

Middle Level Commissioners Meeting**middle level**
commissioners

At a meeting of the Middle Level Commissioners held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday 23rd April 2026.

PRESENT

Hugh Whittome (Chair)	Matthew Latta
Jonathan Brown (Vice Chair)	Alison Morris
Patrick Allpress	Matthew Smith
Mark Hall	Stephen Whittome
Derek Langslow	

Paul Burrows - Chief Executive, Nicola Oldfield - Chief Engineer, Andrew Wool – Head of Finance, and Ruth Martin – Lead Clerk (minutes) were also in attendance.

Alex Miscandlon was also present as an observer

c.951 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mr M Heading, Mr R Brown & Mr A Lenson

C.952 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded the Commissioners of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in the agenda that involved or was likely to affect any of them.

C.953 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**RESOLVED**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Commissioners held on the 6th November 2025 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

C.954 Constitution and membership

The Chair reminded the Commissioners that there were still 3 vacancies on the Board and invited Commissioners to reflect on nominations for the November meeting.

The Commissioners were also advised that due to the Commissioners land holding within the Nordelph IDB District, the Commissioners are eligible to be an elected member of Nordelph IDB. With elections

taking place later this year, the Commissioners were asked if they would like to nominate an individual for election. The Chair added that it would be valuable to have a Commissioner on this Board. The Commissioners agreed that they would like to nominate, and Mr Hall agreed to take on this role.

The Commissioners were asked to identify any training needs, or any areas that they would like further information on. Mr J Brown invited all Commissioners to view the Fens 2100+ video that had been shown at the earlier Board meeting.

RESOLVED

That Mr Hall be put forward for membership of Nordelph IDB as the Commissioners representative.

C.955 Annual Report: Items escalated by the Board

The Chief Executive referred the Commissioners to his report and reported that no items had been escalated by the Board.

C.956 Finance and Governance – Treasurers report

The Chairman advised the Commissioners of the following.

Drainage rates and special levies for the financial year 2025/2026

In the present financial year, the Commissioners' estimated net Revenue expenditure after deduction of grants and contributions will be £2,900,911. It is estimated that £81,487 will be met from miscellaneous income leaving £2,819,423 to be funded. Further, to finance the St Germans Pumping Station Replacement Scheme Annuity loans have been drawn down from the Public Works Loan Board, annual repayments being £688,242 Giving a total of £3,507,665 to be funded.

A rate of 34.00p in the £ on agricultural land and buildings together with Special Levies totalling £ 1,238,624 would be required to meet this sum under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

After very careful consideration of the probable actual expenditure in 2025/2026, taking the likely cash flow requirements for 2026/2027 and the Commissioners' balances fully into account the recommendation of the Board is that for 2026/2027 a rate of 34.00p in the £ should be levied on agricultural land and buildings and Special Levies totalling £ 1,238,624 should be issued to District Councils in the area.

The Chair proposed from the chair that a of 34.0p be set, and the levies as detailed be set. This was proposed by Mr J Brown and seconded by Ms Morris and agreed unanimously by the Commissioners.

RESOLVED

- i) a rate of 34.0 p in the £ on agricultural land and buildings
- ii) a Special Levy on Fenland District Council of £ 685,931.
- iii) a Special Levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £ 277,816.
- iv) a Special Levy on the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk of £ 274,853, and

- v) a Special Levy on Peterborough City Council of £ 24.

C.957 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair advised that an inspection will be held on 24th June 2026 which Commissioners are welcome to join.

The next meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Thursday 12th November 2026.

C.958 Any other Business

With no other items raised by Commissioners, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 1.10pm.