

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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Administered by:



14th January 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board Wednesday 21st January 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board to be hosted at the Lamb & Flag, Welney PE14 9RB at 5.30pm on Wednesday 21st January 2026.

As you'll be aware, we administer thirty Boards that mostly all meet within similar date ranges. Thank you to the majority of Members who already confirm their attendance proactively.

Please help us manage your Board effectively by **proactively letting Polly know as soon as possible, by telephone or email, if you can attend the meeting, or not, or if you're uncertain.** This results in less abortive time and cost to the running of all Boards.

It is important that we have early confirmation whether or not the Board will be quorate.

Yours truly

P BURROWS, FCIWEM C.WEM CEnv

Clerk to the Board

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Wednesday 21st January 2026 – 5.30pm

Lamb & Flag, Welney PE14 9RB

Agenda:

Item No	Topic	Format	Lead
1	Welcome & apologies	Verbal	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest	Verbal	Chair
3	Minutes of last meetings and matters arising	Pages 3 - 4	Chair
4	CCD Strategy – Upwell IDB	verbal	Gary Roberts
5	Constitution & Membership - Attendance - Vacancies & appointments - Composition and amalgamations - Training	Pages 5 - 7	Clerk
6	Clerk's Report - Fens Reservoir - Unconsented works	Verbal	Clerk
7	Environment Officer's Report	Verbal	Clerk
8	Consulting Engineer's Reports, including: Capital Programme & FCRM Grant-In-Aid	Pages 8 - 14	Clerk or Engineer
9	Health & Safety	Verbal	Chair
10	District Officer's Report	Pages 15 - 16	DO
11	Finance Committee Report	Verbal	Chair
12	Finance Report - Finance Officer's summary - Subscriptions - Consider the District Labour fees for the Board's employee - Precept to the Environment Agency - Budget Monitoring 2025/26	Pages 17 - 18 Page 19	Clerk
13	Date of Next Meeting	Verbal	Chair
14	Any other business	Verbal	Chair

(NB: If required for any agenda item:

In pursuance of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting when the above matters are being considered by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.)

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Extraordinary Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board **on Tuesday 22nd July 2025**

PRESENT

K. Goodger (Chairman)
P. Clabon (Vice Chairman)
G. Bliss
S Calton

Mrs J French
S Hartley
J Quail
C Rose

M Fairey

Miss Sam Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board), Mr Dave Bantoft, Mechanical & Electrical (M&E) Consulting Engineer and Mr C. Nunn (District Foreman) were in attendance.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from W. Gladwin, J. Kirk, G. Gowler and A. Quail.

B.2176 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman 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.

B.2177 Non-Electrification at Cock Fen Pumping Station

The Chairman reported that, as requested by the Board, he and the Vice Chairman had previously met with the Chief Engineer and the M & E Consulting Engineer to further discuss the electrification of the pumping station. He advised that it was at this meeting it had been considered electrification was not the best option for the Board. He added that although this had been discussed at Board meetings, a formal resolution was required as to whether the Board should continue with the electrification of Cock Fen pumping station, or the process be aborted.

The Chairman asked Mr Bantoft, the M & E Consulting Engineer, to advise the Members of his concerns and reasons why it was considered electrification may not be the best option for the Board.

Mr Bantoft reported that costs of electrification had increased significantly due to environmental restrictions now in effect, along the route of the new electricity supply. He advised that as the pumping station was two thirds through its working life, he considered the best time for the Board to consider electrification would be when the station was next refurbished. He added that a District Wide Study could recommend that pumping stations are combined, which may result in the electricity supply being inadequate.

Mr Bantoft added that the UK energy market was still experiencing unprecedented volatility in electricity pricing and add to that, the likely increase in electricity standing charges being imposed by Ofgem going forward, it was impossible to forecast the electricity costs.

The Chairman advised that if the electrification of the pumping station did not proceed a refund from UK Power Networks would be requested and the M & E Consulting Engineer would be asked to source a buyer for the control panel purchased from E Rand & Sons Ltd. He enquired whether, after having heard from the Consulting Engineer, Members wished to proceed with the electrification of Cock Fen pumping station.

After taking into consideration the comments made by the M & E Consulting Engineer and the fact that a refund would be received from UK Power Networks, together with funds received from a potential sale of the control panel, Members agreed that the Board should not continue with electrification.

RESOLVED

That the Board do not continue with the electrification of Cock Fen Pumping Station.

That the Clerk requests the refund of monies paid to UK Power Network.

That the M & E Consulting Engineer to source a buyer for the control panel.

B.2178 Date of Next Meeting

The dates of the next Board meetings were confirmed as Wednesday 21st January 2026 and Wednesday 10th June 2026.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	5
Meeting:	UPWELL IDB	Subject:	CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP
Date:	Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Officer Responsible:	Polly Tombleson

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. Election notice
- B. Note the current status of its membership and the role they each play as members serving the interests of the Board.
- C. Review attendance records and identify any resolutions as necessary.
- D. There are currently 0 vacancies
- E. Reinforce the need for members to view all five 'Good Governance' videos.
- F. Identify any topic areas for additional training, as well as any inspection/site visit requirements.

1. Current status

- 1.1 The table below outline the current composition of the Board and the quorum as detailed in the standing orders.

	Elected Members	Appointed Members	Total Members	Quorum
Composition	14	N/A		7
Actual	14	2 FDC, 3 KLWN	19	
Vacancies	0		0	

- 1.2 The table below details the current elected members of the Board

No	Name	Status (one of four categories)	Commentary
1	H Bliss	Ratepayer	
2	S Calton	Nominee of ratepayer (Fred Hartley Estates Ltd)	
3	P Clabon	Ratepayer	Vice-Chair & District officer
4	R Gladwin	Ratepayer	
5	W Gladwin	Nominee of Ratepayer (Barry Scott)	
6	K Goodger	Ratepayer	Chair & District Officer
7	R Gott	Ratepayer	
8	G Gowler	Ratepayer	
9	P Hartley	Nominee of Ratepayer – (Frank Hartley & Sons)	
10	S Hartley	Nominee of Ratepayer – (Frank Hartley & Sons)	
11	A Kew	Nominee of Ratepayer - (Waldersey Farms Ltd)	
	R Means	Nominee of Ratepayer – (Rochester Farms Ltd)	Resigned 27/5/2025
12	A Quail	Ratepayer	
13	J Quail	Nominee of Ratepayer – (Scott Oldroyd & Co)	
14	M Fairey	Nominee of Ratepayer (Alderney Livestock Co Ltd)	

- 1.3 The table below details the current appointed members of the Board.

- 1.4 Special levy paying District Councils appoint members to Boards and their role is to be part of the Board representing all the non-agricultural interests within the Board's district. The Council must consider appointing members who have relevant knowledge or experience that is relevant to the Board and its district.
- 1.5 Appointed members do not need to be councillors or employees of the Council, therefore can represent wider relevant interests within the district, eg major infrastructure, commerce, community groups, environmental interests.

No	Name	Appointing Council	Commentary (one of three categories)
1	C Crofts	BCKLWN	Councillor
2	J French	FDC	Councillor
3	J Kirk	BCKLWN	Councillor
4	C Marks	FDC	Councillor
5	C Rose	BCKLWN	Councillor

- 1.6 All Members are reminded that have equal status to each-other around the Board table and are here to serve the interests of the Board.

2. Attendance

- 2.1 The table below outlines the attendance record for the last four meetings of the Board.

Elected Members

No	Name	22/7/2025	4/6/2025	22/1/2025	31/5/2024
1	G Bliss		Present	Present	Present
2	S Calton		Present	Apologies	Present
3	P Clabon		Present	Present	Present
4	R Gladwin		Present	Present	Apologies
5	W Gladwin		Present	Present	Apologies
6	K Goodger		Present	Present	Present
7	R Gott		Present	Present	Apologies
8	G Gowler		Present	Present	Present
9	P Hartley		Present	Present	Apologies
10	S Hartley		Present	Present	Apologies
11	A Kew		Present	Present	Apologies
	R Means	N/A	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
12	A Quail		Present	Present	Apologies
13	J Quail		Present	Present	Present
14	M Fairey		N/A	N/A	N/A

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

No	Name	5/12/2025	6/12/2024	6/10/2023	13/12/2022
1	K Goodger	Apologies – VC present	Apologies	Apologies	

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	22/7/2025	4/6/2025	22/1/2025	31/5/2024
1	C Crofts (BCKLWN)		Apologies	Apologies	Present
2	J French (FDC)		Apologies		Apologies
3	J Kirk (BCKLWN)			Present	Apologies
4	C Marks (FDC)			Apologies	Apologies
5	C Rose (BCKLWN)		Present		Present

3. Elections, vacancies & appointments

(ADA Good Governance Guide - 3.8.3 – The Chair of your IDB should, withstanding exceptional circumstances, follow the principles within the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments 2016, which states that there is a strong presumption that no individual should serve more than two terms of three years or serve in any one post for more than ten years.)

(If there are any changes in Chair or Vice-Chair, the Bank mandates will be changed to match the current Chair or Vice-chair)

- 3.1 There are currently 0 vacancies on the board.
- 3.2 The Election of members of the Board will take place this year. Members will receive an election notice during July/August and are requested to return their complete slip as soon as possible. This term for current members ends on 31st October 2026.

4. Composition and amalgamations

- 4.1 The Board is encouraged to continually monitor and review its membership, financial and climate resilience, along with assessing its influence locally, regionally and nationally. These are all factors that may lead the Board to consider changing its composition and/or amalgamation with (an)other Board(s).
- 4.2 Amalgamations and composition changes are not swift processes and can take a number of years. They require planning and additional/specialist resourcing by the MLC as your clerk, Environment Agency and Defra. Therefore, the Board is encouraged to think ahead five to ten years in its decision making, thinking about the next generation.

5. Training

- 5.1 All Members are asked to digest the Good Governance Guide for Internal Drainage Boards published by the Association of Drainage Authorities and view the five accompanying videos intended to bring the guide to life. They are available via <https://middlelevel.gov.uk/about/idb-governance/>
- 5.2 To date 9 of 19 Board Members have reported viewing all five videos.
To date 5 of 19 Board Members have reported viewing 2 of the 5 videos
To date 3 of 19 Board Members have reported viewing 3 of the 5 videos
- 5.3 Members are asked to identify any topics areas they would value further training on as well as any site inspections that would help them undertake their role on the Board more effectively.
- 5.4 Member training is reported to Defra as part of the annual IDB1 return.

Author Name: Polly Tombleson

Role: Senior Business Support Officer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	8
Meeting:	UPWELL IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME
Date:	Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Officer Responsible:	Nicola Oldfield

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. Authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman to take decisions on enforcement action on behalf of the Board with advice from MLC.
- B. Approve panel replacement works to start ahead of receiving grant approval.
- C. To consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement and to instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.

1. Enforcement & Compliance Overview

Our Enforcement and Compliance Officers Dave Coles and Tony Payne joined us on the 23 June 2025 as a job share. They are currently investigating cases across 17 boards plus Middle Level Commissioners, including:

- 47 active enforcement cases,
- 23 surface water or surface water and foul discharges,
- 24 byelaw cases.

Cases already concluded:

- Eight cases in the last two months including trespass, unlicensed moorings, unauthorised structures and encroachment,
- Six major developments have been referred to Technical Services following enforcement action, as consent applications for outstanding discharge consents.

In September and October, they were successful in recovering more than £70,000 of historic outstanding drainage charges for three developments across two boards and the MLC.

It is recommended that the Board authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman to take decisions on enforcement action on behalf of the Board, having taken advice from MLC Officers. They will engage other Board Members as they see appropriate and determine whether a Special Meeting of the Board is needed on a risk and complexity basis.

2. Capital Works

The Environment Agency's grant in aid funding policy is being changed and will be applied to all new projects after April 2026. The pressure on funding is extreme, and the EA is prioritising all projects in the programme.

Upwell IDB Pumping Station Improvements has £50k allocated this year (2025/26). The proposed work consists of control panel replacements at Nordelph and Cock Fen.

We are completing a business case to get the funding approved but at this late stage in the year there is a high risk that the approval may delay the delivery of the works. EA approval is anticipated early in the new year.

The Board is asked to approve this work starting ahead of receiving grant approval so that we can get orders placed, noting that in the unlikely event that the funding application is not successful, the Board will need to fund the work.

Upwell IDB Asset Refurbishment has an allocation in 2026/27.

Author Name: Nicola Oldfield

Role: Chief Engineer

Appendix 1: Applications since last report

Appendix 2: M&E Report

Appendix 1

There have been 3 planning applications responded to since the last meeting.

There has been 1 Byelaw Consent (to discharge to a watercourse) application processed since the last meeting.

There has been no planning, Byelaw Consent (to undertake works in and around watercourses) applications processed since the last meeting.

There have been no infiltration device applications acknowledged since the last meeting.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	8
Meeting:	UPWELL IDB	Subject:	CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL
Date:	Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Officer Responsible:	Dave Bantoft

1. M&E key messages and advice

Other than the matters described below or previously reported, 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. The stations, pumps and control panels are at an age where reliability is a concern and a plan should be put in place to overhaul or replace items as necessary to ensure ongoing reliability.

The Board is strongly advised to consider the development of an investment plan for asset refurbishment/replacement. The Board is asked to instruct the Consulting Engineer accordingly.

1.1 M&E Equipment Key Health Indicators

Over the past 2 years we have been compiling and verifying Pumping Station Key Date to allow easier identification of equipment age and the need for refurbishment to assist in developing an investment plan for asset refurbishment or replacement. To ensure reliability, resilience and longevity of the pumping equipment it needs to be refurbished or replaced at suitable intervals. We have experienced examples lately of pumps being left too long and failing, or when they are removed for overhaul the condition is very poor and the pump overall lifetime has been reduced significantly, which is not cost-effective use of the asset. The same is true for control panels, component failures often damage other components incurring costly repairs and machine downtime. Overall, it is more cost effective to run well maintained equipment.

The pictures below are of pump bolts that have been in situ for 20 years and have corroded to the point of failure as shown by the gap between the flanges. Although now rebuilt with stainless steel bolts they were not in the past. The pump tubes are also heavily corroded which reduces pump life considerably. Ideally pumps should be refurbished every 10 years because by the time they reach 15 to 20 years it is likely the corrosion will heavily impact their overall residual life.



Key Health Indicators

Station	Built	Pump	Pump Overhaul	Motor O/H	Controls
Bedlam Bridge	1948	1980(1) 2006 (2)	2015(1) 2006(2)	2015 (1) 2006 (2)	2006
Cock Fen	1975	1975	2013(1) 2012 (2)	2010 (1) 2010 (2)	1975
Nordelph	1932/1970	1970	2011	2011	1970/1991
Padgetts Corner	1980	2012	2012	2012	2015
Upwell Fen	1967	1976	2011	2011	2018

Station	Weedscreen			
	Bars	WSC	WSC O/H	Controls
Bedlam Bridge	1980	2006	2006	2006
Cock Fen	2018	2018	2018	2018
Nordelph	1991 / 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A
Padgetts Corner	1980	N/A	N/A	N/A
Upwell Fen	2018	2018	2018	2018

The Key Health Indicators table above shows the critical area for concern and improvement is the pumps. The pumps range from 13 to 55 years old with last refurbishments ranging from 10 to 19 years ago. The Board is advised to develop and start a pump refurbishment/replacement plan for the pumps that are overdue refurbishment. Having a plan in place and underway helps to secure further grant funding when it comes available, such as the recent IDB Recovery Fund.

Submersible pumps are often not cost effective to repair and lead time on new pumps can be up to a year. Standard pumps are normally cost effective to repair and lead times can be as short as 4 weeks or can be over a year if impellers are damaged and have to be reverse engineered. Costs can be in the range £30k to £100k depending on pump condition.

1.2 Padgetts Corner

The last routine inspection at Padgetts took place on 15th July 2025 and no remarks or recommendations were made at that time.

The pump here has some vibration which is being monitored in case it starts to deteriorate. The pump controller is temperamental and will be replaced.

1.3 Upwell Fen

The last routine inspection at Upwell Fen took place on 15th July 2025 and the following remarks / recommendations were made:

1. Leak around thrust block now requires remedial work. Continuously leaking and crack opened up since last inspection – coupling now corroded.
2. Pump bolts need replacing for corrosion, contact D Bantoft to action.
3. Telemetry level reading is incorrect.
4. Weedscreen cleaner drum is heavily corroded. This should be removed and recoated before it becomes irreparable.
5. Felt needs rework on roof

1.4 **Cock Fen**

The engines control panel is now 50 years old and should be replaced as it is corroded inside and cannot be deemed reliable, this is likely to be in the region of £20 to £30k. If the plan going forward is not to continue with the electrification of this site, then the engine control panel should be replaced, and consideration given to replacement of the engines.

The last routine inspection at Cock Fen took place on 15th July 2025 and the following remarks / recommendations were made:

1. Alternator on engine 2 is not charging.
2. Rev counter faulty on Pump 2.
3. WSC hrs: 3870
4. WSC Drums Corroded & need Recoating

1.5 **Nordelph**

The level probe bracket needs replacing as is heavily corroded. The electrical panel soft start is now obsolete, and consideration should be given to replacing this control panel as it is in excess of 30 years old and parts would be difficult to source quickly in the event of a failure. The level controller is also at an age where it is more at risk of failure, this would be replaced as part of the panel refurbishment. The replacement of the control panel is likely to be in the region of £20k to £30k.

The electricity meter issue is still ongoing.

The last routine inspection at Nordelph took place on 15th July 2025 and the following remarks / recommendations were made:

1. Siphon Breaker valve in good order, (flap door missing)
2. Level probe bracket needs replacing, severely corroded.
3. Soft start is obsolete and unsupported, consider installing a complete replacement electrical panel. Quotes are being obtained for control panel replacement.
4. Electricity meter faulty.
5. Motor Bearings Noisy – Monitor for Deterioration

1.6 **Bedlam Bridge**

The last routine inspection at Bedlam Bridge took place on 15th July 2025 and no remarks or recommendations were made at that time.

2. Pumping summary

The main pumping report will be provided by the District Officer.

3. Inspections, maintenance and minor works

3.1 HSB Engineering annual inspections for insurance were carried out during September 2025.

3.2 The mandatory site Electrical Installation Condition Reports (due every 5 years) are in date.

	EICR	
Station	EICR Date	EICR Due
Bedlam Bridge	21-Jul-2022	21-Jul-2027
Cock Fen	21-Jul-2022	21-Jul-2027
Nordelph	20-Jul-2022	20-Jul-2027
Nordelph Bungalow	18-Aug-2022	18-Aug-2027
Padgetts Corner	21-Jul-2022	21-Jul-2027
Upwell Fen	20-Jul-2022	20-Jul-2027

4. Water level Management

The pumping stations have summer and winter pump level references based on historic values which serve as very good reference points. I would actively encourage pump attendants to vary these to suit their current catchment conditions. For example, running pump start and stop levels at intermediate settings above the base winter settings during times of high Soil Moisture Deficit and then reducing towards winter level setpoints as the SMD reduces or if there is heavy rainfall forecast. This needs to be balanced with ensuring the pump has a good operating range so it is never short cycling (hunting). This can also be used to ensure maximum benefit of the lower night electricity rate.

Ultimately this takes more operator time but will produce more efficient running and reduce costs. We can advise on this if needed and show some good and bad examples to help with setting and monitoring your pumps.

Author Name: Dave Bantoft
Role: M&E Engineer

District Superintendents report – January 2026

Drainworks

The 2026 drainworks programme will continue as it has done for the past few years splitting the district into two parts with the 2026 campaign concentrating on the Bedlam Bridge and Christchurch area of the board while managing any other issues that may arise across the district.

The 2025 drainworks programme concentrated on the Cock Fen and Nordelph area with virtually all planned works completed, there are a couple of areas left to complete in January.

2025 we were again asked to flail Euximoor IDB which I have managed to fit in reasonably well around our own flailmowing again this year and covered slightly more than last year with just a couple of roadside drains to finish off hopefully before our meeting, to date just over 100 hours has been spent on their board.

Pumping Stations

Bedlam Bridge Pump - The pumps are both working well at present as is the weedscreen cleaner.

Padgetts Pump - The pump is working well at the moment although still waiting for a new level control to be fitted.

Cock Fen Pump - Both pumps and engines are running well at present, engine 2 was serviced in December. Engine 1 exhaust is in need of repair due to metal corrosion where it exits the station. The weedscreen cleaner had a sensor fault but this has now been fixed with a new sensor being fitted in December.

Upwell Fen - The pump is running well although part of the electric meter has stopped working (cheap rate) this has been reported but ongoing issues with electric suppliers as they really need to fit a CT meter but due to costs no one wants to fund it and smart meters are not rated high enough to cope with the voltage (this is an issue with other IDBs too) so until there can be a resolution this may rumble on. I have met with several electrical engineers from suppliers at the site but getting nowhere. The only way of getting a fairly accurate way of what its using is to check it against Bedlam Bridge pump 2 as its virtually the same output.

Nordelph Pump - The pump is running well but as mentioned above the electric meter has been faulty for several years now so until a CT meter is fitted bills are worked out from how much water is pumped against the motors rating per hour to give us a reasonable usage guide.

I have fitted a ring floodlight with security camera in the yard to go with the ring doorbell I fitted last year so can see who is coming through the drive as well as in the yard now.

Works Truck

The truck has been going ok although required a few front suspension parts for the MOT in September, it was also serviced when it was in for MOT. In December one of the rear springs snapped again (I think that's 5 in 3 years) not sure why this keeps happening as I very rarely have a trailer on and not a lot of weight in the back of the truck. I changed the usage in April to work only on my tax as I have rarely used it for my personal use in the last couple of years and with the changes in taxation soon, I felt it was best to change it now.

Bomford Flailmower

We've had a few minor issues with the flailmower but overall it has been going well, it had new roller bearings in July and new flails fitted in August. The main issue this year has been hydraulic hose failure with 4 hoses going, 2 of them being manufacturing issues with the couplings. I now strap the flail head down when traveling to try and reduce bounce in the main arm.

Massey Ferguson Tractor

The tractor has been going well although still losing oil from the gearbox into the hydraulic tank , this was looked at while I was away on holiday due to it needed to be in the workshop for a week so was the best time to do it while I was away. It had a new door fitted in December due to it exploding while cutting, this is the first time I have had glass smash on a tractor in the 26 years since I have been here. It had a service in June.

Summary

All pumps are on winter levels and only really started pumping any amount of water from December onwards. I will take up to date pump hours to the meeting to give you a guide but at the moment pump hours are low for this time of year. I still have some roadside flailing to do so will be picking them up when I get chance.

If anyone has any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or I will be happy to answer questions at the meeting.

Carl Nunn

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	12
Meeting:	UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	Subject:	FINANCE REPORT
Date:	Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Officer Responsible:	Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. Consider the Finance Officer's Summary
- B. Note the Budgeting review within Appendix 1.
- C. Fees, remuneration and subscriptions
- D. Note the Precept to the Environment Agency

Finance Officer's review and key messages

Storm Recovery Grant (T2b)

In March 2025 the Government pledged a further £16 million towards helping internal drainage boards (IDBs) recover from the very damaging floods of the 2023/24 winter period and to modernise and upgrade IDB assets and waterways to ensure they are fit for the future.

Claims were submitted for combined IDB works against the Storm Recovery resilience works (T2b), the Environmental Agency have approved these schemes. Works are underway to get these works delivered by the 31st of March 2026 deadline.

1. Budget Monitoring

- 1.1 The current forecast for income/expenditure to 31st March 2026 shows that expenditure could be in-line with the budget against which rates were set. Appendix 1

However, members are advised that these figures are estimating pumping costs to be in-line with the budget proposal against which the rates have been set and should therefore also take into account the significant financial implications major storm events can have on Drainage Board budgets.

There will be a full reconciliation of balances at the financial year end.

2. Storm recovery Grant – T2B

- 2.1 At the beginning of the year MLC were successful in securing Grant Aid on behalf of some of the that they administer. The following work has been successfully in being 100% Grant funded:

<u>Work Scheduled to Be Done</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Penny rate equivalent</u>
Control Panel Replacement – Cock Fen PS	£30,000	3.19p
Control Panel Replacement – Nordelph PS	£20,000	2.12p
Total	£50,000	5.31p

3. Fees, Remunerations and Subscriptions

- 3.1 Subscription to the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) to increase by 5% for 2026 therefore the annual fee will be £1,091.00
- 3.2 Consider the District Labour fees for the Board's employee from 1st April 2026.

4. Precept to the Environment Agency

- 4.1 Internal Drainage Boards are required to pay a Precept (IDB Precept) to the Environment Agency for their expenses managing water passing into main rivers. Predominantly, the Precept funds additional maintenance downstream of and/or benefitting IDB districts.
- 4.2 The Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) determined that the Precept will increase by 2% for 2025. This is off-set by a contribution received by MLC, the nett amount paid in 2024/2025 was - £44,139.

The precept for 2024 was £ 60,520.59.

Author Name: Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett
Role: Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer

Appendix 1 Budget Monitoring

Appendix 1

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD BUDGET MONITORING 2025/2026

	Approved budget 2025/2026 £	Actual to 30th November 2025 £	Forecast to 31st March 2026 £	Remarks
1 District Labour	47,105	32,650	47,105	A - Includes: Service/Repair Tractor-Mower 3,576 Service/Repair Works Truck 1,379 Pumping Station Maintenance and Repairs 1,323
2 Insurances and Telephones	8,250	9,065	9,137	
3 Repairs and Renewals	11,000	7,537 ^A	11,000	B - Includes for Contractor Hire: Slubbing 20,000 C - Includes for Contractor Hire: Slubbing 13,833
4 General Maintenance	29,500 ^B	14,490 ^C	29,500	
5 Fuel (Oil and Electricity)	50,000 ^D	29,030	47,500 ^E	D - Provision based on 2 year average plus increase in rates of 5% from October 2025
6 District Officers' Fees etc	5,600	0	5,600	E - Funding for plant replacement strategy
7 Administration Charge, Health and Safety Contract, Audit Fees, Printing, Stationery, Advertising etc	32,200	13,150	32,000	F - Environment Agency Precept 61,731 Middle Level Contribution (16,710) 45,021
8 Plant Replacement Funding	19,375 ^E	0 ^E	19,375 ^E	G - Asset replacement fund (Annual Depreciation)
9 Public Works Loan	30,318	23,608	30,318	H - Upwell P/S - Discharge Pipework Repairs 5,000 Cock Fen - Control Panel Replacement 30,000 Nordelph - Control Panel Replacement 20,000
10 Environment Agency - Precept	45,021	61,731	45,021 ^F	
11 Tractor / Flail Mower Replacement	25,274 ^G	0 ^G	25,274 ^G	I - Provision for Reinstatement of Balances Reduced By Winter 23/24 Pumping (not to a 'year-in-hand')
12 Improvement Works	5,000	0	55,000 ^H	
13 Reinstatement of Balances	30,610 ^I	0	30,610	J - Includes: Interest 1,135 Private Work 720
LESS Deposit Accounts interest, Fishery Rent etc	339,253	191,260	387,440	
	26,105	1,855 ^J	76,105 ^K	K - Includes: Storm Recovery Grant - T2B 50,000 Asset Depreciation 25,274
	313,148	189,405	311,335	
Estimated General Fund:				
Open balance at 01.04.2024	278,945	278,945	278,945	
Rates Raised - 33.25p	313,146	236,582	236,582	
Costs		(75)	(75)	
Special Levy		76,564	76,564	
Rates W/Off		-		
Net Expenditure	313,148	189,405	311,335	
Storm Recovery/Balances	30,610			
(Estimated) Closing balance	309,553	402,610	280,756	