

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Warboys Somersham and Pidley Internal Drainage Board
held at the Lakeside Lodge, Pidley on Thursday 26th May 2022

PRESENT

C Leadbetter Esq (Chairman)	S Johnson Esq
D R A Fabb Esq	J German Esq
I Johnson Esq	T E A Noble Esq
L C A Munns	D W England Esq
D J Edwards	J M Short Esq

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) & Mr R Wilmer (District Officer) was in attendance.

D W Cornwell Esq & M P England Esq joined the meeting remotely via telephone.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J C Armstrong Esq, Cllr I Benney, D D Brown Esq, S Edgley Esq, M E Heading Esq, G Munns Esq, R Waters Esq, H W Whittome Esq and S W Whittome Esq.

B.1796 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chairman declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda – Lafarge Restoration/Pumping Agreement.

B.1797 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 2nd December 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1798 Election of Board Members

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

B.1799 Death of Mr Terry Kent

Miss McShane reported that Mr Terry Kent, who was a long serving employee of the Board, had died at the end of February this year. A letter of condolence had been sent to Mrs Kent.

B.1800 Rental Agreement, Puddock Pumping Station Bungalow

Miss McShane reminded the Board that Mr & Mrs Kent had resided at the Puddock Pumping Station bungalow since Mr Kent's retirement. As Mr Kent had no longer been an employee of the Board, they had occupied the property on a shorthold tenancy in Mr Kent's name. With the Chairman's agreement, Mrs Kent had been given a shorthold tenancy for 6 months. This is a temporary arrangement until she can obtain alternative accommodation as the Board may need the bungalow for operational purposes for the new District Officer when Mr Wilmer retires.

RESOLVED

The Board approved the actions of the Chairman in granting Mr Kent's widow a shorthold tenancy of 6 months from 17th March 2022.

B.1801 Standing Orders

Further to Minute B.1777, Miss McShane advised the Board about the procedure for reducing the numbers of Members on the Board from 21 to the suggested 14/15 elected Members. In addition, the Board also had one appointed Member from Fenland District Council. She advised that an application to reduce numbers could, depending on the work load currently being undertaken by Defra, be quite a long and protracted process.

The Board expressed the view that their real concern was not so much the number of Members on the Board, but the quorum required by the Board to make decisions and asked the Clerk to investigate with Defra whether it was possible to just reduce the quorum to about 7 members as it was proving difficult to get quorum of 12 Members to every meeting of the Board, due to the reduction in the number of farms in the area and some of the older Members retiring from farming.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk contact Defra about the Board's wish to amend their standing orders to require a quorum of 7 Members rather than carry out a formal reconstitution of the Board.

B.1802 Fenton Lode New Cut (Tesco Site)

Further to minute B.1781, Miss McShane advised that the Consulting Engineer, in his report, was suggesting that subject to the availability of the relevant parties, a detailed inspection of the diverted drain should be undertaken to ensure that any slippage in the banks, slip stabling and any other issues are dealt with before the Agreement co-performance Deed terminates in 2023.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineer arrange a site meeting to be attended by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and District Officer.

B.1803 Outstanding Drainage Rates

Further to minute B.1782, Miss McShane reported significant work had been done to bring the Boards Rating area plans up to date. It was hoped to get this finalised soon and to take any actions needed to identify any land that remained unallocated to a ratepayer and then to seek to identify occupation.

RESOLVED

That the current position be noted.

B.1804 Access Requirements, Fenton Lode New Cut

Further to minute B.1785 (ii) & (iii), The District Officer reported that a fence had been erected between the Tesco site and Honeysome Road and that access was required here for maintenance purposes.

RESOLVED

That the Consulting Engineer, Solicitor and District Officer arrange a site visit to view the access arrangements at this location.

B.1805 Over Hanging Trees – Stainless Metalcraft

Further to minute B.1795, The District Officer reported that the trees had now been removed and no further action was required.

B.1806 Lafarge Restoration/Pumping Agreement

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Consulting Engineer and the specification for construction had been discussed.

B.1807 Review of Easement Agreements – (A Bartlett & Sons Ltd)

The Chairman reported that this was no longer in agricultural use and therefore any spoil from maintenance works would need to be removed from the site.

The Chairman agreed to discuss the continued use of the nine-metre easement strip with Toby Barlett.

B.1808 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss McShane reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had written to advise that due to the new administrative arrangements at the Council following the elections in May, there had been some delay with the appointments to outside bodies and that new cabinet were to meet to review the appointments on 16th July 2022 and will advise the Board of the appointed Members after that date. The previous appointed Members, Councillors Bill and Haines did not stand for re-election in May.

B.1809 Finance Committee

The minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday 11th May 2022, were noted and approved, viz;

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Meeting of the finance committee – Wednesday 11th May 2022

Present:

C Leadbetter - Chairman
D Brown
D England
M England
D Fabb
J German
T Noble
H Whittome

R Hill and D Bantoft attended the meeting

Apologies received from:

The Lord de Ramsey

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022

Mr Hill outlined the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022. Concerning the income during the year, a rate of 21.00p was set, raising £175,442.23 and the calculated balance for the highland water contribution of £19,598.67 due from the Environment Agency had been received in the year.

Normal revenue expenditure had generally been around the budget forecast although expenditure for pumping/fuel was approximately £7,000.00 over the budget allocation. Further, additional drain maintenance works and piling were carried out over the budgeted programme, finishing the year approximately £27,000 over the budget allocation. As approved, works were completed on the installation of automatic weed-screen cleaning

equipment at High Fen pumping station and the supply and installation of a spare pump, also at High Fen pumping station.

Within the 2021/2022 budget, allowances had been made to raise an additional 1.50p towards future capital improvements and £10,000 for a pump overhaul.

During the year no overhaul was started and, with significant overspend on fuel costs and drain maintenance works it was recommended to transfer the equivalent 1.50p rate to the capital reserve account, retaining the £10,000.00 pump overhaul provision within the revenue account.

In response to Mr Whittome Mr Mark England explained that that it had been difficult to get fixed quotes for drain maintenance works and they had been carried out on an hourly rate basis. He referred to the rainfall events which led to a saturated catchment which had increased pressure on banksides which in turn had slowed work with the requirement for far more bank re-profiling than had initially been estimated.

Mr Hill reported that during the year, the Board's revenue balances, after transferring £12,532.00 to the capital reserve fund, had decreased by £12,227.19 to £162,669.72, and the Board had a balance of £6,033.79 for the annual depreciation of the plant assets.

The Development charges account, after transferring the sum of £6,320.62 for works at High Fen pumping station, £3,904.99 for works at Washways pumping station and the sum of £24,500 approved as a contribution towards piling works was £358,682.57, the capital reserve fund, after transferring the sum of £4,311.21 for the replacement pump at High Fen pumping station, £715.80 for the repairs to flap valves at Puddock pumping station and £5,000 towards the costs of piling works in the Pidley catchment was £136,334.86 and the Low-Level Restoration Fund £50,000.00.

The Committee gave consideration to the current balance within the Low-Level Restoration Fund.

Mr Hill reported that following continuing discussions with Lafarge concerning the pumping arrangements the Middle Level engineer was in the process of calculating the pumping requirements for the site but would need to carry out a further survey concerning the levels of the site and of Pidley pumping station intake. Members considered that until further information was available and Lafarge had committed to make changes to the pumping arrangements they were not in a position to recommend changes to the funding arrangements but it was hoped that the position would be clearer next year when a further review could be carried out. They therefore agreed that no changes could be proposed this year.

The Committee reviewed the current balance in the Capital Reserve Fund (£136,334.86) and Mr Hill referred to the fund being for future refurbishment of pumping units and pumping stations, with current approximate costs for a pump overhaul were between £15,000 and £20,000 per unit and the Board had thirteen pumping units. Members agreed to retain balances for future works.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board:

i To transfer to the Capital Reserve Account:

£12,532.00 being the additional 1.50p rate raised in 2021/2022

- ii To retain the sum of £50,000 transferred from the development charges account to the low level restoration scheme, and for this fund to be reviewed annually.
- iii To approve the accounts.

Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022

Mr Hill referred to the current Practitioners' guide to proper practices to be applied in the preparation of statutory annual accounts and governance statements which had recently been updated, and to the additional documentation for Board members to review.

Members reviewed:

Budget monitoring

Internal Controls

Internal Auditor

Mr Hill reported that the agreement with the Board's Internal Auditor ended in 2022 and that, due to restrictions caused by COVID-19, it had not been possible to properly tender for a new agreement. Following discussions with Whiting LLP it had therefore been agreed that the current arrangements would be extended by one year to allow sufficient time for the tender process to be carried out.

Risk Management Assessment

- i) Consideration to the Board's Risk management policy
- ii) The insured value of the Boards buildings.

Asset valuation/insurances

Mr Hill reminded members that the engineer had carried out a review on the value of the Boards pumping stations, and that approval had been given to insure at the engineer's valuation for the Boards pumping stations at £5,255,000 and that the valuation be index linked.

Exercise of Public Rights

Mr Hill 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.

Payment's year ended 31.03.2022.

Bank Reconciliation – Year ended 31.03.2022.

The finance committee approved the budget monitoring for the 2021/2022 financial year, the internal controls, the one-year extension of the appointment of Whiting LLP as Internal auditor, risk management, insured value of properties, bank reconciliation and payments for the year ended 31st March 2022, and to recommend the Board to approve these reviews.

Members reviewed the Annual Governance Statement.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board that the Chairman be authorised to sign the Statement for 2021/2022 on behalf of the Board.

Standing Orders

Mr Hill referred to the discussions at the last Board meeting and that Defra had now approved the re-constitution of the Board in question, with a reduction in the elected membership, which would also give a corresponding reduction in the local authority appointees. In response to Mr Fabb Mr Hill outlined the link between the number of elected members and the current quorum and potential governance concerns in attempting to reduce the quorum further while retaining the current number of elected members. Mr Hill produced a schedule of current members and attendance at recent meetings which showed average attendance of about 13 members per meeting and reminded members that the current quorum was 12. In response to Mr David England Mr Hill confirmed that this year was an election year and that he considered it unlikely that it would be possible to progress a re-constitution order through the Environment Agency and Defra by the November election date.

The finance committee agreed to recommend to the Board that they proceed with a re-constitution to reduce the number of elected members.

Determination of annual values

Mr Hill referred to the schedule for determination of annual values for rating purposes. In response to Mr Whittome he detailed the change of use of the property and in response to Mr German indicated the impact on the Board.

The finance committee agreed to recommend the Board approved the determination.

Private works

The meeting gave consideration to the current rates charged for private works using the Boards machinery. The Chairman considered there was likely to be little opportunity to carry out these works, but that the Board should have approved rates should any works be completed.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board:

i That the charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work for:

Doosan DX 140W excavator.

Increase by £15 per hour: £50.00 per hour inside the District
£55.00 per hour outside the District.

Flail mower

Increase by £15 per hour: £55.00 per hour inside the District
£60.00 per hour outside the District

Engineer report - Pumping stations

The chairman referred to the Boards pump overhaul policy and that no overhaul had been completed since 2015. A pump motor at High Fen pumping station had been overhauled in 2019/2020 and a pump replaced in 2021. Mr Mark England reported that the old pump at High Fen pumping station had been retained and was stored in case of future problems. Mr Hill reminded the meeting of the schedule produced by the engineer for last year's meeting detailing the dates of the last overhaul of the pumping units at each pumping station:

Last pumping plant overhaul dates

Acre Fen pumping station

No.1 2012

High Fen pumping station

No.1 2021 - Replaced 2021

No. 2 2009 - pump motor overhauled 2019/20

Weed-screen cleaner and control panel installed 2020/21

Pidley pumping station

No.1 2005

No.2 2006

Control equipment replaced 2016

Puddock pumping station

No.1 2004

No.2 None to-date

Washways pumping station

No.1 2014

No.2 2014

No.3 2014

No.4 2015

Control equipment replaced 2015

Westmoor pumping station

No.1 2007

No.2 2008

Control equipment replaced 2011

Mr Bantoft reported that only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting, save for the works authorised last year and that the pumping plant at each of the stations appears to be in a mechanically and electrically satisfactory condition.

Acre Fen pumping station:

Mr Bantoft reported that the steel tank enclosure protecting the pump is corroding and consideration should be given to repairing/replacing it or fencing the site to prevent vandalism.

High Fen pumping station:

Mr Bantoft reported that the new control panel and weed-screen cleaner were working well and that the new weed-screen cleaner was now due its first service which is required to keep the CW Engineering warranty valid. He reported that the cost would be £1,350 and the warranty period would be 10 years. He informed members that pump no. 2 was last overhauled in 2009 and consideration should be given to replacing it.

Puddock pumping station:

Mr Bantoft reported that this was a newer station, with 2 submersible pumps and that as previously reported pump No 2 continues to operate with the Moisture Ingress Sensor (MSI) unit defeated and a recent test of the motor windings showed no further deterioration in its insulation resistance.

He considered that although both pumps were operating well, due to the age of these pumps, consideration should be given to their replacement.

Concerning Acre Fen members considered that they should monitor the position this year with a view to making upgrades/fencing in next year's programme.

Mr Mark England referred to the replacement of pump no.1 at High Fen pumping station and the old unit being retained as a spare. Members considered there was currently sufficient cover at the station and a second new unit was not required at this time. Members asked if the price for the annual service of the weed-screen cleaner at High Fen pumping station could be fixed for the warranty period and should they decide to proceed what parts/labour would be covered by the warranty.

Members considered that as pump no.2 at Puddock pumping station had not been overhauled and was therefore as installed and given the problems with over-pumping in the event of a pump failure it was now appropriate to replace it. In response to queries concerning the cost of a replacement pump Mr Bantoft reported that the current estimate would need updating as he was aware of significant increases in both cost and delivery time and if the Board decided to replace and order now it may be likely that the installation could fall into next spring given current estimates of delivery times.

Mr Hill reminded members that orders had been placed for the installation of telemetry equipment at the Boards pumping stations.

The chairman considered the Board should continue to make an annual pump overhaul provision.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board:

- i That the sum of £10,000 be included in the budget for 2022/2023 for pump overhaul
- ii That the Board continue to raise the equivalent of a 1.50p rate towards future works.
- iii That the steel tank enclosure at Acre Fen pumping station be monitored this year and it be reviewed further at next year's meeting.
- iv That the Board continue to monitor the condition of pumping units through the routine maintenance programmes and address potential pump failure issues as they may be identified through this policy.
- v That the engineer obtain further information concerning the annual service and warranty of the weed-screen cleaning equipment at High Fen pumping station and the matter be reviewed on receipt of this at the Board meeting.
- vi That the engineer obtain an updated quote for the replacement of pump no.2 at Puddock pumping station and the matter be considered further at the Board meeting.

Drain maintenance contractor

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the coming seasons work with the District Officer and proposed to use the Boards digger for maintenance works where possible and to bring in a digger on a self-drive hire basis for the District Officer to operate where additional reach was required. In response to Mr Brown he estimated that a suitable

machine could be hired for around £1,200 per week. He also considered that a suitable tractor/mower combination could be hired in for flail mowing operations. The chairman reported that the District Officers excavator certification will expire shortly and enquired if Middle Level could inform him of any suitable local courses that the District Officer could attend. In response to Mr Mark England the chairman reported that the Board would be able to use red diesel for its works but would then need to drain the tank, change filters and re-fill with white diesel at the end of the hire period. Mr David England enquired about the delivery of diesel for hired machinery. The chairman reported that tank was at Washways pumping station and Mr Fabb considered the easiest method, if it was possible, would be to get a bunded tank which could be carried on the Officers vehicle.

Mr Whittome reported that another Board of which he was a member had adopted a policy of cleansing all District watercourses annually with a weed bucket and by doing so every year there was not so much material to remove and it was possible to therefore attend to all watercourse, should more substantial slubbing be required a contractor was hired in to attend to this. In response to the chairman Mr Whittome agreed to try and arrange a meeting with this Boards officer to review their operations. Mr Whittome referred to further works at the Stainless Metalcraft site at Chatteris which he had reported to the Middle Level planning engineer. Mr Hill reported that the planning engineer had mentioned this and that he was currently dealing with those matters raised.

Mr Whittome considered it important to have a plan concerning the possible retirement of the District Officer before committing to changes in policy. The Chairman reported that the District Officer had discussed this with him and he was enthusiastic about carrying out the digger work this year and although nothing was confirmed the Officer had indicated a possibility of retirement next year. Members gave consideration to future requirements and that it would be best for the committee to review the position when a clearer indication had been given by the officer.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board:

- i That the Board trial the use of self-drive hired machinery for drain maintenance operations this season.
- ii That in order to develop any succession planning the chairman discuss matters further with the District Officer.
- iii That the finance committee be authorised to develop a succession plan for the post of District Officer and take further action as and when further information becomes available.

Replacement of excavator

The chairman reported that it had not been possible to locate a suitable machine and although he had made further enquiries nothing further was currently available.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board:

That no action be taken at this time to replace the Boards wheeled excavator and for the matter to be reviewed again by the finance committee at their meeting next year.

Capital Improvement programme

Members reviewed the capital improvement programme which had been updated following the engineers updated asset appraisal report and the comments of the engineer from earlier.

The Chairman referred to the earlier discussions concerning the Boards excavator and that this would now be deferred for a further 12 months.

The finance committee approved to recommend to the Board;

That the revised programme be approved.

Rate budget 2022/2023

District labour

The Chairman reminded the meeting that in previous years the salary of the Boards employee had been linked to the annual wage review of the Middle Level Commissioners. Mr Hill confirmed that for 2022/2023 this was based on an agreed formula which gave an increase of 3.0%.

Rates, Insurances, telephones

The meeting approved standard provisions to be made.

Repairs and renewals

The Chairman referred to the Boards pump overhaul policy, and that he considered, with the number of pumping units the Board had, a provision should be included this year.

The Committee approved for standard provisions to be made, and for a provision of £10,000 for a pump overhaul be included in the estimates.

Drainworks

The chairman reported that the programmed works for this year were High Fen catchment along with phased works to the Fenton Lode. He referred to the previous discussions concerning the use of self-drive hired machines.

Members were unsure of the overall implications of using self-drive hired machinery and fuel costs on the budget allocations and agreed to use the previous standard budget provisions for 2022/2023.

Fuel

Mr Hill referred to the earlier discussions concerning fuel costs and the proposal adopted last year to use a five-year average in the budget. He further reported that although confirmation on new contract rates had not been received, for budgetary purposes he proposed to increase this five-year average by 50% to acknowledge increases. He reported that for the 2022/2023 budget the five-year average would be around £68,000, which included diesel and road fuel. Members agreed that the provision needed to be increased but that this needed to be in-line with a balanced budget. Mr Hill drew attention that on these figures fuel costs represented around 1/3 of the budgeted expenditure so it would be easy for this item to skew the out-turn position. Members agreed to use the proposed figure of £65,500.

Administration

Mr Hill reported that standard provisions had been included, and that following approval last year the costs for the new Health & Safety arrangements were included.

Environment Agency precept

Mr Hill reported that the Environment Agency had increased the precept by 2% for 2022/2023.

Highland Water Contributions

Mr Hill reported that following last years increased claims following the winter rainfall events, after additional work concerning the make up of claims the Environment Agency had paid all submitted claims in full. He added that due to the likely increase in fuel costs claims were likely to be higher than the previous average and he proposed to include provision for receipt in the budget figures at an increased average for this year.

Improvement works

Mr Hill reported that following earlier discussion with the engineer a budget figure of £40,000 would be included for the replacement of no.2 pump at Puddock pumping station and £27,000 for the previously approved installation of telemetry equipment at the Boards pumping station. He reminded members that 50% of the cost of the telemetry installation would be funded by grant-in-aid.

Members approved for the use of the asset fund for the replacement pump and the net costs of the telemetry installations.

Capital Reserve Fund

Mr Hill reported that an allowance equivalent to a 1.50p rate had been included as in previous years.

After very careful consideration of the actual expenditure in 2021/2022, taking the likely cash flow requirements for 2022/2023, the future capital programme, the Boards balances

and likely future rates fully into account the recommendation of the Finance Committee is that for 2022/2023:

- i To increase the salary of the District Officer from November by the pay award of the Middle Level Commissioners.
- ii To include an allowance of £10,000 in the budget for a pumping unit overhaul.
- iii To include an amount equivalent to a 1.50p rate to raise funds for the Capital Reserve Fund.
- iv To utilise balances for the replacement pump at Puddock pumping station and installation of telemetry equipment.
- v In recognition that subsequent years rates are likely to increase further, to utilise balances to limit the increase for 2022/2023 to 1p.
- vi A rate of 22.00p be set for 2022/2023.

B.1810 Charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work

Further to minute B.1749, the Board considered the charges for hiring of plant for private work and the recommendations of the Finance Committee. (last reviewed – June 2021).

RESOLVED

That the charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work for the year 2022-2023 are:-

(i) Doosan DX 140W Excavator

Increase to - £60 per hour in the District) (inclusive of operator's wages)
£65 per hour outside the District)

(ii) Flail Mower

Increase to - £65 per hour inside the District) (inclusive of operator's wages)
£70 per hour outside the District)

B.1811 Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised: -

i) COVID-19 Actions

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

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

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

b) 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.

iv) 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.

v) Land Registry

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

vi) 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.

vii) Planning and Consenting Fees

Proposed changes to planning and consenting service supply charging

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

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

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

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

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

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

discussions being undertaken. The Board may also wish to delegate decision making for initial actions for bylaw infringements to the Board nominee/s.

To ensure that the Board is consulted on the most important matters it is proposed that when it is wished for a matter to be raised within the Board report then a request from the Chair can be made and a detailed report would follow. This would normally be the case where significant costs might be associated with enforcement, including perhaps incurring legal fees or where an unusually large or significant development is proposed.

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

RESOLVED

- 1) That a lump sum fee arrangement be agreed in principle, and figures presented to the Board at their January 2023 meeting.
- 2) Chairman, Vice-Chairman and David England to be copied into correspondence on relevant Planning Applications.

viii) 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.

ix) 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.

x) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

The Clerk reported that an order has been placed for telemetry to be installed at all six of the Board's pumping stations and that the installation will proceed over the summer months.

B.1812 Consulting Engineer's Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report May 22

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 in a mechanically and electrically satisfactory condition.

Acre Fen

The steel tank enclosure protecting the pump is corroding and consideration should be given to repairing/replacing it and fencing the site to prevent vandalism.

High Fen

The new control panel and weed screen cleaner are working well. The weed screen cleaner is now due its first service which is required to keep the CW warranty valid.

The cost would be £1350 and members are asked to confirm their agreement to an order being placed accordingly.

Pump 2 was installed in 1989 and last overhauled in 2009 and consideration should now be given to replacing it.

Puddock

Pump 2 continues to operate with the Moisture Ingress Sensor (MSI) unit defeated and a recent test of the motor windings showed no further deterioration in its insulation resistance. Both pumps, which were manufactured in 1992, are operating well but, due to the age of these pumps, consideration should be given to their replacement.

Diversion of Fenton Lode/Fillenhams Drain, Chatteris (Dents Diversion)

There have been no reports of items requiring remedial works at this time. The thorough and detailed inspection of the diversion remains outstanding, but subject to the availability of the relevant parties, will be undertaken in the next few weeks to ensure that any slippage in the banks, slip stability or other issues are raised and dealt with whilst there are sufficient funds available before the Agreement and Performance Deed terminates in 2023.

Planning Matters

In addition to previous planning matters, the following 27 new development related matters shown below have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
1173	F/YR21/1134/F	Mr & Mrs Prior	Residence	Doddington Road, accessed from Albert Way, Chatteris
1174	H/21/02169/HHFUL	Miss L Branch	Residence (Extension)	Puddock Road, Warboys
1175	H/21/80326/COND	Stratton Oakmont Properties Ltd	Residential (2 plots)	Warboys Road, Pidley
1176	H/21/02191/FUL	Mr J Rigby	Commercial (Extension)	Parkhall Nurseries & Garden Centre, Parkhall Road, Somersham
1177	F/YR21/1224/RM	Persimmon Homes East Midlands	Residential (Up to 248 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
1178	H/21/02282/HHFUL	Mr D Newman	Residence (Extension)	Fen Road, Pidley
1179	F/YR21/1269/F	Mr N Watters	Residential (2 plots)	Puddock Pumping Station, Forty Foot Bank, Ramsey
1180	F/YR21/1288/F	Mr B Beaney	Residential (3 plots)	London Road, Chatteris
1181	H/21/02099/HHFUL	Mr D Gilder	Residence	Puddock Road, Warboys
1182	F/YR21/1346/F	Mrs H Carver	Residence (Annexe)	Honeysome Road, Chatteris
1183	Enquiry	Client of Stopford Energy & Environment	Flood Assessment Risk	Warboys Landfill Site, Puddock Hill, Warboys
1184	H/21/02154/FUL	Mr Austen	Residence (Extension)	Warboys Road, Pidley
1185	F/YR21/1385/F	Mr P Manko	Residence (Extension)	Willey Terrace, Chatteris
1186	F/YR21/3140/COND	Persimmon Homes East Midlands	Residential (Up to 248 plots)	Doddington Road, Chatteris*
1187	H/21/02500/FUL	Mr A Spencer	Agricultural (Barn extensions)	Parkhall Road, Somersham*
1188	H/21/02727/HHFUL	Mr M Pollard	Residence (Extension)	Fen Road, Pidley
1189	F/YR21/1531/F	Mr E Payne	Residential (2 plots)	Chapel Lane Chatteris
1190	H/21/02734/HHFUL	Ms R Moor	Residence (Extension)	New Road, Tick Fen, Warboys
1191	H/21/02795/FUL	Cambridgeshire County Council	Residence (Replacement)	Dunkirk Drive, Somersham*
1192	H/22/00221/HHFUL	Mr Parish	Residence (Annex)	Mill Green, Warboys
1193	F/YR22/0173/F	Mr A Chapman & Miss L Lenton	Residence (Extension)	Westbourne Road, Chatteris
1194	H/22/00182/AGDET	R & S Clark Farming Ltd	Agricultural (Storage)	Short Drove, Somersham*
1195	H/22/00049/HHFUL	Mr & Mrs Wall	Residence (Extension)	Puddock Road, Warboys
1196	H/21/02861/FUL	Mr P Casey	Gypsy/Traveller (6 pitches)	Parkhall Road, Somersham
1197	F/YR22/0252/F	Karl Jackson	Residence (Garden room/store)	George Way, Chatteris
1198	H/22/00093/HHFUL	Ms Hugill	Residence (Annexe)	Bank Avenue, Somersham
1199	H/22/00565/AGDET	K R German & Sons	Agricultural (Irrigation reservoir)	Fen Road, Pidley

*Planning applications ending 'HHFUL' relate to Householder applications for Full Planning Permission
Planning applications ending 'COND' or 'DISC' relate to the discharge of relevant planning conditions*

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

Planning applications ending 'AGDET' relate to Agricultural Determination

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

Mr Moor chose to use the Infiltration Device Self-Certification or Checking Service for surface water disposal from New Road, Tick Fen (MLC Ref No 1190) and, in doing so, agreed that if the device was to fail in the future, the land owner would be liable for any remedial works to rectify the situation.

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.

- *Developments at Lower End Farm, Puddock Road, Warboys – P. K. Raynham (MLC Ref No 377) and C A Agriculture Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 908 & 1085)*
- *Industrial/Haulage Yard at Fenton Way, Chatteris (MLC Ref No 529); Erection of a vegetable processing building and formation of balancing pond – Client of Grounds & Co (MLC Ref No 627); Allpress Farms Ltd (MLC Ref No 638); Erection of warehouse with offices and business units on land west of Fenton Way, Chatteris - R W Simpson Ltd (MLC Ref No 644) & Produce World Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 770, 776, 777, 1097 & 1098)*
- *Haulage yard; aggregates storage area & sales use; inert waste & soil recycling operations; and a lean-to extension to existing buildings accommodating an ancillary office, welfare facilities & storage uses at Furlong Farm, First Furlong Drive, Chatteris – Mandley Brothers (MLC Ref Nos 718, 944 & 981)*
- *Developments at Manchetts Transport, Heath Road, Warboys – Manchetts Transport (MLC Ref Nos 519, 540, 569, 684 & 1000)*
- *Residential Development involving demolition of existing storage building on land west and south of 74 West Street, Chatteris – Client of LK Consult Ltd (MLC Ref No 742), Land Planning Partnership Ltd (MLC Ref No 826), WS Sandbach Ltd (MLC Ref No 928) & 4 Real Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 1075)*
- *Erection of a garden centre (with restaurant area) with 2.2M (max height) fence and gates involving the demolition of existing sheds, greenhouses, and single-storey elements to 134 London Road, Chatteris – Miltons (Wallpapers) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 888 & 969)*
- *Residential development on land south of 8 - 59 Fairbairn Way, Chatteris – Alan Bartlett & Sons Ltd (Chatteris) (MLC Ref Nos 890 & 1020)*
- *General purpose agricultural store on land to the south west of Hazeldene, Puddock Road, Warboys - Mr S Wilcox (MLC Ref Nos 956 & 1099)*
- *Proposed pig rearing units and associated anaerobic digestion plant at 1 Colne Fen Farm, Chatteris Road, Somersham – Client of RM ASSOCIATES (MLC Ref No 961) and A & E G Heading Ltd (MLC Ref No 993)*

- *Environmental Permit Application EPR/KB3199AV/A001 for treated effluent discharge at Hayden House, High Street, Pidley - Mr D Bird (MLC Ref No 966)*
- *A pair of dwellings on land adjacent to Copper Beeches, Warboys Road, Pidley - Mr J Simons (MLC Ref Nos 1008, 1050 & 1089)*

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

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

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

Chatteris

Mixed Use Development on land at Tithe Barn Farm and south east of London Road, Chatteris [South Chatteris (strategic allocation)] - Hallam Land Management Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 481, 537 & 562)

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports a virtual meeting attended by the relevant parties, including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the neighbouring Sutton & Mepal IDB together with the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Engineer, has been held. From this, and the subsequent information received, it appears, according to the Board's records, that this development abuts but is currently outside of the Board's catchment.

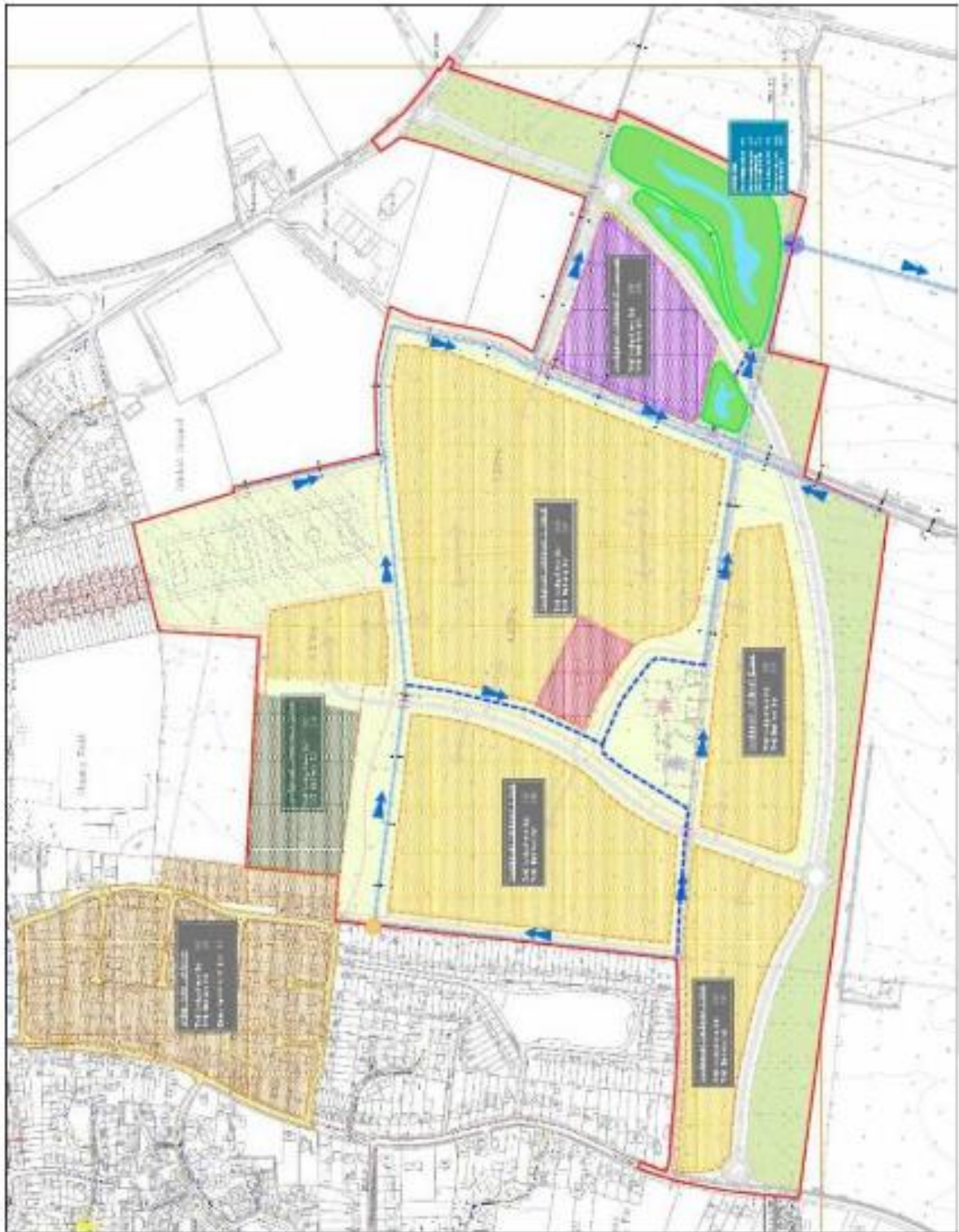


Figure 1-1: Extract Illustrative Surface Water Drainage Strategy Plan ref 10048-DR-02 Rv05

The Board's position in respect of surface water disposal will be reviewed as the development progresses.

Residential development on land east of Llanca, Huntingdon Road, Chatteris – Mr B Biggs & Mr J Biggs (MLC Ref No 468), Bexwell Tractors (MLC Ref Nos 607 & 739) and HB Villages Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 943, 973 & 977)

The current position is being ascertained.

Development at Womb Farm to the south west of Doddington Road, Chatteris - Colliers CRE (MLC Ref No 524), Triman Developments (UK) Ltd (MLC Ref No 528), Client of Haskoning DHV UK Ltd (MLC Ref No 1036), Barmach Ltd (MLC Ref No 1040), Triman Developments (UK) Ltd & Robertson Strategic Asset Management Ltd (MLC Ref No 1066)

An approach has been received from Persimmon Homes East Midlands concerning the development of this site which is beside Fillenhams Drain/Dents Diversion.

Members will be aware that the site is within both the Board's rateable area and that of the neighbouring Nightlayers IDB and that during previous discussions it had been agreed that surface water would be directed to the Board's Fillenhams Drain whilst the treated foul effluent water would discharge into the Board's system via AWSL's Nightlayers Fen WRC.

In order to assist further discussion, the Board is asked to confirm its approval of the actions taken and provide instruction on how it would wish us to proceed.

Haulage yard; aggregates storage area & sales use; inert waste & soil recycling operations; and a lean-to extension to existing buildings accommodating an ancillary office, welfare facilities & storage uses at Furlong Farm, First Furlong Drove, Chatteris – Mandley Brothers (MLC Ref Nos 718, 944 & 981)

The current position concerning the discharge from an attenuation pond and the laying of concrete at the site is being ascertained.

Development on land to the south of 19 Blackmill Road, Chatteris - Mr B White/DBM Landscapes (MLC Ref Nos 874 & 893) & Mr V Salisbury (MLC Ref No 1159)

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports, this planning application was refused planning permission due to issues related to sustainable travel.

Erection of 6no single storey dwellings comprising of 2 x 2-bed and 4 x 3-bed; change of use of office building (LB) to 2-storey 5-bed dwelling involving part demolition of Listed Building and demolition of warehouse and buildings at 22 London Road, Chatteris – GKL Residential Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 1037, 1169 & 1171)

The current position is being ascertained.

New Advanced Engineering Training Centre at Chatteris Engineering Works off Honeysome Road, Chatteris – Stainless Metalcraft (Chatteris) Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 1117 1123 & 1161)

Members will recall that there were several issues concerning development within the Board's 9.0m wide maintenance access strip which the Board wishes to reinstate as a result of this development.

Both this and another related encroachment issue are currently being discussed with the parties involved.

Warboys

Developments at Wilsons Orchard, Fenside Road, Warboys - DRA Fabb (MLC Ref Nos 504, 533, 951, 1079, 1151 & 1152)

The appropriate documentation required by the Board concerning surface water disposal has not yet been received.

Erection of 2 No. Buildings to form 4 No. Industrial Units and single storey extension to existing buildings at Cromwell House, Heath Road, Warboys – Cromwell Fire Ltd (Mr T Struggles) (MLC Ref No 1103)

Further to previous Board Meeting Reports, this planning application was refused planning permission by the District Council due to several issues not related to the Board's interests.

Fenton

Erection of 9 dwellings with garaging and parking following the demolition of the existing industrial buildings at land north east of The Laurels, Fenton Road, Fenton – Mr Augstein (MLC Ref No 1052)

According to HDC's Public Access webpage this application is still "In progress".

Pidley

Residential development on land at Vernon Motors, Warboys Road, Pidley - Vernon Motors Ltd (MLC Ref No 436), Mr & Mrs V Van Der Gaag (MLC Ref No 1059) & Qualitect Construction (MLC Ref No 1165)

According to HDC's Public Access webpage the application is "In progress".

Residential development on land to the west of Richmond Lodge, Fen Road, Pidley - Mr Hopkins (MLC Ref Nos 907, 936, 980 & 1104) & Mrs Bradshaw (MLC Ref No 1060)

Further to the last Board Meeting Report, the previously requested information has not been received from Partners in Planning & Architecture Ltd, Mrs Bradshaw's agent, concerning the capacity of the balancing pond and the Board has been asked how it wishes to approach this matter, as no response has been received it is presumed that the Board is content with the proposal.

Somersham

Application for outline planning permission for up to 145 dwellings and associated access, all other matters reserved on land north of the bank at land north of 16 The Bank, Somersham – Client of Waldeck Consulting (MLC Ref No 1045) and Larkfleet Homes (MLC Ref Nos 1058 & 1084)

Some occasional discussion has occurred concerning this proposed development the application for which is pending consideration.

Members may be aware that this site is shown within the Board's "highland" catchment with its rateable boundary forming the eastern boundary of the site. For this reason, it was previously understood that the site discharges into the Board's system and land levels would infer that this is the situation.

However, the Environment Agency's Cranbrook Drain is in close proximity to the site on the southern side of Chatteris Road and is of concern to the local residents.

In an effort to try and clarify the position, a copy of a plan showing the extents of the Cranbrook Drain catchment was requested from the Environment Agency. This plan infers that the site is within the Cranbrook Drain catchment but it also shows areas of the Board's rateable area around the Thornhill Farm/Turkington Hill area within this catchment.

Some more involved discussion and inspections may be required to clarify the position.

Planning Updates & Consultations

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

General Advice

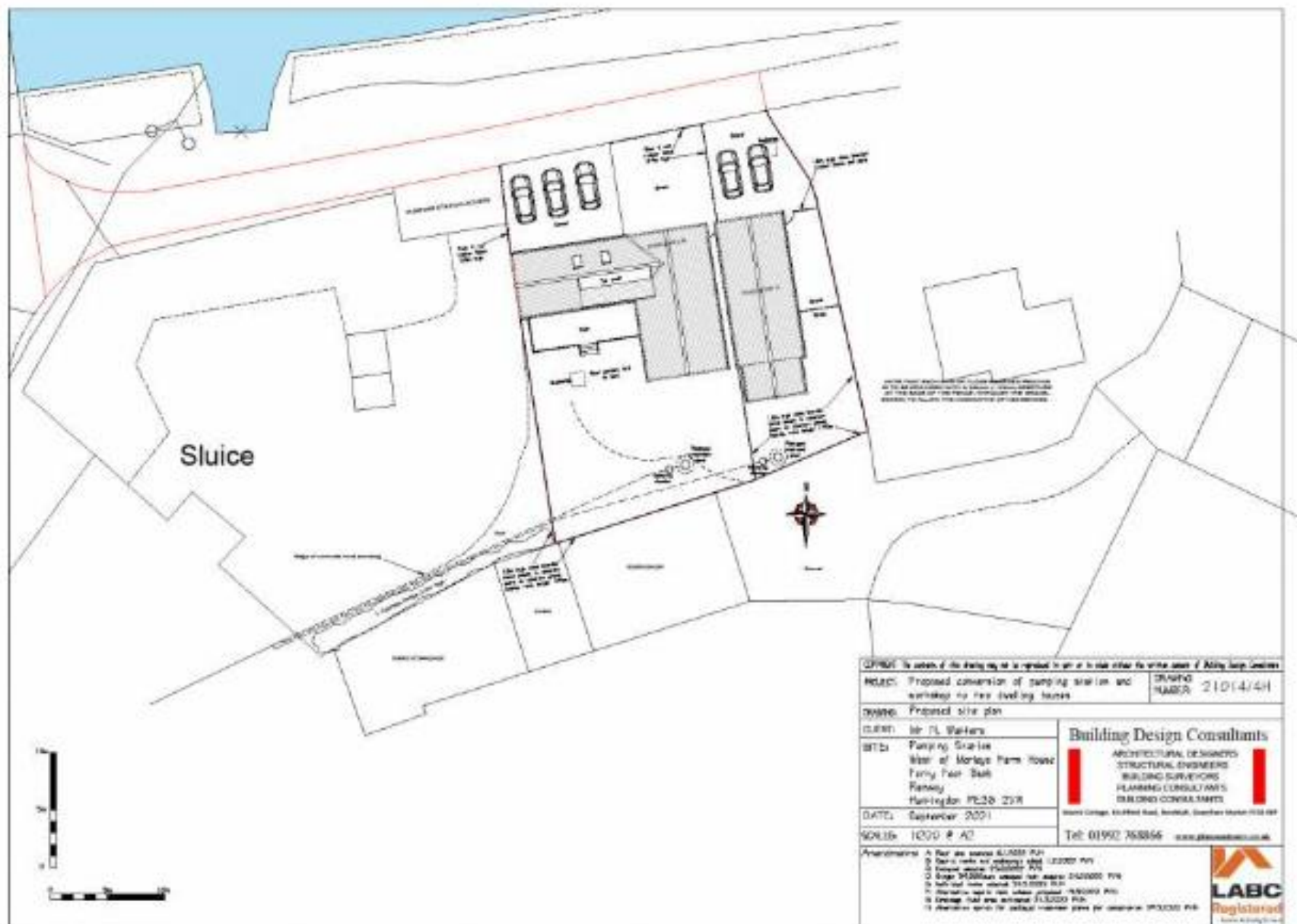
Assistance has been given, on the Board's behalf, in respect of the following:

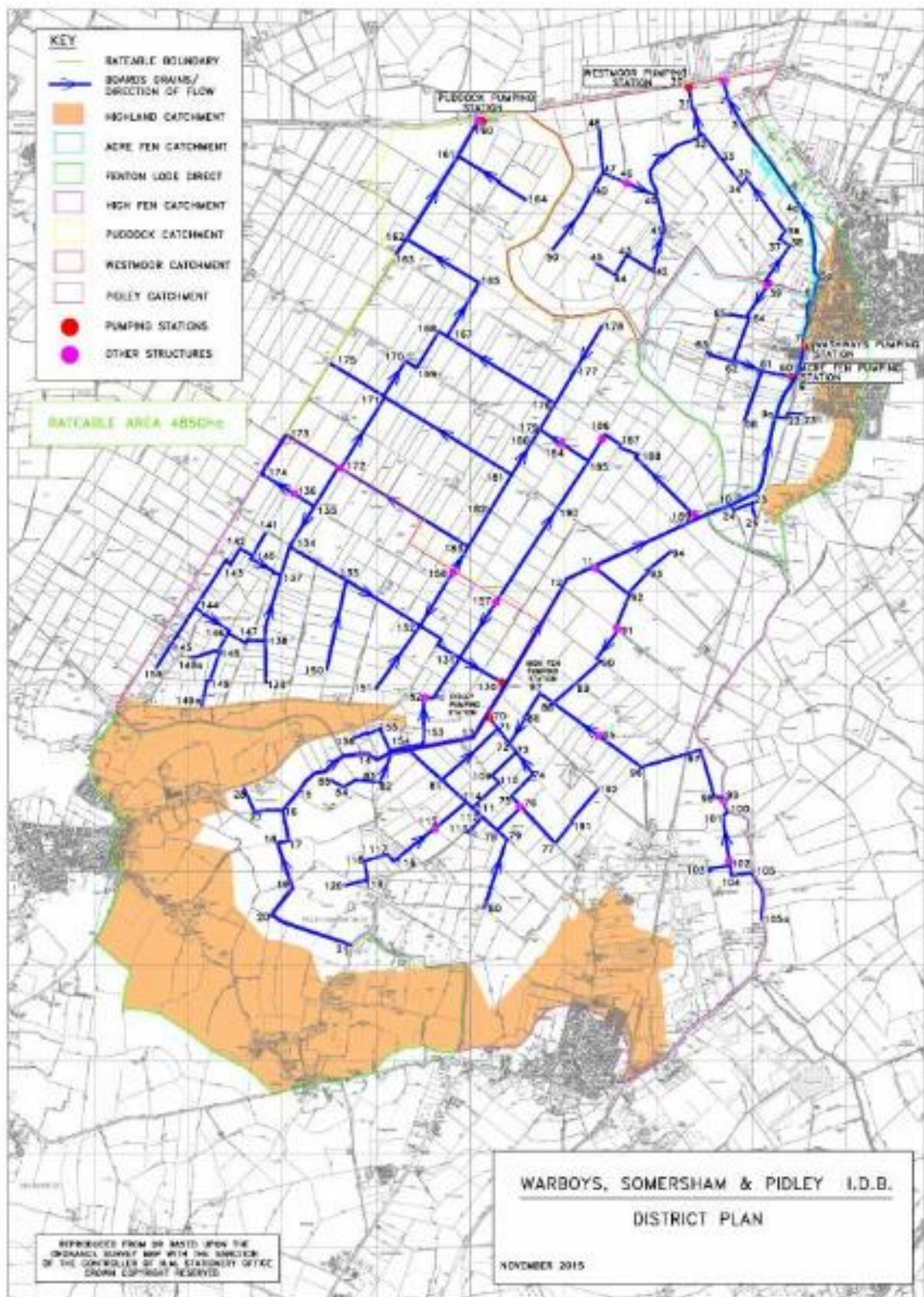
- (a) After the sale of Puddock Pumping Station, proposals have been submitted to modify the buildings for two residential properties. The Board has been approached to consider the disposal of surface water and treated effluent from the properties into the Board's watercourse (MLC Ref No 1179). This will require laying two discharge pipes across the Board's land between the concrete road and conifers at the rear of the site, cutting a hole through the steel piles of the inlet headwall and discharging into the Board's watercourse. The drawing overleaf shows the proposed route of the two pipes and the discharge point. The Board will receive the usual development contribution for the surface water and treated effluent discharge but also needs to consider any cost that the Board wants to charge for use of its land for the purpose of installing pipes and the use of the wingwall as a discharge point.

18 May 2022

Consulting Engineer

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley (333)\Reports\May 22





Acre Fen

The Chairman reported that he was to arrange a site visit to the Pumping Station with Dave Bantoft, the Electrical Engineer.

High Fen

The new control panel and weedscreen cleaner was working well. The weedscreen cleaner is due its first service which is required to keep the warranty valid.

The cost of the service is £1,350 and Members approved an order to be placed for these works to be carried out. The Chairman agreed to discuss the warranty with the Electrical Engineer.

It was noted by Members of the Board that pump 2 was installed in 1989 and last overhauled in 2009 and consideration should be given to replacing it.

Puddock

It was noted that pump 2 continues to operate with the moisture ingress sensor unit defeated, however a recent test of the motor windings showed no further deterioration of its insulation resistance.

Both pumps at this station were manufactured in 1992 but are operating well.

Planning Applications

The Members noted the Planning Applications received and where appropriate had been dealt with by the Planning Engineer since the date of the last meeting.

Development of Womb Farm to the South West of Doddington Road, Chatteris

The Consulting Engineer advised that an approach had been received from Persimmon Homes East Midlands concerning this development which is beside Fenton Lode/Fillenham Drain (Dents Diversion).

The site is within both the Boards area and that of Nightlayers IDB and it was noted that during previous discussions it had been agreed that surface water should be directed to the Boards Fillenham drain whilst the treated foul effluent water should discharge in to the Boards systems via AWSL's Nightlayer's Fens WRC.

The Board approved the actions of the Planning Engineer to date and asked for the Planning Engineer to arrange a site visit with Persimmon Homes.

New Advanced Engineering Training Centre at Chatteris Engineering works off Honeysome Road Chatteris – Stainless Metalcraft (Chatteris) Ltd

The District Officer reported that the encroachment issues had now been resolved.

Residential Development on Land to the West of Richmond Lodge, Fen Road, Pidley.

The Engineer reported that the information requested about the capacity of the balancing pond had not been received.

Pudduck Pumping Station

The Engineer reported that following the sale of the former Pumping Station, proposals had been submitted to modify the building into 2 residential properties. The Board had been approached to consider the disposal of surface water and treated effluent from the properties into the Board's watercourse. This will require laying two discharge pipes across the Board's land between the concrete road and conifers at the rear of the site, cutting a hole through the inlet headwall and discharging into the Board's watercourse.

RESOLVED

- i) High Fen - That the weedscreen cleaner is serviced at a cost of £1,350.00.
- ii) Puddock - That the pumps should not be replaced at the present time.
- iii) Puddock Pumping Station - That the Board was agreeable to this request subject to the appropriate conditions being negotiated including the removal of conifers and erection of a fence by the developer, a 6-metre gate to be provided between the pumping station and drain. A sum in the region of £20,000 to be negotiated for the cost the easement together with payment of the Board's legal costs. The Engineer to investigate if a water connection can be made to Puddock Pumping Station to help provide a resolution to the water pressure problems with Anglian Water.

B.1813 Capital Improvement Programme

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

Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board

Capital Improvement Programme (2022/2023)

		PREVIOUS YEARS	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	FUTURE YEARS	ALL YEARS
		Pre Yr 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Post Year 10	Total Expenditure
Acre Fen p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	4.5	10.0	210.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	324.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	90.0
	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	20.0	20.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
High 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	4.3	4.5	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.8
	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	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	6.3	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3
Pidley 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	45.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	49.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0.0	0.0	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

Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board

Capital Improvement Programme (2022/2023)

Puddock 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	44.5	25.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.0	0.0	0.0	234.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.0	0.0	90.0
	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
Westmoor 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	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	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	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	10.0	10.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Washways p/s	Refurbishment of pumping station	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	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	20.0	20.0
	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	30.0	30.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0
Plant	Toyota Hi-Lux - AJ11 BND	0	0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Doosan DX140W Excavator - AU09 FEW	0	0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Property	Puddock pumping station bungalow	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drainage Channels	Washways discharge channel piling replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	75.0
		10.6	67.0	125	260	0	0	10	85	100	225	180	95	1,158

Identified on PAFS 2020 submission

updated from engineers asset appraisal

ammended for 2020/2021 following finance committee recommendations

Acre Fen and Puddock p/s weed-screen cleaners move to year 10

Pump overhaul/replacement policy ammended 2021 - figures left for guidance

Doosan excavator replacement put back a further year - to review 2023

December 2022 - approved telemetry at all 6 stations - £4,500 per station less 50% grant aid

RESOLVED

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

B.1814 District Officer's Report

The District Officer reported that a culvert was to be installed near point 14. He advised that he had 200 piles remaining and these would be installed at Fenton Lode near the Forty Foot River and that he would carry out these works.

He reported that at Hawk Fen there were obstructions in the 9-metre strip, mostly trees that needed to be removed and a letter had been sent to Kevin Richardson at Sewoods Farm, Chatteris.

The boards at High Fen were rotten and the District Officer asked if the Middle Level Engineer could provide an estimate for the cost of replacement.

The roadway to Pidley Acre Fen and West Moor needs attention and the District Officer asked if the Middle Level Engineers could inspect and provide an estimate for these works.

The District Officer requested if Planning could be obtained from Cambridgeshire County Council for the Pidley Pumping Station.

B.1815 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley IDB

Biodiversity Action Plan Report 2021-22

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Warboys, Somersham & Pidley IDB Report Summary

Invasive Species

None noted but azolla was particularly rampant across the fens in winter/spring 2022. Care should be taken when moving machinery between drains/catchments.

Water Voles

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

Pond creation

The CO has offered advice to a private pond creation request from a landowner in the district.

Other species/issues

No reports of mink in the district in the reporting period however 2 mink were recovered nearby – one dead on the Forty Foot bank in September 2021 and another trapped at Forty Foot PS in early 2022. All reports of this species are important as the project moves towards removing them from the Fens.

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.~~

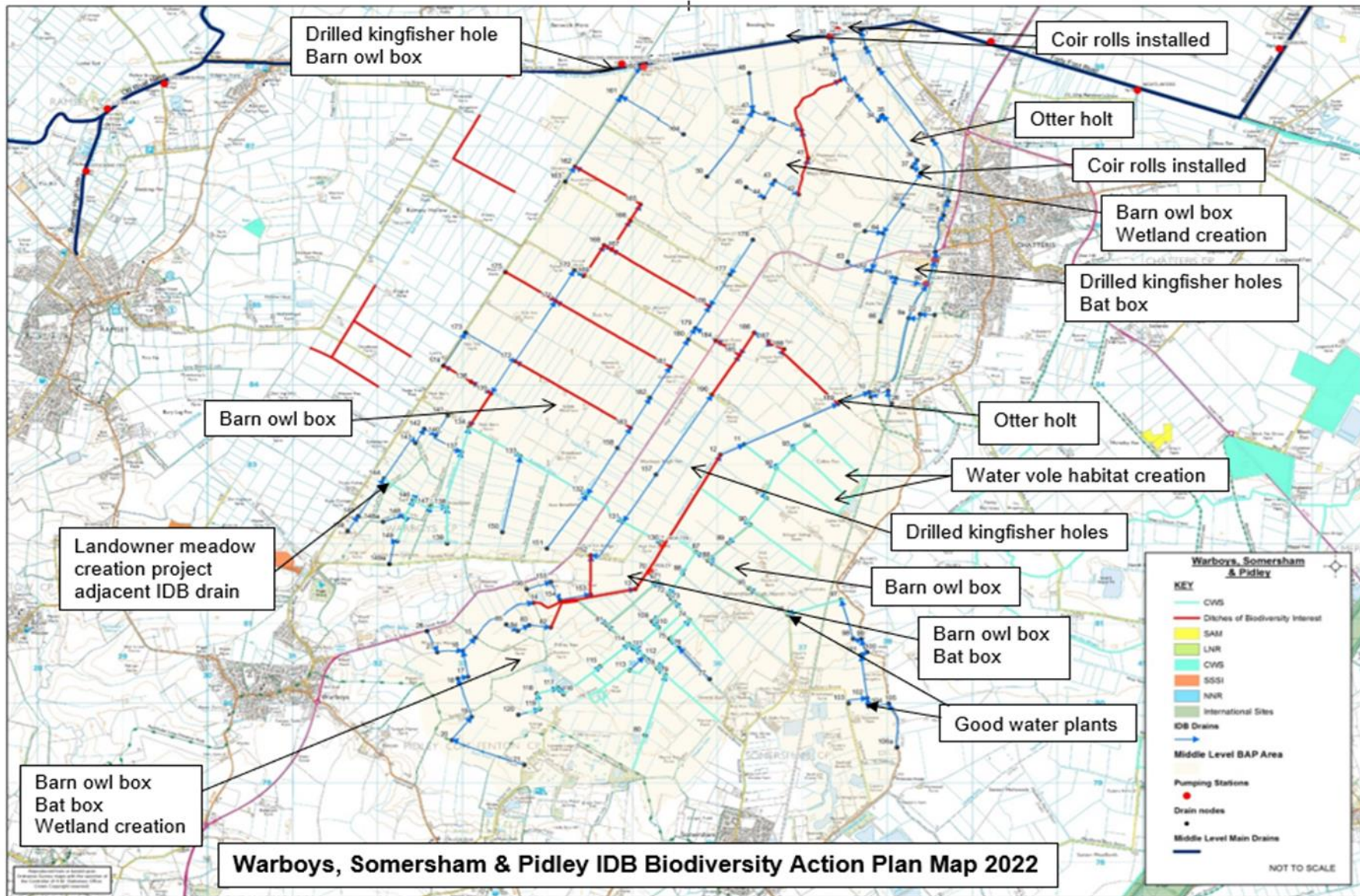
The culmination of our Floating Pennywort awareness project, this training morning will provide an up-to-date summary of invasive species, both flora and fauna, to look out for in the Middle Level. Guest speakers: Cliff Carson and Mike Foley. *This event has passed but the CO is happy to discuss or share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

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

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

Peter Beckenham, Conservation Officer for Middle Level Commissioners

IDB Map 2021-22



Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1816 Clerk's fee

Consideration was given to the fee of the Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the proposed rate for 2022/2023 be approved.

B.1817 State-aided Schemes

Consideration was given to the desirability of undertaking further State-aided Schemes in the District and whether any future proposals should be included in the capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time but that this remains under review.

B.1818 District Labour - District Officer's Salary

The Board considered the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the salary of the District Officer be increased in accordance with the Middle Level Commissioners' pay award, as indicated on the Supplementary Schedule.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the Finance Committee be adopted.

B.1819 Environment Agency – Precept

The Clerk 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 2020/2021 was £21,877.00.

B.1820 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

The Clerk will report that following his submission of claims for contributions the gross sum of £8,132.60 (£18,900.12 less £10,767.52 received on account) (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2020/2021 based on the Board's

actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £11,822.17 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022.

B.1821 Determination of annual value(s) for rate purposes

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

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.

B.1822 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.1788, the Chairman reported that he would arrange the next meeting with Cope Safety Management and the report would be reported at the next meeting of the Board in December.

B.1823 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

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

The Clerk 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.1824 Risk Management Assessment

- a) Members considered and approved the Board's Risk Register.
- b) The Board considered and approved the insured value of their buildings and gave consideration to having a professional valuation of the Board's real estate assets, for insurance purposes, viz;

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB
INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS & BUNGALOW

	<u>As at</u> <u>31st March 2022</u>
Puddock Pumping Station	770,000.00
Pidley Pumping Station	900,000.00
High Fen Pumping Station	734,000.00
Acre Fen Pumping Station	460,000.00
Washways Pumping Station	1,700,000.00
Westmoor Pumping Station	775,000.00
	5,339,000.00
Puddock Bungalow	126,291.00
	5,465,291.00

RESOLVED

That no changes be made to the valuation at this time and for the matter to be reviewed again at the next annual meeting.

B.1825 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.1826 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:

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

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

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

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

DD/MM/YY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

Chairman

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

ENTER PUBLIC ADDRESS WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

RESOLVED

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

B.1827 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £309,563.31 which had been made during the financial year 2021/2022, viz;

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	612.30
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract	12,867.46
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of 3/4 stainless steel tube and electrode holder (Account from Hawker)	94.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner, replacing floodlights outside and blocking vermin holes at Pidley pumping station	766.47
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Pidley pumping station	2,399.89
Middle Level Commissioners - Replacement pump at High Fen pumping station - 5% of TCV on completion of installation and commissioning (Account from Bedford Pumps)	2,598.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Washways pumping station	1,116.08
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,330.80
Middle Level Commissioners - Replacement pump at High Fen pumping station - 25% of TCV on delivery (Account from Bedford Pumps)	12,993.30
Cole & Day - Supply and fit tyres and tubes to trailer	598.80
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Bucket teeth, bolts, 25 litres of Eurofleet oil, 25 litres of Hydraulic 46 oil, a box of grease cartridges and repairs to digger flail mower	809.31
Fen Fencing Limited - Removal of old gates and fitting of new 6 metre steel palisade double gates	1,620.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges, derv, rebate and supply of gas oil	4,275.43
Cambridgeshire County Council - Right of way (Warners Drove, Somersham)	30.00
Environment Agency - Precept	10,938.42
Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	110.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	428.09
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	348.35
B J Plint Hire Ltd - Assistance with de-watering of High Fen pumping station, together with transport of dam materials	2,460.00
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Bolts, penny washers, 5 litres of Jizer and a box of 12G welding rods	57.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fee (Discharge consent application)	122.86
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,290.38
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	380.85
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2021	1,039.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,631.04
Middle Level Commissioners - Fee (Discharge consent application)	44.72
Cole & Day - MOT and service of Isuzu D-Max AO17 WMW	319.62
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	303.86
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - 1 tin of WD40, 2 tins of Holts tyre weld and 1 tin of expanding foam	45.41
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Pidley pumping station	646.74
Middle Level Commissioners - Road tax - AO17 WMW	275.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Washways pumping station (Accounts from Lawtronic and Shoebridge Engineering)	4,685.99
Middle Level Commissioners - Reset of summer levels at Acre Fen pumping station	25.28
Middle Level Commissioners - Reset of summer levels and replace probe brackets and probe at Westmoor pumping station	620.48
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to flap doors at Puddock pumping station	858.96
Fleet Timber Supplies - Piles and toeboard	8,269.92
Fen Fencing Limited - Supply and fit new steel palisade fencing at High Fen pumping station, supply and fit splays, re-fit gates, dig out soil, supply hardcore and lay concrete to extend concrete pad	3,882.00
LR Boon & Sons Ltd - 25 litres of hydraulic oil, 25 litres of 80-90 gear oil, 25 litres of Eurofleet oil, disposable gloves, stretch gloves, 3 filters, 3 x 25 litre drums and 6 bolts and lock nuts	429.20
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges, derv, supply of gas oil and tyres for AU09 FEW	5,899.27
Russell Fowler - Flail mowing	7,786.80
FJS Services Ltd - Repairs to Doosan 360 digger and clean weedscreen	202.80
Fleet Timber Supplies - Piles and toeboard	3,963.60
Fleet Timber Supplies - Piles	3,528.00
Russell Fowler - Flail mowing	11,058.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	3,745.52
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges,	11,050.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Attendance at finance meeting and Board meeting, planning and development applications)	1,916.10
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of filters for repair of automatic weedscreen cleaner at Washways pumping station	62.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of padlocks, galvanised tube and fittings	152.83
Middle Level Commissioners - Assistance with replacement weedscreen, installation of pump, pump hire and strip clean and rebuild both syphons on pump (Accounts from Bedford Pump and Sykes)	5,125.81

PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit fee (2020-2021 accounts)	720.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	241.72
Information Commissioner - Data Protection Registration renewal	40.00
Russell Fowler - Flail mowing	13,929.60
Fleet Timber Supplies - Piles and toeboard	7,883.52
CW Group - Weedscreen cleaner works at High Fen pumping station - Release of retenton	2,400.00
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges, derv, supply of gas oil and fork attachment	5,606.43
Environment Agency - Precept	10,938.41
Russell Fowler - Flail mowing	5,709.60
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	278.00
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Mesh, 5 litres of screen wash, pack of cable ties and 3/4" pins	42.43
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,358.40
Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	110.00
Bank charges (refunded)	9.00
FJS Services Ltd - Supply and fit walkway and rail off Warboys Road	1,593.95
K R German & Son - Drain maintenance	1,392.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners 2020-2021 accounts)	1,506.00
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Box of disposable gloves, box of grease cartridges, adjustable wrench and repair to fork on digger	221.73
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)	1,115.00
Russell Fowler - Drain maintenance and flail mowing	5,818.80
Russell Fowler - Drain maintenance and piling works	30,400.20
Lakeside Lodge Golf Centre - Expenses in connection with Board meeting	343.00
ACH Farm Services - Repairs to trailer	858.02
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges, derv and rebate	373.66
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Pidley pumping station	334.07
Middle Level Commissioners - Set winter levels at High Fen pumping station	78.16
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner at Westmoor pumping station	400.73
Middle Level Commissioners - Road tax - AU09 FEW and insurance premium increase (High Fen pumping station)	179.24
Middle Level Commissioners - Set winter levels at Pidley pumping station	81.76
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - Box of disposable gloves, diesel filters, ratchet straps, grinder spanner, hydraulic hose, 25 litres of hydraulic oil, bolts and lock nuts	399.44
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges, derv and supply of gas oil	4,706.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	1,643.04
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - 1 litre of ATF oil	7.33
R J Wilmer - Re-imburement for purchase of diesel	86.73
Association of Drainage Authorities (River Great Ouse branch) - Subscription 2020-2021	30.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	427.32
Middle Level Commissioners - Recover basket and set limits on automatic weedscreen cleaner Pidley pumping station	344.04
Middle Level Commissioners - Health and Safety re-charges for 2021-2022	720.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)	2,427.30
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	271.34
L R Boon & Sons Ltd - 5 litres of deionised water, battery flashing light, batteries and 2 x 12" cutting discs	61.93
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Mobile telephone charges and derv	377.08
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Data Collection Charges (Westmoor pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Data Collection Charges (High Fen pumping station)	119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Data Collection Charges (Pidley pumping station)	132.62
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Data Collection Charges (Puddock pumping station)	132.62
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Data Collection Charges (Washways pumping station)	132.62
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Meter Operator Charges (Westmoor pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Meter Operator Charges (High Fen pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Meter Operator Charges (Pidley pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Meter Operator Charges (Puddock pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Meter Operator Charges (Washways pumping station)	212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity Meter Operator Charges (Acre Fen pumping station)	111.25
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Acre Fen pumping station)	2,684.11
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (High Fen pumping station)	1,840.30
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Pidley pumping station)	7,960.54
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Puddock pumping station)	3,800.11
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Westmoor pumping station)	1,160.66
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply (Washways pumping station)	13,519.04
District Labour	35,507.39
	<u>309,563.31</u>

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

(NB) – Mr German declared an interest in the payments made to K R German and Sons.

B.1828 Annual Accounts of the Board – 2021/2022

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

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

GENERAL FUND

2022			2021		
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-		Apr-01	Balance brought forward	186,822.88
	Precept	21,876.83	2022		
	Rates, insurances, telephones	4,451.56	Mar-31	Rate income & Special levies	175,442.23
	Repairs & Renewals	19,401.44		Interest on Deposit Accounts	11.72
	Fuel	48,545.31		Landowners consent (Washways)	820.00
	Drainworks	83,344.91		Consents	100.00
	District Labour	36,088.84		Rent	6,600.00
	Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising etc	23,515.75		Highland Water Contributions	19,598.67
		215,347.81		Vehicle Contribution	500.04
				Private works	336.00
	<u>Improvement works</u>			<u>Development Fund</u>	
	High Fen p/s - Pump overhaul	4,311.21		High Fen p/s - Weedscreen cleaning equipment	6,320.62
	High Fen p/s - weedscreen cleaner	6,320.62		Washways p/s - gearbox repair	3,904.99
		10,631.83		Piling works	24,500.00
					34,725.61
	<u>Transfers to Capital Reserve Fund:</u>			<u>Capital Reserve Account</u>	
	Rates Raised 2021/2022 (1.50p)	12,532.00		High Fen p/s motor overhaul	4,311.21
	Pump overhaul provision	0.00		Puddock p/s flap valve repairs	715.80
		12,532.00		Piling works - Pidley catchment	5,000.00
					10,027.01
	Depreciation charge	5,892.18			
	Balance carried forward	168,703.51			
		434,984.16			434,984.16

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

Liabilities

Capital Provisions	5,139,791.00	
		5,139,791.00

Assets

Bungalow, Puddock Pumping Station	126,291.00	
Pumping Stations	5,013,500.00	
Plant Assets	6,033.79	
Stock	10,179.81	5,156,004.60

Revenue Section

General Fund

Revenue	162,669.72	
Capital	6,033.79	168,703.51
Development Charges Account		358,682.57
Grant in Aid		164,011.21
Sundry Creditors		37,361.43
Capital Reserve Fund		136,334.86
Low Level Restoration Fund		50,000.00
		6,054,884.58

Ratepayers' Account - Arrears		26,238.82
Sundry Debtors		820.00
Value Added Tax		5,687.47
Balance in hand -		
Treasurer's Account	866,133.69	
Labour Account	0.00	866,133.69

6,054,884.58

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022
DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACCOUNT

2022			2021		
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year:-		Apr-01	Balance brought forward	393,150.57
	Middle Level Charges	139.64	2022		
	Transfer to General Fund		Mar-31	Receipts during the year	372.60
	Improvement works and piling	34,725.61		Write back of Middle Level Charges	0.00
	Balance carried forward	358,682.57		Interest	24.65
		<u>393,547.82</u>			<u>393,547.82</u>

CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT

2022			2021		
Mar-31			Apr-01	Balance brought forward	133,821.48
	<u>General Fund</u>		2022		
	High Fen p/s motor overhaul	4,311.21			
	Puddock p/s flap valve repairs	715.80			
	Piling works - Pidley catchment	<u>5,000.00</u>	Mar-31	Rates Raised 2021/2022 (1.50p)	12,532.00
		10,027.01		Pump overhaul provision 2021/2022	0.00
	Balance carried forward	136,334.86		Interest	8.39
		<u>146,361.87</u>			<u>146,361.87</u>

Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board

Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2022

Treasurers Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021			31st March 2022		
Balance brought forward	918,568.10		Payments made during the year	309,938.15	
31st March 2022			To Transfer to Labour Account	<u>0.00</u>	309,938.15
Receipts during the year					
Clerk's collection account	257,459.04				
Interest on deposit accounts	<u>44.70</u>	257,503.74	Balance carried forward		866,133.69
		<u><u>1,176,071.84</u></u>			<u><u>1,176,071.84</u></u>

Labour Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021			31st March 2022		
Balance brought forward	1,002.82		Transfer to Business Current Account		1,002.88
31st March 2022					
Transfer from Treasurer's Account	0.00		Balance carried forward		0.00
Interest on deposit accounts	0.06				
		<u><u>1,002.88</u></u>			<u><u>1,002.88</u></u>

Barclays Bank PLC

Clients Premium Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022	866,133.69
Less unrepresented cheques:	0.00
Add outstanding lodgements:	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	<u><u>866,133.69</u></u>

Labour Account

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

Cash balances as at 31st March 2022

Barclays Bank PLC

Clients Premium Account	866,133.69
Clients Labour Account	0.00

<u>Total reconciled cash balances per accounts</u>	<u><u>866,133.69</u></u>
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Warboys Somersham & Pidley 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	211,795.62	
	Development charges account	393,150.57	
	Capital reserve account	96,922.77	
	Low level restoration fund	50,000.00	
		751,868.96	751,869
Line 2	Rates and Special Levies		
	Agricultural rates	156,568.23	
	Special Levies	18,874.00	
	Penalty	0.00	
	Costs	0.00	
	Write-off	0.00	
		175,442.23	175,442
Line 3	Total other receipts		
	Interest		
	General fund	11.72	
	Development charges account	24.65	
	Capital reserve account	8.39	
	Insurance Claim	0.00	
	Consent applications	100.00	
	Rent	6,600.00	
	Vehicle Contribution	500.04	
	Highland Water	19,598.67	
	Grant in Aid	0.00	
	Insolvency Settlement	0.00	
	Discharge contributions	372.60	
	Land owners consent	820.00	
	Private Works	336.00	
	Write back of provisions	0.00	
		28,372.07	28,372
Line 4	Staff costs		
	Wages/salaries	32,422.42	
	National insurance contributions	3,666.42	
	Pension costs	0.00	
	Travelling expenses	0.00	
		36,088.84	36,089
Line 5	Loan repayments		
	PWLB - Principal	0.00	
	PWLB - Interest	0.00	
		0.00	0

Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB**Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return****Financial year ended 31st March 2022****Per Annual
Return**

<u>Line 6</u>	All other payments Precept Rates, insurances, telephones Repairs and renewals Fuel Drainworks Administration Development charges fees Bad Debt Provision Write back of provisions High Fen p/s Pump Overhaul High Fen p/s Weedscreen Cleaner and Footbridge	21,876.83 4,451.56 19,401.44 48,545.31 83,344.91 23,515.75 139.64 0.00 0.00 4,311.21 6,320.62 211,907.27	211,907
<u>Line 7</u>	Balances carried forward General Fund Development charges account Capital reserve account Low level restoration fund	199,568.43 358,682.57 99,436.15 50,000.00 707,687.15	707,687

Reconciliation

Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6

707,687.15

Reconciliation to Accounts

Balances carried forward per Annual Return - As above

707,687.15

Add Back:-

Restatement of Assets

11,925.97

Depreciation

-5,892.18

Assets acquired in year

0.00

Assets disposed of in year

0.00

Profit on disposal

0.00

6,033.79

Balances carried forward per Accounts

General Fund

163,703.51

Development charges account

358,682.57

Capital reserve account

141,334.86

Low level restoration fund

50,000.00

713,720.94

RESOLVED

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

B.1829 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2022/2023

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2022/2023 and were informed by the Clerk that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 89.15% and 10.85%, viz;

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BUDGET MONITORING 2021/2022

	Approved budget 2021/2022 £	Expenditure to 30.09.2021 £	Est. Expenditure 01.10.21 to 31.03.22	Estimated out-turn at 31.03.2022 £	Variance to budget £	Actual 2020/2021 £
1 District labour (including District Officer's salary)	36,500	36,089	15,516 ^A	37,750 ^A	1,250	35,077
2 Rates, insurances and telephones	5,000 ^B	4,452 ^B	1,216	5,000 ^B	0	4,430
3 Repairs and renewals	36,000 ^C	19,401	23,036 ^C	26,000 ^C	-10,000	16,700
4 Drainworks Piling works	56,000 ^{D/E}	83,345 ^D	9,099	26,000 ^D	-30,000	26,894
5 Fuel (oil and electricity)-including District Officer's travelling	41,500 ^F	48,545 ^F	21,284	65,500 ^F	24,000	61,477
6 Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	24,500 ^G	23,516	984	24,500 ^G	0	23,218
7 Environment Agency - Precept	21,877	21,877	438	22,315	438	21,877
8 Capital Reserve Fund	12,532 ^H	12,532 ^H	-71 ^H	12,461 ^H	-71	22,532
	233,909	249,757	71,502	219,526	-14,383	212,205
Improvement works	11,000 ^I	10,632 ^I	56,368 ^I	67,000 ^I	56,000	0
Bad debt provision	0	0	0	0	0	99,562
<u>Less income</u>						
Budgeted income	69,467 ^I	72,719 ^I	31,048 ^I	103,767 ^I	34,300	122,844
175,442	175,442	187,669	96,823	182,759	7,317	188,923
<i>Rate Requirement</i>	0.2100 p					
Rate set	0.2100 p	00,000 p				
General Fund						
Opening balance	174,897	174,897	72,146	174,897		196,632
Rate income	175,442	84,918	90,524	175,442		167,188
Write back of provisions						0
Net expenditure	175,442	187,669	96,823	182,759		188,923
Use of balances				0		0
Closing balance	174,897	72,146	65,847	167,580		174,897

	<u>Budget 2022/2023</u>		
<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Budget 2021/2022</u>	<u>Actual 2021/2022</u>	<u>Budget 2022/2023</u>
A - Includes provision for increase at November 2022			
B - Includes reduced premiums following change of insurers			
C - <u>Includes provisions for:</u>			
Pump overhaul provision	10,000	0	10,000
Washways weed-screen cleaner gearbox	4,000	3,905	0
Puddock outfall flap valves	6,000	716	0
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>4,621</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Pump overhaul provision 2021/22 retained in general fund			
D - <u>Includes contractors accounts:-</u>			
Flail Mowing	2,500	19,164	4,000
Slubbing	12,000	17,755	12,000
Piling - Fenton Lode & Pidley	30,000	38,470	0
Chemical weed control	500	0	0
	<u>45,000</u>	<u>75,389</u>	<u>16,000</u>
E - <u>Provision for proposed drain maintenance programme 2022/2023:</u>			
High Fen catchment			
Fenton Lode phased programme			
F - Provision based on 5 year average	41500	48,545	65,500
G - No increase in administration charge from previous year			
2022/23 budget include for new Health & Safety arrangements			
2022/23 budget includes provision for meeting expenses			
H - <u>Capital Reserve fund</u>			
Provision at 1.50p	12,532	12,532	12,461
Pump overhaul provision	0	0	0
	<u>12,532</u>	<u>12,532</u>	<u>12,461</u>
I - <u>Improvement works:</u>			
Replacement pump - Puddock pumping station	0	0	40,000
Telemetry installation at pumping stations	0	0	27,000
New pumping unit - High Fen pumping station	6,000	4,311	0
Weedscreen cleaner - High fen pumping station	0	3,086	0
Fencing - High fen pumping station	5,000	3,235	0
	<u>11,000</u>	<u>10,632</u>	<u>67,000</u>

J - Includes:

Transfer from Development account

High Fen p/s refurbishment works	6,000	6,320	0
Washways weed-screen cleaner gearbox	4,000	3,905	0
Piling - Fenton Lode	20,000	20,000	0
Piling - Pidley catchment	4,500	4,500	0

Capital Reserve Fund

Replacement pump - Puddock pumping station	0	0	40,000
Telemetry installation at pumping stations	0	0	13,500
High Fen p/s pump replacement	5,000	4,311	0
Puddock outfall flap valves	6,000	716	0
Piling - Pidley catchment	5,000	5,000	0
	<u>50,500</u>	<u>44,752</u>	<u>53,500</u>

aa Development charges account

Opening balance at 01.04.2021	393,151	393,151	358,683
Receipts in year	0	258	0
Expenditure in year	-34,500	-34,726	0
Estimated closing balance -	<u>358,651</u>	<u>358,683</u>	<u>358,683</u>

ab Capital reserve Fund

Opening balance at 01.04.2020	133,821	133,821	136,334
Raised - Provision at 1.50p	12,532	12,532	0
Rates raised - Pump overhaul provision	0	0	0
Income in year	0	8	0
Replacement pump - Puddock pumping station	0	0	-40,000
Telemetry installation at pumping stations	0	0	-13,500
High Fen p/s pump replacement	-5,000	-4,311	0
Puddock outfall flap valves	-6,000	-716	0
Piling - Pidley catchment	-5,000	-5,000	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Estimated closing balance -	<u>130,353</u>	<u>136,334</u>	<u>82,834</u>

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BUDGET PROPOSAL 2022/2023

	<u>Actual</u> <u>2017/2018</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2018/2019</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2019/2020</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2020/2021</u>	<u>Approved budget</u> <u>2021/2022</u> £	<u>Actual</u> <u>2021/2022</u> £	<u>Proposed budget</u> <u>2022/2023</u> £
1 District labour (including District Officer's salary)	32,107	33,057	34,055	35,077	36,500	36,089	37,750 ^A
2 Rates, insurances and telephones	4,578	4,495	4,622	4,430	5,000	4,452 ^B	5,000 ^B
3 Repairs and renewals	13,329	16,539	27,260	16,700	36,000 ^C	19,401 ^C	26,000 ^C
4 Drainworks Piling works	8,757	19,291	21,813	26,894	56,000 ^D	83,345 ^D	26,000 ^{D/E}
5 Fuel (oil and electricity)-including District Officer's travelling	35,026	33,109	48,319	61,477	41,500 ^F	48,545	65,500 ^F
6 Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	23,623	26,589	26,570	23,218	24,500	23,516	24,500 ^G
7 Environment Agency - Precept	20,027	20,327	21,343	21,877	21,877	21,877	22,315
8 Re-alignment of Fenton Lode	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Capital Reserve Fund	22,652	22,533	17,532	22,532	12,532 ^H	12,532 ^H	12,461 ^H
	160,099	175,940	201,514	212,205	233,909	249,757	219,526
Bad debt provision		5,813	0	0		0	
Improvement works	21,249	2,411	48,181	99,562	11,000 ^I	10,632 ^I	67,000 ^I
Washways improvement scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LESS Interest on Deposit Accounts, private works, Highland water contributions, contributions from Development Charges Account etc	38,360	24,977	85,880	122,844	69,467 ^J	72,719 ^J	103,767 ^J
Net Expenditure	142,988	159,187	163,815	188,923	175,442	187,669	182,759
Rate Requirement Rate set	20.00p	20.00p	20.00p	20.00p	21.00 p	21.00 p	0.2200 p

General Fund			
Opening balance	174,897	174,897	162,670
Rate income	175,442	175,442	182,759
Write back of provisions		0	
Net expenditure	175,442	187,669	182,759
transfer to capital		0	0
Closing balance	174,897	162,670	162,670

Warboys Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board

Rate and levy requirements

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

a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector - 89.15%

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

Huntingdonshire District Council - 8.09%

Fenland District Council - 2.76% 10.85%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £7,406.

In 2022/2023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levies would raise £8,307.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2022 - £162,670.

It is estimated that approximately £17,500, is due to be received from the Environment Agency for highland water contributions.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2022/2023 is £182,7592 and equivalent to:-

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 22.00p

b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £5,043 and

c) a Special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £14,778

In 2021/2022 a rate of 210.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £4,768 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £14,106 on Huntingdonshire District Council.

After fully reviewing the Estimates, the Boards Reserves, and likely future annual running costs, the Finance Committee recommend that for 2022/2023 the rate should be increased to 22.00p (which includes 1.50p towards the capital reserve fund) together with a Special levy of £5,043 on Fenland District Council and a Special levy of £14,778 on Huntingdonshire District Council.

Development Charges Account - Balance in hand on 31st March 2022 - £358,683

Capital Reserve Fund - Balance in hand on 31st March 2022 - £136,335

The Board's cash balance on 12th May 2022

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £182,759 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 £162,938 and £19,821 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 22.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v)
 - a) That a Special levy of £14,778 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
 - b) That a Special levy of £5,043 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 levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1830 Date of next Meeting

The Clerk reminded Members that the next Meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday 1st December 2022 at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley which would include an inspection of the District commencing at 9.30am.

B.1831 Any Other Business

- i) The Board approved the payment of the ADA subscription.
- ii) During the meeting, the District Officer had confirmed that it was his intention to retire in April 2023 and his son had put his name forward to be considered as his replacement.

The Chairman reported that he had agreed to meet and interview Richard Wilmer on 27th May and the Board delegated a decision on any appointment to the Chairman, subject to consultation with other board Members, if necessary.

The appointment to be made on the same salary as the existing District Officer with a review after 6 months.

This arrangement would enable Richard Wilmer to be trained up before the District Officer retired. The Chairman advised that, if required, the District Officer was willing to work for the Board on a temporary basis over the winter period or as required.

The Chairman advised at the current time the Puddock Pumping Station Bungalow was not available and not required, but if this position changed, notice would need to be served on the current tenants. It was noted by the Board that refurbishment works may be needed to the bungalow.

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Chairman

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Date