

HADDENHAM LEVEL DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

At a Meeting of the Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners
hosted at the Baptist Hall, Station Road, Haddenham at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th April 2022

PRESENT

M Church Esq (Chairman)
T Chambers Esq
A Darby Esq
R Darby Esq
R Waddelow Esq

K Furness Esq
W Dennis Esq
Cllr S Cheetham Esq
A Lensen Esq

Mr David Jordan (District Engineer) was in attendance.

Mr David Thomas – Clerk was also present

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

C Bidwell Esq	Mrs M Darby	J Dennis Esq	T Hughes Esq
R Lee Esq	P Mappledoram Esq	J Smith Esq	N Tebbitt Esq
E Veal Esq	A R Yarrow Esq	N R W Wright Esq	H Hurrell Esq
G Wilson Esq			

C.434 Declarations of Interest

Mr W Dennis declared an interest in item 7 on the agenda.

The Chairman declared an interest in item 13 and 27 on the agenda.

C.435 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Commissioners held on the 4th November 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

C.436 Matters arising from the minutes.

Item C.416 – The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting with on this matter with Toby Chambers in attendance.

It was noted that both items C.418 and C.419 were on the agenda

Item C.433 – The Chairman reported that he had heard nothing further from the EA following the incident where its contractors had dug through the clay lining of the 100-foot river.

C.437 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That M Church Esq be appointed Chairman of the Commissioners.

C.438 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That G L P Wilson Esq be appointed Vice Chairman of the Commissioners.

C.439 Ouse Washes Section 10 Reservoir Middle Level and Level South Barrier Bank works

Further to minute C.417, the Chairman reported that works on this were recorded as ongoing but nearing completion. It was noted that following several attempts the access road used by the Board to get to its pumping station was useable.

Concern remains over the South Level Barrier Bank which suffers significant seepage and to-date this problem has not really been addressed nor does it appear that the EA have any intentions to do anything about it. They have referred to the Reservoir's Act Panel Engineer who has stated that it is not classified as a flood embankment under the definition given in the Act, viz:

Ouse Washes: Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

December 2021

The Middle Level Barrier Bank is the bank of the Ouse Washes reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. The work we are doing is to comply with recommendations made by the reservoir Inspecting Engineer to complete the works under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Year 5 progress

We have now finished the bank works for 2021. Once again, this year we faced a season of wet weather which has caused delays to the current construction programme. We expect to finish the overall bank raising works in 2022.

We have removed the temporary bridge at Mepal. The bridge was used during the project to avoid using local roads to deliver most of the material direct to the workforce.

We have completed the bank works between Sutton Gault and Mepal. The public footpath will remain closed to give the grass time to establish.

We have installed four of the five bird hides at the RSPB Reserve, and we will install the final bird hide during 2022. For information about using the hides over the winter please contact RSPB Ouse Washes Reserve directly.

Year 6 works

Below is the anticipated programme of work for 2022.

There is a small section of bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge to do in 2022. This will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. We will also repair any damage sustained through the winter.

- April – June Ecological surveys and grass cuts full length of the Middle Level Barrier Bank
- June Start construction of the demountable flood barrier in Welney
- June – July Haul road repairs
- July - Oct Repair any flood damage sustained during the winter
- July – Oct Finish the bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge and install the final bird hide at the RSPB Reserve.
- October Project completion with grass maintenance to continue for 2 years

During late autumn and winter the haul road floods, which restricts access for maintenance vehicles. When we carry out the haul road works, we will bring in some material to raise the haul road in sections to help alleviate the problem in the future.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project.

Public footpath and bridleway access

The following footpaths will remain closed whilst we wait for the grass to grow, the grass will be monitored throughout the winter and spring period, and we will keep you updated as to when we can open these areas.

Middle Level Barrier Bank - where it is closed?

- Sutton Gault to A142, Mepal
- A142, Mepal to Welches Dam



- Welches Dam to railway bridge
- Railway bridge to Welney

Closures are clearly signposted.

Virtual room exhibition

During June, July, and August 2021, we opened a virtual exhibition room to provide an alternative way for community members and interested parties to get an update on the project and next steps. We had over 2,000 visitors view the exhibition.

Although the exhibition was closed in August there is plenty of information accessible from our Citizen Space page on this link:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-englia-c-e/ouse-washes-section-10-works/>

or click the link below to see how the Ouse Washes works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRFHm9n2-jY>

Other works in the Ouse Washes area

Over the winter period the Environment Agency will be undertaking periodic maintenance at Welches Dam Pumping Station which will be carried out within the site.

Only commercial vans and 4x4's will be required to carry out this work.

The pumping station will remain operational during this time.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about this project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer: Monica Stonham via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com or call 07534 457348.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive future updates about this scheme, please contact us through the email address.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.



Stay up to date and visit our information page for the most up to date information

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/east-englia-c-e/ouse-washes-section-10-works/>

The project is being carried out by JacksonHyder on behalf of the Environment Agency with support from:



Ouse Washes

Middle Level Barrier Bank raising works

April 2022

The Middle Level Barrier Bank is the bank of the Ouse Washes reservoir extending from Earith to Welmore Lake Sluice. The work we are doing is to comply with recommendations made by the reservoir Inspecting Engineer to complete the works under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

Public drop-in event

We would like to invite you to a drop-in event to find out more about the Welney Wash Road barrier and bank raising works. You will have the opportunity to see details of the barrier and this year's bank works.

**23 April, 10am-2pm at the
William Marshall Centre
Hurn Road, Welney
Wisbech, PE14 9SD**

Covid-19 preventative measures: we will be maintaining social distance and good hygiene measures on the day to prevent covid infections. If you experience symptoms of Covid-19 we ask you to refrain from visiting us. We will be providing a link to a virtual exhibition area, that will be open for a few weeks, for the public that do not or cannot join us to view the project.

Welney demountable flood barrier update

The Welney Wash Road crosses the Ouse Washes Flood Storage Reservoir and creates a low point in the Middle Level Barrier Bank. This low point increases the flood risk to the local community and the chance of a breach in the bank if water levels were to overtop it.

As part of the bank raising work, we are doing to comply with the Reservoirs Act, we need to provide a more robust barrier on the Welney Wash Road where it intersects the Middle Level Barrier Bank. We have sourced a demountable barrier option that will provide the robust flood protection solution and will be bespoke to Welney.

Please see the dates below that have been included in the road closure application to Norfolk County Council.

Work start date: 13/06/2022

13/06/2022 to 19/07/2022 - 2-way traffic lights

20/07/2022 to 25/08/2022 - Full road closure

26/08/2022 to 16/09/2022 - 2-way traffic lights for footpath reinstatement works

We will only use the temporary traffic lights if we need to use them before the road closure depending on the work activity and room that is available, they will only be used if necessary. However, they will be required after the road closure to provide enough space to work safely to complete the works.

As stated above these dates are not yet confirmed and may be subject to change.



Year 6 works programme

We still have some bank raising and haul road improvement works to finish which we couldn't complete last summer because of the wet weather. This will take approximately 5 weeks to complete.

We are currently working out how best to do this work and in what sequence, but we may have to bring some material deliveries through Welney. Once our contractor has finalised their plan, we will have more information to share with you. We know this isn't ideal, but in order to finish all the construction work this summer as planned, we may have to change how we deliver the work this year. We will keep you updated.

Due to the environmental constraints on the Ouse Washes, we can only work between 15 July and 31 October. However, we are currently working with Natural England to agree on early start and extend the working window for this year. We will use this time to do winter repairs and haul road work before the main works start in July.

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- June Start construction of the demountable flood barrier in Welney
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- July - Oct Repair any flood damage sustained during the winter
- July – Oct Finish bank raising work between Welches Dam and the railway bridge and install the final bird hide at the Ouse Washes RSPB Reserve
- October Full project completion with grass maintenance to continue for 2 years

During late autumn and winter, the haul road floods, which restricts access for maintenance vehicles. When we carry out the haul road works, we will bring in some material to raise the haul road in sections to help alleviate the problem in the future.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of the project.

Thank you

We understand that these works will be inconvenient, and we would like to thank everyone that has engaged with us to help reduce the inconvenience. We would like to thank you for your co-operation and patience, and we will continue to work with you and the community to continue to minimise disruption.

Contact us

For questions or concerns or to be added to our mailing list about this project, please contact our Public Liaison Officer: Monica Stonham via email ousewashesprojectea@gmail.com or call 07534 457348.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

The project is being carried out by JacksonHyder on behalf of the Environment Agency with support from partners

Stay up to date through our information page

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C.440 Contravention of Commissioners' Byelaws – Tree on Catchwater Bank and Review of Watercourses

Further to minute C.418, The Chairman reported it was advised that one side of the channel is kept clear of trees and other vegetation and that all channel maintenance is carried out from this side. Consequently, the Commissioners are to not maintain the trees or shrubs on the opposing bank and only act if a tree falls across the channel and is likely to impact upon flows. On this basis the Commissioners did not consider that they should step in and maintain the tree at the request of the land owner although it was accepted that should the tree fall it could conceivably strike his house. The reason being that it was the land owners' tree to maintain.

RESOLVED

Write to the land owner and advise him of the Commissioners position on this matter.

C.441 Review of District Watercourses

Further to minute C.419, The Chairman asked for this item to be amalgamated with the District Officers report – see C.448

C.442 Vehicles along the banks of the Catchwater Drain

Further to minute C.420, The Chairman advised that he had been in communications with Andrew Lenson but that a formal meeting had not been held.

C.443 Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised:-

i) COVID-19 Actions

That due to the risk of COVID-19 mutations appropriate measures are being put in place, revised and reviewed as per government advice and using activity-based risk assessments.

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

That a seventh Chair's Meeting was held on the 2nd November 2021.

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

- a) The MLC Chair introduced the meeting and took the opportunity to warn those present that government were pushing for land in this area to be set aside to mitigate the impacts of climate change. In this respect there was concern that the data underpinning this move was out-of-date and inadequate and that there was a risk that no proper account would be taken of the storage effects of the land as it is currently managed compared to how it might react if managed as wetland.

- b) To better fit in with the farming calendar the annual safety audits carried out by Cope are to be moved to January and February. In response to a question from the floor, Chairs were advised that it is ultimately the Board and not the MLC's responsibility to manage safety at Board owned assets, although the MLC will assist where they can.
- c) Chairs considered that it was considered important that IDBs and the MLC have a policy on climate change. It was felt likely that this will become increasingly important as pressure mounts for action to be taken. In this respect the Clerk advised that the MLC intended to carry out a baseline assessment of its carbon footprint which would then be used to underpin plans for reductions in CO2 release and for mitigation. This model would be made available to those IDBs which wished to follow a similar path. Once what could be reasonably achieved has been defined a policy to steer implementation would be produced. Obviously, the aim will be to achieve net zero or as close to it as can be realistically and practically be achieved.
- d) The Chief Executive outlined the work of WRE, including the regional reconciliation of water supply just carried out, the proposals for two new reservoirs (one in Lincolnshire and one in Cambridgeshire) and the future plans for water security providing a 1 in 500 year level of drought tolerance for potable water supply. On this latter point he advised that he had been pushing hard for the needs of agriculture to be taken into account, noting that wet farming and environmental targets for farming would require extra water in this region. Also, he considered that separating agricultural need from environmental need was an error and failed to recognise the close tie between the two.
- e) It was reported that it seemed increasingly likely that despite lobbying MPs and Defra it will be the case from the 1st April 2022 that IDB's will lose access to red diesel for anything other than powering generators and for heating. This will increase costs and will present problems with the use of contractors who also work for agriculture which will have an exemption, hence can continue to use red diesel in plant.
- f) On member training it was agreed that the MLC would set up a Zoom type seminar running several of the ADA video training sessions back-to-back. All members of all MLC administered IDBs would be invited and attendance will be recorded. This was seen as the most efficient way of delivering the training that Defra expects members to have undertaken.
- g) For the next round of IDB meetings, the MLC website secure pages will be used for Board meeting documents. Members will be sent links to the appropriate webpage with a password. The documents can then be downloaded whenever it is convenient to do so. **MEMBERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THIS ROUTE RATHER THAN REQUIRE PAPER COPIES OF DOCUMENTS.** In exceptional circumstances – for example for those members without email addresses - a paper copy of the relevant documents can still be printed off, bound and sent out. The use of the Microsoft Teams software is also to be explored for future years.
- h) GDPR was discussed and it was resolved that for internal matters, or where working with partner organisations all email addresses will be visible to allow members to see who has knowledge of the matter under discussion. All external communications will normally be blind copied unless there is a need to show the address or the address is already known (for example when a member is passing on a query he or she has received themselves). It was also agreed that the website could continue to show names and primary contact numbers as long as addresses were not identified.

iii) Applications for byelaw consent

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

<u>Name of Applicant</u>	<u>Description of Works</u>	<u>Date Consent Granted</u>
Mr W Dennis	Replacement culvert under road during road improvement works, to tie into existing drainage network	29 th November 2021
Civil & Fibre Ltd	Refurbishment and repairs to existing track adjacent to a Board's watercourse at Mingay Solar Farm, Twenty Pence Road, Wilburton	7 th December 2021

iv) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

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

The Conference was once again held virtually and was split into two parts; the Conference in the morning and AGM in the afternoon. It is expected that, whilst in future years it is hoped to return to a face-to-face format, the clear separation between conference and AGM is likely to be retained.

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

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

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

The AGM that followed gave an update on the work of ADA, noting the likelihood that, despite vigorous lobbying, the expectation was that from 1st April 2022 IDBs would no

longer be able to use red diesel for anything other than heating or to run generators. This will impact on costs and will provide challenges to the continued use of agricultural contractors. The passing of the Environment Bill was touched upon which will release barriers to the formation of new IDBs and will also provide opportunities for IDBs to explore extending their boundaries if it was clearly beneficial to do so. Innes Thomason spoke on the work of ADA and the consultations ADA had responded to, including proposals to extend beaver introduction and a water abstraction licencing charging review amongst other things. Finally, it was reported that the ADA Board had agreed to a 1% rise in subscriptions for the 2022/23 year and noted that with inflationary pressures a higher increase should be expected next year.

c) 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.

d) 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.

v) Environment Act

In November 2021 Defra announced that the Environment Act became law. The stated aim of this Act is to improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve the natural environment. However, the Act also includes powers (specific to IDBs) which amend the Land Drainage Act 1991, addressing the technical issue of missing or incomplete data, which is preventing existing internal

drainage boards from expanding and new ones from being established. Defra have stated that they will be working on the associated secondary legislation over the coming year and will be engaging with IDBs through ADA on this.

vi) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

Further to minute C.388(iii) the Clerk reported that an order has been placed for two outstations for the Board's pumping stations and that the final cost to the Board will be just under £5K total (with Local Levy grant matching this). This cost includes equipment, installation and 5 years of mobile data and website hosting.

vii) 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.

viii) Red Diesel

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

ix) Water Resources East (WRE)

Further to minute B.388 (vii), the requested contribution from this Board for the 2021/2022 financial year is once again £125. Also, the contributions for 2022/23 had been confirmed at £125. Contributions from drainage boards within the East of England secure a direct stake in WRE and help to ensure their needs and opinions are taken into account.

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

The Board approved these payments.

RESOLVED

To pay the requested WRE contributions for 2021/22 and for 2022/2023

x) 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.

xi) 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.

C.444 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

It was noted that there had been a single discharge contribution of £2,835.15

The Linden Homes outline planning application for 173 was discussed and it was felt that the Board's concerns had not been addressed. It was the same for the Groundworks and Construction Ltd application for change of use, viz:

Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners

Consulting Engineers Report – April 2022

Pumping Stations

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

Sutton Gault

In November 2018 a visual inspection of the pump (with water levels held low) revealed that the pump bolts are corroding. These are scheduled to be replaced this summer.

The HMI for the weedscreen cleaner cannot be accessed, to change parameters, however this does not seem to be an issue. Nevertheless, it may well benefit from a thorough overhaul in the next two years. Quotes for the overhaul will be obtained if required.

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 5 new development related matters have been received and, where appropriate, dealt with since the last meeting:

<i>MLC Ref.</i>	<i>Council Ref.</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Type of Development</i>	<i>Location</i>
007	20/01578/FUL & 20/01578/DISA	Forest School Camps	Education	Forest School Camps, Hill Row, Haddenham*
008	Byelaw Consent (E/3003/18/CM)	Mr William Dennis	Replacement Culvert	Doles Drove, Hill Row Causeway, Haddenham
009	WW010003 EIA Scoping	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Waste (WRC Relocation)	Snout Corner/Honey Hill/Poplar Hall Farm, Fen Ditton
010	22/00040/VAR	Mr & Mrs Scott	Agricultural (Residence)	Aldreth Road, Haddenham
011	Enquiry	Havebury Housing Partnership	Residential (55 plots)	Brick Lane, Mepal

Planning applications ending 'VAR' relate to Variation of condition

Developments that propose direct discharge are indicated with an asterisk. The remainder propose, where applicable and where known, disposal to soakaways, infiltration devices and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Commissioners' requirements.

No applications for Infiltration Device Self Certification or the Checking Service have been received since the last meeting report.

Outline planning application for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of up to 173 dwellings and provision of land for community facilities (sports pitches and burial ground), including access (not internal roads), open space, sustainable urban drainage systems and associated landscaping. All matters reserved apart from access on land adjacent to 43 Mepal Road, Sutton – Linden Ltd (MLC Ref No 001)

No further correspondence has been received in relation to the above development, on the old Mepal airfield, and as a consequence no further action has been taken on the Commissioners' behalf.

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage a decision on this planning application is pending but it is noted that an extension of time until 8th April has been requested by the Planning Officer to allow the S106 to be completed

Reserved matters for Outline planning application 17/01445/OUM for erection of up to 53 houses to include public open space and details relating to access on land rear of Garden Close Sutton – Abbey Developments Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 002 & 004)

Further to the entry in the last report no further correspondence has been received in relation to the above development and as a consequence no further action has been carried out on the Commissioners' behalf.

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage a new Reserved Matters application was submitted by the developer, ECDC Ref No 22/00057/RMM, during January 2022. The decision on the application is still pending consideration.

Whilst a detailed review of the submitted planning application has not been carried out the response from the County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), is noted. The LLFA has objected to the application on the basis that the drainage proposals have changed from the outline planning permission and more detailed information is required. Of particular concern is the discharge rates to the two discharge locations have increased from the previous combined total of 2l/s rate to 8l/s. An initial review of the Drainage Strategy plan would suggest that the system utilises the previous drainage routing, whilst increasing the discharge rates. It is therefore assumed that the developer has not taken into account the previous comments and concerns raised.

In order to guide further discussion, it would be beneficial to receive the Commissioners' opinion and further instruction on the above planning application and whether a further objection to this application should be raised.

Outline application comprising access and landscaping to provide up to 115 dwellings comprising 35 CLT houses and 80 market houses (including 5no. self-build plots), commercial units - (Use Class B1(Business) and/or D1 (Non-residential Institutions - day nursery) - in the alternative), substation, multi-functional community building and football pitch, together with landscaping (including public open space) and associated infrastructure (with all other matters reserved) on land at Camp's Field south of Stretham Road Wilburton – Stretham & Wilburton Community Land Trust & Laragh Homes Developments Ltd (MLC Ref No 003)

Further to the entry in the last report no further correspondence has been received in relation to the above development and as a consequence no further action has been carried out on the Commissioners' behalf.

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage a decision on this planning application is pending but it is noted that an extension of time until 31st May has been requested by the Planning Officer to allow for a "formal re-consultation of received amended plans".

Approval of the details for reserved matters for appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale of planning application 18/01041/OUM erection of 33 dwellings, associated public open space and landscaping, with all matters reserved except for access on site east of 12 - 18 Metcalfe Way Haddenham, 20/01766/RMM – Castlemore Homes (MLC Ref No 005)

The Reserved Matters application for the above development was approved on the 23rd July 2022. Construction has since commenced on site.

The Engineers' office was copied in on recent correspondence to the Planning Authority from a resident of the adjacent Metcalf Way. The letter highlighted concerns with drainage pipes being installed in the retaining wall being constructed along the western boundary of the site, which would appear to drain onto the adjacent right of way to the tennis courts behind Metcalf Way.

Other than the above no further correspondence has been received in relation to the above development on the old Mepal airfield and as a consequence no further action has been taken on the Commissioners' behalf.

Change of use of (1) an existing open-sided agricultural shed from agriculture to a mixed use of agriculture and B8 storage, (2) an existing agricultural building from agriculture to a mixed use of agriculture and B8 storage, and (3) (part retrospective) an area of hardstanding from open agricultural storage to open storage of contractor's plant and machinery (sui generis) at Tree Farm, Hillrow Causeway, Haddenham, 21/00044/FUL - Mr Kevin Johnson – CB Groundworks & Construction Ltd (MLC Ref No 006)

No correspondence has been received from the applicant in relation to the relevant consenting requirements that were identified in the response to the application.

At the time of writing the status of the application was still pending consideration, although it was noted that an extension of time to the 18th March 2022 had been requested by the Planning Officer.

In order to guide further discussion, it would be beneficial to receive the Commissioners' opinion and further instruction over how they wish us to proceed with the above planning application

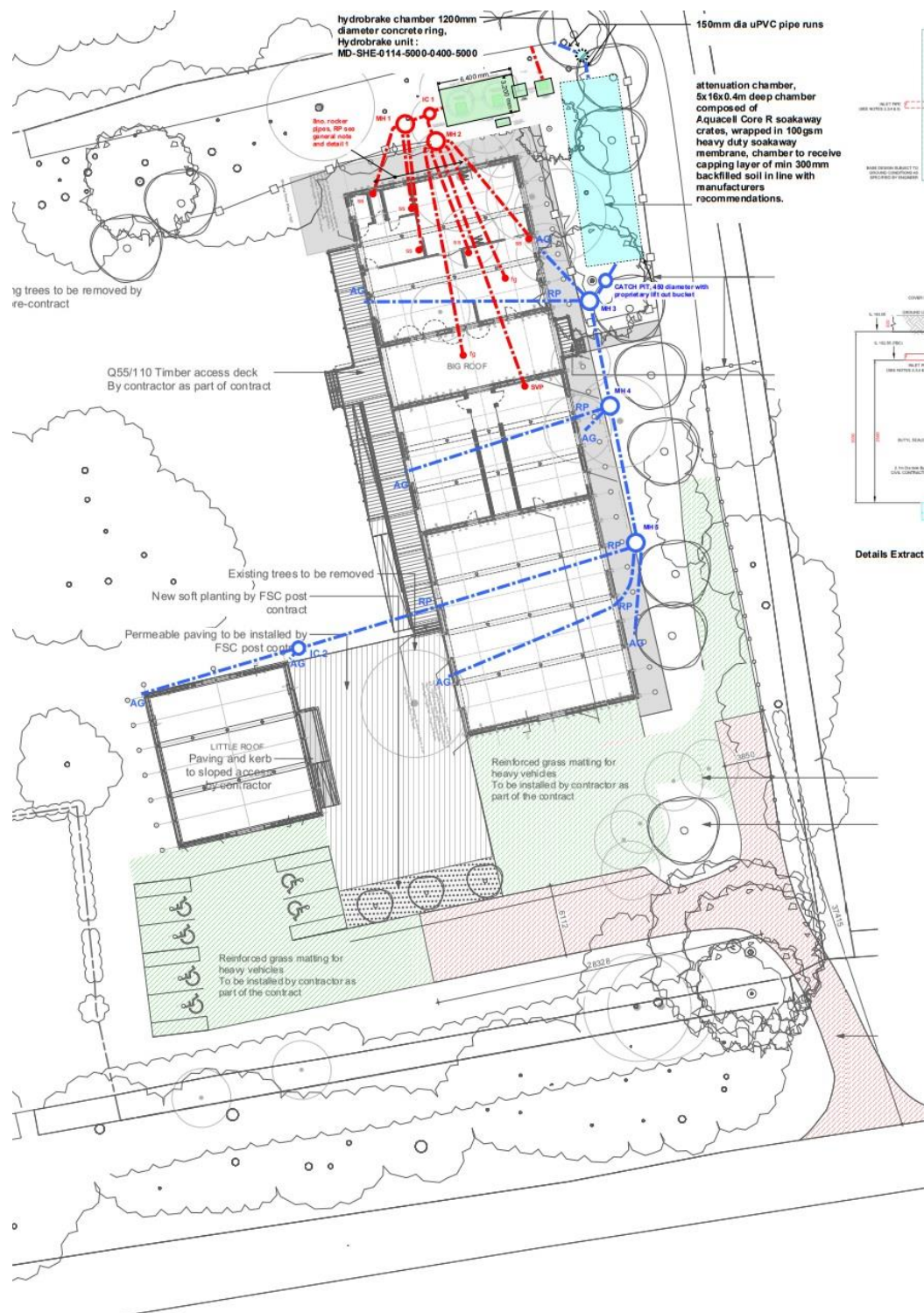
Proposal to demolish the existing buildings on site and replace with two barn structures at Forest School Camps Stores, Bungalow Farm, Hill Row Causeway, Haddenham – Forest School Camps (MLC Ref No 007)

During September, the applicant's agents, Mole Architects, submitted details of the above development, which proposes to replace the existing buildings, which discharge surface water directly to the ground, with new buildings which propose to discharge surface water to a watercourse at greenfield rates via an attenuation tank.

There would also be an increase in treated foul effluent water discharged from a treatment plant.

The Commissioners were satisfied with this proposal. However, the District Council subsequently advised that a Notice of Amendment had been submitted by the applicant in December with a revised discharge rate of 5 l/s being proposed. Upon querying this rate with the agents, it was discovered that this was not the greenfield rate, and a

discharge consent application was received and processed as requested by the Commissioners.

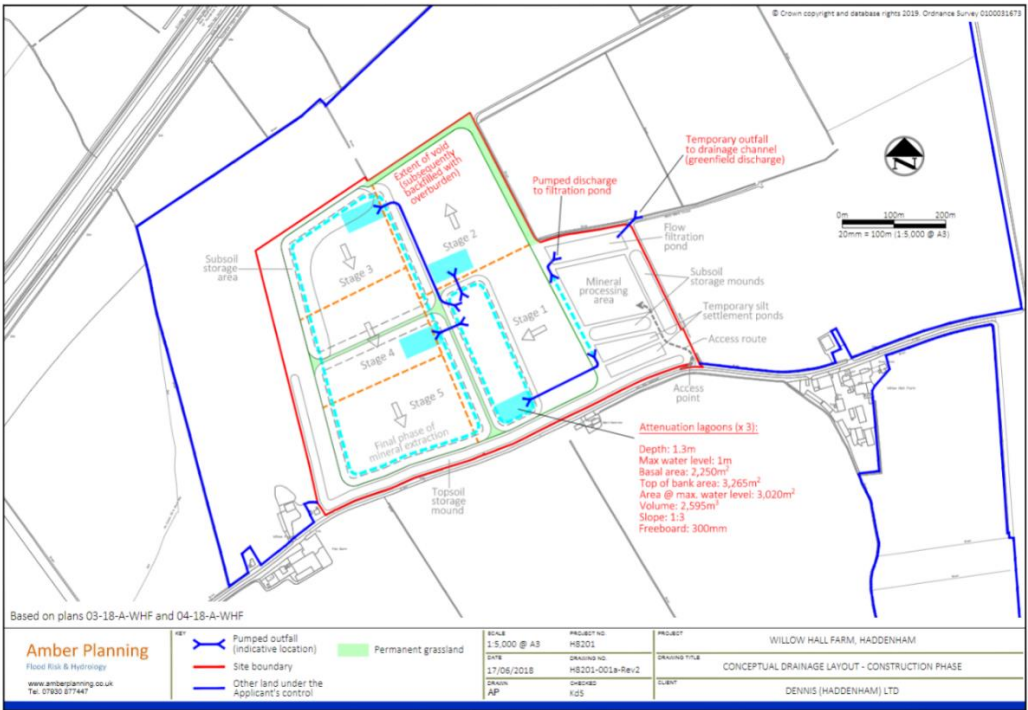


Extract from Built Engineers Ltd Drawing No. 2001/DR02 Rev. P1

According to the District Council's Public Access webpage a decision on this planning application is pending but it was noted that an extension of time until 1st April has been requested by the Planning Officer to allow for a "formal re-consultation of received amended plans".

Construction of irrigation reservoirs by the extraction, processing and export of sand and gravel at Willow Hall Farm, Hillrow Causeway, Haddenham (MLC Ref No 008)

Following correspondence received from the County Council’s Strategic & Specialist Applications Development Management concerning the above, the Chairman of the Commissioners requested the Consulting Engineer review the amended documents submitted in respect of the Discharge of Conditions application. The Chairman highlighted concerns regarding the proposals arising from the dewatering discharge rates into the Commissioners’ district and the possible impacts of the dewatering operation on the surrounding area, particularly during the construction of the first of the three reservoir phases.



Copy of Amber Plannings Drawing No H8201-001a-Rev2

The development proposals consist of the construction of three, winter-fed, below ground reservoirs with a total capacity of 432,000m³ along with a wetland and conservation grassland area adjacent to the reservoirs. Construction of the reservoirs will be through extraction and removal of approximately 690,000 tonnes of sand and gravel over a five-to-six-year period. A temporary processing facility will be constructed on the site to process minerals and store excavated topsoil over the construction period.

The proposal for dealing with surface water management from the site is for a fully attenuated discharge restricting flows to greenfield rates which will be achieved by diverting all flows originating on site to a balancing/flow filtration pond. Discharge to the

receiving watercourse is restricted to greenfield rates through the use of a pumped outfall during the construction phase. This drainage system is also designed to accommodate the dewatering volumes created through excavation of the first of the three reservoirs with water pumped into the balancing/flow filtration pond. Dewatering of the reservoir is to occur between 1st October and 31st March. Prior to the submission of this detailed conditions application, and in response to the outline planning permission, the Commissioners entered into an agreement with the applicant, Dennis (Haddenham) Ltd covering the management of the reservoirs. This agreement outlined several conditions regarding the operation and management of the reservoirs both during construction and post-construction.

A consent was submitted in respect of a temporary access culvert and roadway connection to provide access to the site off the A1123. This consent was granted in October 2021.

An initial response to the discharge of conditions application was submitted to the County Council, in its role as the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA), requesting further detailed information in respect of the drainage proposals as well as highlighting the requirement for the various consents in respect of the dewatering of the site and any modifications to watercourses affected by the development.

Following submission of further detailed information by the applicant this information has been checked and confirmed to address the main concerns raised with regard to management of the dewatering for the first of the reservoirs. Dewatering for the second and third reservoirs will be into the previously constructed reservoir(s) therefore there is little or limited discharge off site to the wider district. The review of the groundwater impact assessment report highlights reasonable assumptions have been used to quantify seepage rates arising from the excavations. Given the system is managed through pumping the pass-through flows to the district's system will be controlled.

The agreement in place with the applicant provides for control of the management of dewatering although it should be highlighted that this may result in some additional pumping by the Commissioners. However, it is assumed that any additional costs the Commissioners may incur as a result of the development will be reimbursed. A suitable condition covering the reimbursement of any additional costs can be included in the consent and a calculation of the reasonable costs of pumping per m³ is therefore likely to be required.

Confirmation that the concerns have been addressed was provided to the County Council on 21st February 2022.

The formal consent applications have yet to be received and it is assumed this is waiting on the detailed design of the control structures. The applicant has been requested to submit the applications and supporting information.

In order to guide further discussion, it would be beneficial to receive the Commissioners' opinion and further instruction on the above planning application.

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation in the Snout Corner/Honey Hill/Poplar Hall Farm area, Fen Ditton - Anglian Water Services Ltd (MLC Ref No 009)

During October an e-mail addressed to both the Commissioners and Swavesey IDB, in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11, was received from The Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State in respect of an application submitted by Anglian Water Services Ltd (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the relocation of Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant.

From the plans attached to the email it appears that the potential location sites are in the vicinity of Snout Corner/Honey Hill, to the north east of Fen Ditton, the current site and the Poplar Hall Farm area. It is noted that they also include a discharge pipeline from Waterbeach WRC.

It was not considered that the proposal would detrimentally impact, either directly or indirectly, the Commissioners' water level and flood risk systems or the aquatic environment within the district but given the status of the application, and that both the Commissioners and Swavesey IDB are specifically mentioned in the correspondence, it was considered appropriate that the opportunity be given for the Commissioners to respond and comment.

Following a discussion with the Chairman of the Commissioners, the Planning Inspectorate was advised of the position.

Erection of 55 new dwellings, new access, estate roads, driveways, parking areas, open space, external lighting, substation and associated infrastructure at site south and west of The Bungalow, Brick Lane, Mepal - Havebury Housing Partnership (MLC Ref No 011)

Further to the entry in the last report no further correspondence has been received in relation to the above development and as a consequence no further action has been carried out on the Commissioners' behalf.

Development Contributions

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

Draft Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood Plan (Regulation 14) – Pre-Submission Consultation

Further to the entry in the last report no further correspondence has been received in relation to the above and as a consequence no further action has been carried out on the Commissioners' behalf.

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 Commissioners' behalf, in respect of the following:

- (a) Civil and Fibre Ltd – An application for byelaw consent to repair and reconstruct an existing access track off Twenty Pence Road, Wilburton that services the existing solar farms, Mingay 1 and 2 was recommended for approval. The works include the repair of potholes and damaged sections.
- (b) Correspondence has been dealt with concerning the Sunnica Energy Farm which has been sent to the Commissioners but, as members will be aware, the site is not within their area.

8 April 2022

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Consulting Engineer

RESOLVED

Continue to object to the Linden Homes and Groundworks and Construction Ltd applications (MLC Ref Nos 001 and 006).

It was noted on the Haddenham and Aldreth Neighbourhood plan that this was now currently out for consultation.

C.445 Capital Improvement Programme

The Chairman advised that this year, it was planned to dam off the inlet to Sutton pumping station. The pump would then be removed and the bolts associated replaced with stainless steel ones. The Clerk suggested that a visual survey could be taken during this process which could assist in determining whether or not a refurbishment of the pumping station might be favoured over its full replacement.

The potential availability of grant-in-aid was discussed and there were some reasonable concerns that the quantum of grant may be limited due to the rural nature of the station's catchment. If full grant could not be found to replace the station fully, then there may be a better chance to get full or nearly full funding for a refurbishment as long as the station's life could be extended by a significant period.

It was also noted that the steps and platform on the pump chamber were unsafe and would be removed as part of the damming off works, viz:

Haddenham Drainage Commissioners														
		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
Capital Improvement Programme (2022/2023)		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
Haddenham p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	45.0	45.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	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	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
Sutton p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	750.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	750.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	6	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	80.0	116.0
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	35.0
	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
Plant	Ford Ranger Truck	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0
	Terex excavator	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
Structures	Slackers (x6)	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drainage Channels		0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
		0	6	15	30	0	15	750	15	0	0	0	205	1,036
	Updated from engineers asset appraisal													
	Condition of piling at Sutton Gault pumping station:													
	to be monitored													

RESOLVED

To dewater and replace the pump bolts and inspect the station structure. Then using this information ascertain whether it would be cost effective to refurbish the station. Should this prove possible, estimated figures are to be brought before a future meeting for member consideration.

C.446 District Work Report

- i) The Chairman reported on works undertaken and proposed works.

The Chairman advised that the low level of winter rainfall had assisted with pumping costs. He went on to report that the District Engineer had managed to get around all main drains plus the line dykes.

It was reported that Atlas had recalled all rams on excavators, such as that owned by the board and that three of the rams had been replaced but a fourth could not be attended to as the pin holding it in place could not be removed. Atlas were due to return with cutting equipment a new pin and ram shortly.

The Chairman reported that the Commissioners had again carried out work for the EA on the Dockeral Brook. This particular watercourse had become overloaded and needed frequent maintenance. Flooding of Over had very nearly occurred on a number of occasions. The length tackled most recently was a section close to Willingham and this appeared to have a positive impact on levels following heavy rainfall.

It was reported that the District Engineer was being encouraged to raise water levels in drains which support abstraction and that he had responded to these requests. It was also noted that several dam boards were in poor condition and had been replaced.

RESOLVED

That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved and the Chairman in conjunction with the District Engineer be authorised to arrange for the District's work programme to be undertaken.

- ii) District Work Arrangements

The Chairman declared an interest and the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

The Commissioners gave consideration to the District Officer's fee for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Chairman be re-appointed District Officer.
- ii) That the Commissioners agree that the sum of £2,500.00 be allowed for the services of the Chairman for 2022/2023, together with all legitimate expenses.
- iii) That the Chairman submit half yearly invoices to the Commissioners in respect of his fees.
- iv) That the Commissioners agree that 45p per mile be allowed for travelling expenses incurred on behalf of the Commissioners by Mr Church.

C447 Charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work

Members discussed the rates for hiring out plant and considered that the rates should be increased to reflect the increased costs of parts, labour and in particular diesel.

RESOLVED

- a) That the charges for hire of the Commissioners Atlas 360 (including operator and travelling) be set at;

£28 per hour inside the district

£43 per hour outside the district
- b) That the district Engineer monitor's the daily usage of diesel used by the excavator over a number of days and that this information be supplied to the Board to ensure that it can assess better the impacts of fuel price increases.

C.448 Conservation Officer's Report

It was noted that this report was smaller than previous ones but also that this was not seen as an issue. The Chairman was pleased to be able to advise that a Mink had been caught in the Commissioner's smart trap. The District Engineer also reported that Barn Owls were nesting in the Commissioner's Barn Owl box.

It was noted that when heavy maintenance/improvements were required on watercourses (that might disturb water voles) then the MLC Conservation Officer would be contacted to discuss the works first. The Chairman encouraged members also to consider contacting him as well should they wish to undertake reprofiling on their own private watercourses, viz:

Haddenham Level DDC

Biodiversity Action Plan Report 2021-22

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Haddenham Level DDC Report Summary

Invasive Species

Mink raft in place off Dam Bank Drove. A large male mink was caught on 25th January – the first for the district in 17 months. This is a good result and demonstrates the effectiveness of long-term monitoring. This followed evidence of mink at Queenholme nearby.

No sign of any invasive aquatic plants during checks in early April 2022. The Chairmen and District Engineer attended an IDB training morning on the subject in March 2022.

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.

The CO offered advice to the Board on the subject in 2021.

Other species

The District Engineer reports kingfisher and barn owl active at both IDB-provisioned sites.

Tree Planting

Sites sought within IDB districts – contact Conservation Officer with any suggestions.

Training

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

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

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

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

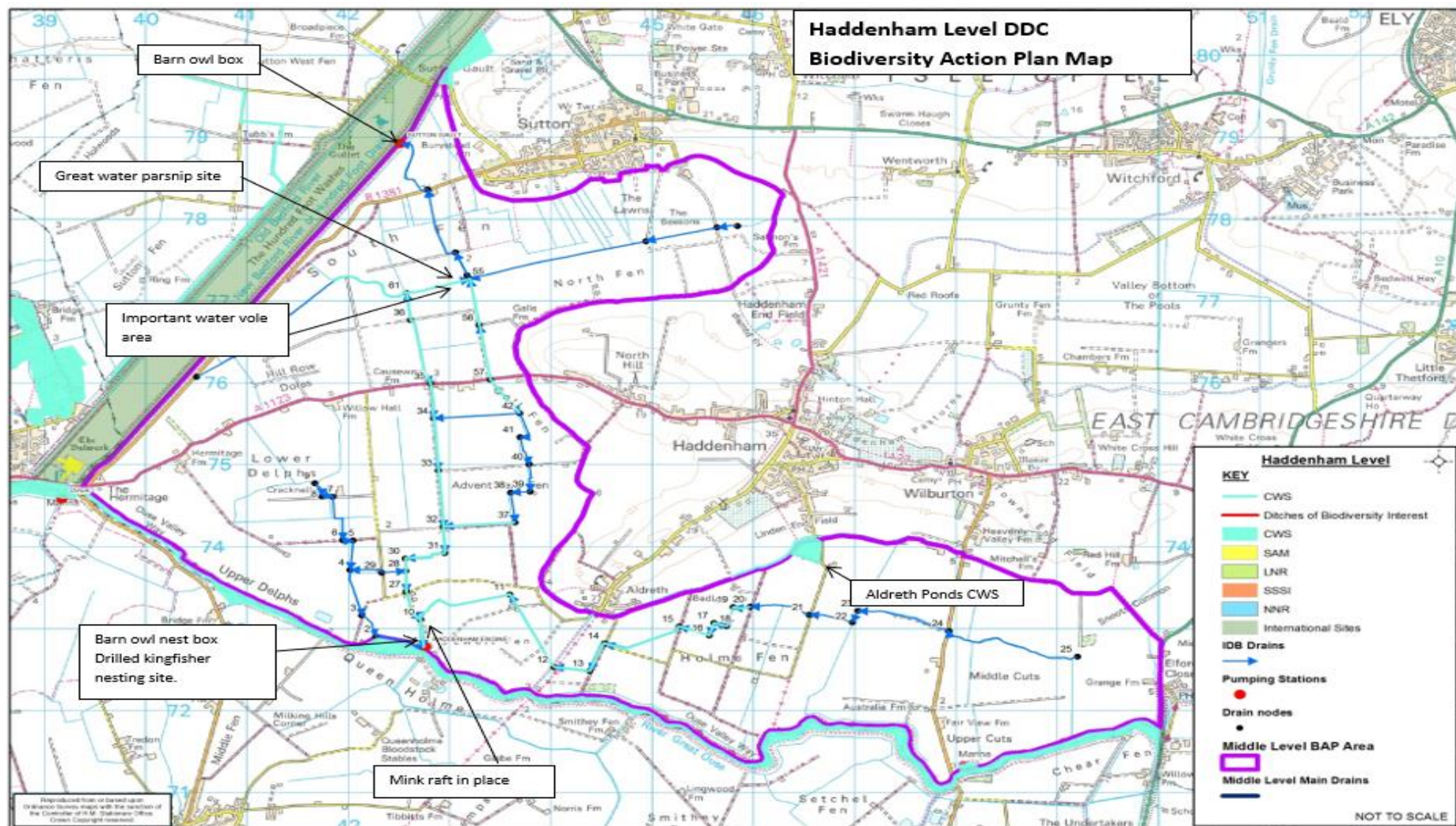
This training will be led by Julia Massey CEnv MCIEEM a Principal Ecologist with many years of experience working with water voles in the fens. It will cover the key elements of the species' ecology and how it relates to the work of IDBs. Joining instructions to be sent shortly.

Peter Beckenham, Conservation Officer for Middle Level Commissioners

Peter.beckenham@middlelevel.gov.uk

07765 597775

Haddenham Level DDC Map 2021-22



C.449 State-aided Schemes

No State-aided schemes are imminent at this time.

C.450 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 2021/2022 was £35,953.00.

C.451 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

The Clerk reported that following his submission of claims for contributions the gross sum of £517.41 (£9,300.91 less £8,783.50 received on account) (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2020/21 based on the Commissioners' actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £9,141.84 in respect of 80% of the Commissioners' estimated expenditure for the financial year 2021/22.

C.452 Association of Drainage Authorities

RESOLVED

To pay the subscription fee in the sum of £649 for this year.

C.453 Contributions from Developers

The Board noted the contribution reported.

C.454 Health and Safety Report

The Chairman reported that there had been no meetings with the H&S consultants since the last meeting. He further reported that the only outstanding matter was Sutton pumping station steps and platform which, as reported earlier, is to be attended to.

Discussion took place over the potential value in adding a height limiter to the Atlas machine. David Lenson advised that he had recently had one added to one of his machines and the cost

had been around £2.5K. All Commissioners considered that such a device would be advantageous and were supportive of placing an order in principle, subject to it being at a reasonable cost.

RESOLVED

That the District Engineer obtain a quote or quotes for a height limiter and that if in the order of £2.5/3K then the Chairman be authorised to place an order. If, however the cost is significantly more than this, an email will be sent around to see if the Commissioners were content to sanction the increased expenditure.

C.455 Review of Internal Controls.

- a) The Commissioners considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of internal controls.
- b) The Commissioners were satisfied with the proposals for the appointment of the Internal Auditor and for the proposed Strategy and Audit plan 2023-25

C.456 Risk Management Assessment

- a) The Commissioners considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of internal controls
- b) The Commissioners did not express a wish for the current values of its building to be reviewed, viz:

INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS AND BUNGALOW

	As At 31st March 2022
Haddenham Pumping Station	1,520,000.00
Sutton Gault Pumping Station	865,000.00
Bungalow	150,000.00
	2,535,000.00

C.457 Exercise of Public Rights

The Clerk made reference to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Returns, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return.

C.458 Annual Governance Statement – 2021/2022

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

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

We acknowledge as the members of:

HADDENHAM LEVEL DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

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

C.459 Payments 2021/2022

The Chairman request that in future it would be helpful if all payments were presented as net of VAT, viz:

<u>HADDENHAM LEVEL DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS</u>	
<u>Payments 2021/2022 (1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022)</u>	
East Cambridgeshire District Council - Council tax for 2021/2022	1,517.69
British Telecom - Telephone charges	163.74
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract	6,808.18
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of toeboard and piles	2,577.30
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	613.82
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Planning & development applications)	234.30
L A Burton - Flail mowing	1,080.00
E-On Energy - Meter operator agreement	234.00
Sutton & Mepal IDB - Drain maintenance	288.00
Rampton Motors - MOT and service of AK16 WNC	474.29
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2021	770.40
British Telecom - Telephone charges	128.96
Environment Agency - Precept	17,976.70
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	62.44
E-On Energy - Meter operator agreement	120.00
Abbey Tyre Co. - Fitting of new tyre and wheel balancing	150.00
David Harrison - Supply of sticky backed rubber	39.44
Fenland Fire Appliance LLP - Servicing of fire extinguishers	102.00
Wave - Water supply charges 9th February 2021 to 8th May 2021	1,509.88
Public Works Loan Board - Loan Repayment	21,481.93
Ken Skeels - Repairs to roof on workshop at Aldreth pumping station	270.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	624.62
British Telecom - Telephone charges	173.72
A G Wright & Son - Diesel	445.76
British Telecom - Telephone charges	153.45
Middle Level Commissioners - Road fund licences, AK16 WNC & AO19 OJO	440.00
Wave - Water supply charges 9th May 2021 to 8th August 2021	1,136.58
L A Burton - Flail mowing	2,628.00
David Harrison - Supply of 6 20mm nuts	7.20
Abbey Tyre Co. - Fitting of new tyre and wheel balancing	378.10
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, meeting at pumping station to discuss future maintenance works and replacement, planning & development applications)	796.67
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances	3,461.20
Middle Level Commissioners - Removal of gland packing on pump at Sutton Gault pumping station	655.79
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges	6,175.27
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit Fee (2020-2021 accounts)	720.00
L A Burton - Flail mowing	2,628.00
C W Group - Supply and replace wire ropes to weed-screen cleaner at Haddenham pumping station	1,011.60
British Telecom - Telephone charges	165.63
Michael Church - District Officer's Fees for 6 months to 30th September 2021	1,000.00
Fen Group - Drain maintenance	1,140.00
Environment Agency - Precept	17,976.70
NL Hydraulics - Supply of 20 litres of hydraulic oil	54.00
TDL Equipment - Service Atlas 140W Wheeled Excavator	1,150.72
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	624.62
British Telecom - Telephone charges	153.45
Bank charges	3.00
NL Hydraulics - Supply of 10 metres of hydraulic hose	78.89
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2020-2021 accounts)	927.00
J C Beasley Plumbing - Service of boiler at bungalow	96.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, correspondence with Chairman regarding Castlemore Homes, planning & development applications)	249.90
645 Services Ltd - 2,500 litres gas oil	2,061.00
Public Works Loan Board - Loan Repayment	21,481.93
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of Adblue and gas oil	1,711.19
Middle Level Commissioners - Fitting of new time clock and repairs to gearbox (Accounts from RS Components and Bedford Pumps)	5,493.07
Haddenham Baptist Church - Room hire	35.00
Water Resources East - Contribution to operating costs	150.00
David Harrison Handling Solutions -Grease gun jaw	7.82
Ken Skeels - Repairs to guttering at pumping station	288.00
Ken Skeels - Repairs to water pipe at Dam Bank	258.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Additional premium to insure hired long reach machine from Fen Group	84.00
A G Wright & Son - Diesel	472.49
British Telecom - Telephone charges	161.77
British Telecom - Telephone charges	153.45
MD Contracting & Farming Ltd - Flail mowing	483.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Preparation of highland water claims	71.92
Association of Drainage Authorities (River Great Ouse branch) - Subscription 2021-2022	36.00
Wave - Water supply charges 9th November 2021 to 8th February 2022	741.52
Middle Level Commissioners - Contribution (Environmental Officer)	467.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Health and Safety re-charges for 2021-2022	480.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance	624.62
Information Commissioners - Renewal of Data Protection registration	40.00
MD Contracting and Farming Ltd - Drain maintenance	1,080.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning & development applications)	1,075.80
L A Burton - Flail mowing	2,407.20
645 Services Ltd - 2,111 litres gas oil	2,486.97
Michael Church - District Officer's Fees for 6 months to 31st March 2022 and mileage	1,318.00
Environment Agency - Rent	1.00
David Harrison Handling Solutions - Chain lubricator, nuts and bolts	9.72
A G Wright & Son - Diesel	523.92
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply and deliver road planings (Account from D Haird)	526.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery	6,551.12
District labour	37,126.24
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply - (Haddenham pumping station)	15,311.34
Anglia Farmers - Electricity supply - (Sutton Gault pumping station)	12,125.32
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Sutton Gault pumping station)	132.62
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Haddenham pumping station)	132.62
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Haddenham pumping station)	210.47
	217,980.06
(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)	

C.460 Annual Accounts of the Commissioners – 2021/2022

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

HADDENHAM LEVEL DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021
GENERAL FUND

2021				2020		
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year			Apr-01	Balance brought forward	188,358.17
	Precept		35,953.00			
	Rates, insurances, telephones	8,389.25		2021	Rate income & Special levy	187,368.76
	Repairs & Renewals	8,829.39		Mar-31	Interest on Deposit Account	474.36
	Fuel	35,222.04			Highland water contributions	10,009.41
	Contractors Charges	2,027.00			Consents	50.00
	District Labour	36,632.58			Water recharge	2,583.55
	Drainworks	15,997.63			Private works	9,947.50
	Administration charge, printing, stationery				Development Charges	41.90
	advertising, Association of Drainage					
	Authorities subscription	<u>14,374.09</u>	121,471.98		Asset Replacement Fund	0.00
	Funds raised 2020/2021		7,500.00			
	Public Works Loan Repayment -					
	Principal	31,391.05				
	Interest	<u>11,952.35</u>	43,343.40			
	Balance carried forward		<u>190,565.27</u>			
			<u><u>398,833.65</u></u>			<u><u>398,833.65</u></u>

HADDENHAM LEVEL DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021
BALANCE SHEET

<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Capital Section</u>		<u>Assets</u>	
Capital Provisions	2,119,439.39			Pumping Stations	2,225,000.00
Public Works Loan Board -				Bungalow	114,920.00
Loan outstanding	301956.6			Heavy Plant	77,583.33
				Motor Vehicles	3,793.90
				Computer Equipment	98.76
	2,421,395.99				2,421,395.99
		<u>Revenue Section</u>			
General Fund	190,565.27			Ratepayers' Account - Arrears	0.00
				Sundry Debtors	5,481.81
Asset Replacement Fund	46,101.16			Value added Tax - Refunds due	7,944.36
				Stock	1,266.88
Development Contribution Fund	796.20			Balance in hand -	
				Barclays Account	225,496.70
Sundry Creditors	22,038.46			Lloyds Accounts	19,311.34
	2,680,897.08				244,808.04
	2,680,897.08				2,680,897.08

GENERAL FUND

[illegible]

HADDENHAM LEVEL DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

<u>Liabilities</u>					<u>Assets</u>				
Capital Provisions				2,131,013.07	Pumping Stations			2,225,000.00	
Public Works Loan Board -					Bungalow			114,920.00	
Loan outstanding				270,013.92	Heavy Plant			58,187.50	
					Motor Vehicles			2,845.42	
					Computer Equipment			74.07	
				2,401,026.99				2,401,026.99	
<u>Revenue Section</u>									
General Fund				196,993.15	Ratepayers' Account - Arrears			0.00	
					Sundry Debtors			6,910.86	
Asset Replacement Fund				53,601.93	Value added Tax - Refunds due			4,384.34	
					Stock			2,244.00	
Development Contribution Fund				3,609.75	Balance in hand -				
					Barclays Account		237,239.64		
Sundry Creditors				15,885.35	Lloyds Accounts		19,311.34	256,550.98	
				2,671,117.17				2,671,117.17	

Haddenham Level DC						
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return						
Financial year ended 31st March 2022						
						Per Annual Return
Line 1	Balances brought forward					
	General Fund		190,565.27			
	Asset replacement fund		46,101.16			
	Development charges		796.20			
				237,462.63		237,463
Line 2	Rates and Special Levies					
	Agricultural rates		120,459.79			
	Special Levies		66,926.00			
	Penalty		51.74			
	Costs		25.00			
	Write-off		0.00			
				187,462.53		187,463
Line 3	Total other receipts					
	Interest					
		General fund	183.52			
		Asset replacement fund	0.77			
		Development charges	44.40			
	Discharge contribution		2,835.15			
	Consent		100.00			
	Telephone Charges Recoverable		28.00			
	Highland Water		9,599.33			
	Hire of Excavator		11,658.00			
	Re-charge of expenses		3,219.78			
				27,668.95		27,668
Line 4	Staff costs					
	Wages/salaries		27,829.25			
	National insurance contributions		2,907.88			
	Pension costs		5,983.28			
	Travelling expenses		0.00			
				36,720.41		36,720
Line 5	Loan repayments					
	PWLB - Principal		31,942.68			
	PWLB - Interest		11,021.18			
				42,963.86		42,964

Haddenham Level DC						
Reconciliation between statement of accounts and Annual Return						
Financial year ended 31st March 2022						
						Per Annual
						Return
Line 6	All other payments					
	Precept		35,953.40			
	Rates, insurances, telephones		9,883.69			
	Repairs and renewals		10,135.29			
	Fuel		34,127.83			
	Drainworks		13,139.72			
	Administration		13,147.08			
	Contractors charges		2,318.00			
				118,705.01		118,705
Line 7	Balances carried forward					
	General Fund		196,993.15			
	Asset replacement fund		53,601.93			
	Development charges		3,609.75			
				254,204.83		254,205
	Reconciliation					
	Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6			254,204.83		

Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners											
Treasurers Account 2021/2022											
1st April 2021					31st March 2022						
Balance brought forward			244,808.04		Payments made during the year			217,980.06			
31st March 2022											
Receipts during the year											
Clerk's collection account			229,494.31								
Interest on deposit accounts			228.69		229,723.00			Balance carried forward		256,550.98	
			474,531.04							474,531.04	
Summary of Bank Reconciliations as at 31st March 2022											
Barclays Bank Plc											
<u>Current Account</u>											
Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022					244,720.90						
Less unpresented cheques					31/03/2022	2021/90	9.72				
					31/03/2022	2021/91	523.92				
					31/03/2022	2021/92	7,077.62				
										7,611.26	
Add outstanding lodgements					29/03/2022	100,196.00	130.00				
Balance per Trial Balance										237,239.64	
Lloyds Bank Plc											
<u>Current Account</u>											
Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022					19,311.34						
Less unpresented cheques					0.00						
Add outstanding lodgements					0.00						
Balance per Trial Balance					19,311.34						
Cash balances as at 31st March 2022											
Barclays Bank PLC											
Current Account					237,239.64						
Lloyds Bank Plc											
Current Account					19,311.34						
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts					256,550.98						

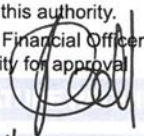
Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

HADDENHAM LEVEL DISTRICT DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	
1. Balances brought forward	227,698	237,463	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	187,369	187,463	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	23,164	27,668	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	36,633	36,720	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	43,343	42,964	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	120,792	118,705	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	237,463	254,205	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	244,808	256,551	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	2,489,030	2,489,030	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	301,957	270,014	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	N/A
			The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
			N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

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

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

Signature: 
Date: 7th April 2022

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

DD/MM/YY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

C.461 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 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 64.28% and 35.72%, viz:

HADDENHAM LEVEL DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET PROPOSAL 2022/2023

	<u>Approved Budget</u> <u>2021/2022</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2021/2022</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022/2023</u>	
1 <u>CHANNEL MAINTENANCE</u>	13,500	13,140 ^A	14,500	A - Includes for: Flail mowing 6,788 Planning & development consultancy fees 1,916 <u>8,704</u>
2 <u>LABOUR</u>	40,750 ^B	39,038 ^B	41,800 ^B	B - Provision for District labour and District Officer
3 <u>REPAIRS AND RENEWALS</u>	12,000	10,135	18,000 ^C	C - Includes provision to replace wet well bolts - Sutton Gault pumping station 6,000
4 <u>FUEL</u>	30,000	34,128	43,000 ^D	D - Provision for new contract rates at 5 year average (increased for new contract prices)
5 <u>RATES, INSURANCES & TELEPHONES</u>	10,300 ^E	9,884 ^E	11,300 ^E	E - Includes gross water charges (re-charged to 3rd party)
6 <u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	13,900 ^F	13,147 ^F	13,900 ^F	F - Includes for new Health & safety arrangements
7 <u>ASSET REPLACEMENT</u>	7,500 ^G	7,500 ^G	7,500 ^G	G - Funds raised for asset replacement fund <u>Asset replacement fund:</u> Balance at 01.04.22 53,602 Funds raised 2022/2023 7,500 Expenditure 2022/2023 <u>-6,000</u> Estimated balance at 31.03.2023 55,102
8 <u>E. A. PRECEPT</u>	35,953	35,953	36,672	
9 <u>LOAN REPAYMENT</u>	43,723	42,964	42,964	
10 <u>REPLACEMENT EXCAVATOR</u>	0	0	0	
	207,626	205,889	229,636	
<u>INCOME</u>	15,682 ^H	24,855	29,590 ^I	H - Includes for average highland water, re-charge of water usage and private works
Net Expenditure	191,944	181,035	200,047	I - Includes calculated highland water claims, re-charge of water usage and private works
Rate Requirement	37.90 p		39.50 p	Includes asset fundind for Sutton Gault p/s wet well bolts 6,000 Includes use of balances - surplus from 21/22 6,425
Rate set				
AV 506,448				
Gen. Fund balance open	190,565	190,565	196,993	
Rates raised 37.00p	187,386	187,463	200,047	
net expenditure	191,944	181,035	200,047	
adj. balances		0	-6,425	
closing balance	<u>186,007</u>	<u>196,993</u>	<u>190,568</u>	

Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners

Rate and levy requirements 2022/2023

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 are:-

- a) Proportion to be borne by the Agricultural Sector – 64.28%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to East Cambridgeshire District Council - 35.72%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £3,256

In 2022/2023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £5,064.

Revenue cash balance in hand at 31st March 2022 is - £196,993

Asset replacement fund at 31st March 2022 is £53,602.

The estimated net expenditure of £200,047 in 2022/2023 is equivalent to:-

- a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 39.50p
- b) a Special levy on the East Cambridgeshire District Council of £71,448

In 2021/2022 a rate of 37.00p in the £ was set together with a Special levy of £66,926 on East Cambridgeshire District Council.

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Commissioners

April 2022

RESOLVED

- a) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £192,450 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 £123,715 and £68,735 respectively.
- iv) a) That a rate of 38p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v) That a Special levy of £68,735 be made and issued to the East Cambridgeshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special 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.

C.462 Any other business

2nd Drain – Mr Waddelows land.

It was advised that the District Engineer had maintained this ditch and that a bank slip had occurred. It was suggested that either piling or culverting be considered here.

RESOLVED

That David/Michael Church would visit site and review what actions might be most suitable.

It was enquired whether or not it would be possible to lower the bed level of the Catchwater Drain. The Chairman noted that there were major structures e.g. culverts under the old railway line, the A1123 and Tinkers Lane Bridge, that would make this a difficult and costly task.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date