

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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15th November 2022

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS MEETING.

Mr Chairman ladies and gentlemen

Special Meeting of the Board
1st December 2022

I enclose the Agenda for the Special Meeting of the Board to be held at the **Middle Level Offices** at 1.30pm on Thursday 1st December 2022.

Please telephone or e-mail to confirm your attendance as soon as possible.

Yours truly

D C THOMAS

Clerk to the Board

To the Chairman and the Members of the Benwick Internal Drainage Board

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests relating to the agenda.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 13th June 2022.

(Copy pages 3 - 16)

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

5. Programmed Capital Works & State Aided Schemes

Further to email circulated to Board members on 17th June 2022, The Members to agree how the Board should proceed with the Capital Works and State Aided Schemes.

6. Date of next Meeting

Please note Ramsey Golf Club are no longer available on Mondays.

7. Any other business

BENWICK INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Benwick Internal Drainage Board
held at Ramsey Golf Club on Monday 13^h June 2022

PRESENT

M Jackson Esq (Chairman)	E Jackson Esq
D J Caton Esq (Vice Chairman & DO)	M Smalley Esq
R G Few Esq	M Fisher Esq
P N Fountain Esq	A Miscandlon Esq
R Stacey Esq	

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

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

Mr M Smalley was welcomed to the Board as this was his first meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs D Laws and, R A Dring Esq, J M Palmer Esq, G Wakeham Esq and N G Thacker Esq.

B.1246 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chairman declared an interest in the planning application (MLC Ref No. 340).

The District Officer and Mr Few declared interests in minute nos. B.1257 and B.1272.

Cllr Miscandlon declared an interest in all planning matters as a member of Fenland District Council's Planning committee.

B.1247 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 7th June 2021 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1248 Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED

That M Jackson Esq be re-appointed Chairman of the Board.

B.1249 Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED

That D J Caton Esq be re-appointed Vice Chairman of the Board.

B.1250 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership

Miss Ablett reported that Fenland District Council have re-appointed Councillors Mrs D Laws, Mrs K Mayor, A Miscandlon and R Wicks to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

B.1251 Land at Turf Fen, Chatteris

Further to minute B.1218, Miss Ablett reported the Assistant Clerk had spoken with Shirley Pollard, of Maxey Grounds, who had advised that, for the reasons reported last year, the agricultural value of the land remained at £95 per acre.

Members discussed the value of the land and agreed that due to the uncertainty regarding the financial climate that the rent invoiced should remain unchanged.

RESOLVED

That the rent charged remains unchanged at £1,000 per annum.

B.1252 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett advised:-

i) COVID-19 Actions

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

ii) Middle Level Commissioners and Administered Boards Chairs Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

iii) Association of Drainage Authorities

a) Annual Conference

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

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

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

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

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

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

b) Annual Conference

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

c) Meeting of the River Great Ouse Branch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

e) Updating IDB Byelaws

Further to minute B.1150, ADA have advised that there was an error in the Model Byelaws relating to a Penalty Notice which referred to s37 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, which was actually repealed on the 1.12.2020 by the Sentencing Act 2020. Consequently, Defra has amended the Penalty Notice attached to the byelaws to include the correct reference. This Penalty Notice is not part of the Byelaws and, as such, is a simple correction. There is no requirement either to readvertise, or seek Defra approval and the version now uploaded to the website is the corrected one.

iv) Smart Level System/District Wide Telemetry Bid

Miss Ablett reported that the Board did not approve to progress with telemetry installation taking advantage of the 50% grant being offered by the EA through Local Levy.

v) 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.

vi) Planning and Consenting Fees

Proposed changes to planning and consenting service supply charging

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED

That no further detail be reported on individual planning matters in the Consulting Engineers Report unless requested by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

vii) Water Resources East (WRE)

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

viii) Anglia Farmers

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

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

ix) Fens Biosphere

Miss Ablett reported that this project is on hold and will remain so unless and until Fenland District Council is prepared to engage with a redefined brief and vision for it.

x) National Drainage Show & Floodex 2022

That the National Drainage Show & Floodex 2022 will be held at ExCel, London on the 23rd and 24th November 2022.

B.1253 Consulting Engineers' Report, including planning and consenting matters

The Board considered the supplementary Report of the Consulting Engineers.

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

Miss Ablett referred to the comments raised by the Consulting Engineer regarding both maintenance and capital works necessary at the pumping stations, together with the asset surveys and forecasts prepared, as requested by the Board.

Miss Ablett reminded members that the Board had resolved not to proceed with installation of telemetry, which was 50% funded by GIA, and advised that this would have provided data to assist Members in making decisions on where and when to upgrade the pumping equipment. She added that, with the increasing cost of electricity, telemetry would have enabled the Board to manipulate time and level settings to ensure maximum efficiency. Miss Ablett advised that the Consulting Engineer had included costs for the installation of telemetry in his forecasts should the Board decide to install it at a later date.

She reported that some of the pumps were over 60 years old and, despite some having been overhauled, the pumps were single pump stations with no back up. She added that the control panels ranged from 30 years old to 50 years old.

Miss Ablett advised that if any capital works required were not carried out, when necessary, this would result in continued maintenance works being undertaken, where costs were increasing and reliability decreasing.

She further advised that from the information reported in the asset surveys and forecasts, the Board should consider continuing to raise funds in the future works account and to formulate a programme of capital works. She added that, although the Board had started to build up funds in the future works account, if the repairs highlighted by the Consulting Engineer were approved, this would result in a decrease in the fund of £13,000, therefore spending more than was raised in the preceding year.

Members discussed the comments made by Consulting Engineer, relating to both repairs and capital works required, in more detail and agreed that all recommended repairs should be carried out and funded from the future works account.

Members acknowledged it was necessary to undertake capital works to bring their pumping station equipment up to date and to a good state of repair, to continue raising funds for future works and to explore the possibility of obtaining GIA for the capital programme.

After further discussion relating to the capital work required at each pumping station, the costs involved with and the timing of those works it was agreed that the replacement of the pump, control panel and weedscreen bar at Benwick Mere pumping station, the replacement of the control panel at Broadalls pumping station and the replacement of the pump and control panel at Bettys Nose pumping station should be included in the Environment Agency's Project Application and Funding System for the current funding period.

It was also agreed that the replacement of the pump and control panel at Beezlings pumping station, Copalder pumping station and Ramsey Mere pumping station be included in the Environment Agency's Project Application and Funding System for next funding period.

Miss Ablett outlined the current position concerning the Right to Connect to public sewers and enquired whether the Commissioners would support removal of the Right to Connect to public sewers or not.

Following discussions amongst the Members it was agreed the Board did not support the removal of "Right to Connect".

RESOLVED

- i) That the Report and the actions referred to therein be approved
- ii) That the floor plates at Benwick Mere pumping station be replaced and this be funded from the future works account
- iii) That the motor at Copalder pumping station be overhauled and this be funded from the future works account
- iv) That the pump bolts at Ramsey Mere pumping station be replaced and this be funded from the future works account
- v) That replacement of the pump, control panel and weedscreen bar at Benwick Mere pumping station, replacement of the control panel at Broadalls pumping station and replacement of the pump and control panel at Bettys Nose pumping station be included in the EA PAFS for this funding period.
- vi) That replacement of the pump and control panel be included in the EA PAFS for the next funding period for Beezings pumping station, Copalder pumping station and Ramsey Mere pumping station.
- vii) That the Board does not support the removal of the Right to Connect be public sewers

[Post Meeting Note]

Further to the Board's meeting and discussions regarding capital works, together with GIA and in view of the M & E engineer's comments made in his asset surveys and forecasts, Miss Ablett consulted with the civil engineer regarding the works required and GIA that may be available.

Miss Ablett prepared a schedule of the capital works required and of the M & E Engineer's recommendations, to which the Civil Engineer added his comments relating to the realistic timing of proposed capital works and GIA applications, together with estimated costs for the appraisal costs.

This schedule was sent to both the Chairman and Vice Chairman, together with proposals made by both the M & E Engineer and Civil Engineer for the Board to consider, for their comments.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman requested that the information be forwarded to all Members and a special meeting called for early December with both the M & E and The Civil Engineers for all Members to agree on how the Board should proceed.

B.1254 Capital Improvement Programme

Miss Ablett referred to the amended capital improvement programme, which had been sent separately to all Members. She advised that unfortunately the information provided in the Consulting Engineer's report was not available when the programme was prepared so had been superseded by the forecasts made by the Engineer.

Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished for the capital improvement programme to be updated in line with the Consulting Engineer's forecasts and kept under review.

Members agreed this course of action appeared sensible and agreed for the programme to be updated.

RESOLVED

That the capital improvement programme be updated in accordance with the Consulting Engineer's forecasts and kept under review.

B.1255 District Officer's Report

The District Officer advised there had not been much rainfall in the year and he didn't have much to add to the report already provided by the Mr Lakey. He reported there was concern regarding the amount of weed in the drains and Mr Lakey advised that work was undertaken on a 4-year rotation and weed spraying was carried out where possible.

B.1256 Conservation Officer's Newsletter and BAP Report

Miss Ablett referred to the Conservation Officer's Newsletter previously circulated to Members.

Members considered and approved the most recent BAP report.

B.1257 District Officer's Honorarium and Pumping Station duties

- a) The Board gave consideration to the District Officer's Honorarium for 2022/2023.
- b) The Board gave consideration to the payment in respect of pumping station duties for 2022/2023.

RESOLVED

- i) That the Board agree that the sum of £1,009.00 be allowed for the District Officer's honorarium for 2022/2023.
- ii) That the Board agree that the District Officer be allowed the sum of £561.00 for undertaking health and safety duties for 2022/2023.

(NB) – The District Officer and Mr Few declared financial interests when this item was discussed.

B.1258 State-aided Schemes

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

RESOLVED

That no proposals be formulated at the present time other than those already discussed.

B.1259 Environment Agency – Precepts

Miss Ablett reported that at the Environment Agency Flood Defence Committee meeting the Committee voted to adopt an indicative 2% increase in the precepts on Internal Drainage Boards for

the next 6 years commencing from 2022/23, with the ability to revisit annually should exceptional circumstances indicate this is required. The Committee voted for a 0% increase (for exceptional circumstances) above the indicative 2% increase for the year ending 31st March 2023 - total of a 2% increase on the level of precept on Internal Drainage Boards for the year ending 31st March 2023.

The precept for 2021/2022 was £8421.00.

B.1260 Claims for Highland Water Contributions – Section 57 Land Drainage Act 1991

Miss Ablett reported that following his submission of claims for contributions the gross sum of £165.79 (£558.89 less £393.10 received on account) (inclusive of supervision) has been received from the Environment Agency for the financial year 2020/21 based on the Board's actual expenditure on maintenance work for that financial year and the sum of £411.78 in respect of 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022.

B.1261 Association of Drainage Authorities Subscriptions

Miss Ablett reported that ADA has increased subscriptions by 1% for 2022, from £642 to £648.

RESOLVED

That the requested ADA subscription for 2022 be paid.

B.1262 Determination of annual value for rating purposes

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

RESOLVED

- i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board.
- ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
- iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

B.1263 Rate arrears

Consideration was given to writing off rate arrears amounting to £68.49.

RESOLVED

That the arrears be written off.

B.1264 Contribution from Developer

Miss Ablett reported that a contribution towards the cost of dealing with the increased flow or volume of surface water run-off and treated effluent volume had been received.

B.1265 Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Board – 2020/2021

- a) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.
- b) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year ended on the 31st March 2021.

B.1266 Defra IDB1 Returns

Miss Ablett referred to the completed IDB1 form for 2020/2021 which the Board noted and approved.

B.1267 Budgeting

Miss Ablett referred to the budget comparison of the forecast out-turn and the actual out-turn for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

B.1268 Review of Internal Controls and appointment of Internal Auditor

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

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

RESOLVED

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

B.1269 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 and from 1st April 2023 sums insured to be index linked.

B.1270 Exercise of Public Rights

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

B.1271 Annual Governance Statement – 2021/2022

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

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.1272 Payments

The Board considered and approved payments amounting to £121,513.86 which had been made during the financial year 2021/2022.

(NB) – The District Officer declared an interest in the payment made to J A Caton & Son.

B.1273 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.

RESOLVED

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

B.1274 Expenditure estimates and special levy and drainage rate requirements 2022/2023

The Board considered estimates of expenditure and proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2022/2023 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural

hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 67.97% and 32.03%.

RESOLVED

- i) That the estimates be approved.
- ii) That a total sum of £91,298 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 £62,054 and £29,244 respectively.
- iv) That a rate of 17.70p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.
- v)
 - a) That a Special levy of £27,078 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
 - b) That a Special levy of £2,166 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levies referred to in resolution (v).
- vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levies by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.1275 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next Meeting of the Board be held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at Ramsey Golf Club.

B.1276 Any other Business

Councillor Miscandlon requested that a paper copy of this meeting's agenda be forwarded to him at Fenland District Council.

RESOLVED

That a paper copy of this meeting's agenda be forwarded to Councillor Miscandlon at Fenland District Council.