WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Waldersey Internal Drainage Board
held at the Crown Lodge Hotel, Outwell on Wednesday the 22nd June 2022

PRESENT

P E Lankfer Esq (Chairman)	H J Lankfer Esq
J T Clarke Esq	B R Darlow Esq
S J Flint Esq	W Sutton Esq
N J Harrison Esq	B Wales Esq

P M Tegerdine Esq

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

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Rackley Esq and M Mottram Esq.

B.1224 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 the flail mowing contract as the Board's flail mowing contractor.

The District Officer declared a financial interest in item no. 19 and in the payments made to him.

Mr Clarke declared an interest in the payment made to him.

Mr H Lankfer declared an interest in minute nos. B.1195 and B.1219.

Councillor Sutton declared interests in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council and (as a member of the Middle Level Board) in matters concerning and the payments to the Middle Level Commissioners.

Mr Harrison and Councillor Sutton declared interests (as Members of Hundred of Wisbech IDB) in any matters concerning Hundred of Wisbech IDB.

B.1225 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 23rd June 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1226 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That P E Lankfer Esq be appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.1227 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That B Wales Esq (District Officer) be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.1228 Death of Mr J Arnold

Miss McShane reported that Mr John Arnold, a former member of the Board, had passed away on Thursday 29th July 2021.

Mr Arnold had been a member of the Boards from 6th June 1979 until 31st October 2020.

The Board Observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Arnold.

RESOLVED

That a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs Arnold from the Board.

B.1229 Land Drainage Act 1991 – Board Membership – Fenland District Council

Miss McShane reported that Fenland District Council have re-appointed Councillors B Rackley and W Sutton to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1230 Flail mowing in the District

Further to minute B.1195, The Chairman reported that the majority of the works had been completed.

RESOLVED

That Messrs Lankfer carry out the Board's flail mowing operations for the ensuing year.

(NB) – Mr H Lankfer declared an interest when this item was discussed.

B.1231 National Grid Gas – Pipeline at Long Drove, Waldersey

Further to minute B.1196, Miss McShane advised that Cadent now proposed to install a protective Bund along the High-Pressure Gas Pipeline and a Deed of Endorsement was to be finalised between the Board and Cadent to restrict any agricultural or farming operations within the restricted area of the pipeline. The finalised design of the protective bund would include regular crossing points at 100m/200m intervals for access to the arable land farmed by Mr Smith. Cadent had originally offered a licence fee of £5,000 but this had been negotiated to £25,000 and payment of the Board's legal costs. A Heads of Terms had been completed and a draft Deed of Endorsement was awaited from Cadent's Solicitors to complete the matter.

RESOLVED

That a Deed of Endorsement be completed between Cadent Gas Ltd and the Board on these terms.

B.1232 Footbridges – Waldersey Farms

Further to minute B.1197, Miss McShane reported that the work to the footbridges had now been completed and this item could be removed from the future Agendas.

B.1233 Joint Pumping Station Maintenance arrangements and review of District systems alleviation measures. (Hundred of Wisbech IDB)

Further to minute B.1198, Miss McShane reported that following the discussions between the Boards and the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board on the proposals for the new calculations for the Joint Pumping arrangement, an initial draft Agreement had been drawn up. This Agreement needed to be finalised and approved by both Boards.

RESOLVED

That further consideration of the Joint Pumping Arrangements and completion of the Joint Agreement should be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board.

B.1234 Pollution incident

Further to minute B.1199, Councillor Sutton reported that a meeting had taken place between the Environment Agency and Officers from the Engineers and Environmental Health at Fenland District Council on the 16th June 2022, Fenland District Council had carried out an extensive sampling exercise to determine the potential source routes and sources of the recurrent pollution from the Industrial Estate. The precis of the sample results had now been forwarded to the Environment Agency for use as evidence if required.
The Board asked for a letter to be sent to the Environment Agency asking them to progress this matter.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to the Environment Agency asking them to follow up the investigation carried out by Fenland District Council and progress the matter.

B.1235 Clerk's Report

Miss McShane advised:

i) COVID-19 Actions

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

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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) Application(s) for byelaw consent

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

Name of Applicant	Details of Works	Date of Consent
Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd - Highways	Installation of site access to north west and construction of temporary site compound to north east of Rings End Pumping Station compound	15/12/2021
Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd - Highways	Earthworks and replacement of the lightweight fill to the eastern embankment within 5-9 m offset of the surge chamber to form the reposition of larger roundabout and associated pipes.	15/12/2021

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 CO^2 release had shown that a well irrigated peat field of onions released less CO^2 than adjacent dry grassland.

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

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

b) Annual Conference

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

c) Meeting of the River Great Ouse Branch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

d) Meeting of the Welland and Nene Branch

The Clerk reported on the Meeting of the Welland and Nene branch of the Association held in Woodhall Spa on Thursday the 2nd December 2021.

e) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1118, ADA have advised that there was an error in the Model Byelaws relating to a Penalty Notice which referred to s37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, which was actually repealed on the 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020. Consequently, Defra has amended the Penalty Notice attached to the byelaws to include the correct reference. This Penalty Notice is not part of the Byelaws and, as such, is a simple correction. There is no requirement either to readvertise, or seek Defra approval and the version now uploaded to the website is the corrected one.

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 B.1200 (vi), Miss McShane reported that an order has been placed for a new outstation at the Board's pumping station and that the final cost to the Board will be approximately £2.5K total (with Local Levy grant matching this). This cost includes equipment, installation and 5 years of mobile data and website hosting.

vii) 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.

viii) 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

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

b) That no further detailed reports be included within the agenda but that correspondence on planning matters be shared with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

ix) Anglia Farmers

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

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

x) Fens Biosphere

Miss McShane 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.

xi) 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.

xii) Water Resources East (WRE)

Further to minute B.1200(xi), 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.

RESOLVED

That the Board approved the payments of £125 for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023.

B.1236 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

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

Waldersey I.D.B.

Consulting Engineers Report – June 2022

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

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

The previously approved culvert works at Point 66 were carried out last winter, lining the existing steel pipe with a slightly smaller diameter, twin wall plastic pipe, with new bagged headwalls and remedial repairs to the track.

New twin wall plastic liner

Remedial repairs to public byway

Northern Area

A recent joint inspection of the northern area has been undertaken with the Chairman and District Officer. The inspection revealed the district drains in the northern area to generally be in a satisfactory condition and maintained to a good standard.

Long Drove Drain, reach 9-10

The inspection highlighted sporadic stands of reed and aquatic vegetation throughout the Fourteen Foot drain (reach 5-15-16), Belt Drove drain (reach 28-29-30-31) and Long Drove Drain (reach 9-10-33).

It is therefore recommended that the aforementioned reaches are treated with an application of Roundup herbicide, followed by light machine cleansing, once the adjacent crops have been harvested thus allowing machine access.

Sporadic stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation are also evident in other areas of the northern district and it is recommended the affected reaches are included in this year's Roundup programme. A sum for the completion of the herbicide application has been included in this year's estimated costs.

A further provisional sum has been included in the estimates to allow for any emergency machine cleansing, culvert clearance or bank reinstatement works that may be required in the district later in the year.

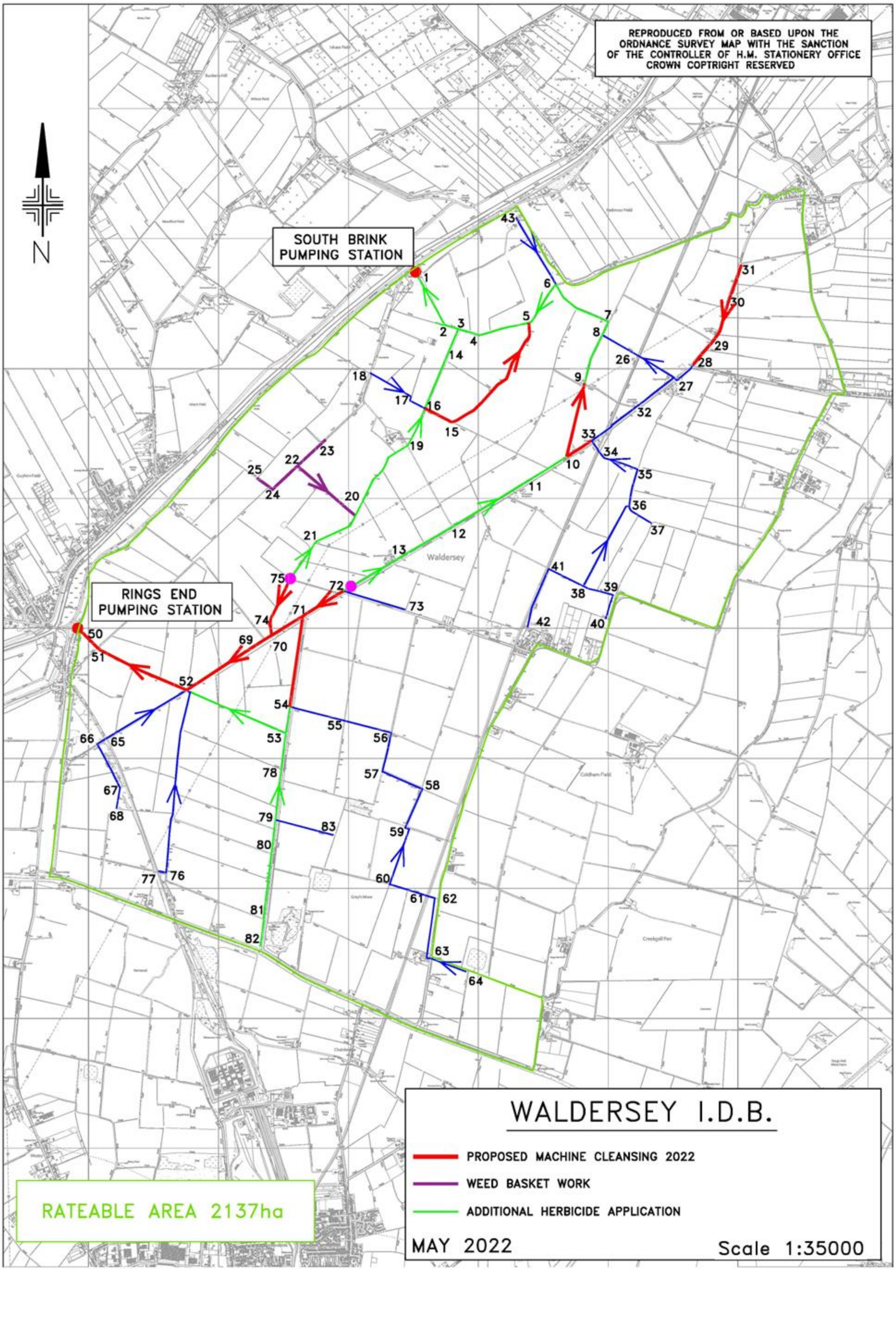
Southern Area

A recent joint inspection has also been undertaken, highlighting that several District drains in the southern area contain dense stands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation. The main Rings End Pump drain (reach 50-51-52-69-70-71-72-74-75) is considered to be the most severely affected and it is recommended this reach is treated with an application of Roundup herbicide and lightly machine cleansed following harvest this year.

It was also noted the Graysmoor Drove Drain (reach 71-54-53-78-79-80-81-82) is beginning to re-populate with Phragmites australis (common reed). Following last year's successful herbicide application, it is recommended the emergent aquatic vegetation is treated with an application of Roundup herbicide to control the summer growths, in order to maintain their good status.

Cases of illegal fly tipping have continued within the Waldersey IDB catchment, predominantly in the Graysmoor Drove area. Household rubbish and tyres have been removed on several occasions by Fenland District Council's (FDC) Rapid Response Team. It is worth noting that the FDC Team will only collect from the road side, as their Health & Safety Policy does not permit them to work on banksides. As it still remains a general concern in the area, a provisional sum has been allocated to allow for any further fly-tipped debris to be cleared or emergency machine cleansing/culvert clearance carried out as may be required later in the year.

The Board's flail mowing contractors, Messrs Lankfer, have indicated they will be available to undertake the Board's flail mowing and weed basket requirements for this year. In anticipation of the Board's agreement a provisional sum has been allocated within the estimated costs to allow for flail mowing, basket work and herbicide application.


REPRODUCED FROM OR BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE CROWN COPTRIGHT RESERVED
N
SOUTH BRINK PUMPING STATION
RINGS END PUMPING STATION
Waldersey
RATEABLE AREA 2137ha
WALDERSEY I.D.B.
PROPOSED MACHINE CLEANSING 2022
WEED BASKET WORK
ADDITIONAL HERBICIDE APPLICATION
MAY 2022
Scale 1:35000

The estimated costs of this year's recommended Weed Control and Drain Maintenance works follow, please refer to the previous plan for locations. An additional allowance has also been included in the estimates, in anticipation of an increase in contractor's rates this year, due to general uncertainties with the rate inflation and the current rise in fuel costs.

Northern Area

1.	Machine cleanse					
	Fourteen Foot drain, Reach 34-35-36-37	1250	m	@	2.00	2500.00
	Long Drove Drain, Reach 9-10-33	800	m	@	2.00	1600.00
	Belt Drove Drain, Reach 28-29-30-31	900	m	@	1.50	1350.00
2.	Bi-annual weed basket cleanse					
	Speedwell Farm drain, reaches 20-22-23-24-25	1300	m	@	1.00	1300.00
3.	Provisional sum					
	Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing, culvert clearance and bank reinstatement works	Item		Sum		800.00
4.	Flail mowing of drains in Northern Area	Item		Sum		4000.00
5.	Allow sum for Roundup herbicide application	Item		Sum		500.00

Southern Area

6.	Machine cleanse					
	Rings End Pump Drain					
	Reaches 50-51-52-69-70-71-72	2400	m	@	2.00	4800.00
	Reaches 70-74-75	450	m	@	1.50	675.00
	Reach 54-71	700	m	@	1.50	1050.00
7.	Allow sum for Roundup application to control emergent weed and reed	Item		Sum		500.00
8.	Provisional sum Allow sum for emergency machine cleansing culvert clearance or debris removal works	Item		Sum		800.00
9.	Flail mowing of Southern Area District Drains	Item		Sum		4000.00
10.	Fees for inspection, preparation and submission of report to the Board, arrangement and supervision of herbicide applications and maintenance	Item		Sum		1300.00
	TOTAL			**£**		**25,175.00**

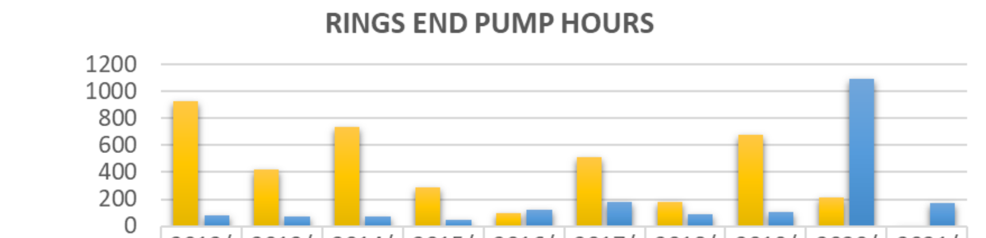
Orders for the application of herbicides by the Middle Level Commissioners are accepted on condition that they will not be held responsible for the failure of any treatment to be effective.

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.

Rings End

In October the weed screen trolley over travelled pushing cable trolleys out. The faulty limit switch was replaced and all others tested and lubricated.

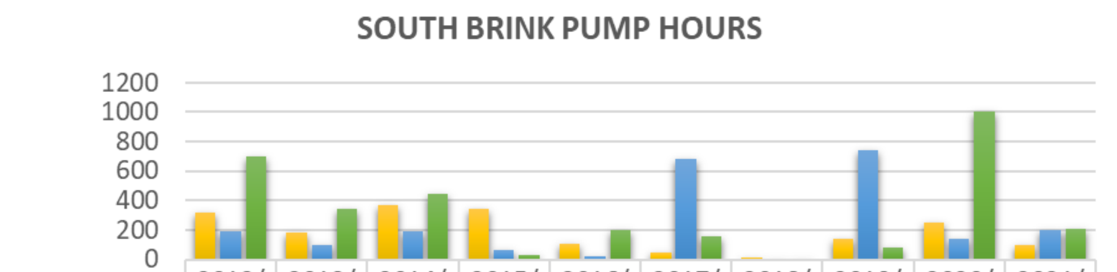


	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
PUMP 1	928	421	738	284	100	510	179	680	211	2
PUMP 2	82	68	70	44	120	180	85	108	1088	168

PUMP 1 PUMP 2

South Brink

Pump 2 motor insulation resistance is low. It improved between the January and May inspections as it was the duty pump, which could indicate it was due to moisture ingress, as it had only a few hours over the winter. New soft starts were fitted to pumps 2 and 3 in September 2021. A new tariff override switch was fitted in August 2021. The weed screen cleaner trolley motor failed during January 2022 and a new unit was fitted. One of the outlet flap doors to the Nene is loose and needs to be refitted. The outlet pipes are corroding and need to be repainted.



	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
PUMP 1	315	181	370	340	110	45	15	142	250	95
PUMP 2	195	100	193	67	21	680	0	743	142	204
PUMP 3	701	340	447	35	200	160	0	83	1004	212

PUMP 1 PUMP 2 PUMP 3

The Right to Connect

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

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

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

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

A141/A47 Guyhirn Junction Improvements – Highways England (now National Highways)

The re-establishment of discussions.

Following further investigation, it was established during August that the reason for the breakdown in communication with the Board was because the previous contractor had withdrawn from the project in April and that one of the two main points of contact at Galliford Try (the delivery partner) had retired and the other had left the company.

Concerns were raised with the respective parties on how this situation had arisen, particularly given the importance of both the project and land drainage within the area, and they were advised that the Board wished to work in partnership with the various parties involved to reach an amicable position.

The opportunity was taken to remind the parties of the contravention of the Board's Byelaws and advised of the resolution made at the last Board Meeting which could include the issuing of a notice requesting the cessation of works that affect the Board's interests until the relevant matters were resolved to the Board's satisfaction.

Noting that further encroachment within close proximity to the Board's assets and maintenance access strip had occurred a "stop notice" was issued at the beginning of September.

The "stop notice" was acted upon but this separated the site which resulted in problems in completing the works efficiently. Concerns were raised about the adverse impacts upon both the contract programme and costs incurred but this did not negate the need to seek the Board's prior written consent and conversely the failure and subsequent repair of this discharge pipeline, which would likely require the closure of the highway and would cost significantly more to resolve.

This prompted a meeting attended by representatives from Highways England and Galliford Try together with the Commissioners' Planning Engineer and Assistant Works Engineer, at which it was confirmed that the contacts the Board had previously dealt with had both left their employment earlier in the year with no handover and the Board's interests had been overlooked, however, re-assurances were made that the Board would be kept informed as the works progress and were invited to visit the site and inspect the works when it wished to.

In view of this, the contents of a verbal discussion with the Chairman and that consents for encroachment would be sought imminently the "stop notice" was removed to enable access in front of the surge chamber.

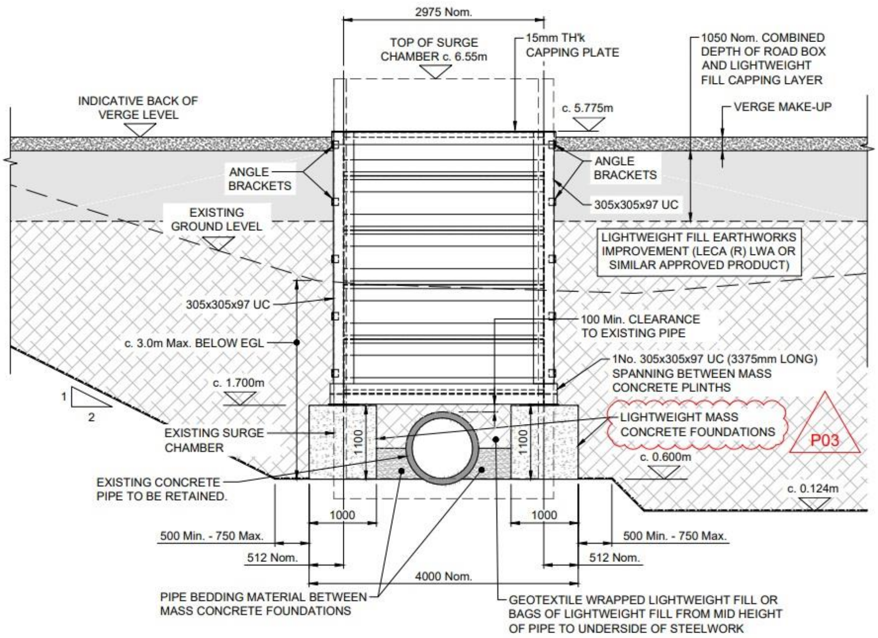
Surface Water Disposal

During the meeting it was confirmed that a flap valve and the discharge channel serving the South Brink arm of the A47, and thus the responsibility of Highways England, and the drainage system serving March Road at Rings End, and the responsibility of County Highways, were both found to be blocked and inoperative, due to lack of maintenance. This may explain the flooding that previously occurred in the hamlet. Remedial works to the former route have been undertaken.

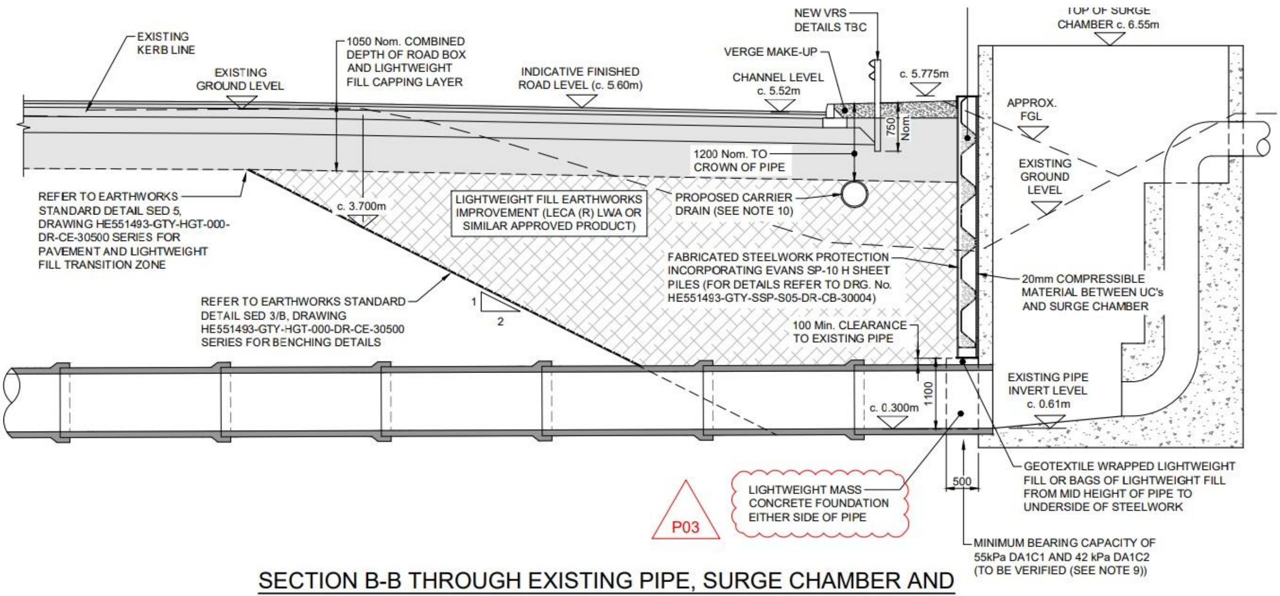
The use of the existing route beside March Road remains but the discharge was attenuated utilising the piped network controlled by orifice plates within manhole chambers. It is claimed that despite the increased impermeable area the discharge rate will be lower but the use of orifice plates, which can be removed, does, along with other future maintenance issues, cause a concern and is an issue that needs to be resolved.

Surge Chamber protection works

In order to protect the surge chamber from potential damage for example from being hit by traffic as a result of the re-positioning of the carriageway, it was proposed that a fabricated steel protection structure be positioned on the front face of the chamber. To alleviate any adverse impacts, due to the imposed loading created, on both the chamber and discharge pipeline this protective structure was placed on concrete foundations. A splash guard will prevent the ingress of icing salts affecting the integrity of the steelwork.



SECTION A-A AT FRONT FACE OF PROPOSED SURGE CHAMBER PROTECTION



SECTION B-B THROUGH EXISTING PIPE, SURGE CHAMBER AND PROPOSED SURGE CHAMBER PROTECTION

Extracts from Sweco UK Ltd's Design Drawing No. HE551493-GTY-SSP-S05-DR-CB-30002 Rev. PO3
Surge Chamber Protection General Arrangement Plan

This solution was approved by Highways England's Standards and Engineering Services team, acting as the Technical Approval Authority (TAA). Highways England has also confirmed that it will remain owner of the protection structure and hence be responsible for any future maintenance should it be required.

<u>Formation of the eastern embankment of the roundabout</u>

Members will be aware that the soft compressible layers of peat and soft clays form the underlying geology in the area and that the use of a standard earthworks solution for the embankment widening would result in significant differential settlement in the longer term. An example of this previously evident within the site was at the eastern end of the River Nene Bridge, where fill for the original carriageway construction was placed against the rigid bridge structure. In order to minimise the effects of differential settlement as far as possible, the earthworks were designed such that proposed loadings in the longer term balance the original loading within the footprint of the new higher embankment area. In order to achieve this, it was necessary to excavate and remove a quantity of the existing material which was replaced with lightweight expanded clay fill material. This required the removal of the existing soil on two faces down close to the formation level of the chamber.

Given the height of the structure and "raft" type foundations the stability of the surge chamber was a primary concern and various options were considered to maintain this including physical restraints. It was considered that it would be difficult to implement a system of restraints that fully prevented the chamber from moving to some extent. A sheet piled anchor was considered but would need to be of a significant section and length due to the weak ground conditions and the associated vibration during installation could cause liquification of the underlying soft sub-soil. Assuming that a robust anchor point could be achieved props and/or ties to restrain movement would be required however these would not have been easy to install and tension and it was considered that some movement would occur.

Following discussions with the SWECO Geotech Design Team it was considered that the best approach to follow would be to slightly amend the earthworks design in the vicinity of the chamber as it significantly reduced the risks of chamber movement. A residual risk of movement due to the loading from the earth against the eastern (Old March Road) side of the chamber was removed with a temporary excavation but this exposed the rising mains that enter the chamber for a brief period

A temporary works procedure and methodology was developed by Galliford Try's Central Engineering Services Department working closely with the Permanent Works Designers, SWECO.

It was hoped that it would be possible to install protective steel support structure and partially backfill the excavation and form the embankment before Christmas. Unfortunately, the Temporary Works Design was not signed off in time and it was considered inappropriate to leave a large excavation open over the holiday period.

The good weather during January/February enabled good progress to be made on the excavation and subsequent formation of the embankment.

A view of the fabricated steelwork protection structure strapped to the surge chamber during backfilling to form the eastern embankment of the roundabout

When exposed the rising main was found to be in good condition but some differences between the design drawings and the “as built” structure were noted.

Views of the exposed rising main as it enters the surge chamber

Subsequent to the completion of the embankment the carriageway structure was installed.

<u>Access to the Surge Chamber</u>

Whilst the surge chamber has been reasonably accessible in the past, to those who were aware of its existence, it has been less visible amongst the soft landscaping. However, the re-positioning of the roundabout makes the structure more visible and it will, arguably, be more accessible and possibly used as a safe point of refuge during or following a breakdown and/or accident.

The surge chamber is topped with a mesh grill that can be opened to enable access to the chamber but this is unlikely to have been designed to receive a significant imposed loading. There is a drop of approximately 5.94m below the grill and following initial discussions with the Board's Health and Safety Advisor it was suggested that a mesh filled handrail with suitable signage should be provided to deter access to the top of the surge chamber. Now that the works are complete the need for such fencing can be clarified.

the

View of the completed works adjacent to the surge chamber showing the close proximity to highway.

Note the splash plate on the front face installed to prevent salts and ice from affecting the integrity of the fabricated steelwork protection

A gated footpath and steps from the Old March Road to the surge chamber have been installed.

Outstanding Issues

The improved junction was officially opened in May. There are some issues, including the provision of "as built" drawings, however Galliford Try advises these are currently being finalised.

Extract from National Highways Press Release photograph showing the completed works.
The Rings End Pumping Station Surge Chamber is visible toward the bottom left hand corner.

Joint IDB catchment study

As this investigation affects two IDBs and because the options for addressing any issues found in the system both current or future (from growth and climate change) may be delivered in part or whole in either of the Board's districts it will be necessary for both Boards to work closely together.

Therefore, it is recommended that before the Board proceeds too much further and makes any commitments a meeting is held to determine for example: What is required? Who will provide this? Is adequate funding available? What should each Board contribute? And would grant be available? This same question was raised at the recent Hundred of Wisbech IDB meeting with the hope of obtaining a degree of alignment.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that the most appropriate hydraulic modelling is utilised and that the subsequent action plans offer best value for long term growth and climate change. Given that the neighbouring Hundred of Wisbech IDB's system gravitates into the Board's South Brink Pumping Station sub-catchment system it would be prudent to produce a combined model covering both systems, so that relative influences can be understood. A full understanding of the respective drainage systems and how they interact would be beneficial in determining efficient management solutions and will provide a guide for any improvement options to be considered.

Any investigation or study into the Board's system may be eligible for Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGiA) funding through a FCERM7 (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management) application to help fund the cost of the study. A typical study will define the problem, identify a range of potential solutions and undertake a technical, environmental and economic appraisal to determine the outline design of an optimum solution that can be developed into a business case for a capital scheme.

As part of the Fens Tactical Plans works, the base line economic benefits have been calculated for the assets of each Board. These figures have been used to determine the potential maximum GiA that would be supportable, should a scheme or a series of schemes need to come forward to keep the asset operational over the defined 15 year period, whilst analysis of the long term catchment needs is identified. These sums effectively represent a cap on grant and are not allocated monies. They have been developed to help support scheme economics should an application for allocation be successful. Care is therefore needed over the use of grant money to fund the delivery of a study, which may reduce the amount of grant available to help fund works arising from the investigation and preferred option.

There are currently no works or schemes highlighted to the EA's Tactical Plan programme but this would not preclude a scheme coming forward for inclusion in the current capital programme which runs to 2026/27. An application for initial investigations could be made to provide supporting data for inclusion of a scheme in the latter part of the grant programme.

As the Board's system serves the A47, it may be possible to seek funding from National Highways (formerly Highways England) from its Environmental and Well Being Designated Fund.

If a meeting is held soon an FCERM7 application can be made and initial engagement with suitable engineering consultants can commence with the aim of obtaining.

The Board is asked to confirm its approval of the actions taken and in order to guide further discussions with the relevant parties it would be beneficial to receive the Board's opinion and further instruction on the above.

Re-assessment of South Brink Pumping Station

This matter will be discussed under Agenda item 12 Joint Pumping Station Maintenance arrangements and review of District systems alleviation measures (Hundred of Wisbech IDB) - Clerk to report

Planning Applications

In addition to matters concerning previous applications, the following 4 new development related matters have been received and dealt with since the last meeting:

MLC Ref.	Council Ref.	Applicant	Type of Development	Location
122	F/YR21/0551/O	Mrs Prior	Residence	Station Road, Coldham
123	F/YR21/0893/F	Mr K McDarby	Residence	Nettle Bank, Elm
124	F/YR21/1301/F	Mr P Sunassee	Residence (Annexe)	Nettle Bank, Elm
125	F/YR22/0289/F + 22/00357/FM + CCC/22/00275/FUL	Anglian Water Services Ltd	Grantham to Bexwell Pipeline Scheme	Speedwell Farm/Long Drove/March Road, Elm/Coldham

From the information provided it is understood that all the developments propose to discharge waste water to Soakaways/Infiltration devices and/or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The applicants have been notified of the Board's requirements.

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

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

Rings End (General area rather than parish/town boundaries)

Various developments at Newsham Farm, March Rd, Rings End - Mr D Crockford (MLC Ref Nos 077, 083, 094, 104, 109, 110 & 112)

The position concerning this development is currently being ascertained.

A letter has been sent to the applicant and his agent advising that there are several matters still outstanding regarding this location.

Wisbech (General area rather than parish/town boundaries)

Replacement of the Main Outfall at Crooked Bank, Wisbech – Hundred of Wisbech IDB (MLC Ref No 111)

The work carried out at the Main Outfall structure under the contract and subsequent instructions is 'practically complete' and is currently the subject of a twelve-month maintenance period.

Another inspection of the structure will be undertaken at the cessation of the maintenance period and any remedial works needed will be undertaken.

Medworth Energy from Waste Combined Heat and Power Facility at Algores Way, Wisbech - MVV Environment Ltd (MLC Ref 116)

This proposal is an emotive one and members will have specific views on it. However, members are reminded that any actions and subsequent resolutions need to be in the Board's interests.

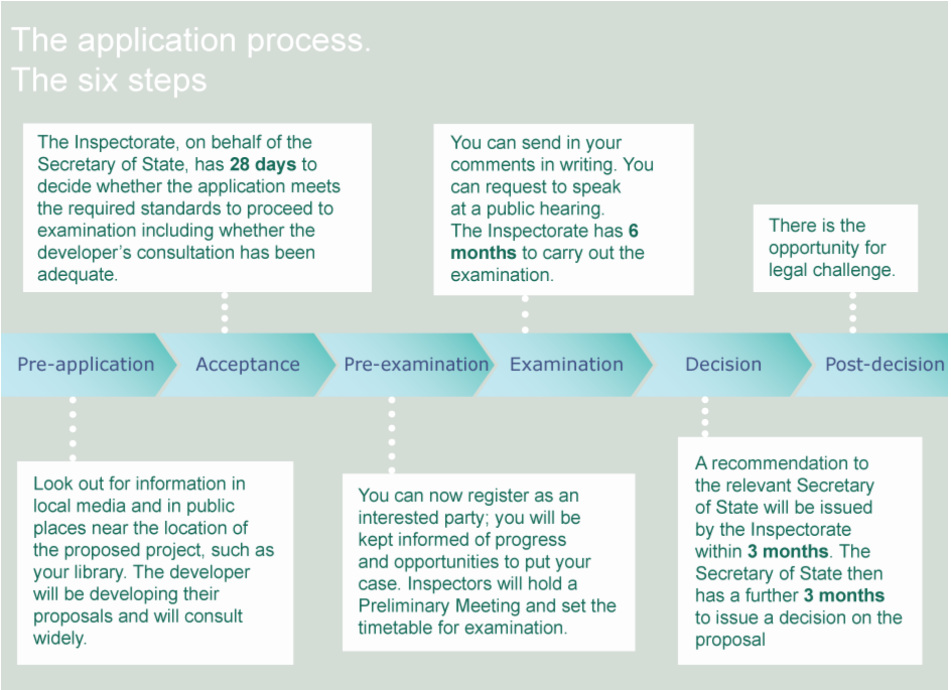
Further to the last meeting, discussions have continued as part of the on-going pre-application consultation process with the developer; its engineering consultant, Wood plc; and other associated parties.

At the end of June letters were received from MCL, part of MVV Environment Ltd, for the purposes of Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and/or Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations with the Board being invited to consider the proposed development and the information provided in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the statutory consultation exercise.

The response to MVV included items related to flooding impacts, water resources, water quality and conservation which were subsequently discussed at a virtual meeting held in December to enable and update on the proposed development and respond on the points raised in response to the PEIR.

It was also advised that the DCO application would be submitted to the Secretary of State just before Christmas. However, this was subsequently changed to the end of the first quarter of this year and in response to a recent query MVV advised:

> "We are in the process of finalising our DCO submission and expect this to be submitted in Q2 2022."



<u>District Wide</u>

March to Wisbech Transport Corridor [Previously known as the Re-opening of the March to Wisbech Rail-line - Scheme No 398128 (Wisbech Rail)] (MLC Ref No 113)

&

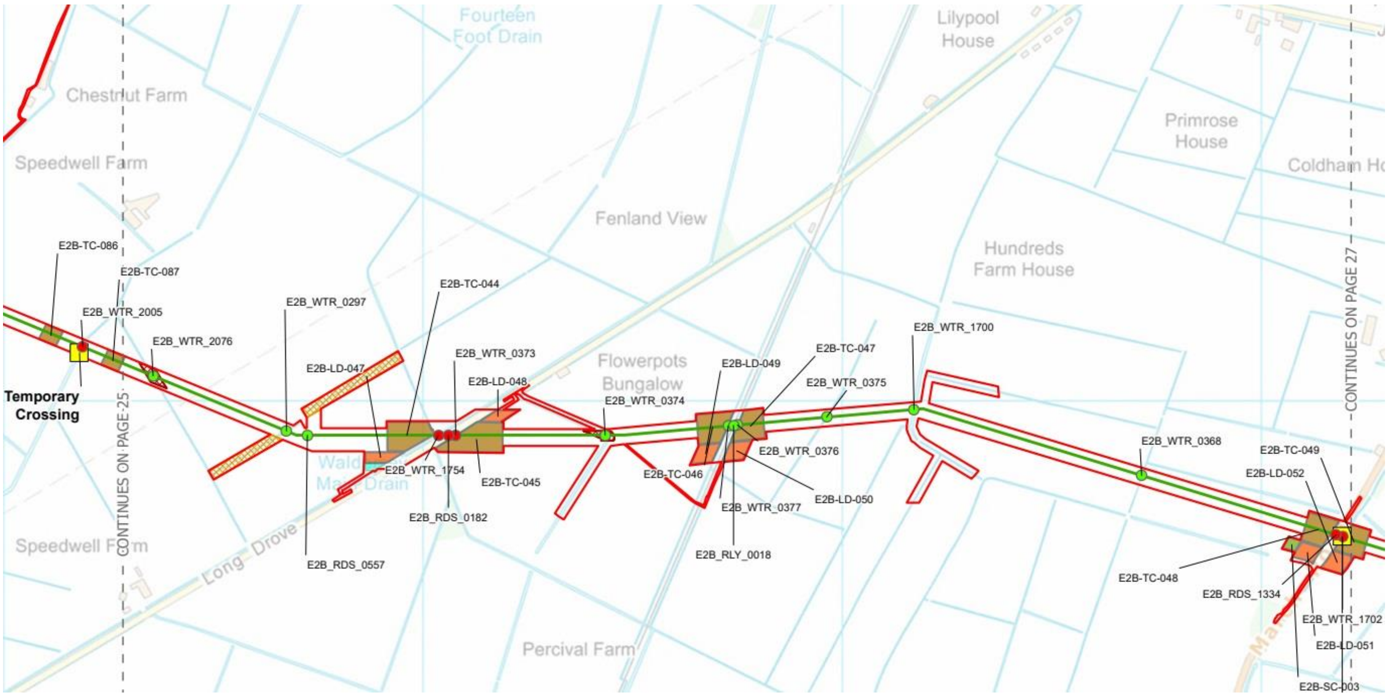
March Area Transport Study (MATS) - Cambridgeshire County Council (MLC Ref No 118)

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

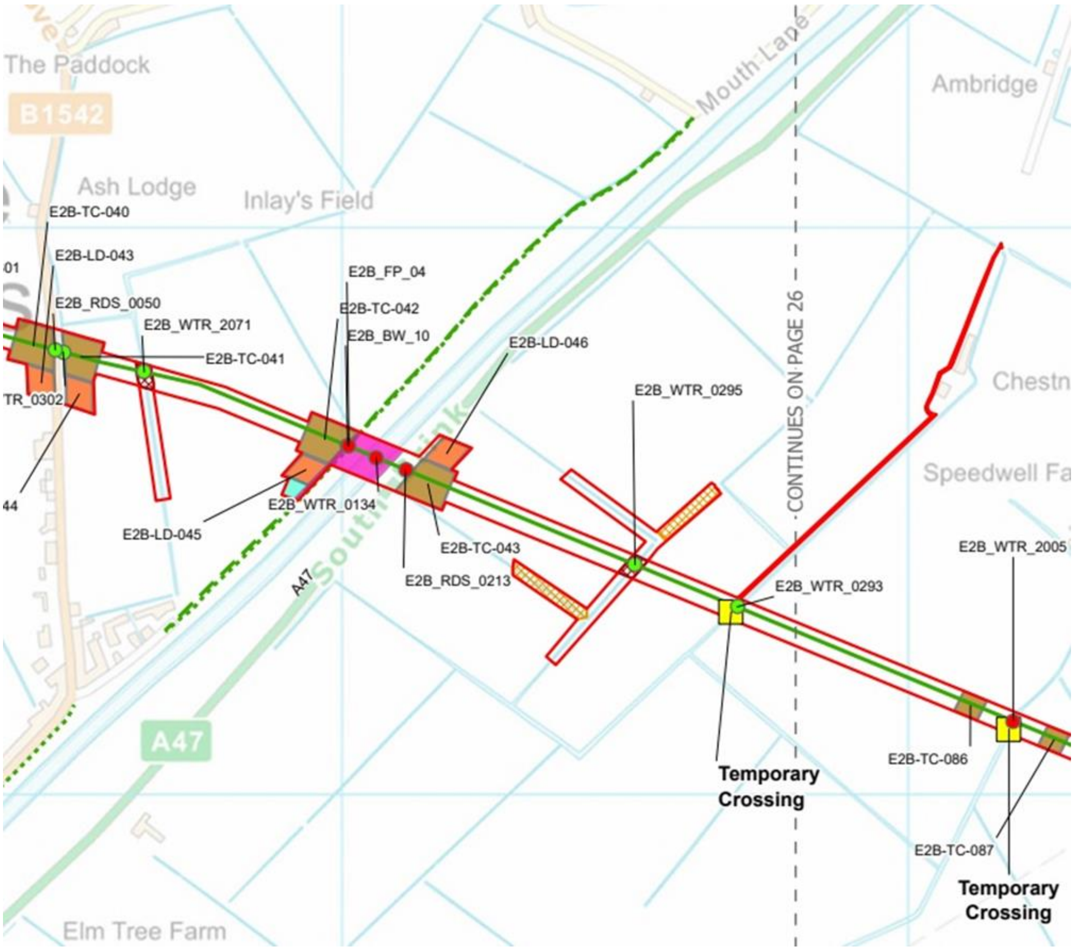
Grantham to Bexwell Pipeline – Anglian Water Services Ltd (MLC Ref Nos 121 & 125)

Anglian Water Services Ltd is proposing to install a new potable water pipeline from Grantham to Bexwell that crosses part of the Board's area. Discussions are underway to confirm the route of the pipeline and landowners are being contacted. A meeting is being arranged with Middle Level Commissioners' engineers to review the depth of the pipeline where it crosses watercourses.

A planning application has been submitted to the District Council for consideration.



Extracts from AWSLs Drawing No. XXXXX-100005-GRABEXTZ-XXX-MAP-TW-0013
Sheets 26 and 27 showing the route that crosses the Board's area



LEGEND
- PETERBOROUGH TO BEXWELL ROUTE ALIGNMENT
- REDLINE BOUNDARY
- 500M STUDY AREA
- TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL FLUMES (FOR ACCESS)

CROSSING TYPE
- OPEN CUT
- TRENCHLESS
- TEMPORARY LAGOONS

COMPOUNDS
- LAYDOWN COMPOUND
- MAIN COMPOUND
- TRENCHLESS COMPOUND

WATER FEATURES

SYMBOLOGY
- ORDINARY WATERCOURSE
- IDB DRAIN

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".

Consulting Engineer

15 June 2022

Waldersey(332)\Reports\June 2022

Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

The Drain Maintenance works had been carried out last year in accordance with the recommendations of the Board.

The culvert works at Point 66 had been completed. This involved lining the existing steel pipe with a slightly smaller diameter twin wall plastic pipe.

The Board expressed its thanks to Moran Lakey for the work carried out at Point 66.

The inspections of the Northern Area and Southern Area had been undertaken, The Northern area drains were generally in a satisfactory condition. The southern area drains contained dense strands of reed and emergent aquatic vegetation and would be treated with Round-up herbicide and machine cleansed following the harvest.

Messrs Lankfer have indicated that they will be available to undertake the Boards flail mowing and weed basket requirement for the year 2022/2023.

The Right to Connect

Following a discussion of this matter, the Board were of the opinion that they would support the removal of the Right to Connect to public sewers.

A141/A47 Guyhirn Junction Improvements.

The Board noted the report of the Engineer and that the improved junction had been officially opened in May. The Board confirmed the actions of the Engineer to date and asked for a post works CCTV to be carried by the contractors and for a Hydrology report to be prepared.

Planning Applications

The Board noted the new development related matters which had been dealt with since the last meeting.

RESOLVED

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

ii) Weed Control and Drain Maintenance

That the recommendations contained in the Report be adopted.

iii) That Messrs Lankfer be appointed to undertake the Board's flail mowing and weed basket requirements

iv) That the Engineer take all actions considered appropriate to complete the post works CCTV with the contractor and a Hydrology Report to be prepared as soon as possible.

B.1237 Capital Improvement Programme

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

Waldersey 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
Rings End p/s	Pumping station replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station pumping and control equipment replacement	0	4.5	0.0	85.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	139.5
	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	25.0	25.0
	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
South Bank 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	10	9.5	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.5
	Pumping station automatic weedscreen cleaning equipmet	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station Control building refurbishment/replacement	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Pumping station compound/surrounds improvements	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
	Pumping Plant Fund	13	7.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	0.0	110.0
Eel Regulations	Eel Regulation implications	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
	Refurbishment of inlets/outfalls	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	15.0
Drainage Channels														
		23	**21.0**	**10**	**115**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**130**	**369**

Identified on PAFS submission - 2020

No engineers asset appraisal update

Board meting June 2021:

Engineer to cary out flood alleviation investigations in conjunction with Hundred of Wisbech IDB.

programme to be develop following receipt of survey

Telemetry:

approved installation of telemetry at both pumping stations

RESOLVED

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

B.1238 District Officer’s Report

The Board noted and approved the reported of the District Officer, viz;

DISTRICT OFFICERS REPORT 2021/22

Cleansing, weed removal and herbicide applications were carried out as planned on board drains last autumn. The areas which were machine cleansed with the weed basket were particularly successful and cost effective. A plan for cleansing and herbicide application after harvest this year will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Some bank re-profiling is also required on some of the Southern area drains due to slips.

Telemetry has now been installed at both pumping stations. Remote monitoring has already made making decisions on altering drain levels easier, proved during recent heavy rainfall when it was necessary to override pumps at South Brink after noticing levels rising during the day. Good communication between myself and Hundred of Wisbech IDB D/O Mr Buttress has also greatly helped with making decisions on drain levels.

We have had safety barriers and a walkway installed at the division dam (point 75) to make it safer and easier to adjust.

There has been several instances of fly tipping into board drains which required machine removal, and unfortunately we are still seeing pollution of the system on a regular basis.

Please contact me on 07584 139357 if you have any observations throughout the year.

B Wales 05 June 2022

B.1239 Conservation Officer’s Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss McShane referred to the Environmental Officer’s Newsletter previously circulated to Members, viz;

Waldersey 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.

Waldersey IDB Report Summary

Invasive Species

Azolla was noted in several drains during a survey in early June 2022, as it has been in many areas across the Levels in 2022. Care should be taken when moving machinery between drains/catchments per biosecurity policies. Report large outbreaks to CO; the photo below (©CABI) shows a close-up view of the plant which can quickly blanket watercourses and varies in colour from pale green to mauve/red.

Mink

Two rafts are located in the district which has previously yielded a significant number of mink. None were caught in the reporting period (although one was seen and reported) which is good news. A survey of a stretch of drain near node 11 found numerous signs of water voles as well as young moorhens which is a good indicator of the continued absence of mink.

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

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. <u>If unsure, please contact the Conservation Officer regardless.</u>

Water vole is likely widespread in the district. Signs were found in most drains surveyed in June 2022; key areas are marked on the map below.

Other species/issues

A male tufted duck was an interesting find along drain 10-9, this species is not often seen in such drains during the nesting season.

Some repairs will be needed to the Board's barn owl and bat boxes – specifically the barn owl box at the pumping station and the bat box near the old railway crossing cottages. A location for a new box has also been found along Crooked Bank and is awaiting installation.

Training

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

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

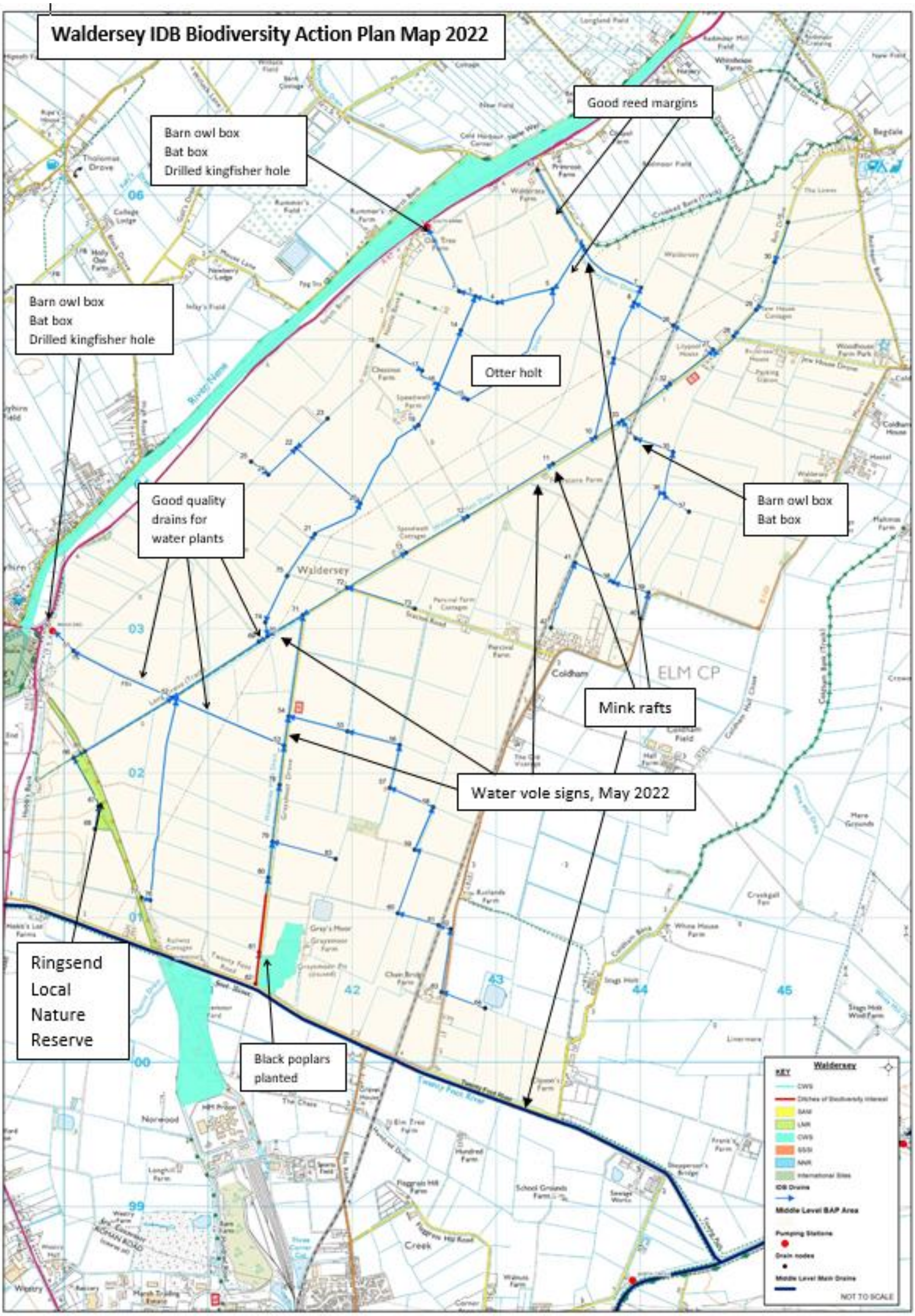
The culmination of our Floating Pennywort awareness project, this training morning will provide an up-to-date summary of invasive species, both flora and fauna, to look out for in the Middle Level. Guest speakers: Cliff Carson and Mike Foley. *This event has passed but the CO is happy to discuss or share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

Date TBC: Water voles - ecology, legislation and mitigation: a guide for IDBs. Venue: Middle Level Offices, March (followed by visit to local drain) <u>MOVED TO 2023</u>

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.1240 District Officer’s Fee

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

RESOLVED

That the Board agree that the sum of £5,294.20 including 3% annual increase be allowed for the services of the District Officer for 2022/2023.

(NB) – The District Officer declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.

B.1241 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.

The Board requested that Ring’s End Pumping Station should be include in the forward Capital forecasts provided to the Environment Agency.

B.1242 Environment Agency – Precepts

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

The precept for 2021/2022 was £2,633.00.

B.1243 Agricultural Rentals

The Board considered whether any change was appropriate in the level of rental being obtained for the Board’s land, viz:-

4 acres of arable land at Green Drove (OS 796) – Let to Mr J P Smith
Present rent - £40 per acre plus drainage rate.

5.794 acres of land at Crooked Bank – Let to Mr G W Lankfer
Present rent - £40 per acre plus drainage rate.

RESOLVED

i) That no change in the level of rental be made.

ii) That the Solicitor and Assistant Clerk obtain valuations for the land of Green Drove and Crooked Bank.

B.1244 Association of Drainage Authorities – Subscriptions

The Clerk will report that ADA has increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022, from £565 to £571.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2022 be paid.

B.1245 Determination of annual value(s) for rating purposes

Miss McShane submitted the recommendation(s) for the determination of annual value(s) 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.1246 Rate Arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £17.20.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1247 Health and Safety

Further to minute B.1210, the District Officer referred to the report received from Cope Safety Management following their visit to the District on 16th November 2021, viz;

Cope
SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Site Safety Inspection Record

Waldersey IDB SSI 161121

Complete

Site Safety Inspection

Name of organisation:	Waldersey IDB
Date of site visit	16 Nov 2021 12:00 GMT
Address of inspected premises	South Brink Pumping Station Rings End Pumping Station
Name of Advisor	Simon Cross
Time of arrival at site:	16 Nov 2021 11:50 GMT
Audit Name	Waldersey IDB SSI 161121

Audit

An opening meeting was held with

Peter Lankfer

Have there been any accidents since our last visit?	No
Have there been any new starters since our last visit?	No

1

Introduction. During the opening meeting, any observations and recommendations from previous visits were reviewed and discussed. It was pleasing to note that improvements have been made.

2

South Brink Pumping Station. The following observations and recommendations were made:
* Warning signage. It was pleasing to note that warning signage indicating the hazard of automatically operating machinery has been displayed on the weed screen cleaner frame. However, the signage on the perimeter fence for no unauthorised access is faded and illegible; it is recommend that these are replaced with something similar to below.
* Security. Both access gates are now locked with keys provided in a key box with combination lock.

Photo 1

3

Rings End Pumping Station. The following observations and recommendations were made:
* Warning signage. It was pleasing to note that warning signage indicating the hazard of automatically operating machinery has been displayed on the weed screen cleaner frame and perimeter fence. However, the signage on the perimeter fence for no unauthorised access is faded and illegible; it is recommend that these are replaced, as detailed above.
* Construction work. The pumping station location is directly adjacent to a large roundabout on the A47/A141 which is currently undergoing major construction work, the site compound is next to the pumping station and a large surge chamber is located next to where the new road line will go. It was observed at the time of the visit that the chamber structure was within the confines of the construction site so was not approached, it was understood that access has been extremely infrequent previously and would typically be just for inspection, there appeared to be a secured grate on top on the structure for access, although this would likely be undertaken by contractors.

4

Structure 75. It was reported, and confirmed by Middle Level Commissioners, that mesh grating and edge protection barriers have now been installed at this location to prevent a fall from height into water, which was pleasing to note. It should be ensured that appropriate access to the structure from the track is provided and maintained and that the manual handling of the wooden slacker boards is undertaken in a safe manner.

5

Health and Safety Documentation. Risk assessments and safe systems of work relevant to the Board's activities have been provided and is understood to have been communicated to relevant persons.

Photographic Risk Assessment

Signature of person informed

Signature of person informed 1

Signature of person informed

Signed on behalf of client by advisor
16 Nov 2021 15:20 GMT

Advisor's signature

Simon Cross
16 Nov 2021 15:20 GMT

Departure time 16 Nov 2021 14:00 GMT

Photographic Risk Assessments closed out during the visit.

041019 - Ref 1. - Warning signage for automatically operating machinery now displayed.
100320 - Ref 1 - Edge protection barriers now installed.

Number of outstanding Photographic Risk Assessments **0**
From 0 to 99

Appendix

Photo 1

Mr Wales reported that all matters had been dealt with. The main recommendation in the report had been the erection of a ‘No Authorised Access’ sign on the perimeter fence at South Brink Pumping Station.

<u>B.1248 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2020/2021</u>

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

Waldersey Internal Drainage Board

Notice of conclusion of the audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date of Announcement: 17th September 2021

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

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

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

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

23rd June 2021

and recorded as minute reference:

B.1218

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

Chairman MJ Hobbs

Clerk

WWW.MIDDLELEVEL.GOV.UK

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
1. Balances brought forward	214,408	225,505	*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	69,876	66,018	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	17,025	23,697	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	75,804	91,606	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	225,505	223,614	*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	218,276	201,141	*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	2,545,000	2,545,000	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

	Yes	No	
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			*The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.*
			N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

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

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

Date 4th June 2021

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

23rd June 2021

as recorded in minute reference:

B.1220

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

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2020/21

In respect of **WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD – DB0118**

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

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

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

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

2 External auditor report 2020/21

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

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

NONE

3 External auditor certificate 2020/21

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

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature *PKF Littlejohn LLP* Date 10/09/2021

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

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

Whitings
Chartered Accountants LLP

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

MNH/BB/MM053
08 October 2021

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

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

MLC administered Internal Drainage Boards - Internal Audit 2020-2021

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

<u>General points</u>

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

2. **Asset Valuations and Insurances**

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

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

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

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

Client Comment:

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

3. **Employee Benefits - Vehicle Usage, and VAT recovery**

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

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

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

<u>*Client Comment:*</u>

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

4. **Provisions**

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

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

Client comment:

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

5. **Risk Management Policy and procedures**

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

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

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

Risk Management Policy and procedures - continued

Client comment:

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

6. **Website Publication**

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

Client comment:

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

7. **Capital works**

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

8. **Capital assets**

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

Capital assets - continued

Client comment:

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

9. **Budget figures**

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

Client comment:

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

Specific Points

Sutton and Mepal IDB

See item 2 above – residential property value

Hundred of Wisbech IDB
See item 6 above

Conington & Holme IDB
See item 9 above

Client comment (Conington & Holme IDB):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other Matters

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Whitings LLP

Whitings LLP

B.1249 Defra IDB1 Returns

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

Internal Drainage Boards in England

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Annual Report for the year ended

31 March 2021

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

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

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

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

Please round all cash figures down to nearest whole £.

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Section A – Financial information

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

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

Special levies information for financial year 2021-22 (forecast)	
Name of local authority	**2021-22 forecast £**
1. FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	9,701
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
Total	9,701

Section A – Financial information (continued)

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2021

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

	Notes	Year ending 31 March 2021 £
INCOME		
1. Drainage Rates		56,317
2. Special Levies		9,701
3. Higher Land Water Contributions from the Environment Agency		0
4. Contributions received from developers/other beneficiaries		0
5. Government Grants (includes capital grants from EA and levy contributions)		0
6. PSCAs from EA and other RMAs		0
7. Loans		0
8. Rechargeable Works		0
9. Interest and Investment Income		293
10. Rents and Acknowledgements		392
11. Other Income		23,012
Total income		**89,715**
EXPENDITURE		
12. New Works and Improvement Works		0
13. Total precept to the Environment Agency		2,633
14. Watercourse maintenance		19,975
15. Pumping Stations, Sluices and Water level control structures		54,807
16. Administration		12,138
17. PSCAs		0
18. Rechargeable Works		0
19. Finance Charges		0
20. SSSIs		0
21. IDB Biodiversity and conservation (other than item 20 expenditure)		470
22. Other Expenditure		1,583
Total expenditure		**91,606**

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS		
23. Profits/(losses) arising from the disposal of fixed assets		0
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		**(1,891)**
24. Developers Funds income not applied in year		1,502
25. Grant income not applied in year		0

Notes:

11. Include all other Income, such as absorption account surpluses (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).

12. State the gross cost of undertaking minor capital works that have not been capitalised and the annual depreciation charges of all major schemes that have been capitalised. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the schemes.

13. State the total precept demanded for the year as properly issued by the Environment Agency, in accordance with section 141 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Providing that the precept has been properly issued as before stated it should always be included here, even when the Board has appealed against the amount of contribution, in accordance with section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991. Where the Board knows with certainty the outcome of any such appeal, it should also include the appropriate accrual/prepayment.

14. State all costs associated with the maintenance of watercourses, meaning work associated with open channels, pipelines, culverts, bridges, etc. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with delivery of the maintenance programme.

15. State all costs associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with maintaining and operating the pumping stations, sluices and water level control structures.

16. Include the cost of non-technical staff only, office accommodation, annual depreciation of office equipment that has been capitalised, minor office equipment that has not been capitalised, postages, telecoms', stationery, printing, advertising, auditing of accounts, general insurances and all other costs associated with supporting the organisation. Please note that this does not include support costs, which are directly associated with the delivery of front line services.

17. State all costs associated with the PSCA

18. State all costs associated with undertaking work for third parties. Plant, vehicle and labour charges should include a fair proportion of the overheads such as depot/workshop costs, employment on-costs, insurances and depreciation, etc. You should also include a fair proportion of the support costs directly associated with undertaking the rechargeable work.

19. Include the cost of servicing any borrowing, in terms of bank/loan/hire purchase Interest payable.

20. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – specifically for helping to achieve favourable condition on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In most cases, these costs will be incurred in implementing actions set out in SSSI Water Level Management Plans or SSSI River Restoration Plans.

21. State all costs associated with undertaking works – capital or maintenance – that are likely intended to help conserve biodiversity (other than works on SSSIs). These costs are likely to be incurred in implementing actions set out in an IDB's Biodiversity Action Plan or other conservation actions on non-designated sites.

22. Include all other expenditure, such as a provision for bad/doubtful debts, write-offs, and absorption account deficits (for example plant and labour absorption accounts).

23. For the disposal of assets, state the difference between any proceeds from the sale/disposal of the asset and the cost of the asset less accumulated depreciation.

24. Total balance of developer fund year end.

25. Unspent grant at year end.

Section B –IDB Reporting

Policy Delivery Statement

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

Is an up to date statement in place and copy (or weblink) provided to Defra, and EA?.. Yes ☒ No ☐

Biodiversity

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

If "yes" is the Biodiversity Action Plan available on your website?.. Yes ☒ No ☐

What year was your Biodiversity Action Plan last updated?)........................ 2021

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

When was biodiversity last discussed at a Board meeting (date)?........................ 23/06/2021

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

SSSI water level management plans

Please indicate whether your Board is responsible for any SSSI water level management plans?.. Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, which ones:

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

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

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

Access to environmental expertise

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

Appropriately skilled Board Members (e.g. Board member from an Environmental Body/Authority)	☐
Co-opted members	☐
Directly employed staff	☐
Contracted persons or consultants	☒
Environmental Partners/NGOs	☐
Other (please describe)	☐

Asset Management

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

ADIS	☐
Paper Records	☒
Other Electronic System	☒

Has your Board continued to undertake visual inspections and update asset databases on an annual basis? Yes ☒ No ☐

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

27

How many pumping stations does the Board operate?

2

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

4.6 cumecs

Health and Safety

Does the Board have a current Health and Safety policy in place?	Yes ☒	No ☐
Does the Board have a responsible officer for Health and Safety?	Yes ☒	No ☐
Have there been any reportable incidents in the past year?	Yes ☐	No ☒

If so, please summarise in the box below:

Guidance and Best Practice

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

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

- Governance ☐
- Finance ☐
- Environment ☐
- Health, safety and welfare ☐
- Communications and engagement ☐
- Other (please describe) ☐

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

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

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

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

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

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

Has your Board adopted the following governance documents?

Standing Orders .... Yes ☒ No ☐

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

Byelaws .... Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

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

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

Board membership and attendance

How many Board members (in total – elected and appointed) do you have on your IDB?	14
Seats available to appointed members under the Land Drainage Act 1991.	2
Number of elected members on the board at year end.	12
Number of appointed members on the board at year end.	2
Mean average number of elected members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	7
Mean average number of appointed members in attendance at each board meeting over the last financial year.	1

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

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

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

Public Engagement

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

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

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

0%

Section B: NOTES

Guidance and Best Practice

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

Board membership and attendance

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

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

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

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

Section C – Declaration

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

Signature	SL Ablett
Date	27/01/2021
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	MISS SAMANTHA ABLETT
Designation	ASSISTANT TREASURER
Email address	Sam.ablett@middlelevel.gov.uk

B.1250 Budgeting

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

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2021/2022

	Approved budget 2021/2022 £	Actual to 31.12.2021 £	Forecast to 31.03.2022 £	Remarks	
1 Rates, insurances and telephones	2,100	2,129	2,250		
2 Repairs and renewals	16,350	15,390	16,750	Includes for: - Weed-screen cleaner repairs - South Brink p/s Replace soft start units - South Brink p/s	 1,836 10,333
3 Fuel	23,500	10,057	23,500	- Forecast estimated to budget provision	
4 Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	24,500	19,227	32,500	- Includes balance of flail mowing 2020/21 Includes for outstanding contractor a/cs	5,172 7,000
5 Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscription etc	12,150	4,790	12,600	- Includes for addition meeting expenses	
6 Environment Agency - Precept	2,633	2,633	2,633		
7 Loan Charges	0	0	0		
8 Future Works	6,977	5,235	6,977		
	88,210	59,460	97,210		
LESS Contribution from Hundred of Wisbech IDB (Joint Plant maintenance)	17,447	18,071	26,337	- Forecast to new formula proposals	
	70,763	41,390	70,872		
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, rents etc	4,990	5,091	5,100		
65,773	65,773	36,298	65,772		

B.1251 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

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

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1252 Risk Management Assessment

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

b) The Board considered and approved the insured value of their buildings, but the values to be index linked from April 2023, viz:

WALDERSEY IDB

INSURED VALUE OF FIXED ASSETS

PUMPING STATIONS

	As At 31st March 2022
Rings End Pumping Station	1,275,750.00
South Brink Pumping Station	1,441,850.00
	2,717,600.00

B.1253 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.1254 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:

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

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

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

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

DD/MM/YY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

Chairman SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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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.1255 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £104,529.51 which had been made during the financial year 2021/2022, viz;

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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

British Telecom - Telephone charges		120.84
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges, stationery and Health and Safety contract		6,628.21
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Weed control and drain maintenance 2020/21, planning and development applications)		1,795.20
Stainless Metalcraft (Chatteris) Ltd - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (South Brink pumping station)		368.31
Middle Level Commissioners - Piling drain and installing new pipe at Point 63		899.81
Stainless Metalcraft (Chatteris) Ltd - Credit for flange wheel invoiced twice in error		-99.70
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Bank revetment works		1,020.00
Environment Agency - Precept		1,316.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (South Brink pumping station)	704.88	
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Rings End pumping station)	275.38	980.26
Countrywise Conservation - Grass cutting at pumping stations		201.60
Association of Drainage Authorities - Subscription 2021		678.00
British Telecom - Telephone charges		117.86
Harrison Agricultural Contracting Limited - Removal of air brick, manufacture and install access door for cable		240.00
Water Resources East - Contribution to operating costs		150.00
Countrywise Conservation - Grass cutting at pumping stations		201.60
The Crown Lodge Hotel - Board meeting expenses		465.90
Peter Lankfer - Flailmowing		12,206.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (South Brink pumping station) - (Accounts from Lawtronic, TMC and Wrights Tools)		2,203.16
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages and telephone charges		5,268.40
Middle Level Commissioners - Renewal of insurances		1,901.62
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Production of Board report, planning and development applications)		468.60
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Rings End pumping station)	275.38	
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (South Brink pumping station)	497.02	772.40
PKF Littlejohn LLP - Audit Fee (2020-2021 accounts)		360.00
British Telecom - Telephone charges		119.95
Environment Agency - Precept		1,316.50
Middle Level Commissioners - Internal audit fees (Whiting & Partners, 2020-2021 accounts)		927.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Rings End pumping station)	275.38	
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (South Brink pumping station)	12768.48	13,043.86
Bank charges (Refunded)		3.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Rings End pumping station)		210.48
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)		852.90
B J Plant Hire Ltd - Drain maintenance		8,268.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Rings End pumping station)		253.99
Middle Level Commissioners - Supply of intruder alarm contract (Account from CTS Security)		114.00
British Telecom - Telephone charges		119.26
Davies Contracting Limited - Assistamce with culvert replacement		2,736.84
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (Rings End pumping station)		216.74
Middle Level Commissioners - Health & safety improvement works to division dam at point 75		1,648.03
Middle Level Commissioners - Chemical weed control of District drains		1,091.45
Information Commissioner - Renewal of Data Protection registration		40.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Contribution (Environmental Officer)		472.50
Middle Level Commisssioners - Fees (Planning and development applications)		730.31
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (South Brink pumping station)		1029.26
Middle Level Commissioners - Pumping station maintenance (Rings End pumping station)		275.38
Middle Level Commissioners - Health and Safety re-charges for 2021-2022		480.00
B Wales Services - District Officer's fee (2021-2022)		5,140.00
Middle Level Commissioners - Repair collapsed culvert at Point 66 (Account from AF Group)		1,338.94
Middle Level Commissioners - Repairs to automatic weedscreen cleaner (South Brink pumping station) - (Account from Shoebridge Engineering)		1,860.56
Middle Level Commissioners - Administration charge, postages, telephone charges and stationery		6457.72
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (Rings End pumping station)		212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity metering charges - (South Brink pumping station)		212.03
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (Rings End pumping station)		119.37
Anglia Farmers - Electricity data collection charges - (South Brink pumping station)		132.62
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply - (Rings End pumping station)		3,136.66
Anglia Farmers Ltd - Electricity supply - (New Pump pumping station)		13,705.16
		104,529.51

(NB - Amounts shown include Value Added Tax)

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(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest in the payments made to B Wales Services.

(NB) – Mr H Lankfer declared an interest in the payment made to Peter Lankfer.

(NB) - Councillor Sutton declared an interest (as a member of the Middle Level Board) in the payments made to the Middle Level Commissioners.

(NB) – Mr Clarke declared an interest in the payment to him.

B.1256 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;

WALDERSEY 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		106,022.31
	Precept		2,633.00	2022			
				Mar-31	Rate income & Special levies		65,795.51
	Rates, insurances, telephone	2,229.70			Interest on Deposit Accounts		4.68
	Repairs & Renewals	18,002.74			Joint Pumping Account -		
	Fuel - South Brink	14,213.33			Hundred of Wisbech IDB		25,936.95
	Rings End	3,539.79			Rents - Land		391.76
	Drainworks	39,812.29			Consents		50.00
	Administration charge, Audit fee,						
	printing, stationery, advertising etc	12,594.19	90,392.04		Transfer from Pumping Plant Replacement Fund		
					Works at South Brink pumping station		3,616.44
	Pumping plant replacement fund-21/22	6,977.00			Revised Joint Pumping caalculations 2020/21		
	additional increase in balances	6,314.70	13,291.70		Calculation based on 55% contribution	22,962.15	
					Revised contribution at 65% plus d/w all	33,483.55	
					Increased contribution due		10,521.40
	Balance carried forward		106,022.31				
			212,339.05				212,339.05

BALANCE SHEET
Capital Section

Liabilities			Assets		
Capital Provisions	2,545,000.00		Rings End Pumping Station	1,195,000.00	
Public Works Loan Board -			South Brink Pumping Station	1,350,000.00	
Loan outstanding	0.00				
		2,545,000.00			2,545,000.00

Revenue Section

General Fund	106,022.31	Ratepayers Account		4,270.40
Sundry Creditors	22,427.68	Value added Tax - Refunds due		2,776.34
Pumping plant replacement fund	31,855.46	Sundry debtors		231.76
Capital Realisation Account	93,914.37	Joint Pumping Account -		
Development Charges Account	1,502.03	Hundred of Wisbech IDB		25,936.95
		Balance in hand:-		
		Barclays - Treasurer's Account	219,537.25	
		National Savings - Treasurer's Account	2,969.15	
		Labour Account	0.00	222,506.40
	2,800,721.85			2,800,721.85

Waldersey 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		197,796.26	Payments made during the year	108,788.11
31st March 2022				
Receipts during the year				
Clerk's collection account	130,519.54			
Interest on deposit accounts	9.56	130,529.10	Balance carried forward	219,537.25
		328,325.36		**328,325.36**

National Savings - Treasurers Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	2,968.85	Payments made during the year	0.00
31st March 2022			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.30	Balance carried forward	2,969.15
	2,969.15		**2,969.15**

Labour Account 2021/2022

1st April 2021		31st March 2022	
Balance brought forward	375.78	Transfer to Barclays business current account	375.80
31st March 2022			
Interest on deposit accounts	0.02	Balance carried forward	0.00
	375.80		**375.80**

Barclays Bank PLc

Clients Premium Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022	219,537.25
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
O/S lodgement	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	**219,537.25**

Labour Account

Balance per Statement as at 31st March 2022	0.00
Less unpresented cheques	0.00
O/S lodgement	0.00
Balance per Trial Balance	**0.00**

Cash balances as at 31st March 2022

Barclays Bank PLc

Clients Premium Account	**219,537.25**
Clients Labour Account	**0.00**

National Savings

Investment Account per passbook	**2,969.15**
Total reconciled cash balances per accounts	**222,506.40**

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021/22 for

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2021 £	31 March 2022 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	225,505	223,614	*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	66,018	65,795	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	23,697	36,910	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	91,606	93,025	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	223,614	233,294	*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	201,141	222,506	*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	2,545,000	2,545,000	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	0	0	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	N/A	*The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.*
				N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

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

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date 27/05/2022

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

DD/MM/YY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

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Waldersey 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	106,022.31		
	Development charges account	1,501.96		
	P/S House fund	93,910.22		
	Pumping Plant Replacement fund	22,179.22		
			223,613.71	**223,614**
Line 2	**Rates and Special Levies**			
	Agricultural rates	56,071.60		
	Special Levies	9,701.00		
	Penalty	22.91		
	Costs	0.00		
	Write-off	0.00		
			65,795.51	**65,795**
Line 3	**Total other receipts**			
	Interest			
	General fund	4.68		
	Development charges account	0.07		
	P/S House fund	4.15		
	Pumping Plant replacement	0.98		
	Discharge consent applications	0.00		
	Rent	391.76		
	Consents	50.00		
	Joint pumping	36,458.35		
			36,909.99	**36,910**
Line 4	**Staff costs**			
	Wages/salaries	0.00		
	National insurance contributions	0.00		
	Pension costs	0.00		
	Travelling expenses	0.00		
			0.00	**0**
Line 5	**Loan repayments**			
	PWLB - Principal	0.00		
	PWLB - Interest	0.00		
			0.00	**0**
Line 6	**All other payments**			
	Precept	2,633.00		
	Rates, insurances, telephones	2,229.70		
	Repairs and renewals	18,002.74		
	Fuel	17,753.12		
	Drainworks	39,812.29		
	Administration	12,594.19		
	Development charges fees	0.00		
			93,025.04	**93,025**
Line 7	**Balances carried forward**			
	General Fund	106,022.31		
	Development charges account	1,502.03		
	P/S House fund	93,914.37		
	Pumping Plant replacement	31,855.46		
			233,294.17	**233,294**

Reconciliation
Line 1 + Line 2 + Line 3 - Line 4 - Line 5 - Line 6 233,294.17

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.1257 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 Mr Hill that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 85.165% and 14.84%, viz;

WALDERSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

BUDGET 2022/2023

		Approved budget 2021/2022 £	Actual 2021/2022 £	Budget 2022/2023 £
1	Rates, insurances and telephones	2,100	2,230	2,350
2	Repairs and renewals	16,350	18,003 [A]	11,350 [B]
3	Fuel	23,500	17,753	36,500 [C]
4	Drainworks (including Environmental measures)	24,500	39,812 [D]	32,500 [E]
5	Administration charge, Health and Safety contract, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscription etc	12,150	12,594	12,675
6	Environment Agency - Precept	2,633	2,633	2,633
7	Loan Charges	0	0	0
8	Future Works	6,977	13,292	16,134 [F]
		88,210	106,317	114,142
	LESS Contribution from Hundred of Wisbech IDB (Joint Plant maintenance)	17,447	25,937 [G]	29,358 [G]
		70,763	80,380	84,784
	LESS Deposit Accounts interest, rents etc	4,990	4,063 [H]	10,790 [I]
		65,773	76,317	73,994

Remarks

A -	Includes for:	
	Soft start units - South Brink p/s	10,323
B -	Includes provision for:	
	Replace/repair flap valves - South Brink p/s	4,000
	Paint discharge pipes - South Brink p/s	1,000
C -	Provision based on 5 year average plus 50% for new contract rates	
D -	Includes:	
	Slubbing	9,171
	Flail mowing / weed basket (bal. 2021/22)	5,172
	Flail mowing / weed basket (2021/22)	10,263
		24,606
E -	Incudes for Engineers items	25,175
F -	Provision for Future Works (pumping stations)	7,134
	Installation of telemetry	9,000
G -	Contribution based on new formula (65%)	
H -	Includes use of plant replacement fund:	
	Works at South Brink pumping station	3,616
I -	Includes:	
	Grant-in-aid - installation of telemetry	4,500
	Plant fund - installation of telemetry	4,500
	Plant fund - works at South Brink p/s	1,400

Waldersey 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 – 85.25%

b) Proportion to be borne by Special levy issued to Fenland District Council – 14.75%

The product of a rate of 1p in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings is £2,804.

In 2022/2023 a rate of 1p together with corresponding Special levy would raise £3,289.

Revenue cash balance in hand on 31st March 2021 - £106,022.

The estimated net expenditure for the Boards Revenue and Capital Programmes in 2022/2023 is £73,994 and equivalent to:-

a) a rate in the £ on Agricultural land and buildings of 22.50p and

b) a Special levy on Fenland District Council of £10,914.

In 2021/2022 a rate of 20.00p in the £ was raised together with a Special levy of £9,701 on Fenland District Council to raise £65,773.

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Board

June 2022

RESOLVED

i) That the estimates be approved.

ii) That a total sum of £74,047 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 £63,061 and £10,986 respectively.

iv) That a rate of 22.50p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

v) That a Special levy of £10,986 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution (v).

vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1258 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Wednesday the 21st June 2023 at 5.30pm at the Crown Lodge Hotel, Outwell.

B.1259 Any Other Business

The Board considered the section of Drain between points 27 – 33 and suggested that this section be unadopted for maintenance purposes and that the appropriate Notices be served on the Riparian Owners.

……………………………………..
Chairman

………………………..
Date