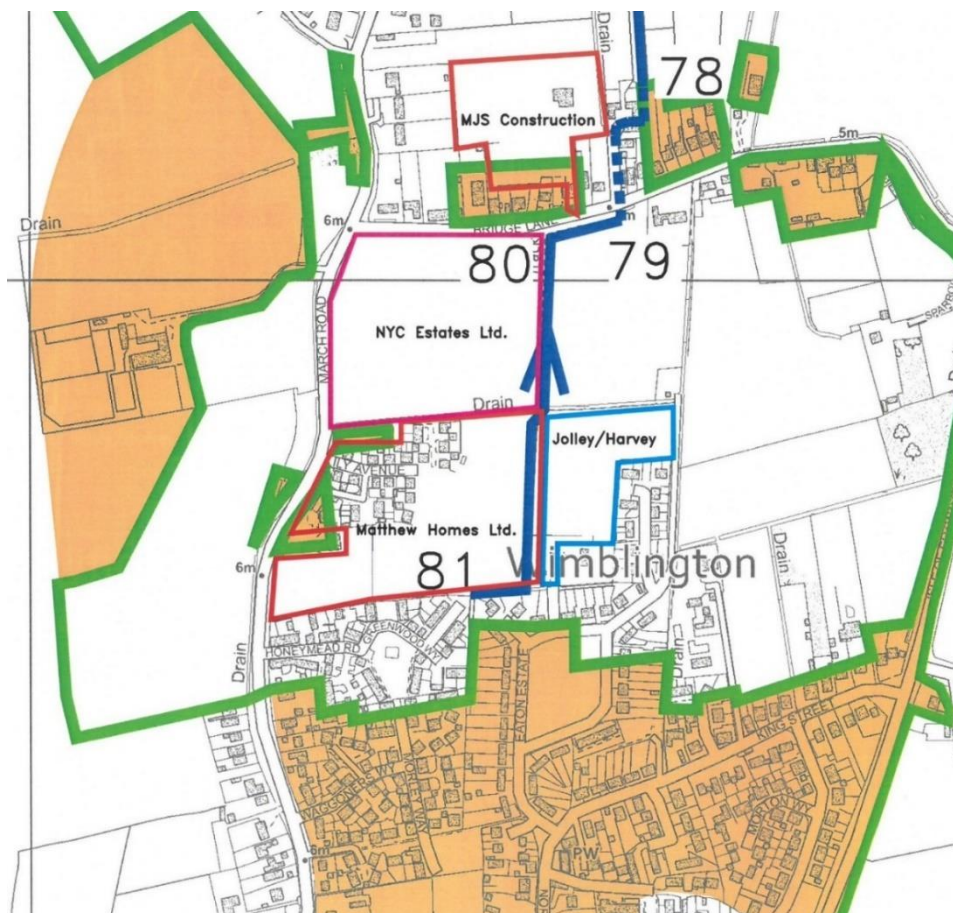
A discharge consent application has been received from MTC, the agents acting on behalf of 'Living the Dream', the applicant for the above development. The proposal is for all three dwellings to discharge surface water via attenuation tanks at a maximum of

0.8 l/s to a ditch at the south of the development. The surface water from the improved road cannot be attenuated as it is to be adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council. The impermeable area created by the improved road is 0.139 ha, and the water will discharge into the same ditch as the new properties. While some of the receiving ditch, which runs along Workhouse Drove, has been cleared it is not known whether it has been cleared sufficiently to accept the discharge from the road in the case of a high rainfall event. The matter is currently being considered.

Erect 9 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with garages including open space/play area with pond and formation of 6.0m metre high (approximately) earth bunding and footpath on land to the south of Eastwood End, Wimblington – FPP Facades (MLC Ref Nos 927 & 931)

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage the status of this application is "Pending Consideration"

Developments in the vicinity of March Road/Bridge Lane, Wimblington



Extract from the Board's District Plan showing the location of the developments referred to below in respect of the Board's Bridge Lane Drain.

The extent of the Board's rateable area is shown edged green and the highland catchment, hatched brown.

- (a) *Residential development involving the demolition of 5 Bridge Lane and existing commercial buildings at land north of 3A-9 Bridge Lane, Wimblington – Messrs K & D Clark (MLC Ref Nos 705, 723 & 834) & MJS Construction (March) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 905 & 909)*

Following a period of inactivity, interest in this site has recommenced and an enquiry has been received from the applicant's consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd. [MTC]. A response is being prepared.

- (b) *Erection of 80 dwellings (max) at land east of 38 March Road, Wimblington – G Scarborough Ltd (MLC Ref No 665) & Matthew Homes Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 743, 775, 776, 808, 817, 832 & 864)*

Further to the last Board Meeting Report, discussions occurred with the developer who inferred that it was intended to work with the Board to resolve the outstanding issues and further details were awaited during which time no further action was taken.

After a period of inactivity efforts were made to contact Matthew Homes who advised that the point of contact had left the company which resulted in a delay in dealing with the relevant issues.

Correspondence has subsequently been received and is currently being discussed and considered in order to resolve the issues concerned.

Despite reassurances that the occupants of the dwellings would be advised on the Board's access requirements, a recent site inspection revealed that some illegal encroachment within the reduced maintenance access strip has occurred.

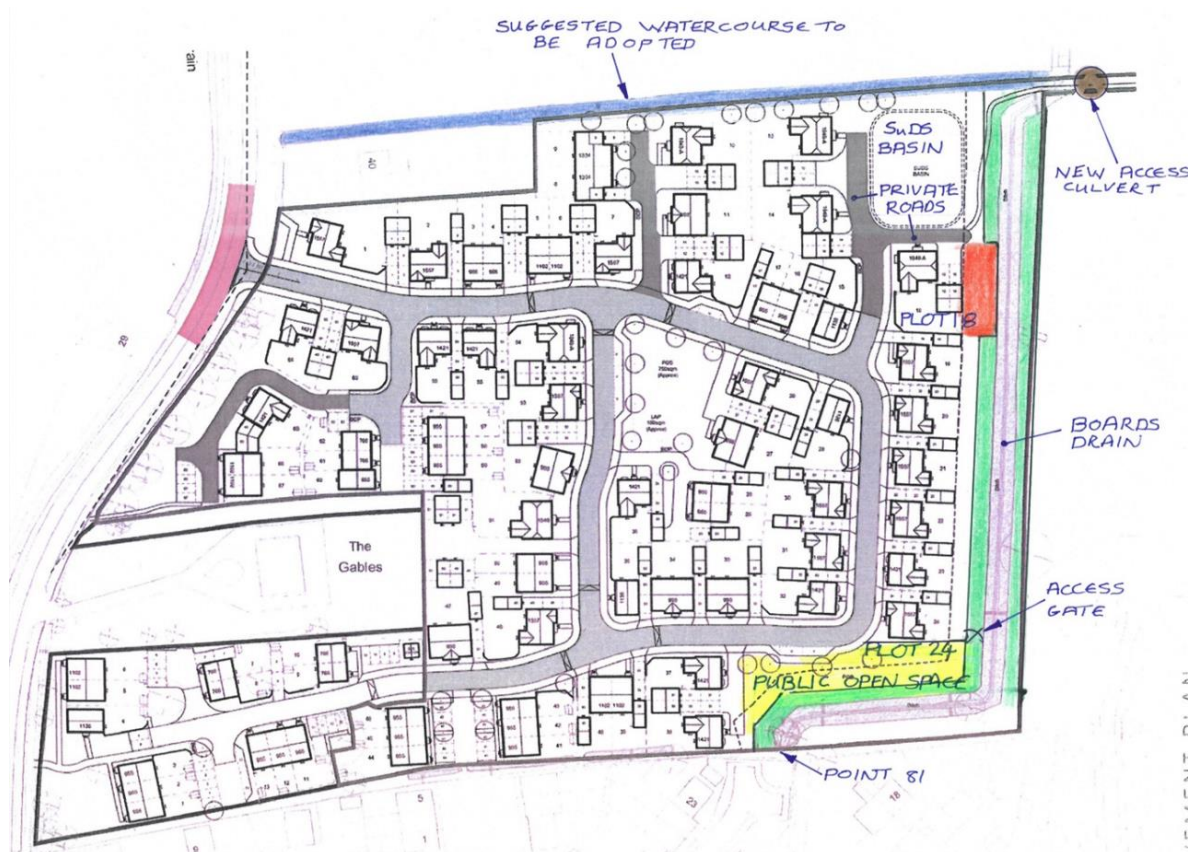


Views of the illegal encroachment





Current view of the upstream end of Bridge Lane Drain



Extract from Thrive Architects Ltd's Design & Access Statement showing the items discussed
Plan amended by the MLC

- (c) *Residential development (up to 30 dwellings) at land north of Stoneleigh, 22A Easton Estate, Wimblington – P Jolley & J S Harvey (MLC Ref No 899) and Client of Roythornes Limited (MLC Ref No 971)*

With the exception of providing a response to a “Drainage Search” submitted by Roythornes Limited, no further correspondence has been received from the applicants or the applicants’ agents and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board’s interests.

- (d) *Erect up to 88 dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) on land to the south of Bridge Lane, Wimblington - NYC Estates Ltd (MLC Ref No 938)*

Following concerns raised by Council Members at a Planning Committee Meeting in July 2021, FDC Ref F/YR20/1235/O, the MLC’s Planning Engineer together with Hilary Ellis of Cambridgeshire County Council, the Local Lead Flood Authority; Hannah Wilson and Rob Morris of Anglian Water attended a Planning Committee Meeting in August to discuss the flooding issues and give expert advice on questions from members in respect of the planning application and issues raised as a result of the high rainfall and flooding incident experienced during December 2020.

The Planning Committee considered that the development was acceptable and that the application be approved as per officer’s recommendation.

The complete Committee Meeting Minutes can be viewed at:

[Agenda item - F/YR20/1235/O
Land South Of, Bridge Lane, Wimblington
Erect up to 88 dwellings \(outline application with matters committed in respect of access\) - Fenland District Council](#) (14th July) and

[Agenda item - F/YR20/1235/O
Land South Of, Bridge Lane, Wimblington
Erect up to 88 dwellings \(outline application with matters committed in respect of access\) - Fenland District Council](#) (18th August)

District Wide

Future March - Investing in the potential of March - March Area Transport Study (MATS) Public Consultation May/June 2020 - March Options Assessment Report (OAR) - Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 920)

No further correspondence has been received and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board's interests.

It is understood that the Study was discussed at a meeting of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Board on the 29th September 2021.

"3.4. The Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) was developed at the end of stage 1. At this stage the package of schemes had a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 3.6 (High).

3.5. The current stage of the MATS is due for completion in October 2021. This includes Outline Business Case (OBC) and Preliminary Design for a package of schemes including:

- A141 / Twenty Foot Road Traffic Signals
- A141 / Peas Hill Roundabout (60m ICD) and Hostmoor Avenue Roundabout
- High Street / St Peter's Road Traffic Signal Improvements
- Broad Street / Dartford Road / Station Road Mini Roundabout with Broad Street one lane in each direction
- Development of a Northern Industrial Link Road (NILR)

3.6. The project is planned to go to CCC Board in December 2021 and CPCA Board in January 2022 to request the next stage of funding for the project which includes Detailed Design and Full Business Case."

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".

Fenland Flooding Issues Sub-group

Further to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water Management (FloW) Partnership and High Rainfall Event and Flooding Incident December 2020 entries included within the above-mentioned Strategic Planning Consultation Responses document, no further meetings of this sub-group have been held but it is understood that they will re-commence soon.

When this occurs, the opportunity will be taken to discuss the flooding at Unit 1, Eastwood Industrial Estate, as referred to above, and any other problems within the Board's catchment.

Efforts have been made to resolve the issues associated with the watercourse at Silt Road. Problems have been experienced in seeking a response from Anglian Water following some staff changes but this matter is being progressed.

General Advice

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

- (a) Mrs Belinda Young – An application for bylaw consent for the filling in of a private watercourse adjacent 15 Saxon Way, March is waiting to be determined.
- (b) Cambridgeshire County Council – An application for installation of coir rolls downstream of Martin's Bridge, Binnimoor Road, March to improve water vole habitat after works to Martin's Bridge is still to be determined.

Consulting Engineer

1 June 2022

March East (312)\Reports\June 2020

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

Miss Ablett referred to the comments raised by the Consulting Engineer regarding works necessary at the pumping stations.

Members discussed the Consulting Engineer's comments regarding the work necessary at the pumping stations and agreed that all the works identified as being required should be undertaken.

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 proposal for the removal of “Right to Connect” should be supported.

Miss Ablett referred to the Planning Engineer’s comments and pictures relating to the development by Matthew Homes Limited (MLC Ref Nos 743, 775, 776, 808, 817, 832 & 864).

Cllr French and the Chairman expressed their disappointment that this matter had not yet been resolved in view of the verbal agreements made during the site visits over 12 months ago.

Miss Ablett reported she had spoken with the Planning Engineer had confirmed he had spoken with Matthew Homes Limited and they had advised they were not prepared to pipe and fill the drain.

Mr Lakey referred to the pictures and map and stated the building shown to the left of the gravel should not have been erected, as although they had agreed to a reduced maintenance strip, residents were not supposed to put any structure within 9 metres from the drain.

Councillor French advised that the residents should have known that the 9 metres should not be obstructed as this should have been included in the deeds of their property as a covenant.

Mr Lakey referred to the overgrown drain and advised that the Board had been told that the maintenance company would keep the access open and the ditch maintained and advised that the developer’s agreement to pipe and fill the drain was due to maintenance companies not always fulfilling their obligations.

The Chairman expressed his concern that Matthew Homes Limited had not been served a 10 week notice as instructed by the Board last year. Miss Ablett stated that she was unable comment.

Members questioned whether the width of the maintenance strip was actually 4.5 metres as it appeared, from the pictures, to be quite narrow. Mr Heading enquired whether the Middle Level Commissioners would be able to manoeuvre their machinery on the strip available and Mr Lakey confirmed that it would be very tight.

The Chairman stated that the last agreement reached with Matthew Homes Limited, on site, was that they were going to pipe and fill the ditch and yet they had reneged on this agreement and he enquired whether the agreement had been received in writing. Mr Lakey advised that he thought it was only a verbal agreement and not confirmed in writing.

Members requested the Planning Engineer be instructed to investigate whether the agreement made with Matthew Homes Limited had been put in writing.

Mr Albutt advised that water from the middle of Wimblington, or a substantial amount of it, was discharged into the drain so it was imperative it was maintained regularly and kept in good order. The Chairman agreed there would be major consequences for the rest of the housing developments in the village if the drain was not maintained.

Councillor Cornwell enquired whether it would be possible to gain access for a digger to clear the ditch and Mr Lakey advised the problem was there was no access due to spoil having been deposited adjacent to the Board’s drain.

The Chairman stated that even if the drain was piped the 4.5 metre strip should still be retained so the house at Plot 18, should be advised they have encroached on the maintenance strip. He added that it was unfortunate the Plot had been sold before the contravention had been identified.

Mr Albutt advised that when the Board were discussing the maintenance strip on the Jolley Harvey site on the other side of the drain, it had been agreed a 9-metre maintenance strip would be retained and the hedge removed. Mr Lakey advised that the hedge was pre 1987 so could not be removed,

but a 9-metre maintenance strip would be retained from the hedge. He further advised that this was why Matthew Homes Limited had been accommodating and had initially agreed to pipe and fill the ditch, initially, as the Board had been content that any land behind the hedge would be of no benefit to require access so Matthew Homes Limited could have brought their boundary up to the hedge as it wouldn't affect the Board's maintenance operations, which meant that if Matthew Homes Limited had purchased the Jolly Harvey site, they would have had more land to develop. He added that as Matthew Homes Limited were no longer purchasing the site, they were content to walk away.

Mr Albutt enquired whether there could be some co-operation between the Board and Building Control when such sites were being marked out which would ensure that the Board's requirements and byelaws were adhered to. Councillor French advised the Building Controller should have informed somebody that the houses were being built in the wrong place and added that unfortunately FDC did not have a Building Controller and matters were now dealt with by Contractors.

The actions to be taken by the Board to resolve this matter were discussed in detail and it was agreed that letters with notices should be sent to each resident, including those of Plot 18, to advise all objects/structures in contravention of the 4.5 metre maintenance strip must be removed permanently as flail mowing and slubbing works were to start the week commencing 18th July 2022.

Members considered that the letter sent to all residents should advise them that all spoil removed from the ditch would be spread on the 4.5 metre maintenance strip and that maintenance works were necessary to prevent flooding.

Members also agreed that the Planning Engineer should investigate whether the agreement by Matthew Homes Ltd to pipe and fill the ditch had been received in writing and that he should write to them reminding them of their previous agreement, made at the site meeting, to pipe and fill the ditch and that if the ditch was not piped and filled, as agreed, the Commissioners would exercise their right to re-instate a 9-metre Byelaw maintenance strip.

After further discussion it was agreed that if the work was not undertaken all residents of properties backing onto the ditch would be instructed to move all objects and fencing within 9 metres from the top of the ditch, resulting in residents losing part of their gardens and the demolition of structures.

Members also considered that if the ditch was not pipe and filled or the 9-metre maintenance strip re-instated both Matthew Homes Limited and the residents should be advised that if flooding occurred, due to the Board's requests being ignored, that this would be their responsibility and not that of the Board.

Mr Heading reported it was a complete nonsense there was a Highland Water area in the District or anywhere in the Fens. He added there should be a consistent approach and all the land in the Highland Water Catchment should pay rates the same as anyone else. He confirmed he had raised this point on many occasions and the previous Clerk had been reluctant to take any action. Mr Heading considered that, if this matter continued, Boards would be making another rod for their own backs.

Councillor French updated the Board on the March area Transport Study.

RESOLVED

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

- ii) That the floor plates around the electric pump and the plates supporting frame at Latches Fen pumping station be replaced.
- iii) That the engine at Latches Fen pumping station be serviced.
- iv) That the drive coupling at Latches Fen pumping station be replaced.
- v) That the exercise timer and wire ropes for the hoist on the weedscreen at Latches Fen pumping station be repaired.
- vi) That the Board supports the removal of the Right to Connect be public sewers.
- vii) Matthew Homes Limited (MLC Ref Nos 743, 775, 776, 808, 817, 832 & 864).
 - a) That notices to be sent to residents advising flail mowing and slubbing works are to commence w/c/ 18th July 2022 and instructing that all objects in contravention of the 4.5 metre maintenance strip must be removed before this date and not replaced.
 - b) That residents be advised that works are necessary to prevent flooding and all spoil from the ditch will be spread on the 4.5 metre maintenance strip
 - c) That the Consulting Engineer investigates whether the agreement by Matthew Homes Ltd to pipe and fill the ditch was received in writing
 - d) That the Consulting Engineer writes to Matthew Homes Ltd:
 - i) Reminding them of their previous agreement to pipe and fill the ditch.
 - ii) Advising that if the ditch is not piped and filled, as agreed, the Commissioners will exercise their right to re-instate a 9-metre Byelaw maintenance strip.
 - iii) That if the work is not undertaken all residents of properties backing onto the ditch will be instructed to move all objects and fencing within 9 metres from the top of the ditch, resulting in residents losing a further 4.5 metres of garden or in one instance 9 metres and the demolition of structures.
 - iv) That if the ditch is not pipe and filled or the 9-metre maintenance strip re-instated the Commissioners will not be responsible for any flooding that may occur and this will be the responsibility of Mathew Homes Ltd and the residents.
 - e) That a 9-metre maintenance strip be retained on all future developments.
 - f) That the matter regarding the Highwater Water catchment be discussed with the Environment Agency.

[Post Meeting Note]

Following the meeting Mr Lakey visited the Matthew Homes Ltd site to measure the maintenance strip in advance of the agreed flailmowing and slubbing works and he found the access strip was less than 4 metres wide.

Mr Lakey spoke with the Chairman today who, on behalf of the Board, instructed Middle Level Commissioners to proceed with whatever enforcement action was required to resolve the issue.

A meeting was held between the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Operations Engineer and Planning Engineer to discuss the way forward. It was agreed that Matthew Homes Limited be served with a 28-day notice to reinstate the 4-metre maintenance access strip.

NB Cllr Cornwell left the meeting after this item.

B.1384 Capital Improvement Programme

Members considered the Board's future capital improvement programme, viz;

March East Internal Drainage Board

Capital Improvement Programme (2022/2023)

		PREVIOUS YEARS	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	FUTURE YEARS	ALL YEARS
		Pre Yr 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Post Year 10	Total Expenditure
Bedlam 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	1,100.0	1100.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	4.5	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
	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	0.0	0.0
Binnimoor 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	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0.0	0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latches Fen 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	4.5	0.0	150.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	169.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	0.0	0.0
Drainage Channels														
		0	13.5	35	180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,115	1,344

Updated to engineer's asset appraisal - May 2020

Identified of PAFS submission 2020

Refurbishment of Latches Fen pumping station to be updated following completion of business plan assessment by engineer

RESOLVED

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

B.1385 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported there were no major problems within the District as there had not been any significant rainfall in the winter, he added that only routine works had been carried out. The District Officer confirmed that the pump attendants were happy to continue in their roles and he considered they were doing a good job.

He advised there was not much more to add to Mr Lakey's report.

RESOLVED

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

B.1386 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

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

March East 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.

March East 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 recorded along Sixteen Foot River during the period and likely widespread in the district.

Mink

Three mink were trapped in the district during the reporting period, the Board's raft continues to be an important means of monitoring this species. A full

summary of the region-wide project to date is available in the December 2021 Natural Level.

Other species/issues

The CO has commented on the culverting works along Binnimoor Road at node 7. Coir enhancement is planned here, to be overseen by the ecologists. This should be monitored annually at least to ensure it establishes safely and to ascertain the effectiveness of coir in an IDB drain.

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.~~

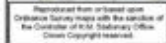
The culmination of our Floating Pennywort awareness project, this training morning will provide an up-to-date summary of invasive species, both flora and fauna, to look out for in the Middle Level. Guest speakers: Cliff Carson and Mike Foley. *This event has passed but the CO is happy to discuss or share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

F:\Admin\Word\marcheast\mins\9.6.2022



Members considered and approved the most recent BAP Report

B.1387 District Officer's Fee and Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's fee 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 £1,000.00 be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2022/2023.
- ii) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,095.00 be allowed for the provision of pumping station duties for 2021/2022.
- iii) That the Board agree that there be no increase in fee for pumping station duties or rent payable to the Board regarding Mr D Storey

(NB) – Mr C Martin declared a financial interest and the Vice Chairman took the Chair when this item was discussed.

The Chairman resumed the Chair

B.1388 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 that for Latches Fen Pumping Station.

B.1389 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 £12,048.00.

B.1390 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 £988.79 (£1,728.05 less £739.26 received on account) (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2020/2021 based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £1,054.26 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022.

B.1391 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that ADA has increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022, from £714 to £721.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2022 be paid.

B.1392 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.1393 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £2.75.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1394 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.1361, the Chairman reported that he had attended a couple of meetings during the past year with the Health & Safety Consultants and referred to the reports received from COPE Safety Management, viz:



Site Safety Inspection Record

March East IDB SSI 141021

Complete

Site Safety Inspection

Name of organisation:	March East Internal Drainage Board
Date of site visit	14 Oct 2021 12:01 BST
Address of inspected premises	Binnimoor Pumping Station Latches Fen Pumping Station Dam 11 location Bedlam Bridge Pumping Station.
Name of Advisor	Simon Cross
Time of arrival at site:	14 Oct 2021 08:55 BST
Audit Name	March East IDB SSI 141021

Audit

An opening meeting was held with

Clive Martin

Have there been any accidents since our last visit?

No

Have there been any new starters since our last visit?

No

Seasonal staff

1

Introduction. During the opening meeting, observations made during previous visits were discussed and then noted during the site visits to the pumping stations, details below. It was reported than no health and safety issues had been experienced since the last visit.

2

Binnimoor Pumping Station. The following observations and recommendations were made:

* Information. It was noted that the location information poster, held in a wall mounted poster display unit, was faded and much of the information illegible. In addition, the copy of the Employer's Liability Insurance certificate was an old version. It is recommended that these are replaced. See photo below.

* Warning signs. As there is machinery / equipment at the pumping station that can operate automatically, it is recommended that suitable warning signage is displayed both on the equipment and perimeter fence to indicate the hazard. Similar warning signage has been displayed at other other pumping station locations. Please see separate photographic risk assessment in this report for more detail.

* Electrical Safety. Pleasing to note that electrical testing and inspection had been undertaken in Nov 2020.



Photo 1

3

Latches Fen Pumping Station. The following observations and recommendations were made:

* Fire safety. Pleasing to see that new fire extinguishers had been provided and recently been inspected by Fenland Fire Appliance LLP in Jul 2021.

* Lifting equipment. The lifting equipment was noted to have been secured with a padlock to prevent its unauthorised use. Should it require to be used in future, it should be ensured that a competent person undertakes the necessary inspection to ensure its suitability prior to use.

4

Drainage point 11 dam. It was pleasing to note that the previous recommendation to provide edge protection on the platform of the dam structure had been completed with the provision of two chains spanning the gap. In addition it was reported that work at this location would never be undertaken alone.

Bedlam Bridge Pumping Station. The following observations and recommendations were made:

- * Information . As detailed in section 2 above, it was noted that the site information poster was becoming faded, it is recommended that this is replaced, together with a current copy of the Employer's Liability Insurance certificate.
- * Warning signage. As there is machinery / equipment at the pumping station that can operate automatically, it is recommended that suitable warning signage is displayed both on the equipment and perimeter fence to indicate the hazard. Similar warning signage has been displayed at other other pumping station locations. Please see separate photographic risk assessment in this report for more detail.
- * Access steps. It was pleasing to note that concrete steps and a handrail had been provided down the grass slope to the pumping station gate to improve safe access.

Photographic Risk Assessment

Photographic Risk Assessment

Photographic Risk Assessment

Photographic Risk Assessment 1

Location/Task/Activity

Binnimoor Pumping Station. Missing warning signage for automatically operated machinery.

Nature of hazard

Persons unaware of the automatic operation of the machinery.

Recommended remedial action

Display appropriate warning signage, on the machinery and perimeter fence to indicate the hazard of automatically operating machinery.

Applicable legislation

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of Health and Safety at Work
Regulations 1999

Provision and Use of Work Equipment
Regulations 1998

Health and Safety (Safety Signs and
Signals). Regulations 1996

Level of Risk

Medium

14 Oct 2021 09:58 BST



Photo 2

Photographic Risk Assessment 2

Location/Task/Activity

Bedlam Bridge Pumping Station. Missing warning signage for automatically operated machinery.

Nature of hazard

Persons unaware of the automatic operation of the machinery.

Recommended remedial action

Display appropriate warning signage, on the machinery and perimeter fence to indicate the hazard of automatically operating machinery.

Applicable legislation

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of Health and Safety at Work
Regulations 1999

Provision and Use of Work Equipment
Regulations 1998

Health and Safety (Safety Signs and
Signals). Regulations 1996

Level of Risk

Medium

14 Oct 2021 10:48 BST



Photo 3

Signature of person informed

Signature of person informed 1

Signature of person informed

Signed on behalf of client by advisor

14 Oct 2021 15:56 BST

Advisor's signature



Simon Cross

14 Oct 2021 15:56 BST

Departure time

14 Oct 2021 11:15 BST

Photographic Risk Assessments closed out during the visit.

SSI 200819 Ref 1. Edge protection chains now provided.

Number of outstanding Photographic Risk Assessments

0

From 0 to 99

Appendix



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

March East IDB

SUMMARY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC RISK ASSESSMENTS

Site Safety Inspection 14th October 2021

Ref.	Location	Risk Level	Brief Description	Action
1	Binnimoor Pumping Station	M	Missing warning signage for automatically operated machinery. Hazard is persons unaware of the automatic operation of the machinery. Display appropriate warning signage, on the machinery and perimeter fence to indicate the hazard of automatically operating machinery.	
2	Bedlam Bridge Pumping Station	M	Missing warning signage for automatically operated machinery. Persons unaware of the automatic operation of the machinery. Display appropriate warning signage, on the machinery and perimeter fence to indicate the hazard of automatically operating machinery.	

He confirmed that as and when any issues were raised, he instructed the Middle Level Commissioners to take the appropriate action.

B.1395 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:

March East 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 March East 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 March East Internal Drainage Board on application to:

The Clerk
March East Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 6AH

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:

MARCH EAST 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/No/Not	Yes/No/Not	Yes/No/Not	Yes/No/Not
	Yes	No	Not				
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 elections' 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 and 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:

03/06/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1371

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

Chairman

GE. [Signature]

Clerk

[Signature]

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	259,798	248,939	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	84,331	84,607	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,804	9,506	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	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	98,994	106,307	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	248,939	236,745	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	268,207	256,984	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	2,446,370	2,446,370	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	0	0	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	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

8th May 2021

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

03/06/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

B.1373

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

[Signature]

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of **MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD – DB0048**

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

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. 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 Catter FCA
Christopher D Ridgeon FCCA

Andrew P Winearls FCA
Ian G C Piper FCA
Barbara Nicholas CTA

Andrew R Sand FCA
Trina J Nunn FCA
Kelth J Day FCCA

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

ASSOCIATES

Richard A Alecock ATT
Stephen D Mallin ACA
Ben Beech ACA

Scott R Bishop FCA
Nicholas Edgley CTA
Hannah R Wisbey ACA

PRACTICE MANAGER

Janet S Frostick

Whitings LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales, number OC435038. The above listed Partners and Whitings Capital Ltd are the members of Whitings LLP. The registered office is: Greenwood House, Greenwood Court, Skyliner Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP22 7QY. Registered to carry on audit work in the UK; regulated for a range of investment business activities; and licensed to carry out the reserved legal activity of non-contentious probate in England and Wales by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

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 process 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 contained within a thin black rectangular border.

Whitings LLP

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

Internal Drainage Boards in England



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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 £.

MARCH EAST 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	44,415
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	44,415

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		44,323
2. Special Levies		40,284
3. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		1,074
4. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		0
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		343
10. Rents and Acknowledgements		7,800
11. Other Income		289
Total income		94,113
EXPENDITURE		
12. New Works and Improvement Works		0
13. Total precept to the Environment Agency		12,048
14. Watercourse maintenance		31,044
15. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		46,787
16. Administration		13,367
17. PSCAs		0
18. Rechargeable Works		0
19. Finance Charges		0
20. SSSIs		0
21. IDB Biodiversity and conservation (other than item 20 expenditure)		955
22. Other Expenditure		2,106
Total expenditure		106,307

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
23. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(12,194)
24. Developers Funds income not applied in year		50,413
25. Grant income not applied in year		0

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)?.....

03/06/2021

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?

32

How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

3

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

3.49 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?	23
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	14
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	15
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	8
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	6
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	5

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?

4.33%

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

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

Signature

S Ablett

Date

27/01/2021

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

MISS SAMANTHA ABLETT

Designation

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Email address

Sam.ablett@middlelevel.gov.uk

B.1397 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;

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2021/2022

Page no.

	<u>Approved budget</u> <u>2021/2022</u> £	<u>Actual to</u> <u>31.12.2021</u> £	<u>Forecasts to</u> <u>31.03.2022</u> £	<u>Remarks</u>
1 District labour	11,750	6,491	11,750	
2 Telephone and insurances	2,750	2,376	2,500	
3 Fuel (electricity, oil etc)	11,000	6,861	12,750	- Includes prior year re-invoicing - Binnimoor p/s 1,510
4 Repairs and renewals	10,750	6,878	10,500	- Includes provision for further works 2,500
5 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	28,000	15,690	28,000	- Includes provision for o/s contractor accounts 11,500
6 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	12,500	5,011	12,500	
7 Environment Agency Precept	12,048	12,049	12,048	
8 Future improvement works	10,000	7,500	10,000	
	98,798	62,854	100,048	
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, Development charges etc	11,009	9,718	12,343	
87,789	87,789	53,136	87,705	
General Fund				
Opening balance	186,331	186,331	186,331	
Rates set	93,195	93,396	93,396	0.11024
net expenditure	87,789	53,136	87,705	
creditors				
Close balance	<u>191,737</u>	<u>226,591</u>	<u>192,022</u>	

B.1398 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.1399 Risk Management Assessment

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

MARCH EAST IDB

INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS & BUNGALOW

		As At 31ST March 2022
BINNIMOOR PUMPING STATION		534,650.00
BEDLAM PUMPING STATION		734,250.00
LATCHES FEN PUMPING STATION		1,210,000.00
		2,478,900.00
LATCHES FEN BUNGALOW	Per Chairman	250,000.00
		2,728,900.00

B.1400 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.1401 Annual Governance Statement

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:

MARCH EAST 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.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
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.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
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.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
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.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>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.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
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.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
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
			<i>has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>

*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.1402 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £119,131.30 which had been made during the financial year 2021/202, viz;

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.63
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to pump, electrical testing, modification to hand gate lock and checking operation of pump and reset levels at Binnimoor pumping station	8,066.75
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of gas oil	624.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Health & safety improvement works and repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Bedlam pumping station	1,890.12
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract	6,813.05
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Weed control and drain maintenance 2020/21, planning and development applications)	2,772.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Binnimoor pumping station	751.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner, repairs to probes, resetting of motor overload after power cut, repairs to clutch, temporary repairs to pump controls from vermin damage, removal of weed from weedbay, disposal of tyres and supply of diesel at Latches Fen pumping station	4,594.65
D Brooks - Pumping station duties (Binnimoor Pumping Station)	1,036.00
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Environment Agency - Precept	6,024.25
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of Highnd Water claims	62.83
ADC (East Anglia) Ltd - Supply of Jet-Vac unit	528.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	773.29
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
E Mason & Son - Rates refund	578.04
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2021	856.80
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Bedlam pumping station	697.93
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to ultrasonic cable at Latches Fen pumping station	433.89
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
G Ashman - Flail mowing	2,640.00
D Brooks - Pumping station duties (Binnimoor Pumping Station)	266.11
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
PKF Littlejohns LLP - Audit Fee (2020-2021 accounts)	480.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges	5,277.18
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Prouction of Board report, attendance at meeting, planning and development applications)	1,559.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	773.29
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	2,323.98
Fenland Fire Appliances LLP - Service of fire extinguishers	36.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Refund of discharge contribution received	300.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Health & safety remedial works at control structure - Point 11	251.14
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
G Ashman - Flail mowing	2,460.00
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Environment Agency - Precept	6,024.25
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	980.93
Bank charges (Refunded)	6.00

Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	764.36
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2020-2021 accounts)	927.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	8.93
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	1,479.58
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	910.51
Middle Level Commissioners - Set winter levels at Binnimoor pumping station	46.96
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Bedlam pumping station	191.03
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to pump at Latches Fen pumping station	2,091.07
G Ashman - Flail mowing	3,024.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Chemical Weed Control of District drains	1,407.64
Middle Level Commissioners - Removal of rubbish from drain and clearance of bin bags	192.85
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of padlock	20.66
G Ashman - Flail mowing	3,490.00
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Ransonmoor IDB - Transfer of discharge contribution received	302.40
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of HighInd Water claims	60.11
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	40.00
Association of Drainage Authorities (River Great Ouse branch) - Subscription 2021/2022	30.00
P Sramek - Pumping station duties (Bedlam pumping station)	1,064.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	491.96
Middle Level Commissioners - Contribution (Environmental Officer)	705.00
C E Martin - District Officer's Fee 2021-2022	972.00
Darren Storey - Pumping Station duties	691.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	767.33
Middle Level Commissioners - Health and Safety re-charges for 2021-2022	480.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	571.80
D Brooks - Pumping station duties (Binnimoor Pumping Station)	797.89
B J Plant - Drain maintenance	12,552.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges and stationery	6,648.47
Middle Level Commissioners - Removal of rubbish	494.68
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Latches Fen pumping station	434.77
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Bedlam pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Latches Fen pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Binnimoor Fen pumping station)	133.49
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Bedlam pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Latches Fen pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Binnimoor pumping station)	2,415.86
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Latches Fen pumping station)	4,936.77
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Bedlam pumping station)	1,833.10
	<u><u>119,131.30</u></u>

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

(NB) – Mr C Martin declared an interest in the payment made to him.

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

B.1403 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;

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

2022 Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-		2021 Apr-01	Balance brought forward		186,331.38
	Precept	12,048.50				
	Rates, insurances, telephone	2,408.30	2022	Rate income & Special levy	93,187.69	
	Repairs & Renewals	8,292.39	Mar-31	Stitches Fen Contribution	<u>207.90</u>	93,395.59
	Fuel	12,003.73				
	Drainworks	30,025.23		Interest on Deposit Accounts		9.81
	District Labour	11,400.00		Highland Water contributions		1,992.96
	Administration charge, audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising etc	<u>12,411.29</u>		Development Charges		2,520.00
		76,540.94		Consents		0.00
				Rent		7,800.00
	<u>Future Improvement Works</u>					
	Rates raised 2021-2022	10,000.00				
	Balance carried forward	193,460.30				
		<u>292,049.74</u>				<u>292,049.74</u>

BALANCE SHEET
Capital Section

Liabilities

Capital Provisions	2,446,370.00
	<u>2,446,370.00</u>

Assets

Bungalow - Latches Fen	130,120.00
Land at Death Fen	1,000.00
Pumping Stations	2,315,000.00
Plant Assets	<u>250.00</u>
	2,446,370.00

Revenue Section

General Fund	193,460.30
Development Charges Account	47,896.10
Contributions Holdings Account	11,169.28
Future Works Account	10,000.00
Sundry Creditors	9,360.42

Ratepayers' Account - Arrears	2,159.06
Value added Tax - Refunds due	3,811.34
Sundry Debtors	0.00
Stock	520.00
Grant in Aid	1,046.21
Balance in hand -	
Barclays - Treasurer's Account	259,381.81
National Savings - Treasurer's Account	4,967.68
Labour Account	<u>0.00</u>
	264,349.49

March East Internal Drainage Board**Barclays - Treasurers Account 2021/2022**

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	251,226.85	Payments made during the year	119,131.30
31st March 2022			
Receipts during the year			
Clerk's collection account	127,274.34		
Interest on deposit accounts	<u>11.92</u>	Balance carried forward	259,381.81
	<u>378,513.11</u>		<u>378,513.11</u>

National Savings - Treasurers Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	4,967.18	Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2022			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.50	Balance carried forward	4,967.68
	<u>4,967.68</u>		<u>4,967.68</u>

Labour Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	789.58	Transfer to Barclays current account	789.62
31st March 2022			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.04	Balance carried forward	0.00
	<u>789.62</u>		<u>789.62</u>

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2022**Barclays Bank PLC****Clients Premium Account**

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022		266,959.73
Less unrepresented cheques	30/03/2022 2021/46	7,577.92
Add outstanding lodgements		0.00
Balance per Trial Balance		<u>259,381.81</u>

Labour Account

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

Cash balances as at 31st March 2022**Barclays Bank PLC**

Clients Premium Account	259,381.81
Clients Labour Account	0.00

National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	4,967.68
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<u>Total reconciled cash balances per accounts</u>	<u>264,349.49</u>
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Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	248,939	236,745	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	84,607	93,188	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	9,506	23,183	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	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	106,307	88,590	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	236,745	262,526	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	256,984	264,349	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	2,446,370	2,446,370	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	0	0	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

19/05/2022

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

March East 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	186,331.38	
	Development charges account	50,413.45	
		236,744.83	236,745
Line 2	Rates and Special Levies		
	Agricultural rates	48,780.49	
	Special Levies	44,415.00	
	Penalty	0.00	
	Costs	0.00	
	Write-off	-7.80	
		93,187.69	93,188
Line 3	Total other receipts		
	Interest		
	General fund	9.81	
	Development charges account	2.65	
	Consent applications	0.00	
	Stitches Fen Cont.	207.90	
	Telephone	0.00	
	Highland Water	1,992.96	
	Discharge contributions	11,169.28	
	Rent	7,800.00	
	Write Back of Provisions	0.00	
		21,182.60	21,183
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	0.00	
	PWLB - Interest	0.00	
		0.00	0
Line 6	All other payments		
	Precept	12,048.50	
	Rates, insurances, telephones	2,408.30	
	Repairs and renewals	8,292.39	
	Fuel	12,003.73	
	Drainworks	30,025.23	
	Administration	12,411.29	
	Development charges fees	0.00	
	Contractors charges	11,400.00	
	Scheme costs	0.00	
	Write back of provisions	0.00	
		88,589.44	88,590
Line 7	Balances carried forward		
	General Fund	193,460.30	
	Development charges account	47,896.10	
	Contributions Holding account	11,169.28	
	Future Works account	10,000.00	
		262,525.68	262,526
Reconciliation			
Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6		262,525.68	

RESOLVED

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

B.1404 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 52.32% and 47.68%, viz;

MARCH EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET 2022/2023

	<u>Approved budget</u> <u>2021/2022</u> £	<u>Actual</u> <u>2021/2022</u> £	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022/2023</u> £	<u>Remarks</u>
1 District labour	11,750	11,400	11,800	A - Provision based on 5 year average plus 50% for new contract rates
2 Telephone and insurances	2,750	2,408	2,750	B - Includes provision for repairs to floor plates and service diesel engine - Latches Fen pumping station 2,000
3 Fuel (electricity, oil etc)	11,000	12,004	18,500 ^A	<u>Does not include provision for replacement drive coupling - Latches Fen pumping station</u>
4 Repairs and renewals	10,750	8,292	7,750 ^B	C - Includes engineers items 32,970
5 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	28,000	30,025	37,250 ^C	D - Provision for installation of telemetry at pumping stations - 3 x stations at £4,500 13,500
6 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	12,500	12,411	12,600	Provision for future works 10,000
7 Environment Agency Precept	12,048	12,049	12,289	E - Includes: Grant-in-aid - telemetry installation (50%) 6,750
8 Future improvement works	10,000	10,000	23,500 ^D	<u>Use of balances for telemetry installation - surplus from 2021/2022</u> 6,750
	98,798	98,589	126,439	
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, Development charges etc	11,009	12,323	24,728 ^E	
	87,789	86,267	101,712	
General Fund				
Opening balance	186,331	186,331	193,460	
Rates set	93,195	93,396	101,712	0.12000
net expenditure	87,789	86,267	101,712	
creditors				
Close balance	<u>191,737</u>	<u>193,460</u>	<u>193,460</u>	

March East 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 – 52.32%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Fenland District Council – 47.68%.

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £4,434.

In 2022/023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £8,476.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2022 - £193,460.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2022/2023 is £101,712 and equivalent to:-

- a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 12.00p and
- b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £48,500.

In 2021/2022 a rate of 11.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £44,415 on Fenland District Council.

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Board

May 2022

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £110,188 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 £57,646 and £52,542 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 13.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £52,542 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1405 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday the 1st June 2023.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date