MARCH WEST AND WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the March West and White Fen Internal Drainage Board hosted at the Middle Level Offices, March on Monday the 9th May 2022

PRESENT

M J Mottram Esq (Chairman)	D Fountain Esq
J Neal Esq	T E Alterton Esq
D G West Esq	M Cornwell Esq
H W Whittome Esq	N Bates Esq
R Wicks Esq	Cllr J French

H Kisby Esq

Miss Lorna McShane Solicitor & Assistant Clerk to the Board and Mr Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Laws, Miss E Alterton, A Miscandlon Esq and J Brown Esq.

B.249 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillors Cornwell and Laws declared interests in all planning matters as members of Fenland District Council's Planning Committee.

Mr Hugh Whittome declared an interest (as a member of the Middle Level Board) in matters concerning Middle Level Commissioners.

David Fountain declared an interest in Anglian Farmers, and the planning application by Mr A Smith for residential development at Crazy Acres, Benwick.

Michael Mottram and Hugh Whittome declared an interest in the matter relating to pump attendants.

Michael Mottram also declared an interest in the planning application by Force One Ltd relating to the land at Whittlesey Road, March.

B.250 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 4th May 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.251 Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

B.252 Proposed Retail Park to the west of Hostmoor Avenue, March – Brossman Mills Ltd.

The Chairman reported that as referred to in the Consulting Engineers report, that there had been no had been taken on the Boards behalf. As this was for retail development, the lack of progress with this proposal could be for commercial reasons.

B.253 Bank Slip – Whittlesey Road, March

The Chairman reminded the Board about the large cracks in the road at this location, and about previous attempts to contact the Highways Authority about this matter.

Cllr Jan French provided details of the newly appointed Director of Environment at Cambridgeshire County Council.

RESOLVED

That the Solicitor and Assistant Clerk write to Cambridgeshire County Council about the continuing deterioration of the road surface at this location.

B.254 White Fen Pumping Station Business Plan for works required and potential for Grant-in -Aid application.

The Chairman reported that refurbishment works to the pump and the outfall flap valve had been identified for White Fen Pumping Station at an estimated cost of £100,000. A business case would be prepared and Grant-in-Aid application was scheduled to be made on behalf of the board in April/June 2024.

B.255 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane 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 bit 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.

RESOLVED

That the Boards Thanks be passed to Richard Lloyd & Malcolm Downes for all their hard work and efforts with the Boards pumps.

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 CO^2 release had shown that a well irrigated peat field of onions released less CO^2 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.139, 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

Further to minute B.224(v), the Clerk reported that the survey of the Boards System had been completed. An order had been placed for telemetry at all of the Boards six Pumping Stations and these had been approved.

vi) 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.

vii) Water Resources East (WRE)

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

viii) 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.

ix) Anglia Farmers

The Clerk 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.

x) Fens Biosphere

The Clerk 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.

Cllr Jan French reported that Roger Mitchell – Chairman of Fens Biosphere – has written to Fenland District Council to set up a meeting with the Portfolio holder for the Environment at the Council

B.256 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Enc 1

March West & White Fen IDB

Consulting Engineers Report – April 2022

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

March & Whittlesey Area

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

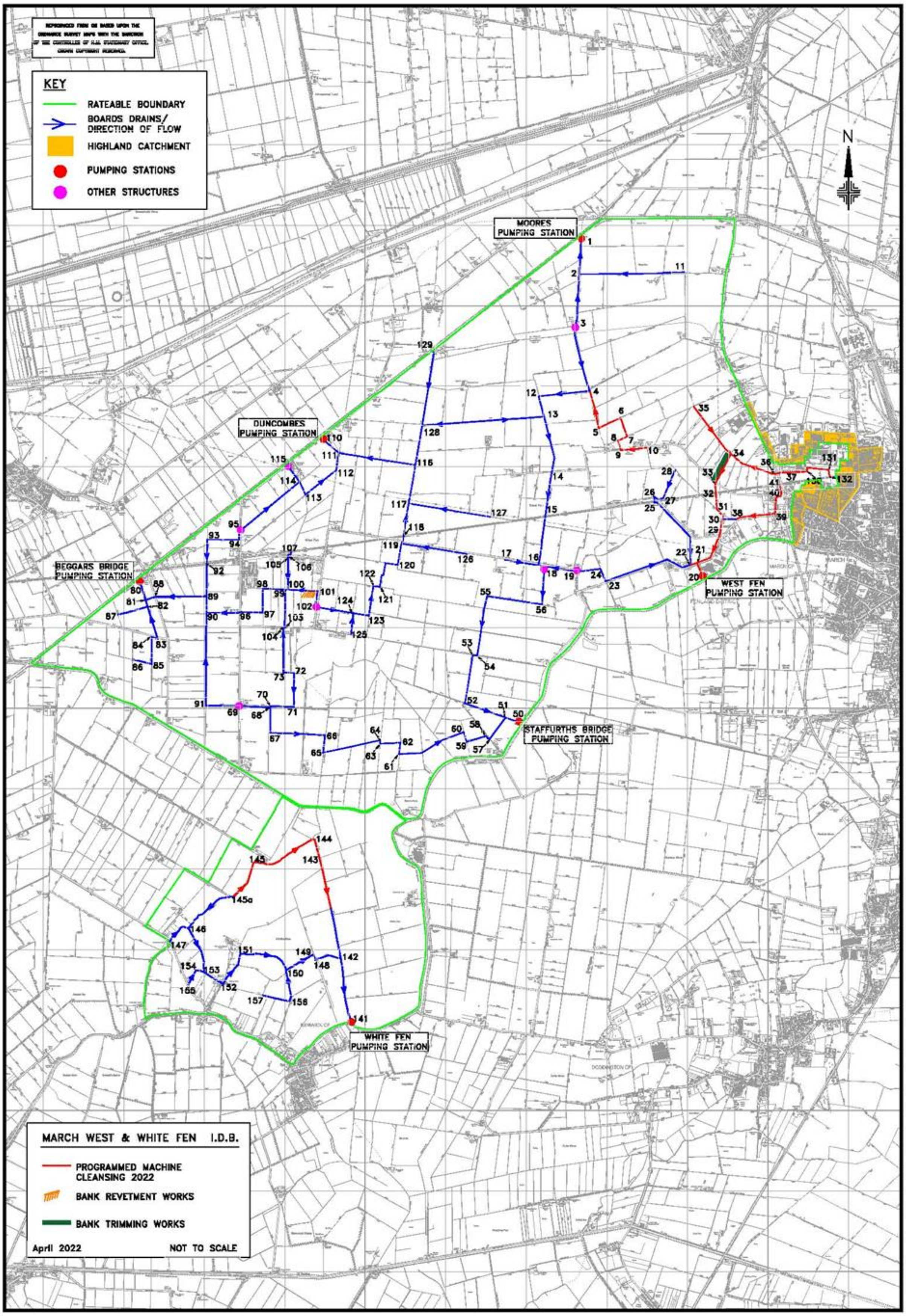
Following the Board's resolution in 2007 to implement a phased programme of bank revetment works within the Board's drainage system, approximately 200m of toe board and piling works were undertaken along the northern bank of the Beggars Bridge main pump spur drain last winter. The bank revetment works included a continuation of the use of re-cycled aggregates (brick bats), as previously used at other sites.

Beggars Bridge spur drain, reach 81-88

Provisional notices for this year's intended machine cleansing works have been sent out. The extent of this year's phased programme of maintenance works is shown on the following site plan.

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

Similar to last year's inspection there are several relatively short lengths of bank subsidence throughout the district. The majority of these are reasonably insignificant and can, with periodic monitoring, hopefully be left to "self-heal". Should remedial intervention be required in the future, they can be prioritised in order of their severity. However, approximately 100m of bank subsidence is evident along reach 100-101 in the Turves area, and there is further subsidence in the Staffurths pump drain, where historically bank subsidence has been problematic over many years. It is recommended that bank reprofiling/revetment works be approved by the Board, as a priority, and that they be undertaken as part of the Board's phased revetment programme as soon as ground conditions allow.



It was also noted that some drains in the Whitemoor Road area are also suffering from bank slips, which is likely to be caused by the unnecessarily steep profile. As these drains fall within this year's machine cleansing programme, it is proposed that the affected banks are reprofiled while the cleansing machine is in the local vicinity, to reduce the likelihood of further bank slippage incidents and remove the small slips that are present.

Approximately 100m
reach 84-85

Short length of bank collapse due to steep bank profile
reach 33-34

As the Board's annual meeting falls during the early part of the growing season, it is proposed that an inspection of the Board's drains be undertaken during the summer months in order to identify other areas of bank subsidence, and then to prioritise the worst affected reaches such that they can be programmed and dealt with under the phased programme of bank revetment works. In this respect, a sum has been allocated in the Board's estimated costs to allow for toe board and piling works to be undertaken to stabilise and return the side sloping banks to their original profile.

An allowance has been included within this year's estimated costs to allow for a Roundup Pro Biactive herbicide application to be made in advance of the programmed machine cleansing work, and in any other district drains identified as requiring herbicide treatments, to control emergent weed and reed growths following the Board's inspection later in the summer months.

Members will be aware, that the Board's flail mowing requirements were undertaken by Mr R Dale last year and he has indicated he is available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements again this year. A sum has been included within the estimated costs for the flail mowing of district drains to be undertaken this year.

A provisional sum has been allocated within the Board's estimated costs to allow for any emergency machine cleansing, Cott (filamentous algae) removal or culvert clearance works that may become necessary later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance works is as follows. An additional allowance has also been included in the estimates, in anticipation of an expected increase in contractor's hourly rates this year, due to rises in operational costs and the current high cost of fuel. Please refer to the site plan on page 2 of this report for locations.

						£
1.	Machine cleanse the following reaches:					
	<u>Duncombes Catchment Area</u> 4-5-6-7-8-9-10	1600	m	@	1.50	2400.00
	<u>West Fen Catchment Area</u> 20-21	200	m	@	5.00	1000.00
	21-29-30-31-32-33-34	1700	m	@	1.50	2550.00
	38-39-40-41	900	m	@	3.50	3150.00
	35-34-36-37-130-131-132	2200	m	@	1.50	3300.00
2.	<u>Provisional Item/Estimated sum</u> Allow sum for bank reinstatement works	Item	Sum			15000.00
3.	Roundup herbicide application	Item	Sum			1400.00
4.	Flail mowing of District Drains	Item	Sum			10800.00
5.	<u>Provisional Item</u> Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing, Cott removal or culvert clearance	Item	Sum			2000.00
6.	Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of the report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance	Item	Sum			2500.00
		TOTAL				**£44,100.00**

White Fen Area

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

Provisional notices of this year's intended machine cleansing works, in accordance with the phased maintenance programme approved at the 2009 annual meeting, have been posted. The extent of this year's phased programme of maintenance works is shown on the previous site location plan (see page 2 of this report).

Roundup herbicide was applied to reaches in advance of the phased programmed machine cleansing works.

As the Board's annual meeting falls during the early part of the growing season it is proposed that a detailed district inspection be undertaken during the summer months, to identify any additional works or herbicide applications that may be required.

An illustration of typical bank slip occurrence, partially blocking the water channel at Point 151 exposed during low

Similar to the March & Whittlesey area (see previous section), the recent inspection has shown that many of the White Fen area drains, that fall within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status. Again, and similar to the former March & Whittlesey Board's drains, there are also several short lengths of bank subsidence evident, and these will require monitoring and further intervention if they deteriorate any further.

The Board's flail mowing contractor, Mr R Dale, has indicated he will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing requirements this year. In anticipation of the Board's agreement a modest flail mowing budget figure has been allocated within the estimated costs for this year.

Provision has been included within the Board's estimated expenditure to allow for a Roundup herbicide application to be applied to drains included within this year's phased machine cleansing programme, and to any other district drains where an herbicide treatment is required, to control reed stands or substantial growths of emergent aquatic vegetation.

A provisional sum has been included within the Board's estimate to allow for emergency machine cleansing, cott removal, culvert clearance or bank revetment works that may be required later in the year.

The estimated cost of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain maintenance works is as follows. An additional allowance has also been included in the estimates, in anticipation of an increase in contractor's rates this year, due to the current high cost of fuel. Please refer to the previous site plan (page 2) for locations.

						£
1.	<u>Machine cleanse the following reach</u> 143-144-145-145a	2000	m	@	1.50	3000.00
2.	Allow sum for Roundup application	Item	Sum			750.00
3.	Allow sum for flail mowing in advance of machine cleansing works	Item	Sum			<u>2400.00</u>
		carried forward				**6150.00**

	brought forward			**6150.00**
4.	**Provisional Item** Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing Cott removal, culvert clearance or bank revetment works	Item	Sum	1000.00
5.	Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangements and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance works	Item	Sum	700.00
	TOTAL			**£7,850.00**

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

Pumping Stations

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

Duncombes

Pump 2 continues to operate with a faulty seal/chamber leakage sensor. Monitoring of the motor for signs of moisture ingression will continue to be carried out until the pump is removed for a full inspection and overhaul. The winding resistance of pump 2 had shown an increase at the January 2022 inspection but had dropped by the April inspection and we will continue to monitor this.

Pump 1 was found tripped during the April 2022 inspection and testing showed that the motor windings are out of balance so pump 1 will not run. Pump 1 needs to be removed for further inspection to determine if the fault is with cabling, connections or the internal motor windings. If it is the windings the pump will need to be overhauled or replaced. As these pumps are close to 30 years old, and this pump was overhauled in 2016, it is recommended that replacement rather than overhaul would be a more cost-effective solution in the long term. A quote from the manufacturer for a replacement pump has been requested accordingly but it is anticipated that it is likely to be in the region of £30K.

West Fen

The weedscreen cleaner is currently isolated pending repair after the main fuses blew due to a faulty power supply for grab hydraulics. Also, the slack rope roller is missing.

White Fen

As previously reported the V J adaptors on the delivery pipes below the intake sump covers will, at some point, require replacement; this however is not urgent. The outfall flap valve is also badly corroded and will need overhaul this summer (2022).

Pump-on motor overloads were occurring regularly and considered likely to be due to debris on the propeller blades which is washed off when the pump stops. The controls were modified in September 2021 to auto reset pump faults after pump running, but not during start up so that the pump is still protected.

The weedscreen cleaner was recently repaired as the trolley jammed due to a loose track, the loose section was refitted. It would be advisable to replace all track bolts which will cost approximately £2K.

Pumping Hours

Beggars Bridge

Hours Run	March 2018 - March 2019	March 2019 – March 2020	March 2020 – March 2021	March 2021 – March 2022
Total Hours	153 (12175)	348 (12523)	524 (13047)	59 (13106)

Hours Run	April 2012 – April 2013	April 2013 – April 2014	April 2014 – April 2015	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018
Total Hours	519 (11386)	112 (11498)	94 (11592)	133 (11725)	110 (11835)	187 (12022)

Duncombes

Hours Run	March 2018 - March 2019	March 2019 – March 2020	March 2020 – March 2021	March 2021 – March 2022
No 1	269 (8115)	122 (8237)	930 (9167)	536 (9703)
No 2	114 (8014)	1114 (9128)	253 (9381)	60 (9441)
Total Hours	383	1236	1183	596

Hours Run	April 2012 – April 2013	April 2013 – April 2014	April 2014 – April 2015	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018
No 1	528 (7081)	131 (7212)	183 (7395)	94 (7489)	72 (7561)	285 (7846)
No 2	737 (7047)	144 (7191)	207 (7398)	74 (7472)	141 (7613)	287 (7900)
Total Hours	1265	275	390	168	213	572

Staffurths Bridge

Hours Run	March 2018 - March 2019	March 2019 – March 2020	March 2020 – March 2021	March 2021 – March 2022
No 1	173 (9628)	451(10079)	85 (10164)	130 (10294)
No 2	282 (9830)	53 (9883)	991 (10874)	183 (11057)
Total Hours	455	504	1076	313

Hours Run	April 2012 – April 2013	April 2013 – April 2014	April 2014 – April 2015	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018
No 1	23 (7847)	259 (8106)	666 (8772)	77 (8849)	466 (9315)	140 (9455)
No 2	996 (8536)	525 (9061)	60 (9121)	154 (9275)	112 (9387)	161 (9548)
Total Hours	1019	784	726	231	578	301

Moores

Hours Run	March 2018 - March 2019	March 2019 – March 2020	March 2020 – March 2021	March 2021 – March 2022
Total Hours	84 (3518)	194 (3712)	378 (4090)	27 (4117)

Hours Run	April 2012 – April 2013	April 2013 – April 2014	April 2014 – April 2015	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018
Total Hours	48 (2940)	152 (3092)	132 (3224)	7 (3231)	99 (3330)	104 (3434)

West Fen

Hours Run	March 2018 - April 2019	April 2019 – March 2020	March 2020 – March 2021	March 2021 – March 2022
Total Hours	618 (13050)	353 (13403)	477 (13880)	103 (13983)

Hours Run	April 2012 – April 2013	April 2013 – April 2014	April 2014 – April 2015	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018
Total Hours	504 (11228)	225 (11453)	371 (11824)	121 (11945)	200 (12145)	287 (12432)

White Fen

Hours Run	April 2015 – February 2016	February 2016 – February 2017	February 2017 – March 2018	March 2018 - April 2019	April 2019 – April 2020	April 2020 – March 2021	March 2021 - March 2022
No 1	140 (2707)	364 (3071)	74 (3145)	30 (3175)	95 (3270)	154 (3424)	23 (3447)
No 2	24 (1603)	1 (1604)	11 (1615)	436 (2051)	543 (2594)	1278 (3872)	116 (3988)
Total Hours	164	365	85	466	638	1432	139

Asset Appraisals

At its last Board Meeting the Board requested that annual Asset Appraisals be carried out for the Board's Pumping Stations, starting with White Fen. The first report was produced by Richard Lloyd prior to his departure and is provided below:

White Fen PS

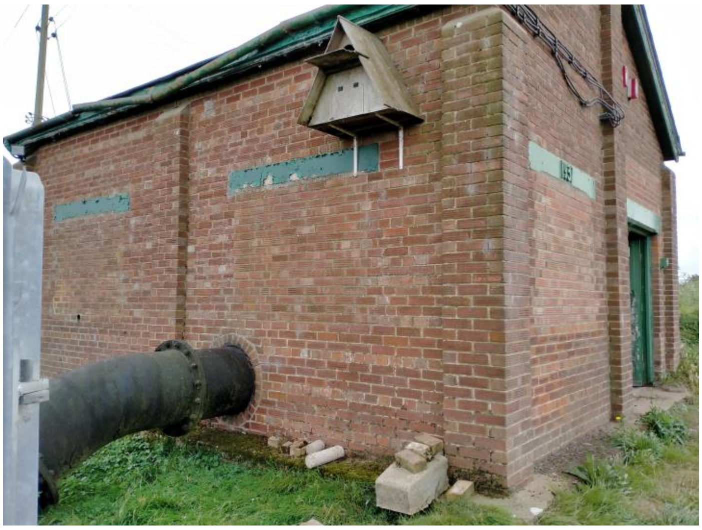
Station Details

Internal Drainage Board	March West and White Fen IDB
Commissioned	Originally 1937 upgraded with new pumps 1991
Pumps	2 no. Allen Gwynnes 18″ vertical spindle axial flow
Duty	440 l/s @ 3m Total Gauge Head
Drive Motor	General Electric Corporation 26kW @ 730 rpm
Gearbox	Newbrook on pump one pump
Control Equipment	TT pump star delta Installed 2007
Automatic Level Control	Pulsar Ultra 3
Weedscreen Cleaner	By Metalcraft installed 2018
Discharge Pipework	Ductile Iron with syphon breaker & flap valve
Telemetry	None
Fencing	1.8m high galvanised palisade

General

The station serves a 790Ha area north of Benwick and up until the 1st April 2016 was a lone station and was administered as White Fen IDB. As of 1st April 2016, White Fen IDB was amalgamated with March & Whittlesey IDB to become March West & White Fen IDB.

Pump House



The building is generally in a good condition with no spalling of the brickwork and the roof appears sound as viewed from the inside however the guttering and facia boards are in urgent need of repair.

Pump/Control Equipment

Records for this station are sparce but the pumps are estimated to have been installed in 1991 and as far as can be ascertained have never been overhauled, the original manufacturer is no longer trading. Whilst they have been no major issues the pumps have always suffered from clogging. This issue manifests itself in late autumn through to January when there is a lot of leaf litter and weed which is believed to slowly foul the propeller blade increasing the amp draw until the motor trips. On stopping, the cascading water down the column pipe washes the debris off the propeller blade and the pump can be restarted without issue until the next fouling (typically within an hour of running). Until September 2021 the pumps would trip and be locked out until they were reset manually; however, panel modifications completed on 1st September 2021 enable the pumps to reset automatically when a minor fouling of the propeller is detected and it is hoped this will be a great asset to the pump attendant in the forthcoming winter. Whist the operating hours are low (around 3500 per pump to date) the pumps are now over 30 years old and it would be prudent to remove one of them for overhaul or replacement in 2022. It is hoped this will be supported by grant aid (ref Board meeting May 2021).

The pump control panel (green) was manufactured by TT pumps and is in a reasonable condition and although the components are packed quite tightly the panel should be readily repairable for another 10-15 years. The modifications detailed above were carried out by Carlton Controls of Waltham Abbey. The grey panel pictured is the weedscreen cleaner panel.

Weedscreen Cleaner

The cleaner and weedscreen were manufactured by Metal Craft (Chatteris) and installed in February 2018. However, whilst the company is still trading, it suspended the manufacture and repair of weedscreen cleaners in early 2021, siting that this activity was no longer profitable.

Telemetry
The station is not currently fitted with telemetry.

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

The station is accessed via the west/north bank of the Old River Nene either from the old Bank Farm workshop on Whittlesey Road in Benwick or at White Fen Farm on the Floods Ferry Road. The access to the station is extremely poor and at certain times of the year it can be difficult to access even with a 4x4. It is recommended that the Board reviews the pumping station access, which should be suitable for use by heavy mobile cranes and emergency service vehicles at all times.

Outlet/Inlets
At the time of conducting the survey both inlet and outlet were covered in vegetation making an assessment of the civil structures difficult; however, from previous visits there is no suggestion that either are in an unsatisfactory condition and should therefore last at least another 15-20 years. The outfall flap valve is however badly corroded and is approved to be repaired together with the overhaul of a pump which is hoped will be supported by grant aid (ref Board meeting May 2021).

Pumping Station Valuations

The following is an estimate of the maximum expected cost of rebuilding or replacing the pumping station on the same or an adjacent site following a catastrophic failure, eg a fire, a collapse or an explosion.

Site Name	**White Fen D.D.C-White Fen Pumping Stn.**
Site Data	
No. Pumps	2
Station Capacity	0.88 cumecs
Station built	1964
Description of Station	2 no. 26kW GEC motors with 2 no. 450mm VSAF pumps, dual drive gearbox, Van der Spec weedscreen cleaner & TT Controls star delta equipment. Pumps refurbished 2014. Brick control building with pitched asbestos cement tiled roof.
Valuation	
Civils Works	£482,400.00
M&E	£245,250.00
Other	£44,200.00
Total	**£771,850.00**
Breakdown of valuation	
Civils Works	
Pump sump/pipework	£336,000.00
Hard standing	
Fencing	£12,000.00
Outfall	£56,000.00
Control building	£22,400.00
Other surge chamber	£56,000.00
M&E	
Pumps	£109,000.00
Control Equipment, cabling	£32,700.00
Power Supply	
Motors	£16,350.00
Weedscreen cleaner	£87,200.00
Other	
Approvals	£11,050.00
Liaison and consultation	£5,525.00
Design	£16,575.00
Supervision	£11,050.00

Pumping Station 20 Year Expenditure Forecast

Pumping Station	White Fen
Internal Drainage Board	White Fen DDC

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 - 10	Year 11 - 15	Year 16 - 20
Function Category	Description	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025 - 2030	2030 - 2035	2035 - 2040
Total Refurbishment/Replacement									
Pumping and Control Equipment			40k	30k					
Weedscreen Cleaning Equipment									
Control Building			5k						
Compound and Surroundings									
Telemetry			5k						

Need

5k Repairs to facias and guttering

30k pump & outfall flap valves overhaul

5k Telemtry

30k second pump overhaul

Note - Costs are based on value of works at 2020 prices.
These are estimated capital replacement figures and do not include routine maintenance costs.

The Right to Connect

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

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

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

In order to assist further discussion, the Board/Commissioners are asked to consider if they would support removal of the right to connect to public sewers or not.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 39 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	*Council Ref.*	*Applicant*	*Type of Development*	*Location*
793	F/YR21/0267/F	Bank Farm Ltd	Residential (Change of use - 5 plots)	Whittlesey Road, Benwick*
794	F/YR21/0292/F	Goldstar Metal Traders	Industrial (Workshop)	Thorby Avenue, March*
795	F/YR21/0464/F	Mr & Mrs Graves	Residence (Extension)	Norwood Road, March
796	F/YR21/0424/F	Terrance Collings	Residential (Gypsy and traveller site)	Middle Road, March
797	F/YR21/0486/F	Mr & Mrs Eldred	Residential (Conversion of garages - 3 plots)	Peas Hill Road, March
798	F/YR21/0557/F	Mr B Schooling	Residential	Burnthouse Road, Turves

			(2 dwellings)	
799	Enquiry	Kevin Walker	Residence (Waste Water Treatment Plant)	Whitemoor Road, March
800	F/YR21/0651/F	Ms L Beard	Residence (Extension)	Whittlesey Road, Benwick
801	Consultation – Group 1	Network Rail	Ely Area Capacity Enhancements (EACE) Programme	Three Horseshoes (Whittlesey Road/March Road)/Burnthouse Road Crossings
802	Consultation – Group 2	Network Rail	Ely Area Capacity Enhancements (EACE) Programme	March South (Creek Road), March East (Station Road), Norwood Road Crossings
803	Enquiry	Force One Ltd	Office	Marina Drive, March
804	F/YR21/0696/O	Mr R Devenish	Residence (1 plot)	Quakers Drove, Turves
805	F/YR21/0765/AG1	Mr & Mrs P Jeffery	Agricultural (Storage building)	Whitemoor Road, March
806	F/YR21/0832/F	Mr & Mrs A Cobb	Residence	March Road, Turves
807	F/YR21/0830/F	Mrs C Dean	Residence	Church Gardens, Westry, March
808	F/YR21/3072/COND	Guy James Ltd	Residential (9 plots)	Wisbech Road, March*
809	F/YR21/0887/F	Force One Ltd	Commercial (Office/vehicle workshop and training centre)	Whittlesey Road, March*
810	F/YR21/0885/F	Aldi Stores Ltd	Retail (Food store)	Hostmoor/Martin Avenue, March*
811	F/YR21/0956/PNH	Mrs G Carter	Residence (Extension)	Russell Avenue, March
812	F/YR21/1044/PNC04	Mr J Wiles	Change of use (Agricultural to residential)	Whitemoor Road, March
813	F/YR21/1087/F	Mr & Mrs G Burgess	Residence (Extensions)	Elliott Road, March
814	Enquiry	RVL Properties	Commercial/Industrial	Hostmoor Avenue, March*
815	F/YR21/1275/F	Guy James Ltd	Residential (3 plots)	Wisbech Road, March*
816	Enquiry (Pre-app)	Client of Ian Gowler Consulting Ltd	Residence	Silver Street, March
817	Discharge consent application	Andrew & Wendy Lashley	Residence (Waste Water Treatment Plant)	March Road, Turves*
818	F/YR21/3128/COND	United Living Group	Residential (118 plots)	North of The Green/ Wisbech Road, March*
819	F/YR21/1437/F	Mr & Mrs A Cobb	Residential (2 plots)	March Road, Turves
820	F/YR21/1492/F	Mr N Jones	Residence (Extension)	Burnthouse Road, Turves
821	F/YR21/1488/RM	D R Betts Bespoke Joinery	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March*
822	Enquiry	G's Beetroot	Industrial (Extension)	Hostmoor Avenue, March*
823	F/YR21/1520/F	Mr A Smith	Residential (Gypsy and traveller site)	Chase Road, Benwick*
824	F/YR21/0012/F	Mr W Ho	Residence	Whittlesey Road, March
825	F/YR22/0040/F	Mr Tonks & Miss Covey	Residence	March Road, Coates
826	F/YR22/0075/F	Mr & Mrs Smith	Residence	

			(Extension)	Goosetree Road, Rings End
827	F/YR22/0069/F	Mr & Mrs Earl	Residence (Extension)	Burnthouse Road, Turves
828	F/YR22/0046/F	Mr A Hudson	Residence (Extension)	Norwood Road, March
829	F/YR20/0760/PIP	Mr J Green & Mr D Rimmer	Residential (3 plots)	Whittlesey Road, Benwick*
830	F/YR22/0138/F	Mr & Mrs K Tadman	Residence	School Road, Turves
831	F/YR22/0151/F	Ms J Greenwood	Residence (Extension)	March Road, Turves

Planning applications ending 'AG1' relate to Agricultural Notification
Planning applications ending 'COND' or 'DISC' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions
Planning applications ending 'PNH' relate to household permitted regulations notification
Entries ending 'PNCO' relate to prior notification change of use issues
Entries ending 'RM', 'REM' or 'RMM' relate to reserved matters

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

The following applications are for development where the discharge is attenuated by public balancing ponds before entering the Board's system:

(i) Aldi Stores Ltd (MLC Ref No 810)
(ii) Client of Ian Gowler Consulting Ltd (MLC Ref No 816)

With the exception of any relevant entries in the text below, no applications have been received for either the Infiltration Device Self Certification or the Checking Service since the last meeting report.

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.

- *Agricultural buildings and warehousing – MBM Produce* (MLC Ref Nos 135 & 267) *and Erection of 2 x warehouse extensions to existing building and the erection of a 2.4m high (max height) palisade fence to boundary – Ken Thomas Warehousing Ltd* (MLC Ref No 693) *on land and buildings at Glenthorn Farm, 133 Whittlesey Road, March*

- *Residential development including the formation of vehicular accesses on land south of 710 Whittlesey Road, March - R Green* (MLC Ref Nos 430, 502 & 504), *Ideal Prestige Properties* (MLC Ref Nos 570 & 572) *and Prestige Properties Turves* (MLC Ref No 717)

- *Erection of office building, four bay coach garage and 2m high palisade fencing to west and north boundaries with associated parking at 49 Whittlesey Road, March - Fenn Holidays Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 435 & 712)

- *Various developments at West Fen Farm, Whitemoor Road, March – Hetherington Properties Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 448, 569 & 724), *Client of Cannon Consulting Engineers* (MLC Ref No 680), *R H & R W Clutton LLP* (MLC Ref No 690) + *RKE Biogroup Ltd* (MLC Ref No 725)

- A*gricultural buildings at Burnthouse Farm, Burnthouse Sidings, Turves – Royston Farms Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 455 & 714)

- *Residential development on land north of 35 Whittlesey Road, March - Greene King PLC* (MLC Ref Nos 525, 544 & 561), *Client of Caldecote Group* (MLC Ref No 566) *& MJS Construction (March) Ltd* (MLC Ref No 708) & *MJS Acquisitions (March) Ltd* (MLC Ref No 762)

- *Erection of two pig rearing buildings and feed stock storage area; an anaerobic digester plant and process building; formation of digestate lagoon and construction of 2.0 metre high earth bunding on land to the south of Bates Farm – Client of Roy Lobley* (MLC Ref No 666) & *J Bates & Son* (MLC Ref Nos 675 & 706)

- *Formation of a vehicular access and piping of drain at Fenn Lodge, 37 Whittlesey Road, March – Mr & Mrs M Griffin* (MLC Ref Nos 691 & 723)

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, see below, 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 that the provision of adequate arrangements is made. These should include; 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 and should be 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/Westry/Hostmoor (General area rather than parish/town boundaries)

Residential development and associated parking at Baxter's Dairy and land south of Peas Hill Road, March – D J & N R Baxter; D J & G W Tuffs & J Helmer (MLC Ref No 238) & CGT Developments (MLC Ref Nos 328 & 443); Mr G Wilding (MLC Ref Nos 599, 601 & 627)

Members may recall the contents of the 2017 Board Meeting Report when a purchaser's solicitor contacted the Board in respect of a note that had been requested on the Local Land Charge Register (LLCR) because surface water issues at this site had not been resolved. Due to the unique circumstances of the application the then Clerk to the Board spoke to the then Board Chairman concerning the site and it was agreed that consent could be issued for the property.

In order to avoid the previous problems, the same land owner contacted the Board during March 2022 concerning the sale of another property along Peas Hill Road. He was again advised to submit a discharge consent application which will be considered on a similar basis to the previous application.

Developments at 366 Wisbech Road, Westry

(a) *Food processing facility – Fenmarc Produce Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 284 & 373) *and International Procurement & Logistics Limited* (MLC Ref No 748)

(b) *Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility - Local Generation Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 446, 460, 508, 585, 589, 604, 619, 625 & 758)

No further correspondence has been received and the current position is being ascertained.

Erection of 3 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and 1 x 2-storey 5-bed dwelling and detached garage with playroom/gym above at land east of Silver Street, March - Mr & Mrs Edgoose (MLC Ref Nos 314, 571, 639 & 640); *Nick* Leeding (MLC Ref No 667) & Nick Bell (MLC Ref No 816)

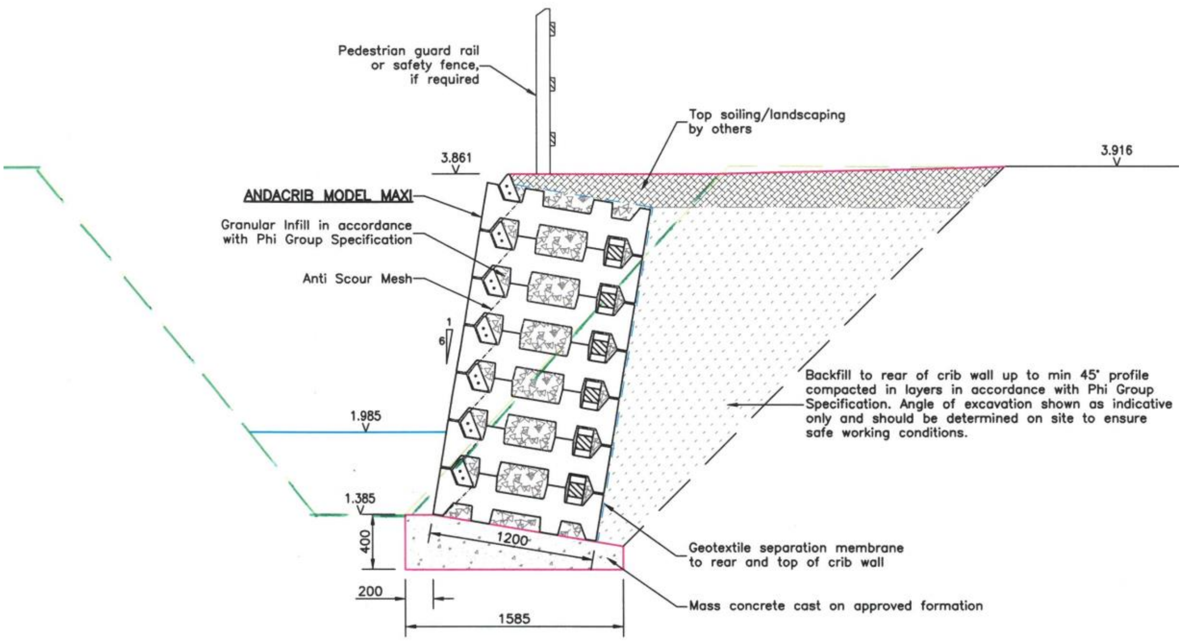
Further to the last Board Meeting the developer has informed us that the owners were made aware of their riparian responsibilities and were happy to undertake maintenance of the watercourse. It is not known at this time if this work has been completed.

A completed post-application consultation request form was received by the Commissioners' Technical Services Department from the applicant's agent, Ian Gowler Consulting, on behalf of his client, concerning the remaining plot of land adjoining 19 Silver Street (MLC Ref No 816). The proposal includes the formation of a criblock retaining wall to provide a solid channel profile in the water body around the property, as shown on the following drawings.

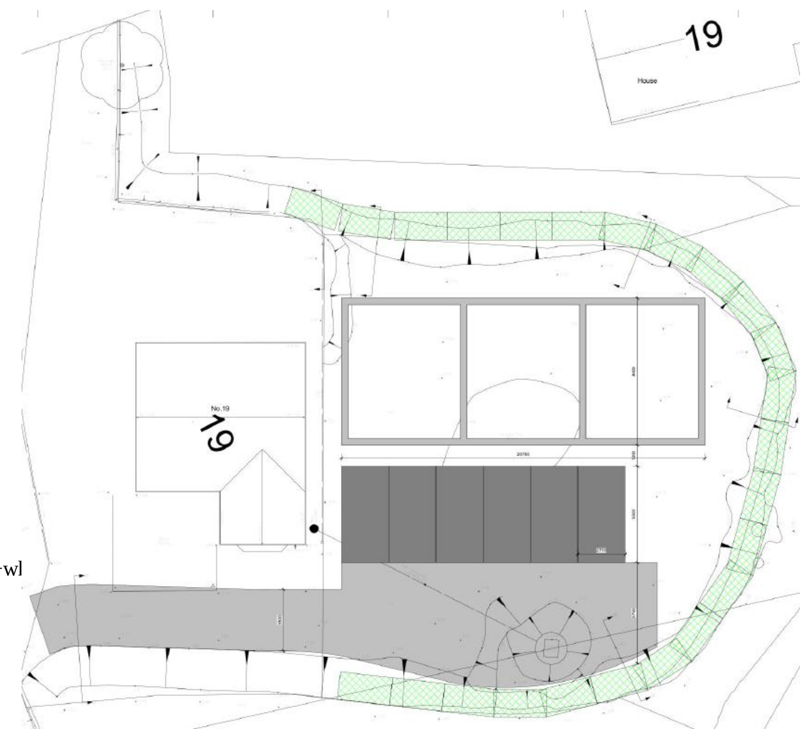
However, Board members will be aware that this site is in a low-lying area that flooded in 2014 and 2020.

It is considered that the raising of the land together with the formation of a criblock wall will reduce the available “storage” for flood water which will increase the risk of flooding to the adjacent properties.

In view of the concerns discussed above it is considered that no additional discharges are made into this watercourse until the various issues have been resolved to both the Board’s and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) satisfaction.



Extract from the Phi Groups Drawing No. QQ2471-SK1



Extract from Swann Edwards Drawing No 416-SK01 showing the crib wall hatched green

Residential development on land in the vicinity of St Marys Church, Woodville, and Gipsy Lane, off Wisbech Road, March

(a) *Residential development on land to the north of Woodville, Wisbech Road (Lime Tree Close), March Prudential Property Investments Managers Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 263, 335 & 399) and Guy James Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 743, 746, 808 & 815)

Further to previous meeting reports, consultation has been ongoing with the developer in respect of this development as part of a pre-/post application consultation procedure.

Correspondence has been received from G H Bullard & Associates LLP (GBA), consultants appointed by Guy James Ltd regarding the design for the drainage of the development.

GBA has advised that an agreement has been reached with the adjacent March Foods Ltd over an easement to connect foul drainage from the development into Anglian Water Services Ltd's (AWSL's) foul sewer in Martin Avenue. The applicant requested a temporary consent for the discharge of treated foul effluent water from the two constructed properties, stating that the sale of these two properties would generate the funds to allow for construction of the foul drainage connection. Given that this temporary discharge was to the east the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the neighbouring March Sixth DDC were consulted and this request for a temporary consent was refused. No further correspondence from the developer or the developer's agent has been received concerning this matter.

Recent correspondence from GBA has confirmed that discharge of surface water from the development will be to the watercourse along the site's eastern boundary, adjacent to the March Foods Ltd site, which ultimately drains into the March Sixth district. The proposals are for a fully attenuated surface water system restricting discharge to greenfield rates for all events up to and including the 1% (1 in 100) plus climate change scenario. It has therefore been concluded that no run-off from the site will discharge into the Board's District.

A discharge of planning conditions application, including Condition 8 (Surface Water Drainage), FDC Ref F/YR21/3072/COND (MLC Ref No 808), was submitted to the District Council in July. The LLFA recommended the discharge of this condition.

The Decision Notice, issued in January, contained the following:

"Condition 8 - Surface Water Drainage

The details submitted within:

Condition Clearance Report - 7,8 and 13

Are sufficient to enable the discharge of the submission element of Condition 8. The development is to be undertaken in accordance with the agreed details."

A part retrospective planning application has been submitted to the District Council for amended house design to plots 1, 2 and 3. It is understood that this application is "pending consideration" but for the reasons discussed above should not affect the Board.

(b) *Developments on land to the south west of Phoenix House, 341 Wisbech Road, (No. 5 Church Gardens) Westry – Ms C Dean* (MLC Ref No 643)

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports, planning applications have been submitted to the District Council FDC Refs F/YR20/1221/F (Not previously reported by MLC) and F/YR21/0830/F (MLC Ref No 807) for an additional dwelling to the west of No 5. Both applications have been refused by the District Council primarily because of the substantial impact on the setting of the church and the adverse effects on the amenity of neighbouring users and future occupiers.

(c) *Erect 6 dwellings and associated works on land to the east of St Marys Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry - Ely Diocesan Board of Finance* (MLC Ref No 773)

In its response concerning the Guy James Ltd site, above, GBA has advised that it is also acting on behalf of the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance for this site adjacent to the north east of St Mary's Church.

This correspondence also stated the intention for a future connection from the development into AWSL's foul sewer in Martin Avenue.

With the exception of the references included in the entry for the Guy James Ltd site, above, no further correspondence has been received or action taken on the Board's behalf.

Full planning permission was granted by the District Council subject to the imposition of planning conditions, including those related to flood risk and surface water disposal, in January. A Drainage Advisory Note was included on the Decision Notice.

(d) *Erect up to 3no dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at land north east of 317 Wisbech Road, Westry – Mr N Marsh* (MLC Ref No 779)

Some discussion has occurred with the developer's representative during April/May but no subsequent correspondence has been received or action taken on the Board's behalf.

Commercial development to the west and south of Hostmoor Avenue, March

(a) *Westry Retail Park to the west of Hostmoor Avenue, March - Brossman Mills Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 591, 611, 704 & 747) and

(b) *Commercial development involving works to Phase One, Hostmoor Balancing Ponds to the south east of Wisbech Road/Hostmoor Avenue, Westry [McDonalds' site] - Bright Edge Ltd* (MLC Ref No 405), *Client of MTC* (MLC Ref No 716) *and Amherst Ltd* (MLC Ref No 757)

No further discussion has occurred with either the applicants or their engineering consultant, MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd [MTC], concerning these sites and no action has been taken on the Board's behalf.

It is noted that according to the District Council's Public Access webpage a decision remains pending concerning the planning application FDC Ref F/YR19/0739/RM (MLC Ref No 747).

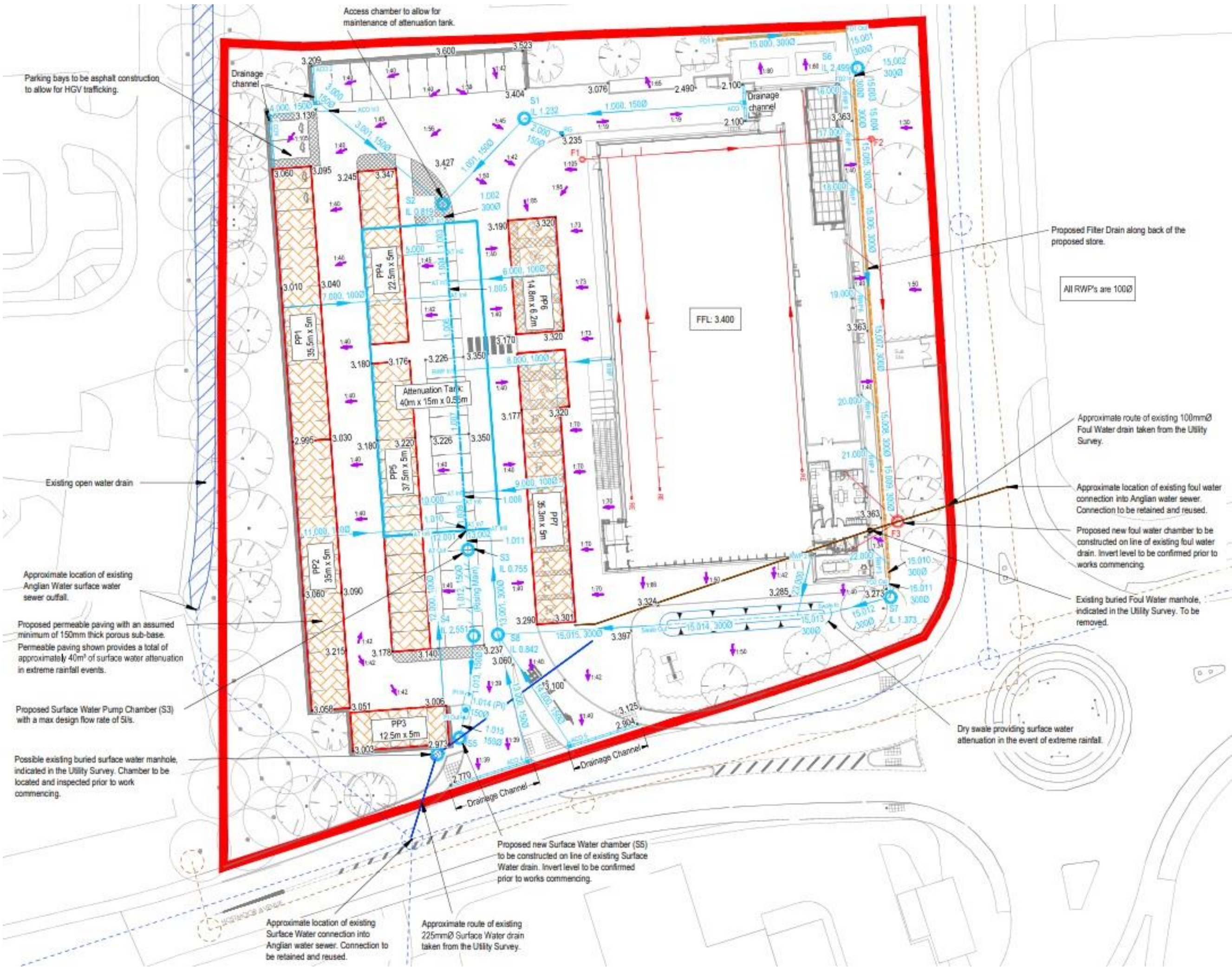
Re-development of 1-3 Hostmoor & 1 Martin Avenue, March – Client of MTC (MLC Ref No 624)*, Harrier Developments Ltd* (MLC Ref No 632); *Client of Planning Potential* (MLC Ref No 778) *& Aldi Stores Ltd* (MLC Ref No 810)

Further to the Board's last Meeting Report, a planning application has been submitted by Aldi Stores Ltd for the re-development of the former Brimur Packaging Ltd and Agrihold site with a food store, involving the demolition of the existing buildings.

The Sustainable Drainage Strategy Ref: 3727 313 dated November 2021, prepared by the applicants' engineering consultant, Stirling Maynard, advises that it is proposed to discharge the roof water onto filter drains, then into a swale before discharging into the AWSL surface water sewer via a buried attenuation tank located under the car park. It further advises that the proposed development will discharge at 5l/s for all events, reducing the runoff from the site, and therefore the discharge into the AWSL sewer, by 122l/s.

The County Council, in its role as the LLFA, has advised that it has no objection in principle to the proposed development subject to the imposition of planning conditions but no consultation has yet occurred with the Board.

At the time of writing the District Council's Public Access webpage advises that a decision is pending.



Extract from Stirling Maynard's Drawing No. 3787-313 3787 313-SMCE-ZZ-XX-DR-D-0100 Rev. P03 –
PROPOSED DRAINAGE LAYOUT

Erection of up to 118no dwellings involving demolition of 147a Wisbech Road on land north of The Green and north of 145-159 Wisbech Road, March – Mr T Knowles (MLC Ref No 681); *Partner Construction and Inside Land Group Ltd* (MLC Ref Nos 787 & 791) *& United Living Group* (MLC Ref No 818)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report the Reserved Matters planning application, FDC Ref F/YR21/0078/RM (MLC Ref No 791), was approved by the District Council in June, with the application to discharge details covered by condition 10 (surface water), of planning permission F/YR17/1127/O (MLC Ref No 681), being discharged in October.

Drainage Advisory Notes were included on both Decision Notices.

A subsequent planning application, FDC Ref F/YR21/3128/COND (MLC Ref No 818), was validated by the District Council in November but none of the conditions to be discharged were relevant to the Board.

Developments at 34 Thorby Avenue, March – Goldstar Metal Traders Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 732 & 794)

Members will recall from the Board’s 2020 Meeting Report that according to the Board’s District Plan this site is within both the Board’s “highland” area, land within the catchment that is not rated, and the rateable area of the neighbouring March Sixth DDC but following negotiations with EEDA, carried out on the Commissioners'\Board's behalf, circa 2005, changes were made to the previously agreed drainage arrangements for Phase 3 of the Hostmoor Industrial Estate. As a result, the area covered by Phase 3A, essentially the northern part of the Thorby Avenue estate, will discharge into the March Sixth DDC system.

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 766)

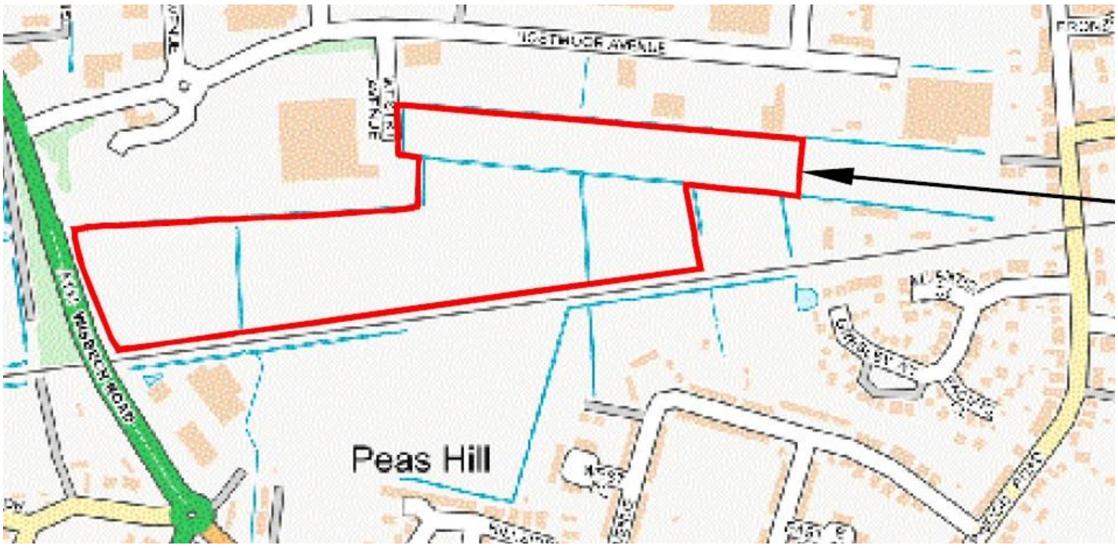
No further correspondence has been received and no further action has been taken in respect of the Board’s interests.

Commercial and industrial use development on land to the south of March Trading Estate, Hostmoor Avenue, March – RVL Properties (MLC Ref No 814)

An enquiry has been received from Cole Easdon Consultants acting on behalf of RVL Properties in respect of a commercial/industrial development on the undeveloped land between Hostmoor Avenue and the March to Peterborough railway line, the extent of which is shown on the following extract.

Following some discussion, the applicant has agreed to undertake the pre-application consultation procedure and some initial flood risk information has been provided and discussions, which are at an early stage, are continuing.

A meeting attended by the MLC’s Planning Engineer and Assistant Operations Engineer together with the Board’s Chairman has been held and it is hoped that this development could potentially resolve some of the issues that the Board has in this area.



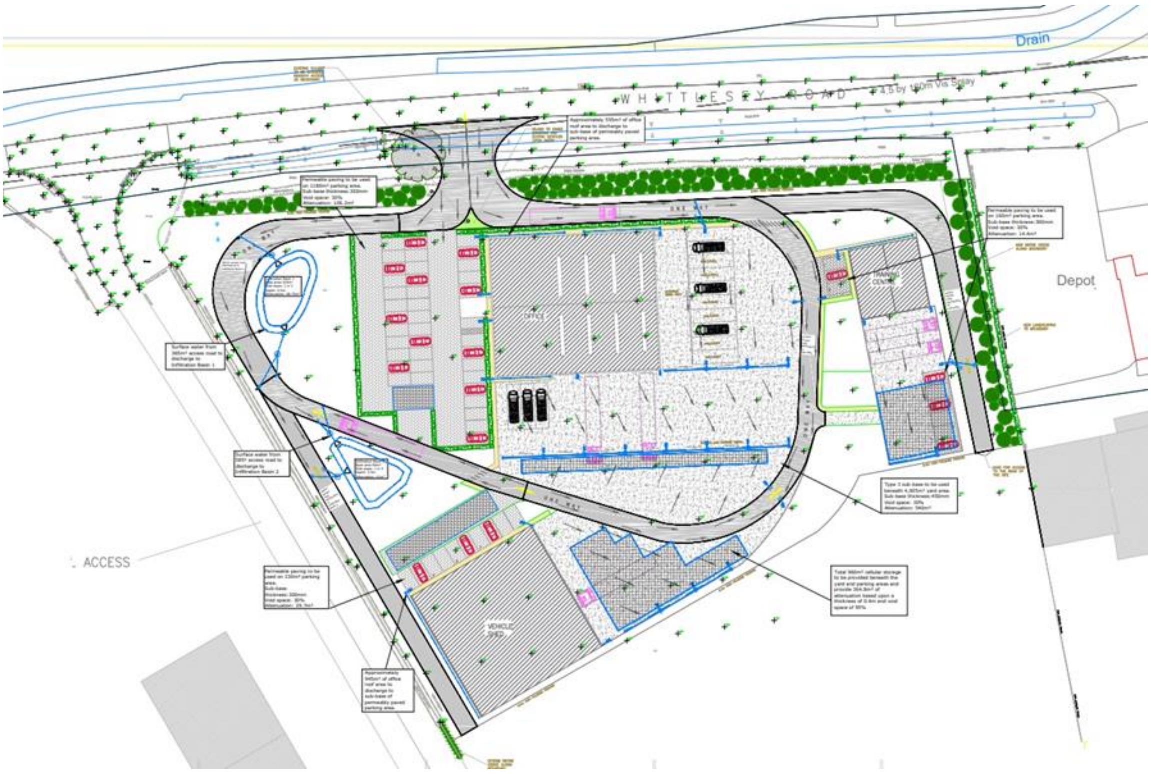
Plan provided by Cole Easdon Consultants showing the site's location

Erect 1 x office/workshop, 1x vehicle workshop and 1 x training centre, 2.4m high (approximately) fence and formation of car park and associated infrastructure at land north west of Middle Level Commissioners, Whittlesey Road, March - Force One Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 803 & 809)

During June, an Article 13 notification was received from Morton & Hall Consultants concerning a proposed development by Force One Ltd on land to the north east of the MLC Offices off Whittlesey Road.

The subsequent planning application was validated by the District Council in July and following an internal consultation within the MLC (including the Board's Chairman, who declared an interest, and Vice-Chairman) concerns were raised. Most of these were specific to the MLC, particularly the junction onto Whittlesey Road crossing land owned by the Commissioners. As a result, a response was issued to the District Council advising that:

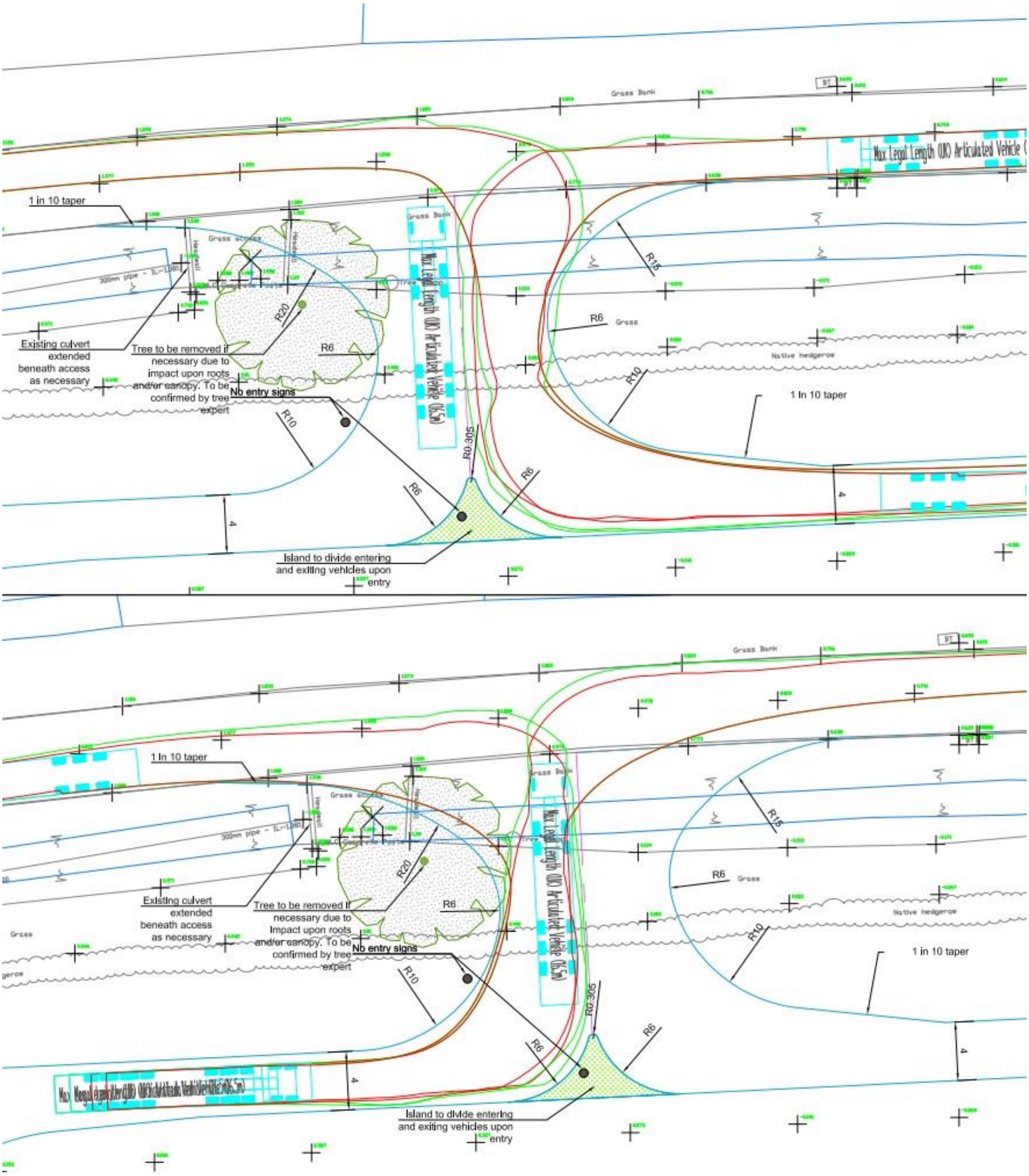
> "… neither the Commissioners nor the Board are averse to the proposal but having considered the submission documents there are aspects which are a significant cause for concern. As a result, **the Commissioners oppose this development, in its current form, until the appropriate requirements have been met."**



Extract from MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd.'s Drawing no. 2638-03 Rev. A – Drainage Plan

Specific points were raised concerning the Board's interests including the future integrity of its Whittlesey Road Drain, which is becoming increasingly important as further development within its catchment occurs, and the fact that the HCVs exiting the site will overrun the road edge by approximately 1m and given that there is little verge, any overrun would detrimentally affect the stability of the channel profile or could result in the vehicle entering the channel. It also advised that "In recent years at least one car has entered the adjacent watercourse with one lorry leaving the road in the vicinity of the junction with Marina Drive."

Other more general matters raised included Highway Issues, particularly the increasing use of HCV traffic and parking on the roadside between Guide Post Corner and Marina Drive and the problems with Peas Hill Roundabout; environmental issues; water quality and water resources - rainwater harvesting/recycling facilities.



**Extract from MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd.'s Drawing no. 2638-02 Rev. b –
Site access, layout dimensions and tracking showing the tacking for HCVs entering the site at the top and leaving the site at the bottom**

A re-consultation request was received in early December with a response advising that significant cause for concern remains and that "..**the Commissioners continue to oppose this development, in its current form, until the appropriate requirements have been met."**

It also included the following comments on the revised submission documents:

"A. Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd.'s Drawing No. H6537/02 Revision A Location Plan - It is noted that the application boundary has been amended and no longer includes land owned by the Commissioners.

B. Morton & Hall Consulting Ltd.'s Drawing No. H6537/07 Revision B Amended Site Layout Plan - It is noted that the access into the site has been relocated further to the east and provided that this meets the appropriate standards this appears acceptable.

However, having viewed the vehicle tracking shown on MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd.'s Drawing no. 2638-02 Rev. B, attached to the message dated 01st December, the movements do encroach close to the road edge/brink of the channel and this may require some works to strengthen the channel profile.

The Boards prior written consent will be required under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act for the formation of the access culvert.

c. MTC Engineering (Cambridge) Ltd.'s FRA & Drainage Strategy Ref. No. 2638 Rev A dated Nov 2021 – As the applicant has failed to engage with either the Commissioners or the Board, a detailed review of the FRA and associated calculations has not been undertaken. However, in view of the potential impermeable area created, it is suggested that the attenuation ponds are much too small and in the wrong location. The culvert under Whittlesey Road is adjacent to the Fenn's Coaches site.

Concern is also expressed about the lack of suitable access strips being provided adjacent to the on-site watercourses. The failure to maintain such watercourses was one of the causes of the flooding incidents experienced across Cambridgeshire, including March, during December 2020. The failure to properly manage and maintain these watercourses could lead to flooding of the site and adjoining land to the detriment of their environment and that of adjoining occupiers."

It is disappointing to report that despite several requests to discuss the issues with the Commissioners/Board the applicant has failed to engage with the Board via the post-application consultation procedure.

No further correspondence has been received since February.

<u>Turves</u>

Development at The Triangle, West Fen, Whittlesey Road, March – F R Galka (MLC Ref No 301) + *Mr & Mrs Loveridge* (MLC Ref No 782)

Following a request some preliminary flood risk information concerning both the Board's and MLC systems was provided to the District Council's Case Officer to assist in the decision-making process.

The planning application was subsequently refused by the District Council in February for several reasons including flood risk.

Residential development on land west of 450 March Road, Turves – Cobb Construction (MLC Ref Nos 622, 623, 656, 657, 696, 697, 806 & 819)

Further to the Board’s 2020 meeting report two full planning applications have been submitted for Plot 5, FDC Ref F/YR21/0832/F (MLC Ref No 806), and Plots 2 & 3, FDC Ref F/YR21/1437/F (MLC Ref No 819), both of which have been granted and include Drainage Advisory Notes on the Decision Notice.

Replacement of a septic tank with small package treatment plant discharging to ditch at 452 March Road, Turves – Mrs Lashley (MLC Ref No 817)

An enquiry, and subsequent discharge consent application, were received concerning the replacement of a septic tank with a treatment plant which will discharge into the watercourse on the northern side of March Road.

In the absence of an adopted public sewer in the immediate area and as the application otherwise meets the Board’s requirements it was recommended for approval.

Erect a part 2-storey, part single storey front, side and rear extension incorporating a balcony to rear to existing dwelling at 340 March Road, Turves – Ms J Greenwood (MLC Ref No 831)

An Infiltration Device Self Certification application was received from the applicant relating to the discharge of surface water from the above development. However, the size of the dwelling exceeded the minimum requirements for this process and both the applicant and her agent were advised that the Infiltration Device Checking Service would be required. The agent is now considering a discharge to the adjoining private watercourse and further details are awaited.

Benwick

Residential development at Crazy Acres, off Chase Road, Benwick - Client of Stirling Maynard and Partners Ltd (MLC Ref No 661) & *Mr A Smith* (MLC Ref Nos 671, 715 & 823) [previously White Fen, MLC Ref Nos 025 & 026 - *Mr A Smith*]

A part retrospective planning application for the siting of 6 traveller caravans, erection of a day room block, gates and fencing, and the formation of associated hardstanding was validated by the District Council in December.

The Design, and Access Statement prepared by the applicant’s agent, Dr Robert Home, advises that:

“2. The site has planning permission for 'change of use of land to travellers site involving formation of access track and siting of 2no touring caravans' (ref. F/YR09/0699/F), granted in 2009 to the same Andrew Smith. That permission had three conditions (two touring caravans, personal to him and dependents, and foul drainage requirements). The 2009 permission included an access track, hardstandings and utility block, and did not require removal of caravans and associated development when the personal permission might end.

3. In 2018 agents for Andrew Smith sought planning permission to increase the caravan numbers to a total of 8 static caravans and associated works (F/YR18/1038F), but that was refused in 2019 and dismissed on appeal in February 2020 (APP/D0515/W/19/3228109).

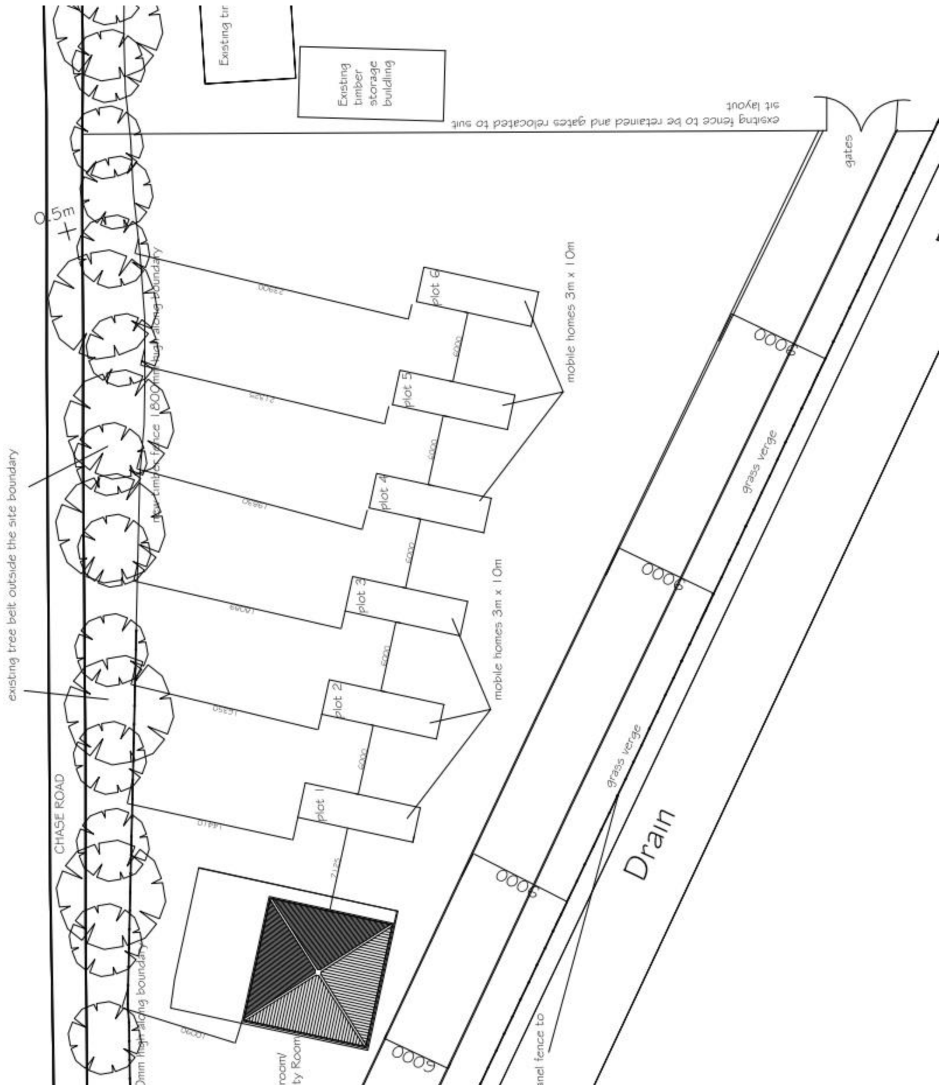
4. In preparing this application the inspector's report on that appeal has been carefully considered (while not agreeing with some of it, especially on flood risk). The new application differs from that in 2018, reducing the area and number of caravans, seeking to minimise effect upon character of the area, etc. Not included in this present application are storage buildings on land north of the application site and within the applicant's ownership.”

It later advises that:

“The representative of the Middle Level Commissioners has recently visited the site, which has a 9-meter safeguarding zone for access to the watercourse. He agreed that a fence of one-metre on the eastern boundary would be acceptable for maintenance of the banks, and that has now been erected.”

However, as far as can be determined no one from the MLC has recently visited the site, and a response from the Board has not been received as to whether any member is aware of any meeting or agreement with the applicant.

From the plans supplied as part of the planning submission it appears that no further encroachment within the Board’s 9.0m wide maintenance access strip will occur as a result of the proposal.



Extract from CPK Architects Drawing No ASMI LP03 showing proposed site plan

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage the application is pending consideration.

<u>In order to assist further discussion and the issuing of consents, if required, 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.</u>

Change of use of the former agricultural building to residential at Bank Farm (formerly Benwick Goods Yard), Whittlesey Road, Benwick – Bank Farms Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 721, 731, 759 & 793) [Formerly White Fen DDC, *Client of Swann Edwards Architecture* (MLC Ref No 033); *Bank Farms Ltd* (MLC Ref No 035) *and Mr G Burton* (MLC Ref No 039)]

From the Board's 2020 Meeting Report, members will be aware that planning application, FDC Ref F/YR20/0029/PNC04 (MLC Ref No 759), was submitted to the District Council and granted "Prior Approval" in March 2020 subject to the imposition of planning conditions.

A subsequent "full" planning application FDC Ref F/YR21/0267/F (MLC Ref No 793) was submitted to the District Council by Brand Associates on behalf of Bank Farm Ltd in February.

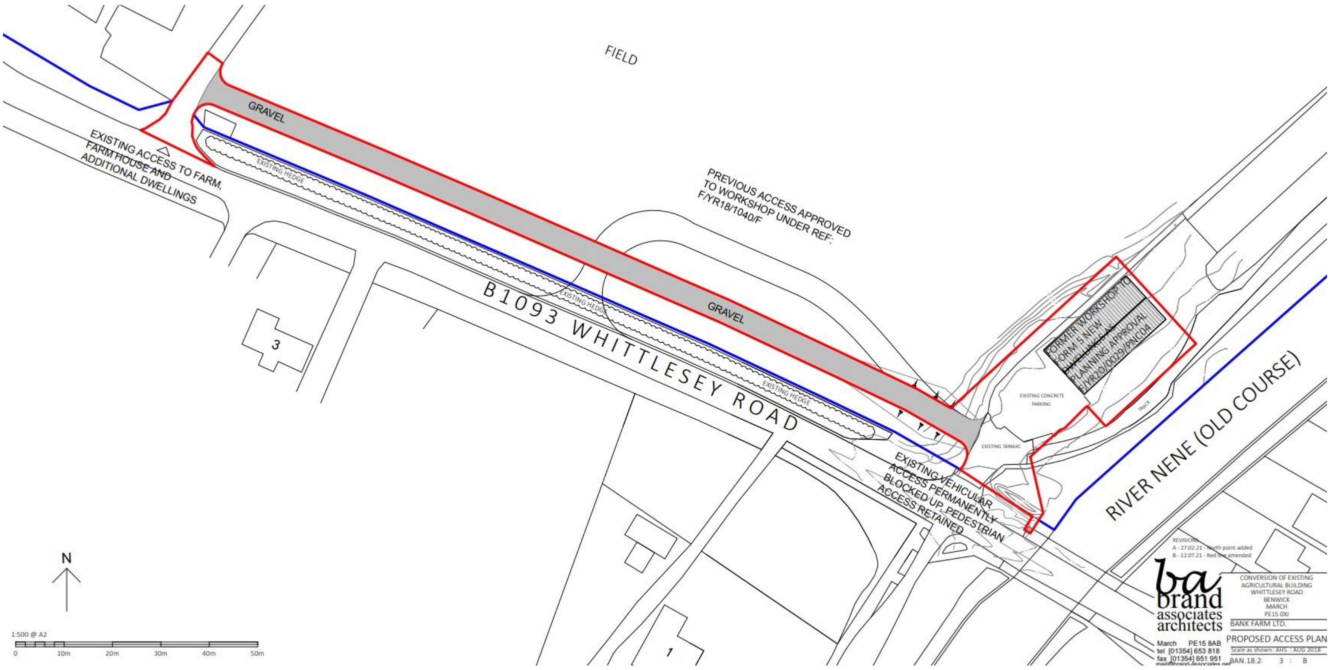
In its response to the planning application the Environment Agency advised that as the main source of flood risk at this site is associated with watercourses under the jurisdiction of the relevant IDB it had no objection to the proposed development on flood risk grounds but advised the District Council that the IDB should be consulted with regard to flood risk associated with watercourses under its jurisdiction and surface water drainage proposals.

It is disappointing to report that given the site's location which has several relevant issues, primarily relating to the proposal being adjacent to a MLC watercourse, there have been no recent discussions concerning the re-development of this site.

The planning application form advises that foul water disposal will be via a package treatment plant with surface water disposal to an existing watercourse but the Flood Risk Assessment advises that "surface water at the site would naturally drain by soakaway and hence to the IDB drain system or the River Nene (Old Course)". Given that the MLC will not consent infiltration-based systems on or in close proximity to or permit a direct discharge into their system a connection to the White Fen system will be required.

Planning permission was granted by the District Council in August subject to the imposition of conditions including the provision of a foul drainage method detailing management and maintenance proposals together with a flood warning and evacuation scheme. A Drainage Advisory Note was included on the Decision Notice.

The proposal includes the closure of the existing access off Whittlesey Road adjacent to the road bridge, on highway grounds. Members will be aware that this forms the main access to the White Fen Pumping Station for large maintenance and construction plant such as cranes. Whilst it is proposed that this access will be replaced by a new site access to the north west, the Board will need to ensure that it has a right of access and that it meets its requirements in respect of access to the pumping station.



Extract from Brand Associates Drawing No BAN.18.2:3:B – Site Access

Development Contributions

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

Planning Updates & Consultations

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

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.

It is hoped that the previously raised concerns about the upstream end of the Board's system together with the operation and influence of the existing balancing ponds upon it can be included in any discussion.

Consulting Engineer

29 April 2022

March West & White Fen (316)\Reports\April 2022

Mr Lakey reported on the works carried out over the past year together with the proposed works for 2022/2023, including the phased programme of bank revetments works within the Boards drainage system.

Works had been carried out along the northern bank of Beggars Bridge main pump spur drain last winter.

Provisional notices for this year's intended cleansing works had been sent out.

Mr Lakey advised that some of the draining in the Whitemoor Road area were suffering from bank slips, as these drains fall within this year's machine cleansing programme it is proposed that they will eb reprofiled while the machine is in the vicinity.

An inspection of the Board's drains will be undertaker during the summer months to identify other areas of bank subsidence and then to prioritise & programme the bank revetment working.

An allowance had been included in the estimates for Roundup Hebicide application.

Mr R Dale had undertaken the Boards flail mowing last year and he was available to flail mow again this year.

White Fen Area

Mr Lakey advised that the maintenance works had been carried out last year generally in accordance with the Boards recommendations approved last year.

A recent inspection has shown that many of the White Fen area drains will only require light machine cleansing to retain their good status.

Mr R Dale will again do the flail mowing for this area.

Pumping Stations

Other than the matters described for the individual pumping stations – any routine maintenance had been carried out since the date of the last meeting.

Duncombes

Monitoring of the motor on pump 2 for signs of moisture ingression will continue to be carried out until the pump is removed for a full inspection and overhaul.

Pump 1 needs to be removed for further inspection to determine if the tripping is a fault with the cable, connectors or the internal motor windings. If it is the winding the pump will need to be overhauled or replaced.

A quote from the manufacturer for a replacement pump has been requested but it is anticipated to be in the region of £30,000.

West Fen

Works to the weedscreen cleaner had now been completed.

White Fen

The outfall flap valve is badly corroded and will need to be overhauled in the current year and it was advised that the track bolts should be replaced at a cost of £2,000.

Pumping Hours

The Board noted that the pumping hours for the respective Pumping Stations.

Asset Approval

Prior to his departure, Richard Lloyd, had carried out an appraisal of the White Fen Pumping Station. This was considered by the Board and Miss McShane refereed to the revised valuation for the replacement of the pumping station which members should consider later in the agenda when considering their insured values.

The Right to Connect

The Board considered and discussed the report on the Right to Connect.

Planning Applications

The Board noted the Planning Applications which had been received and dealt with since the last meeting and approved the actions of the Planning Engineer.

Cllr Jan French advised the Board that the Application submitted by Force One Ltd for develop,ent North-East of the Middle Level Offices in Whittlesey Road March had recently been approved by Fenland District Council Planning Committee, who had also placed a Tree Preservation Order on the tree adjacent to the proposed access to the site.

RESOLVED

(i) That the report and actions referred to therein be approved

(ii) Weed Control & Maintenance
That the recommendations in the report be adapted.

(iii) That R Dale undertake the flail mowing requirements in the White Fen & March and Whittlesey areas for the coming year.

(iv) Pumping Stations:
Duncombes - The winding resistance of pump 2 continue to be monitored.

Pump 1 – quotation for the replacement pump be considered when it is received.

West Fen – The completed works to the Pumping Station be noted.

White Fen - The outfall valve should be overhauled in Summer 2022. The track bolts on the weedscreen cleaner be replaced and refitted at a cost of approximately £2,000.

(v) Right to Connect

That the views of the Board were that Water Companies do not have the capacity to receive water. The Right to Connect should be on an approval basis which would give some control and management to the Water Companies.

(vi) Agricultural buildings and warehousing – MBM Produce (MLC Ref Nos 135 & 267) and Erection of 2 x warehouse extensions to existing building and the erection of a 2.4m high (max height) palisade fence to boundary – Ken Thomas Warehousing Ltd (MLC Ref No 693) on land and buildings at Glenthorn Farm, 133 Whittlesey Road, March

Residential development including the formation of vehicular accesses on land south of 710 Whittlesey Road, March - R Green (MLC Ref Nos 430, 502 & 504), Ideal Prestige Properties (MLC Ref Nos 570 & 572) and Prestige Properties Turves (MLC Ref No 717)

Erection of office building, four bay coach garage and 2m high palisade fencing to west and north boundaries with associated parking at 49 Whittlesey Road, March - Fenn Holidays Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 435 & 712)

Various developments at West Fen Farm, Whitemoor Road, March – Hetherington Properties Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 448, 569 & 724), Client of Cannon Consulting Engineers (MLC Ref No 680), R H & R W Clutton LLP (MLC Ref No 690) + RKE Biogroup Ltd (MLC Ref No 725)

Agricultural buildings at Burnthouse Farm, Burnthouse Sidings, Turves – Royston Farms Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 455 & 714)

Residential development on land north of 35 Whittlesey Road, March - Greene King PLC (MLC Ref Nos 525, 544 & 561), Client of Caldecote Group (MLC Ref No 566) & MJS Construction (March) Ltd (MLC Ref No 708) & MJS Acquisitions (March) Ltd (MLC Ref No 762)

Erection of two pig rearing buildings and feed stock storage area; an anaerobic digester plant and process building; formation of digestate lagoon and construction of 2.0 metre high earth bunding on land to the south of Bates Farm – Client of Roy Lobley (MLC Ref No 666) & J Bates & Son (MLC Ref Nos 675 & 706)

Formation of a vehicular access and piping of drain at Fenn Lodge, 37 Whittlesey Road, March – Mr & Mrs M Griffin (MLC Ref Nos 691 & 723)

RESOLVED

That no further action is required.

(vii) Development at Crazy Acres – Mr A Smith

The Engineer to write to the Applicant to advise that although the Board can and will maintain this drain from the land on the other side of the drain, they reserve the right to maintain from the development side and access should not be restricted and there should be no tree planting in the 9 metre easement strip.

(viii) Change of use of Former Agricultural Building to residential at Bank Farm Whittlesey Road, Benwick.

The Board require the existing access to White Fen Pumping Station to be maintained for access by vehicles and construction plant.

B.257 Capital Improvement Programme

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

Area 1 - (White Fen)

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
White 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	2	0	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	71.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	77.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	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
Pump o/h programme		0.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	27.5
Drainage Channels	Refurbishment of inlets/outfalls	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		2	**4.5**	**27**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**123**	**181**

	Estimate of future refurbishment works:	
	Overhaul pump no.2	17,500
	VJ adaptors	7,000
		24,500

Area 2 - (March & Whittlesey)

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
Beggars Bridge 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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	29.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
	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	2.0	2.0
	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
Duncombes 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	40.0	40.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	34.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	49.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
	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
Moores 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	25.0	25.0
	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Area 2 - (March & Whittlesey)

Capital Improvement Programme (2022/2023)

Staffurths Bridge p	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	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	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
West 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	0.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	54.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
	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
Pump o/h programme		5	10	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	105.0
Drainage Channels	Refurbishment of inlets/outfalls	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		5	**64.5**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**12**	**10**	**172**	**334**

F:\Admin\Word\marchwest+whitefen\mins\9/5/2022

RESOLVED

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

B.258 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter, previously circulated to Members, viz:

March West & White Fen DDC

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 West & White Fen DDC Report Summary

Invasive Species

Azolla was found in several locations in spring 2022 as has been the case in much of the Levels this spring. Care should be taken when moving machinery between drains/catchments.

No mink caught in the district although one was reported from Cock Bank in 2021.

Water Voles

The district maintains an excellent network of drains with water vole habitat and the species is likely widely spread. 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.

Other species

The Kingfisher hole at White Fen pumping station has collapsed and others are blocked. The CO will attempt to clear these in 2022. The district(s) have notable populations of less common farmland birds such as corn bunting and yellow wagtail.

Tree Planting

c800 whips planted at a site off Middle Drove in 2020 and 2021 are developing well. Further sites sought within IDB districts – contact Conservation Officer with any suggestions.

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.*

June 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.

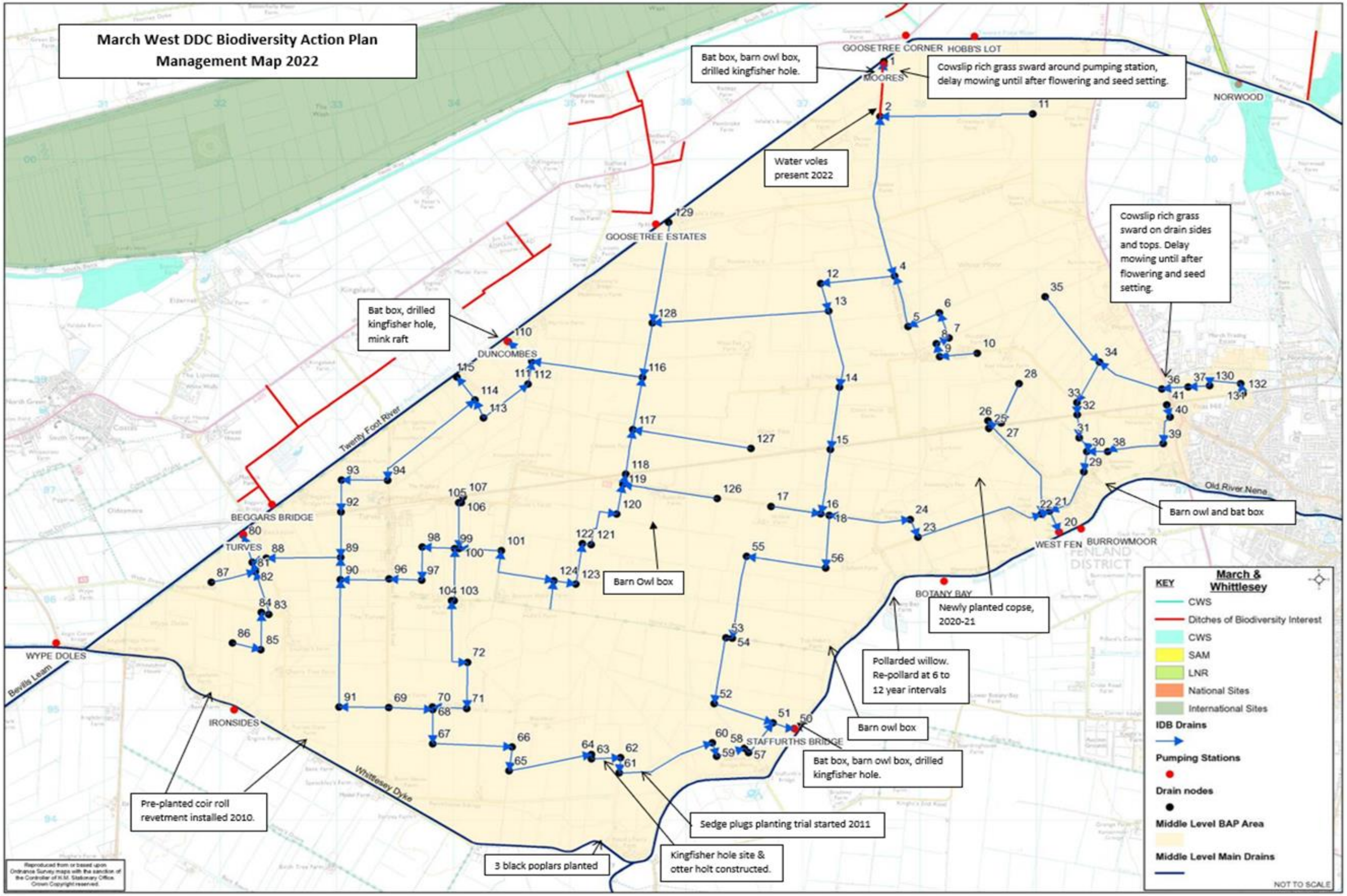
Peter Beckenham, Conservation Officer for Middle Level Commissioners

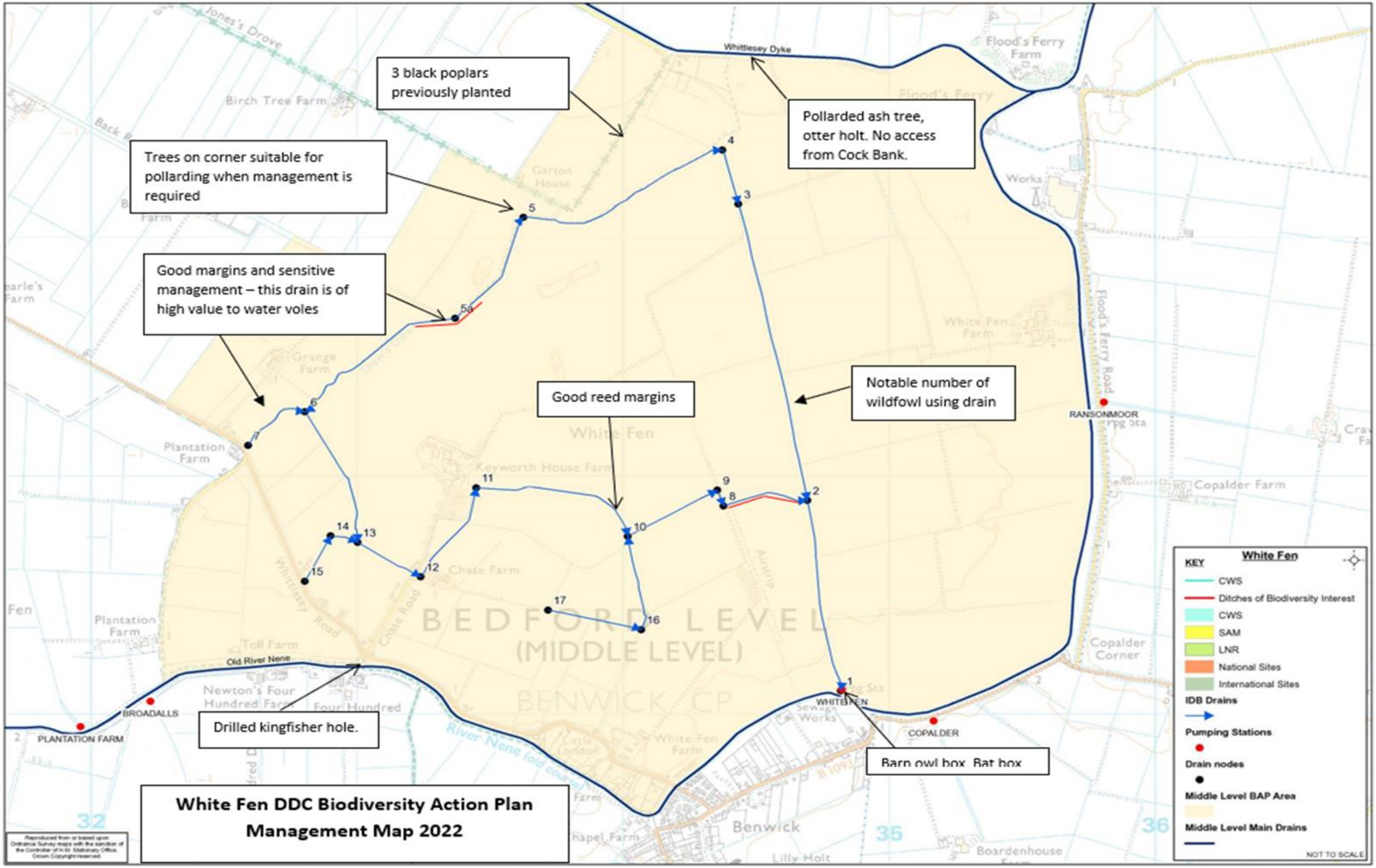
Peter.beckenham@middlelevel.gov.uk

07765 597775

Left: Moores PS looking south, a rare carpet of cowslips adding diversity to the landscape

IDB Maps 2021-22




3 black poplars previously planted
Trees on corner suitable for pollarding when management is required
Pollarded ash tree, otter holt. No access from Cock Bank.
Good margins and sensitive management – this drain is of high value to water voles
Good reed margins
Notable number of wildfowl using drain
Drilled kingfisher hole.
Barn owl box. Bat box
Whittlesey Dyke
Old River Nene
BEDFORD LEVEL
(MIDDLE LEVEL)
BENWICK CP
White Fen
RANSONMOOR
WHITE FEN
COPALDER
BROADALLS
PLANTATION FARM
KEY
White Fen
CWS
Ditches of Biodiversity Interest
CWS
SAM
LNR
National Sites
International Sites
IDB Drains
Pumping Stations
Drain nodes
Middle Level BAP Area
Middle Level Main Drains
NOT TO SCALE
White Fen DDC Biodiversity Action Plan Management Map 2022

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.259 Pumping Station duties

The Board gave consideration to the payments in respect of pumping station duties for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED

That the Board agree an increase of 3% on the payments to Pumping Stations Attendants for their duties for 2022/2023.

(NB) – Messrs Mottram and Whittome declared interests when this item was discussed.

B.260 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

i) That no proposals be formulated at the present time.

ii) That a business plan be compiled for the works required at White Fen pumping station, with a view to proceeding with a Grant-in-aid application

B.261 Environment Agency – Precept

Miss McShane 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 £16,059.

B.262 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 £254.29 (£774.39 less £520.10 paid on account) (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2020/2021 based on the Commissioners' actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £513.86 in respect of 80% of the Commissioners’ estimated expenditure for the financial year 2021/22.

B.263 Association of Drainage Authorities
Subscriptions

The Clerk will report that ADA has increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022, from £866 to £875.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2022 be paid.

B.264 Determination of Annual Value for Rating Purposes

The Board considered and approved the recommendations for determination of annual rate for rating purposes.

B.265 Rate Arrears

Consideration was given to right off rate arrears amounting to £11.02.

RESOLVED

That the Boards write off rate arrears amounting to £11.02

B.266 Contributions from Developers

Miss McShane reported that contributions towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume have been received.

B.267 Health and Safety

The Chairman reported that the inspection for Cope Safety Management for the current year still needed to be arranged and completed.

B.268 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 West & White Fen 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 West & White Fen 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 West & White Fen Internal Drainage Board on application to:

The Clerk
March West & White Fen Internal Drainage Board
85 Whittlesey Road
March
Cambridgeshire
PE15 0AH

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

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

Announcement made by: D C Thomas - Clerk to the Board

Date of Announcement: 6th September 2021

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

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

	Yes	No	N/A	
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.				has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

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

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

04/05/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

B.243

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

Chairman [signature]

Clerk [signature]

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	179,388	204,277	*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	138,883	139,155	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	9,010	3,334	*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	5,213	5,213	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	117,791	129,271	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	204,277	212,282	*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	216,021	235,904	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.*
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	3,444,200	3,444,200	*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	15,228	10,229	*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 19th APRIL 2021

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

04/05/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

B.245

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

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of **MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD – DB0052**

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:

Whitings
Chartered Accountants LLP
The Old School House, Dartford Road
March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8AE
t: 01354 652304
e: march@whitingsllp.co.uk
w: whitingsllp.co.uk

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.

<u>General points</u>

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 ***<u>if possible</u>*** 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 Cater FCA, Christopher D Ridgeon FCCA, Andrew P Winearls FCA, Ian G C Piper FCA, Barbara Nicholas CTA, Andrew R Band FCA, Trina J Nunn FCA, Keith J Day FCCA, Amanda E Newman FCA, Paul M Jefferson ACA, Jonathan P Moore ACCA
ASSOCIATES
Richard A Alecock ATT, Stephen D Malkin ACA, Ben Beech ACA, Scott R Bishop FCA, Nicholas Edgley CTA, Hannah R Wisbey ACA
PRACTICE MANAGER
Janet S Frostick

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, IP32 7GY. 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 processed has been carried out again for 2020 - 21.

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

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

Risk Management Policy and procedures - continued

Client comment:

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

6. Website Publication

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

Client comment:

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

7. Capital works

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

8. Capital assets

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

Capital assets - continued

Client comment:

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

9. Budget figures

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

Client comment:

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

Specific Points

Sutton and Mepal IDB

See item 2 above – residential property value

Hundred of Wisbech IDB
See item 6 above

Conington & Holme IDB
See item 9 above

Client comment (Conington & Holme IDB):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Matters

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Whitings LLP

Whitings LLP

B.269 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2020/2021 which the Board 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 WEST & WHITE FEN 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	37,031
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	37,031

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		102,124
2. Special Levies		37,031
3. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		639
4. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		2,204
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		360
10. Rents and Acknowledgements		5
11. Other Income		126
Total income		**142,489**
EXPENDITURE		
12. New Works and Improvement Works		0
13. Total precept to the Environment Agency		16,059
14. Watercourse maintenance		50,628
15. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		42,376
16. Administration		17,495
17. PSCAs		0
18. Rechargeable Works		0
19. Finance Charges		5,213
20. SSSIs		0
21. IDB Biodiversity and conservation (other than item 20 expenditure)		713
22. Other Expenditure		2,000
Total expenditure		**134,484**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
23. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		**8,005**
24. Developers Funds income not applied in year		54,207
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)?.................................. 04/05/2021

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?

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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?

55

How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

6

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

4.78 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?	18
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	5
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	13
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	5
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	6
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	2

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

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

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

Public Engagement

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

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

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

0.11%

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 WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

Signature	
Date	27/09/2021
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	MISS SAMANTHA ABLETT
Designation	ASSISTANT TREASURER
Email address	Sam.ablett@middlelevel.gov.uk

B.270 Budgeting

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

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2021/2022
AREA 1 - (WHITE FEN)

		Budget 2021/2022 £	Actual to 31.12.2021 £	precast to 31.03.20 2021/2022 £	Remarks
1	Labour	960	957	960	
2	Telephone and insurances	400	362	375	
3	Repairs and renewals (including pumping station duties)	4,250	3,230	4,000	-
4	Fuel	2,500	532	2,500	- Forecast estimated to budget provision
4 5	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	9,000	4,584	9,000	
6	Administration charge, Health & Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	4,250	3,709	4,250	
6	Loan Charges	5,213	5,213	5,213	
7	Plant refurbishing funding	8,403	6,302	8,403	
8	Environment Agency - Precept	2,945	2,945	2,945	
		37,921	27,833	37,646	
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	35	0	35	
	37,886	37,886	27,833	37,611	
	Rates raised 2020/2021		£37,886		

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MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2021/2022
AREA 2 - (MARCH & WHITTLESEY)

		Budget 2021/2022 £	Actual to 31.12.2021 £	Forecast to 31.03.2022 £	Remarks	
1	**Labour**	5,000	0	5,000		
2	Telephone and insurances	2,200	1,808	1,850		
3	Repairs and renewals	7,250	6,661	9,000	- Includes weed-screen cleaner repairs Includes ultra-sonic repairs - Beggars Bridge p/.s	2,923 1,165
4	Fuel	12,500	4,185	12,500	- Forecast estimated to budget provision	
5	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	49,000	47,561	52,000	- Includes piling/revetment	**14,330**
6	Administration charge, Health & Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	13,600	12,054	13,600		
7	Plant refurbishing funding	5,000	3,750	5,000		
8	Environment Agency - Precept	13,114	13,114	13,114		
		107,664	89,133	112,064		
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	3,431	2,699	3,414		
	104,233	104,233	86,434	108,650		

Rates raised 2020/2021 **£101,337**

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B.271 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

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

Miss McShane 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.282 Risk Management Assessment

a) The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with their current Risk Management Policy.

b) The Board considered the insured value of their buildings, viz:

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN IDB	
INSURED VALUES OF FIXED ASSETS	
PUMPING STATIONS	
	As At
	31st March 2022
Dunscombe Pumping Station	670,000.00
Beggars Bridge Pumping Station	477,000.00
Staffurths Bridge Pumping Station	745,000.00
Moores Pumping Station	390,000.00
West Fen Pumping Station	477,000.00
White Fen Pumping Station	685,000.00
	3,444,000.00

RESOLVED

That the insured value of White Fen Pumping Station to be increased to £771,850 in accordance with the Asset Valuation, and that the other Pumping Stations in the ownership of the Board increase their insurance valuation by the same percentage increase as White Fen.

B.283 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.284 Annual Governance Statement – 2021/2022

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

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

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

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

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

DD/MM/YY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

Chairman SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

B.285 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £164,297.40 which had been made during the financial year 2021/2022, viz:

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	
Payments 2021/2022 (1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022)	
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract	9,550.98
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Weed control and drain maintenance 2020/21, planning and development applications)	4,170.31
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,392.95
Middle Level Commissioners - Bank revetment work at Whitemoor Road drain	386.33
Middle Level Commissioners - Assisting digger across the road at Australia Farm, clearing road, piling works at drain reach 81 to 88, removal of dam boards from control structure at School Farm and removal of sofa from drain at Potash Farm	4,612.32
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (White Fen pumping station) - (Account from RS Components)	331.33
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Drain maintenance and bank revetment works	4,164.00
Bank charges (Refunded)	6.50
Public Works Loan - Loan Repayment	2,606.39
Environment Agency - Precept	8,029.37
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	60.62
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2021	1,039.20
Countrywise Conservation - Grass cutting at pumping stations	604.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Discharge consent application fee	253.24
Countrywise Conservation - Grass cutting at pumping stations	604.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Duncombes pumping station)	46.96
Middle Level Commissioners - Fitting handrail at Moores pumping station	94.25
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Staffurths Bridge pumping station)	1,973.71
Middle Level Commissioners - Revetment works at Tesco drain	2,730.14
B J Plant Hire Ltd -Revetment works at Tesco drain	3,012.00
PKF Littlejohns LLP - Audit Fee (2020-2021 accounts)	480.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges	7,979.95
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	2,231.59
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Beggars Bridge pumping station)	532.10
R J Dale - Flail mowing	5,827.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	1,822.80
Tim Fisher Lanscape Services - Grass cutting at pumping stations	252.00
Public Works Loan - Loan Repayment	2,606.39
Environment Agency - Precept	8,029.36
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,140.71
Bank charges (Refunded)	3.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2020-2021 accounts)	939.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	2,352.56
Davies Contracting Limited - Drain maintenance	10,541.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	922.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Beggars Bridge pumping station)	1,398.41
R Dring - Pumping Station duties - White Fen pumping station	957.00
Tim Fisher Lanscape Services - Grass cutting at pumping stations	252.00
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Drain maintenance	5,196.00
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Drain maintenance	15,492.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (White Fen pumping station) - (Account from Pulsar)	1,220.94
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Duncombes pumping station) - (Account from RS Components)	405.11
R J Dale - Flail mowing	4,080.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repair door and manhole cover at Beggars Bridge pumping station	318.66
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner and fitting of PVC conduit to protect sun damaged cable at West Fen pumping station	220.85
Middle Level Commissioners - Chemical weed control of District Drains	1,492.37
Middle Level Commissioners - Manual drain clearance and piling works (Accounts from P J Thory)	11,438.65
R J Dale - Flail mowing	1,563.00
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	40.00
M J Mottram - Pumping Station duties 2021/2022 - West Fen pumping station	957.00
J Bates & Son - Pumping Station duties 2021/2022 - Beggars Bridge and Duncombes pumping station	2,296.80
H T Kisby - Pumping station duties 2021/2022 - Moores pumping station	957.00
Association of Drainage Authorities (River Great Ouse branch) - Subscription 2020-2021	30.00

Middle Level Commissioners - Contribution (Environmental Officer)	715.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Set levels at Moores pumping station	20.48
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	67.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,702.53
Middle Level Commissioners - Health and Safety re-charges for 2021-2022	720.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Asset survey, insurance valuation, 20 year forecast, planning and development	
applications)	785.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Discharge consent application fee	120.76
H W Whittome - Pumping Station duties 2021/2022 - Staffurths Bridge pumping station	1,149.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery	9,735.23
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (Duncombe pumping station)	1,015.96
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (Moores pumping station)	296.86
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (Staffurths Bridge pumping station)	3,434.18
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (Beggars Bridge pumping station)	725.07
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (West Fen pumping station)	1,175.78
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Supply - (White Fen pumping station)	997.82
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Duncombe pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Moores pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Staffurths Bridge pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Beggars Bridge pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (West Fen pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (White Fen pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Duncombe pumping station)	212.02
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Moores pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Staffurths Bridge pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Beggars Bridge pumping station)	212.02
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (West Fen pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (White Fen pumping station)	212.03
	164,297.40
(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)	

(NB) – Messrs Mottram and Whittome declared interests in the payments made to them.

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

Mr Robert Hill – Treasurer – Joined the meeting.

B.286 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2021/2022

Following the explanation of the Annual Accounts by Mr Hill, the Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts and bank reconciliations for the year ended on the 31st March 2022 as required in the Audit Regulations, viz:

MARCH WEST AND WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

GENERAL FUND

2022		TOTAL	AREA 1	AREA 2	2021		TOTAL	AREA 1	AREA 2
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year				Apr-01	Balance brought forward	92,390.22	22,564.21	69,826.01
	Precept	16,058.73	2,944.95	13,113.78					
					2022	Rate income & Special levy	139,248.65	37,886.25	101,362.40
	Insurances and telephones	2,169.58	361.60	1,807.98	Mar-31	Interest on Deposit Accounts	69.90	17.07	52.83
	Repairs & Renewals	11,021.15	3,463.12	7,558.03		Development Charges	2,795.00	0.00	2,795.00
	Fuel	9,827.70	1,345.85	8,481.85		Highland Water Contribution	711.89	0.00	711.89
	Drainworks	58,238.35	6,729.00	51,509.35		Wayleave rentals	11.92	0.00	11.92
	Contractors Charges	5,934.00	957.00	4,977.00		Consents	50.00	0.00	50.00
	Administration charge, Audit fee,					Grazing Rights	5.00	0.00	5.00
	printing, stationery, advertising etc	17,543.50	4,118.08	13,425.42		Refund of bank charges	62.92	15.73	47.19
	Loan Charges - Principal	5,075.62	5,075.62	0.00					
	- Interest	137.16	137.16	0.00					
	Transfer to plant refurbishment fund								
	Funds raised 2021/2022	13,403.00	8,403.00	5,000.00					
	Surplus 2021/2022	4,383.67	4,383.67	0.00					
	Balance carried forward	91,553.04	22,564.21	68,988.83					
		235,345.50	60,483.26	174,862.24			235,345.50	60,483.26	174,862.24

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

Liabilities	TOTAL	AREA 1	AREA 2	Assets		TOTAL	AREA 1	AREA 2
Capital Provisions Account	3,439,046.44	679,846.44	2,759,200.00	Pumping Station (Valuation)		3,444,000.00	685,000.00	2,759,000.00
Public Works Loan Board -				Plant Assets		200.00	0.00	200.00
Loan Outstanding	5,153.56	5,153.56	0.00					
	3,444,200.00	685,000.00	2,759,200.00			3,444,200.00	685,000.00	2,759,200.00

Revenue Section

General Fund	91,553.04	22,564.21	68,988.83	Value added tax - Refunds due		2,398.86	526.92	1,871.94
Development Charges Account	56,870.60	1,194.22	55,676.38	Ratepayers - Arrears		638.84	0.00	638.84
Plant Refurbishment Fund	83,520.72	63,474.52	20,046.20	Sundry Debtors		0.00	0.00	0.00
Future Works Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	Balance in hand -				
Sundry Creditors	10,355.48	1,714.99	8,640.49	Barclays - Treasurer's Account	233,185.29			
				National Savings - Treasurer's Account	6,076.85	239,262.14	88,421.02	150,841.12
	3,686,499.84	773,947.94	2,912,551.90			3,686,499.84	773,947.94	2,912,551.90

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MARCH WEST AND WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACCOUNT

		TOTAL	AREA 1	AREA 2			TOTAL	AREA 1	AREA 2
2022					2021				
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-				Apr-01	Balance brought forward	54,207.19	1,193.32	53,013.87
	General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	2022				
	Middle Level fees	311.68	0.00	311.68	Mar-31	Receipts	5,729.07	0.00	5,729.07
	Transfer to General Fund	2,795.00	0.00	2,795.00		Write Back of Provisions	0.00	0.00	0.00
						Interest	41.02	0.90	40.12
	Balance carried forward	56,870.60	1,194.22	55,676.38					
		59,977.28	1,194.22	58,783.06			59,977.28	1,194.22	58,783.06

PLANT REFURBISHMENT FUND

2022					2021				
Mar-31	Plant Improvements -				Apr-01	Balance brought forward	65,684.36	50,649.53	15,034.83
	Weedscreen cleaner	0.00	0.00	0.00					
	Transfer to General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	2022				
					Mar-31	2021/2022 Surplus from General Fund	4,383.67	4,383.67	0.00
						Funds raised 2021/2022	13,403.00	8,403.00	5,000.00
	Balance carried forward	83,520.72	63,474.52	20,046.20		Interest	49.69	38.32	11.37
		83,520.72	63,474.52	20,046.20			83,520.72	63,474.52	20,046.20

FUTURE WORKS ACCOUNT

2022					2021				
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year	0.00	0.00	0.00	Apr-01	Balance brought forward	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Transfer to General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00					
					2022				
	Balance carried forward	0.00	0.00	0.00	Mar-31	Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00

March West & White Fen Internal Drainage Board

Treasurers Account 2021/2022

1st April 2020			31st March 2021	
Balance brought forward		229,827.50	Payments made during the year	164,297.40
31st March 2021				
Receipts during the year				
Clerk's collection account	167,495.19			
Interest on deposit accounts	160.00			
		167,655.19	Balance carried forward	233,185.29
		397,482.69		**397,482.69**

National Savings Account 2021/2022

1st April 2020		31st March 2021	
Balance brought forward	6,076.24	Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2021			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.61	Balance carried forward	6,076.85
	6,076.85		**6,076.85**

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2022

Barclays Bank PLc

Clients Premium Account - 13350509

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022		204,427.14	
Less unpresented cheques:-	30/03/2022 2021/41	9,735.23	
Add outstanding lodgements	31/03/2022 Trans 88	701.00	
Balance per Trial Balance			**195,392.91**

Clients Premium Account - 33059510

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022	37,792.38	
Less unpresented cheques	0.00	
Add outstanding lodgements	0.00	
Balance per Trial Balance		**37,792.38**
		233,185.29

Cash balances as at 31st March 2022

Barclays Bank PLc

Clients Premium Account	**195,392.91**
Clients Premium Account	**37,792.38**

National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	**6,076.85**
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts	**239,262.14**

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending 31 March 2021 £	Year ending 31 March 2022 £	Notes and guidance *Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	204,277	212,282	*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	139,155	139,249	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	3,334	6,731	*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	5,213	5,213	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	129,271	121,105	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	212,282	231,944	*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	235,904	239,262	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March –* ***To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	3,444,200	3,444,200	*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	10,229	5,154	*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 11th April 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 West & White Fen 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	92,390.22		
	Development Charges Account	54,207.19		
	Plant Refurbishment Fund	65,684.36		
	Future Works	0.00		
			212,281.77	**212,282**
Line 2	**Rates and Special Levies**			
	Agricultural rates	102,192.65		
	Special Levies	37,031.00		
	Penalty	0.00		
	Costs	25.00		
	Write-off	0.00		
			139,248.65	**139,249**
Line 3	**Total other receipts**			
	Interest			
	General fund	69.90		
	Development charges account	41.02		
	Plant refurbishment fund	49.69		
	Consent applications	50.00		
	Wayleave	11.92		
	Discharge contributions	5,729.07		
	Grazing	5.00		
	Highland Water	711.89		
	Loan Advance	0.00		
	Write Back of Overprovision	0.00		
	Miscellaneous income	62.92		
			6,731.41	**6,731**
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	5,075.62		
	PWLB - Interest	137.16		
			5,212.78	**5,213**

March West & White Fen IDB
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return

Financial year ended 31st March 2022

Line 6	**All other payments**			
	Precept	16,058.73		
	Rates, insurances, telephones	2,169.58		
	Repairs and renewals	11,021.15		
	Fuel	9,827.70		
	Drainworks	58,238.35		
	Contractors charges	5,934.00		
	Administration	17,543.50		
	Development charges fees	311.68		
	Refurbishment works	0.00		
	Plant Improvements	0.00		
			121,104.69	**121,105**
Line 7	**Balances carried forward**			
	General Fund	91,553.04		
	Development Charges Account	56,870.60		
	Plant Refurbishment Fund	83,520.72		
	Future Works	0.00		
			231,944.36	**231,944**
	Reconciliation			
	Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6		231,944.36	
	Balances carried forward			
	Per Annual return		**231,944.00**	

RESOLVED

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

B.287 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2022/2023

Mr Hill explained that as it had been 5 years since the amalgamation of the Boards this was the first year that the Board did not have to set a deferential rate for its different areas, 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 Mr Hill 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:-

Drainage rates	70.33%
Special levy	29.67%, viz:

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET 2022/2023
AREA 1 - (WHITE FEN)

		Budget 2021/2022 £	Actual 2021/2022 £	Budget 2022/2023 £
1	Labour	960	957	990
2	Telephone and insurances	400	362	400
3	Repairs and renewals (including pumping station duties)	4,250	3,463	4,250 [A]
4	Fuel	2,500	1,346	4,000 [B]
4 5	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	9,000	6,729 [C]	9,250 [D]
6	Administration charge, Health & Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	4,250	4,118	4,250
6	Loan Charges	5,213	5,213	5,213 [E]
7	Plant refurbishing funding	8,403	12,787	2,500 [F]
8	Improvement works	0	0	0
9	Environment Agency - Precept	2,945	2,945	3,004
		37,921	37,919	33,857
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	35	33	7,233 [G]
		37,886	37,886	26,624
	Rates raised 2021/2022		£37,886	

Remarks

A -	Includes provision for weedscreen cleaner repair	2,000
B -	Provision based on 5 year average plus 50% for new contract rates	
C -	Includes:	
	Flail mowing	1,303
	Slubbing	4,330
		5,633
D -	Includes engineer's items	7,850
E -	Final payment for loan Funded from plant asset account (Area 1)	
F -	Provision for future plant refurbishment	
G -	Includes use of plant refurbishment account funding:	
	Loan repayment	5,213
	Weedscreen cleaner repairs	2,000

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MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET 2022/2023
AREA 2 - (MARCH & WHITTLESEY)

	Budget 2021/2022 £	Actual 2021/2022 £	Budget 2022/2023 £
1 Labour	5,000	4,977	5,150
2 Telephone and insurances	2,200	1,808	1,950
3 Repairs and renewals	7,250	7,558	9,250 [A]
4 Fuel	12,500	8,482	19,500 [B]
5 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	49,000	51,509 [C]	48,500 [D]
6 Administration charge, Health & Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	13,600	13,425	13,600
7 Plant refurbishing funding	5,000	5,000	10,000
8 Improvement works	0	0	52,500 [E]
9 Environment Agency - Precept	13,114	13,114	13,376
	107,664	105,873	173,826
LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	3,431	3,674	58,436 [F]
	104,233	102,200	115,390

Remarks

A - Includes provision for weedscreen cleaner repairs - West Fen pumping station		2,000
B - Provision based on 5 year average plus 50% for new contract rates		
C - Includes:	Piling & revetment works	14,332
	Slubbing	21,695
	Flail mowing	8,257
	Chemical wed control	1,244
		45,528
D - Includes engineer'es items		44,100
E - Provision for repair/replacement of Duncombes pump		30,000
	Telemetry installation - 5 stations	22,500
F - Includes use of asset funding for:		
	Repair/replacement of Duncombes pump	30,000
	Weed-screen cleaner repairs - West Fen p/s	2,000
	Telemetry installation - 5 stations	22,500

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Rates raised 2021/2022 £101,337

MARCH WEST & WHITE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
Budget 2022/2023
Full Rate - 2022/2023

		Area 1 2021/2022 £	Area 2 2021/2022 £	Full rate 2022/2023 £
1	Labour	990	5,150	6,140
2	Telephone and insurances	400	1,950	2,350
3	Repairs and renewals	4,250	9,250	13,500
4	Fuel	4,000	19,500	23,500
5	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	9,250	48,500	57,750
6	Administration charge, Health & Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	4,250	13,600	17,850
7	Loan Charges	5,213	0	5,213
8	Plant refurbishing funding	2,500	10,000	12,500
9	Improvement works	0	52,500	52,500
9	Environment Agency - Precept	3,004	13,376	16,380
		33,857	173,826	207,683
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest etc	7,233	58,436	65,669
		26,624	115,390	142,014
	Rate requirement	17.57 p	13.94 p	14.50 p
	Special Levy - Fenland District Council	£2,097	£38,837	£42,134

Differential rating order:-
Effective from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2022

Year 1 - 2017/2018
Year 2 - 2018/2019
Year 3 - 2019/2020
Year 4 - 2020/2021
Year 5 - 2021/2022

members to note:
Possible use of "asset funding" in year:

Area 1:	
Final loan repayment	5,213
Weed-screen cleaner repair	2,000
Area 2:	
Repair/replacement of Duncombes p	30,000
Weed-screen cleaner repairs - West	2,000
Telemetry installation - 5 stations	22,500
	61,713
"Asset funds" at 31st March 2022	
Development charges account	56,871
Plant refurbishment account	83,521
Estimated raised in year	12,500
Posible spend in year	-61,713
Committed funding - White Fen p/s	-24,500
Posible balance at 31st March 2023	66,679

Members should consider probable future improvement works and their funding when setting the rate.

Combined rate for amalgamated Board

Rate and levy requirements

Following the amalgamation of the March & Whittlesey IDB and White Fen DDC there was a five-year differential rating period, effective from 1st April 2017, ending 31st March 2022. From the rating period commencing 1st April 2022 the amalgamated Board will have a common single rate.

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

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 70.33%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Fenland District Council – 29.67%.

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £6,888.

In 2022/2023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £9,794

Estimated Revenue balance in hand on 31st March 2022 - £91,553

The estimated net expenditure of £142,014 in 2022/2023, which includes a provision of £12,500 towards the pump overhaul/plant refurbishment programme, is equivalent to:-

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 14.50p and

b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £42,134

In 2021/2022 separate rates were set of 25.00p for Area 1 and 12.25p for Area 2 and a Special Levy of £37,031 on Fenland District Council.

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Board

April 2022

Councillor Cornwell raised concerns about any increase in the Special Levy because Fenland District Councils budgets were very tight: but understood why the rate needed to be increased in the current year.

RESOLVED

i) That the estimates be approved.

ii) That a total sum of £142,614 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 £42,134.

iv) That a rate of 14.5p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District

v) That a Special levy of £42,134 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.288 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on **Tuesday** the 9th May 2023 at 10am at Middle Level Offices.

B.289 Any Other Business

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the officers attending for all their help and assistance with the meeting.

……………………………………………..
Chairman
9th May 2023