

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
M Fairey

Mrs J French
S Hartley
J Quail
C Rose
P Hartley

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.

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Chair

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Date