RAMSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Board held on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at the Old Nene Golf & Country Club, Muchwood Lane, Ramsey, Huntingdon PE26 2XQ (a Breakfast Meeting).

PRESENT Mr DR Abblitt (Chairman) (DA), Mr LR Smith (Vice Chairman) (LS), Mr DR Smith (DS), Mr AH Wagstaffe (AW) and Mr JAR Chrisp (Clerk).

EGM 26.1.1

Apologies received from Mr PH Wagstaffe, Councillor R Brereton, Councillor E Butler and Mr Leo Butler (District Officer).

EGM 26.1.2

APPROVAL of the MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the 24th June 2025.

It was proposed by DA and seconded by DS and resolved by all members present and voting in favour that the Minutes be approved.

EGM 26.1.3

APPROVAL of ESTIMATES and RAISING of the AGRICULTURAL RATE and LOCAL AUTHORITY PRECEPT for the Year ending the 31st March 2027.

The List of Cheques for the Year to the 25th March 2026, the Estimates and Calculation Sheet as attached having been circulated prior to the meeting were discussed.

It was proposed by DS, seconded by AW, with all members present voting in favour that the Estimates be approved and that the Rate be fixed and Precept levied in accordance with the Calculation Sheet. There was a discussion about whether it was appropriate to reduce the amount to be raised as per the Estimates by the amount of the Highland Water Contributions recovered in the Year to the 31st March 2026; it was felt that this was recovered to contribute to the cost of the Board carrying water from high land both in last year and as a forecast for water carried in the forthcoming financial year and should be used like any other revenue recovered for the Board's work.

The Rate was fixed at £0.134976 in the £ to raise £6,165.03 of its expenditure for the forthcoming year and a Special Levy was raised on Huntingdonshire District Council to raise the balance of the Board's expenditure in the sum of £33,998.04. The Chairman and Clerk were directed to seal the Rate Book accordingly.

EGM 26.1.4

UPDATE on DRAINAGE WORKS and HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION on the 19th February 2026.

The Clerk reported that all drainage works scheduled to be carried out in the Stocking Fen District have been carried out in accordance with the biannual cycle. He drew attention to the Site Safety Inspection Report from AW Safety attached which will be reviewed at the Annual Drainage Inspection next week. There were outstanding items on the Works List provided by the MLC's Engineering Department: slacker refurbishment and raising of the Automatic Level Control Censor at Stocking Fen Pumping Station, Warning Signs missing from both Pumping Stations and repair of engine cover at Lodes End Pumping Station. These are to be discussed at the Annual Inspection.

The Byelaw Consent to the Ramsey Town Council to allow the edge of the Skateboard Park at Millfields to impinge upon the access strip under the Drainage Byelaws was finally completed on the 2nd December 2025.

The Ramsey Colts Football Development Trust no longer need Consent under the Byelaws for part of the Car Park fencing to remain next to the main drain adjacent to the entrance gate since it has been removed.

EGM 26.1.5

REPORT of the PROGRESS of the RECONSTITUTION of the BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP.

The Statutory Instrument authorising change to the membership to 5 elected members and 6 appointed members (appointed by Huntingdonshire District Council) has been advertised without producing any objections and is now awaiting the seal of DEFRA. The Clerk has a contact in the Legal Department of the Environment Agency who is pursuing this. There is an election of the elected members due this Autumn which will have to be advertised and to place the correct advertisement we need to know that the changes have been made to the Constitution so as to advertise the correct number of vacancies. The Clerk will alert the Legal Department as to this urgent need for the sealing of the Instrument.

EGM 26.1.6

APPROVAL of the APPOINTMENT of John Chrisp as CLERK to the BOARD until 30th September 2026.

It was proposed that Me Chrisp shall continue to serve as Clerk until the 30th September 2026 for the following reasons:

(1) To allow him time to manage the Independent Internal Audit and Public Audit for the Year to the 31st March 2026 and to sign off the AGAR as Financial Officer,
(2) To allow him to deal with the election of new Elected Members to be put in place on the 31st October 2026 (dependent on whether the new stator instrument is in place by then), and
(3) To allow time to complete handover tasks to the new clerk.

The Middle Level Commissioners have from the 1st April 2026 been asked to manage the Board's finances, insurance and website (as a page on the MLC Website) and this was confirmed.

The Clerk's salary for the remaining period of his service will be fixed at the AGM on the 12th May.

This was proposed by LS, seconded by DS, and all members present voted in favour.

EGM 26.1.7

THE FUTURE of INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Mr Paul Burrows the Chief Executive of the MLC has written a letter about the future of Internal Drainage Boards and, since he will be appearing at the EGM fixed for the 23rd June to sign off the AGAR for the Year ending on the 31st March 2026, it was suggested that he be asked to address the Board on this.

It was good to note the contents of a letter dated the 19th December 2025 (copy attached) from Emma Hardy MP at DEFRA to Robert Jenrick MP concerning the important work of IDBs.

EGM 26.1.8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26.1.8.1 An item should be included in the Agenda for the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 23rd June 2026 for the Signing of the handover documents for when the Clerkship passes to the MLC on the 1st October 2026.

26.1.8.2 Notice of the Dates of the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting has been given (copy attached) to take place on the 12th May and 23rd June respectively.

The meeting having commenced at 9 am concluded at 10.30 am.