RAMSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD.

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Board held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7 pm at the Old Nene Golf and Country Club, Muchwood Lane, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE26 2XQ.

PRESENT: Mr P H Wagstaffe (Chairman)(PW), Mr D R Abblitt (Vice Chairman) (DA), Mr L R Smith (LS), Mr A H Wagstaffe (AW), Councillors E Butler (EB) and R Brereton (RB), Mr L. Butler (the District Officer) and Mr J Chrisp (the Clerk).

AGM 25.1

APOLOGIES were received from Mr D R Smith and Mr K R Abblitt.

AGM 25.2

DECLARATIONS of INTEREST.

There were none.

AGM 25.3

The approval of the Minutes of:-

(1) the AGM held on the 14th May 2024 proposed by DA and seconded by RB,
(2) the EGM held on the 25th June 2024 proposed by PW as Chairman, and
(3) the EGM held on the 25th March 2025 proposed by LS and seconded by RB,

with all Members present voting in favour, was given.

AGM 25.4

MATTERS ARISING from the MINUTES.

None were raised.

AGM 25.5

APPOINTMENT of INDEPENDENT AUDITOR,

IT was proposed by EB and seconded by AW that Whitings LLP of March be appointed as Independent Internal Auditor. This was passed with all Members present voting in favour.

AGM 25.6

25.6.1 CONSIDERATION and APPROVAL of the STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS and ANNUAL GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) for the Year ending the 31st March 2025.

The Clerk apologised but neither document was ready and would be sent out for consideration in the next few weeks when ready.

25.6.2 DIRECTION of the CHAIRMAN and CLERK to sign the same.

This will need to await formal approval.

25.6.3 CONFIRMATION of Cheques drawn as per LIST of CHEQUES for the Year ending the 31st March 2025 as attached.

There was discussion concerning this, after which it was proposed by DA and seconded by LS that the List be approved, following which approval was given with all Members present voting in favour.

AGM 25.7

25.7.1 DISTRICT OFFICER'S REPORT and DRAINAGE PROGRAMME for the current year.

It is the turn of the drains within the Stocking Fen district to be flailed and slubbed out.

25.7.2 NOTES OF ANNUAL DRAINAGE INSPECTION.

Having been circulated prior to the Meeting, and which are now attached to these Minutes, the action points were noted. There was discussion of the possible need to replace the RCD in the electric cupboard highlighted by a MLC pump maintenance inspection at Stocking Fen Pumping Station; it was pointed out that a cable simply needed holding back by a cable tie to prevent the electric from switching off when the door was opened and closed and the RCD did not need replacing.

All action points within the Notes were noted.

AGM 25.8

APPOINTMENTS for the Year ending the 31st March 2026:

25.9.1 Chairman – Mr D.R.Abblitt proposed by PW and seconded by LS.

25.9.2 Vice Chairman – Mr L.R. Smith proposed by EB and seconded by PW.

25.9.3 District Officer – Mr Leo Butler proposed by PW and seconded by EB at an annual fee of £3000 together with mileage and other approved expenses.

25.9.4 Clerk – Mr John Chrisp proposed by RB and seconded by EB ay an annual fee of £6,500 together with mileage and other approved expenses.

Al members present voted in favour of the resolutions.

Mr Peter Wagstaffe was thanked for his many years of service as Chairman and the Clerk said he would research this from the Minutes.

AGM 25.9

BIODIVERSITY PLAN UPDATE.

There has been no report oh any activity by the MLC's Conservation Officer. The Board have resolved to accept a wider environment service package from the MLC which will give more information in future.

AGM 25.10

PLANNING APPLICATIONS and BYELAW CONSENTS.

25.10,1 RAMSEY COLTS FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT have received an email from the Board requiring removal of a stretch of fence within their car park against the district drain which infringes the Byelaw protecting the maintenance access strip and asking for completion of the work carried out pursuant to the recent Byelaw Consent relating to the drainage of the Car Park. The Clerk will ensure that the Colts have all necessary advice to ensure compliance.

25.10.2 RAMSEY TOWN COUNCIL have apparently built a skateboard park at the Recreation Ground at Mill Lane within the 9 metre maintenance access strip next to the main drain. The Clerk will write and ensure that the Council applies for formal Byelaw Consent.

AGM 25.11

REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The update forms will either be sent out for completion or will be present for completion at the EGM on the 24th June.

AGM 25.12

RE-CONSITUTION OF BOARD MEMBERSHIP.

The legal process is ongoing and the Board shall receive the Order from DEFRA when the legislation is in place.

AGM 25 13

RATIFICATION of the MOTION ADOPTING the PRIVACY POLICY.

This was adopted informally at a meeting after the Drainage Inspection.

It was proposed that the Policy be formally adopted by EB and seconded by RB and the motion was passed with all Members present voting in favour.

AGM 25.14

MLC SERVICE AGREEMENT and TRANSITION of CLERKSHIP

The Clerk reminded the Board that the financial services will not take effect until the Bank have approved all the new signatories and we are still waiting for Mr Andrew Wool tobe added to the Bank Mandate, although this is expected imminently.

Work continues to rectify the Rate Register so that all rate arrears cam be collected in.

The Clerk is working to a Plan to ensure that the transition of the Clerkship tom MLC takes place on the 1st April 2026.

AGM 25.15

RESIGNATION of RUPERT WATERS.

The Clerk confirmed that Rupert Waters had notified his resignation as a Board Member but this is not the right time to coopt a new Board Member with the Board's Membership in the process of reconstitution.

The District Council Appointed Members said their terms of membership were likely to be extended by a year to 2027 in view of the introduction of the new unitary authority in place of Huntingdonshire District Council.

AGM 25.16

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

There being no other business the meeting having commenced at 7 pm ended at 7.55 pm.