

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Upwell Internal Drainage Board
hosted at the Welney William Marshall Centre on Wednesday 10th June 2026

PRESENT

Kenneth Goodger (Chair)
Patrick Clabon (Vice-Chair)
Gabriel Bliss
Steven Calton
Christopher Crofts
Roger Gladwin
William Gladwin

Gregory Gowler
Paul Hartley
Steven Hartley
Alan Quail
Jonathan Quail
Colin Rose

Miss Sam Ablett (representing the Clerk to the Board) and Mr Carl Nunn (District Foreman) were in attendance.

B.2193 Inspection of the District**a) Control Structure at Delph House**

Members inspected the existing control structure at Delph House. The Chairman advised the structure was to be replaced to keep the water level higher in the village and lower the other side so as not to flood residential gardens and agricultural land. The Chairman advised that he had met with the Ecology Officer and a survey had been undertaken, which confirmed there are no water voles present.

b) Cock Fen Pumping Station

Members noted the engine exhaust pipes had been replaced.

The Chairman highlighted the corrosion on the weedscreen hoist drum and advised this would be rubbed down and painted with rustproof paint. He advised that refurbishment of the weedscreen cleaner was required but considered this should be undertaken when the pump was refurbished.

The Chairman advised the diesel engine control panel was being replaced and was being funded by GiA. He added it was hoped the Board could sell the control panel previously purchased for the electrification.

The District Foreman reported the diesel engines that are to be replaced were still available and whilst they are manufactured in China they could be obtained from Perkins, a UK approved supplier.

Members considered the Board should enquire whether the same diesel engines could be sourced from a British manufacturer, whilst ensuring they are compatible with the new control panel being installed. The District Foreman was instructed to make enquiries.

Whilst at the station members were advised a barn owl was nesting in the barn owl box on site and at this moment the barn owl appeared and left the box.

c) Upwell Fen Pumping Station

i) Members present inspected the damaged discharge pipe thrust block and discussed various ways in which it could be repaired, and this would be discussed further at the Board meeting.

ii) The Chairman referred to the corrosion on the weedscreen hoist drum and advised this would be rubbed down and painted with rustproof paint.

The Chairman reported the electricity meter had failed and the station would need to go to current transformer metering. He added the M & E consulting engineer had advised this would be more difficult due to the size of the station building and the way the control panel was laid out and hoped a plan to rectify this would be identified in the summer.

Members noted the step had been repaired by the District Foreman.

d) Nordelph Pumping Station

The Chairman reminded Members present of the historical problems surrounding the replacement of the electricity meter. He explained that the only way in which this could be rectified was for a current transformer meter to be installed. He added a quote had been requested from the M & E consulting engineer.

The Chairman advised the control panel was being replaced and was being funded by GiA. He added it had been designed so that space is available in the station for future CT metering.

Members inspected part of the redundant pipe, which due to land shrinkage was now exposed on the driveway. It was agreed that this section of the driveway should be covered with planings.

e) Bedlam Bridge

The Chairman advised that pump 2 was to be refurbished and reported that Fenflow Ltd. had conducted an inspection. He added that UK Power Networks were meeting with Fenflow Ltd. to ascertain if the refurbishment could be undertaken without isolating the electricity supply.

The Chairman advised that he had been working with the M & E consulting engineer and had obtained a number of quotes.

He added this matter would be discussed further and a resolution made at the Board meeting.

f) Other

The water control structure under the road at Squires Drove was inspected and it was agreed to insert and join a new 600mm plastic pipe to the existing pipe to protect the brick archway.

Meeting Venue

The Lamb & Flag had no record of a booking for the room hire and were unable to accommodate the meeting.

The Chairman arranged for the meeting to be held at the Welney William Marshall Centre.

Post Meeting

The Lamb & Flag contacted the office to apologise as a booking for the meeting room had been arranged on the Board's behalf but had not been recorded in their booking system.

The Chairman enquired whether all Board members were happy for the meeting to be recorded. All members were in agreement.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Fairey and Mr R Gott.

B.2194 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.

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman declared an interest in all matters relating to them both as District Officers.

The Chairman declared a financial interest concerning the charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work and Mr Roger Gladwin declared an interest as a Member of Euximoor IDB.

Members agreed to declare any other interests during the course of the meeting.

B.2195 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 21st January 2026 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.2196 Constitution & Membership

The Board considered the report.

Elections, vacancies & appointments

Miss Ablett referred to the length of tenure of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and encouraged the Board to consider its succession arrangements.

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman had previously considered the matter and agreed that it was not an appropriate time for him to assume the Chairmanship.

Members unanimously proposed both Mr Goodger and Mr Clabon be the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board, respectively.

Miss Ablett shared the register of electors and highlighted that elections will take place later this year. She added that members will receive a notice during July/August and are requested to return their slip as soon as possible as terms end on 31st October 2026.

RESOLVED

That Mr Ken Goodger be appointed as Chairman of the Board.

That Mr Patrick Clabon be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

That the Chairman be authorised to review the register of electors, on behalf of the Board, and to sign it if he considers it is correct.

Post Meeting

The register of electors was approved by the Chairman for use in the upcoming elections.

Training

Miss Ablett reminded Board members that Board training is reported on the IDB1 form and reported it was the Boards responsibility to identify any topics or areas of training they feel would be useful. She asked Members to advise the Clerk of any training required.

The Chairman advised that Ecology training was being arranged.

Members asked that should the Middle Level Commissioners arrange any training for other Boards that details are sent to all Board members so they can attend.

RESOLVED

That Board members be advised of any training organised for other Boards so they can attend.

B.2197 Clerk's Report

Miss Ablett drew the Boards attention to the Clerks Report and asked that most of the report is taken as read. She highlighted the Policy Reviews, Waste Exemptions and IDB1 (Annual Reporting to Defra) items.

Miss Ablett outlined the extra information that is being reported on the IDB1 return and the challenges that this is causing. This includes additional information relating to drain maintenance which is required from the District Foreman. She added that Defra have been asked to provide more information on why this level of detail is necessary.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk's Report is noted.

That the Board delegates the approval and publication of new and/or updated policies to the Clerk.

B.2198 Environment Officers' Report

VIZ

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	6
Meeting:	UPWELL IDB	Subject:	ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT
Date:	Wednesday 10 th June 2026	Officer Responsible:	Sofi Lloyd

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- A. **Review and approve the new Biodiversity Action Plan** – available from the IDB's webpage on the Middle Level Website: www.middlelevel.gov.uk/upwell-2
- B. Note that Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCI's), as below, have been launched this year to assess and report the environmental compliance of the IDB in a consistent way. This will help to ensure that any areas of environmental risk are flagged promptly, and the environmental achievements of the Board are recognised and published.
- C. Propose to set the biodiversity budget at £250 to purchase a swift box and seek locations where it can be put up (agricultural building +6m up and within 50m of a watercourse)
- D. Note that a review of the IDB's Environmental and waste permits is required and will be planned with the Chair and VC in the coming months.

Review of Key Environmental Compliance Indicators (KCI's)

Key:	Not Achieved / Information Not Available	Partly complete / A date has been set for completion (provide date and resource)	Complete
Name of Board Environmental Representative:		Ken Goodger	
KCI:	Description of KCI:	Status:	Comments:
1.	A current channel categorisation map & reasoning is available		In progress. SL will assist 2026
2.	Standard Operating Procedures audit has been undertaken and works considered compliant		In progress, SL will audit 2026
3.	The previous year's maintenance record is available for review and to inform the following year's works planning.		In progress. To be completed 2026
4.	A channel maintenance plan (flail mowing and desilting) has been prepared for Board review and approval.		Banks Flailed around cropping down to water on working side ahead of excavator and a margin left on non-working side.
5.	All non-routine works undertaken in the previous year were screened for environmental impacts and opportunities using the ESR process		Yes. Penstock was assessed and scrub and bank clearance to be progressed 26-27
6.	The Biodiversity Action Plan has been reviewed and objectives for the previous year have been met and following objectives set		Complete
7.	Biodiversity budget is proposed and defined		As above
8.	At least one Board Representative has attended at least one biodiversity training / information event in the year and reported relevant details to the board		Will attend in Dec
9.	There has been no net loss of open watercourse (via culverting or other) in the district in the previous year		SL checked
10.	A current map of badger setts in the district is available and licensable works around them was undertaken compliantly and in line with licence conditions		



Upwell IDB

Annual Environmental Review - Notes from Meeting

Attended by: Sofi Lloyd, Tony Hopkins, Morgan Lakey

Date: 27/05/2027

Point No.	Notes	Action by and due date
1	The KCI's for the Board report were completed	
2	Discussed the status of the draft EIA and noted alternative media within which the EIA notification could be published.	
3	Noted that there are 2 water levels within the system, effectively halving the system	
4	Noted that the summer-winter differential is only about 1ft.	
5	Discussed that when the old croft is desilted through Welney village, a designated tip zone could be established on the outer corner of the channel as it bends round with the road, in an arable field leaving the village, near point 111	
6	Noted that the previous instance of Japanese knotweed adjacent to a Board drain on private land in the district is now under control	
7	Noted that Norfolk LNRS tree species need to be added	
8	Discussed that all reedbeds are important even if they don't meet the minimum area threshold to be categorised as a reedbed, and that some reed along a channel may well meet the area threshold if the linear extent is calculated.	
9	SL will assist in the channel categorisation working with the DO	SL 2026
10	Noted that anecdotally a piece of limestone found in the Old Croft river was traced back to Barnack Quarry and is assumed to be one that fell in when being transported to Ely to build the cathedral	
11	Discussed the importance and uniqueness of the Old Croft river in the Middel Level Context and that it should be a focus for the IDB to conserve, restore and enhance it.	
12	Discussed the importance of documenting the understanding the IDB chair and VC have about each reach of the Old Croft and the reasoning behind its current management approach	
13	Noted that the area shown as lowland raised bog on the priority habitat map is actually arable land	
14	SL stressed the importance of recording and reporting more species that are found within the area to better inform efforts for conservation and enhancement. Please use the iRecord app: www.irecord.org.uk/app and join the Middle Level Commissioners Activity or online www.irecord.org.uk/join/middle-level-commissioners-nature	All 2026
15	The remaining points were captured in the BAP review	
16	SL will load draft BAP onto the Upwell page on the MLC website and make a link available to Board members in the Board papers ahead of the meeting for them to review. The aim is to have the BAP approved by the end of June.	SL 2026

Miss Ablett circulated printed copies of the ecology and environmental services manager's report and advised that this had also been emailed to members prior to the meeting.

She referred to the key Environmental Compliance Indicators launched this year, which report the environmental compliance of the Board in a consistent way and reported the biodiversity action plan is available on the website for review and approval.

She highlighted a change in approach to the Environment Officer's reporting and added there will now be newsletters developed and circulated to members with interesting and generic updates. She further reported that an annual report for each IDB will now be specific to that Board and focussed on their Key Environmental Compliance Indicators.

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman had met with the Environmental Officer recently and had reviewed the report. He added that one of the items the Board has been asked was to consider including in the budget £250 for a swift box, in view of a decline in numbers.

The cost of the swift box was queried as at the recent meeting of the Manea & Welney DDC they had approved for the Manea Parish Council to purchase a swift box directly from the RSPB at a cost of £50. This was discussed further and it was agreed that funds should instead be spent on repairing the owl boxes within the District.

The Chairman reported that Members should review the Biodiversity Action Plan, which is now included on the website rather than the agenda, due to the size of the report. Members advised they had been unable to review the biodiversity action plan in any details so were unable to approve it at this meeting. It was agreed that members would review the Biodiversity Action Plan, at a later date and advise the Chairman accordingly, who in turn would advise the Environmental Officer.

RESOLVED

That the Ecology and Environmental Officer's Report be noted.

That the Biodiversity Action Plan be reviewed by Members, the Chairman be advised accordingly and the Environmental Officer be advised of the outcome.

A biodiversity budget of £250 for swift boxes was not approved and the funds be spent on repairing existing owl boxes.

That the Board attend the Ecology training being arranged.

B.2199 Consulting Engineers' Reports

Miss Ablett referred to the Consulting Engineers' Reports asking that most of the reports be taken as read.

The Board considered the Reports of the Consulting Engineers.

a) Grant Funding Guidance

Miss Ablett circulated printed copies of the Capital Programme and advised that this had also been emailed to members prior to the meeting.

She reported that £80,000 of GiA has been secured for pumping station improvements being new control panels at both Nordelph and Cock Fen pumping stations.

Miss Ablett referred to the estimated pumping station replacement costs shown on the capital programme and advised further investment was needed in the interim and should be developed further, in line with the key health indicators shown in the M & E consulting engineer's report.

b) Mechanical & Electrical

Miss Ablett referred to the M & E Consulting Engineer's comments regarding the age and reliability of the pumps, most of which the Board were aware of as these were discussed at the Board's January meeting. She added the M & E consulting engineer recommends that a plan is put in place to overhaul or replace items as necessary to ensure ongoing reliability.

Miss Ablett reminded Members that at their previous meeting they had agreed the refurbishment of pump no. 2 at Bedlam Bridge pumping station should be commenced, with a view to developing a plan to refurbish one pump every year and had asked the M & E consulting engineer to provide quotes for the refurbishment.

The Chairman reported that he had recently received a quote from the consulting engineer from Coulstock and Place, a contractor in Doncaster and had requested another quote from Fenflow Ltd, who had undertaken some work for the Board previously.

He added that the District Foreman had met with one of the Directors of Fenflow Ltd and visited all the pumping stations so quotes could be supplied.

The Chairman reported the quotes varied from £6,000 for Padgetts Corner pumping station, £12,500 for Cock Fen pumping station and £13,200 for the other three pumping stations. He advised the base quote for Bedlam Bridge pumping station was £13,271.

He added the quotes were only for lifting and dismantling the pump, so additional work by Fenflow Ltd could be as high as £18,000.

The Chairman advised the quote received from Coulstock and Place in Doncaster amounted to £24,659, although this was to include lifting, dismantling and reassembling the pump and any additional work could be up to £10,000.

The Chairman further advised that as both quotes were similar at around £35,000 the Board should consider accepting the slightly lower quote from Fenflow Ltd on the basis that the company is known to the Board.

The Chairman explained that Fenflow Ltd were hoping to meet with UK Power Networks to assess power isolation needs for pump lifting operations.

He added that after speaking with the Vice Chairman he had provisionally accepted the quote from Fenflow Ltd and enquired, whether based on the quotes received, the Board would consider authorising his actions.

The Board agreed the quote from Fenflow Ltd for the refurbishment of Bedlam Bridge pumping station should be accepted.

The Chairman enquired whether the Board would agree to proceed with the plan of refurbishing one pump each year.

Miss Ablett reminded Members that although quotes had been obtained for the pump refurbishments the Board is strongly advised to develop an investment plan for refurbishments/replacement. She advised the Board needed to consider what work is required, when the assets are to be refurbished/replaced, whether the Board should consider applying for GiA and whether the projects should be part funded so as assist with securing funding and increasing priority.

The Chairman considered the Board should request for the M & E consulting engineer to attend the Board's meeting in January 2027 to discuss the development of an asset refurbishment/replacement plan and to provide estimates for the CT metering at both Upwell Fen and Nordelph pumping stations. Members agreed this would be useful to assist with making decisions for the future.

Miss Ablett reminded Members there would be a charge for his attendance.

Miss Ablett proceeded to advise Members of the Board's available funds and advised the capital element of the general fund was the balance from the public works loan received for the electrification of Cock Fen pumping station. She recommended that these funds were not used until loan terms and conditions and due diligence confirmed whether the funds can be used for projects other than the electrification of Cock Fen pumping station.

Miss Ablett advised that if permission was not granted to repurpose the loan it may have to be repaid.

Miss Ablett enquired whether the Board wished for this to be explored further. Members agreed this was the best course of action and requested Miss Ablett reports back at the next meeting or earlier, if possible.

Miss Ablett enquired how the Board wished to proceed with funding the refurbishment of pump 2 at Bedlam Bridge pumping station. She explained the Board could use a proportion of the development charges account if a clear justification linking it to development impact is established. She advised the Board not to deplete the development charges accounts as the Board may need to fund future works linked to the development contributions received.

Members discussed the funds available and agreed that until a reply was received from Defra regarding the use of the public works loan monies, the refurbishment should be funded by £13,000 from the development charges account and the balance estimated at £19,000 from the plant asset replacement fund.

RESOLVED

That the reports be approved.

a) That the Clerk undertakes due diligence and contacts Defra requesting permission to use the public works loan received for the Cock Fen pumping station electrification project for other purposes since the Board is no longer proceeding with the electrification.

b) That Miss Ablett investigates information relating to previous years to determine the origin of the development contributions received in the development charges account.

c) To proceed with the refurbishment of pump 2 at Bedlam Bridge pumping station using Fenflow Ltd and for this be funded by £13,000 from the development charges account and the balance from the plant asset replacement fund.

d) That the M & E consulting engineer be asked to attend the Board's meeting in January 2027 to discuss the development of an asset refurbishment/replacement and to provide estimates for the CT metering at both Upwell Fen and Nordelph pumping stations.

B.2200 Chairman's Items

1. Inspection

a) Upwell Fen Pumping Station

i) The Chairman reported that Members present at the inspection had considered various means of repairing the damaged discharge pipe thrust block. He added that post inspection Mr Gladwin had proposed the best way forward was for a structural engineer to attend the pumping station and inspect the leak around the thrust box to identify the best course of action and advise the Board accordingly. The Chairman considered this would be a satisfactory solution and enquired whether this was acceptable to all Members of the Board. All members were in agreement with this proposal.

ii) The Chairman referred to the corrosion on the weedscreen hoist drum that had been inspected and advised it was necessary to galvanise the drum, but it was considered it would be best to do this when the pump is refurbished. He added that in the meantime it had been agreed to rub down and paint the drum with rustproof paint. This action was agreed by the Board.

iii) The Chairman referred to the electricity meter that had failed and of the M & E consulting engineer's comments advising the station would need to move to current transformer metering. He added the consulting engineer had advised this would be more difficult due to the size of the station building and the way the control panel was laid out and hoped a plan to rectify this would be identified in the summer.

The Chairman reminded the Board of the historical problems surrounding the replacement of the electricity meter at Nordelph pumping station and added that it was considered the only way this could be rectified was for a current transformer meter to be installed as was required at Upwell Fen pumping station.

The Board requested the M & E consulting engineer obtains quotes for the CT meters for both Upwell Fen & Nordelph pumping stations.

b) Cock Fen Pumping Station

i) The Chairman advised that with the Board's approval the weedscreen hoist drum would be rubbed down and painted with rustproof paint and refurbishment of the weedscreen cleaner would be undertaken when the pump was refurbished, as was approved for Upwell Fen pumping station. This was agreed by the Members.

ii) The Chairman advised the diesel engine control panel was being replaced and was being funded by GiA. He added it was hoped the Board could sell the control panel previously purchased for the electrification.

iii) The Chairman reported the diesel engines to be replaced were still available and whilst manufactured in China they could be obtained from Perkins, a UK approved supplier.

He added that at the inspection Members considered the Board should enquire whether the same diesel engines could be sourced from a British manufacturer, whilst ensuring they are compatible with the new control panel being installed and seamless operations upon switching. The Board agreed and instructed the District Foreman to make further enquiries and obtain quotes for the Board to consider at the next meeting in January.

c) Nordelph Pumping Station

The Chairman reported Members had inspected part of the redundant pipe, which due to land shrinkage was now exposed on the driveway at the pumping station. He added it had been agreed that this section of the driveway should be covered with planings and enquired whether this was acceptable to all Members present at the meeting. It was agreed this was the best way forward.

RESOLVED

a) That the M & E consulting engineer be asked to provide estimates for the CT meters at both Nordelph and Upwell Fen pumping stations.

b) That the M & E consulting engineer arranges for a structural engineer to attend Upwell Fen pumping station to inspect the leak around the discharge pipe thrust block in order to ascertain the best course of action for its repair.

c) That the District Foreman investigates whether suitable diesel engines for Cock Fen pumping station could be sourced from a British manufacturer and obtains quotes for the Board's consideration in January.

B.2201 Health & Safety

The Chairman gave a verbal update following his meeting with AW Safety Ltd and reported that all recommendations made in the report had been dealt with.

Miss Ablett reported the Middle Level Commissioners intended to develop a H & S service provision offer that would be discussed at the Chairman's meeting in December 2026 for potential roll-out from August 2027. She enquired whether the Board would consider using the H & S services of the Middle Level Commissioners.

The Chairman reported that both he and the District Foreman considered AW Safety Ltd provided a good service to the Board and using the H & S service of the Middle Level Commissioners would be dependent on the service being competitively priced.

The Board considered the H & S Report provided by AW Safety Ltd and noted the content and reaffirmed the Chairman as the Board's H & S lead.

RESOLVED

That the Board would consider using a H & S service provided by the Middle Level Commissioners if it was competitively priced.

District Foreman's Report

Mr Nunn referred the Board to his written report and advised that some of the report had been missed from the agenda and gave a verbal report, which was noted by the Board.

Miss Ablett apologised some of the report had been missed and would feed this back on the Board's behalf.

The District Foreman reported that the works truck had accumulated approximately 104,000 miles and had experienced multiple rear spring failures. He expressed concerns regarding the vehicle's reliability, noting that the frequency of repairs was impacting operational performance.

The Board agreed that alternative vehicles suitable for accessing pumping station sites should be evaluated. It was further agreed the Chairman and District Foreman should obtain quotations, including electric vehicle options, for consideration at the January Board meeting.

Finance Committee

The Chairman advised there was nothing to report as the Committee had not met as the quotes requested at the last meeting had not been received. Miss Ablett apologised on behalf of the M & E consulting engineer and advised that unfortunately undertaking the storm recovery grant works by the deadline set had taken up most of his time.

The Chairman reported he had spoken with the M & E consulting engineer recently regarding future works required and he referred Members to their request for the M & E consulting engineer to attend the January 2027 meeting to discuss the development of an asset refurbishment/replacement plan.

B.2202 Governance

Miss Ablett asked the Board to consider the Governance report and that its content be noted.

a) Completion of the Annual Accounts and Annual Return of the Commissioners – 2024/2025

- i) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year that ended on the 31st of March 2025.
- ii) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year that ended on the 31st of March 2025.

The Board noted the continued appointment of Whittings as its internal auditor.

b) Consideration of potential litigation, liabilities, commitments

Miss Ablett reported that as part of the Annual Governance review the Board were required to consider if there were any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after

the year-end that have a financial impact on the authority. It was confirmed that there were no such matters that have been raised through the office of the clerk. Members gave consideration to the position.

RESOLVED

That there are no such events that would have an adverse financial impact on the Board that would need to be included within the accounting statements for the financial year ended

c) Review of Internal Controls

Miss Ablett reported that the internal controls the Middle Level Commissioners have in place, in their services to the Board, are available on the Board's webpage.

The Board considered and expressed satisfaction with the current system of internal controls and did not highlight the requirement for any additional controls.

d) Risk Management Assessment & Insured Values

The Board considered their Risk Management Strategy and insured sums.

RESOLVED

i) The Board approved the sums insured.

ii) The Board did not highlight any specific risks or issues not covered within the Boards Risk Management Strategy (published in 2024 and on the website).

e) IDB1 (Annual Report to Defra)

The Board noted the IDB1 return for 2024/25 submitted on their behalf.

f) Exercise of Public Rights

Miss Ablett referred to the publishing of the Notice of Public Rights and publication of unaudited Annual Return, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return

g) Annual Governance Statement

The Board noted and approved the submission of their Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26 authorising the Chairman and Clerk to sign the statement.

B.2203 Finance Report – Looking Back

Viz

UPWELL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2026

GENERAL FUND

2026			2025		
Mar-31	Expenditure during the year		Mar-31	Balance Brought Forward	278,944.50
	Precept	45,021.36	2026		
	Insurances, Telephones etc	9,201.30	Mar-31	Rate Income & Special Levies	312,871.04
	Repairs & Renewals (Mechanical)	15,707.01		Interest on Deposit Accounts	2,400.42
	Fuel	40,020.99		Private Works	7,632.00
	Drainworks	19,620.49		Development Charges Account	1,675.00
	Contractors Charges	5,423.00			
	District Labour	46,025.55		Refund of Electrical Connection Works (UK Power Networks)	91,542.44
	Administration charge, Audit fee, Printing, Stationery, Advertising etc	<u>35,494.11</u>		Asset Replacement Fund	
		171,492.45		- Depreciation (Plant)	25,274.17
				- Cock Fen Pumping Station - Easement	<u>1,719.50</u>
					26,993.67
	Loan Repayments:			Storm Recovery Grant - T2b	7,248.45
	Principal	19,373.14			
	Interest	<u>10,944.42</u>			
		30,317.56			
	<u>Improvement Works</u>				
	Storm Recovery Tranche 2B Works	7,248.45			
	Depreciation charge	25,274.17			
	Transfer from Asset Replacement Fund - Raised 2025/2026	19,375.00			
	Balance Carried Forward	430,578.53			
		<u>729,307.52</u>			<u>729,307.52</u>

BALANCE SHEET

Capital Section

Liabilities

Capital Provisions	2,986,467.22	
Public Works Loan (Outstanding)	427,532.78	
	<u>3,414,000.00</u>	

Assets

Pumping Stations	3,304,000.00	
Nordelph Pumping Station-Bungalow	110,000.00	
Heavy Plant	94,480.70	
Light Plant	7.00	
Small Tool & Equipment	2.00	
Oils & Greases	<u>4,559.09</u>	
		3,513,048.79

Revenue Section

General Fund			Ratepayers Account - Arrears	29,196.34	
- Revenue balance	430,578.53		Value Added Tax - Refunds due	6,836.89	
- Asset Fund (plant)	79,359.92		Sundry Debtors	9,256.66	
- Asset Fund (capital)	<u>119,886.29</u>	629,824.74	Private Works Account	1,382.40	
Sundry Creditors	68,362.09		Balance In Hand -		
			Barclays -Treasurer's Account	100,002.79	
Development Charges Account	47,098.61		Barclays -Business Premium Account	493,566.54	
			National Savings - Treasurer's Account	<u>5,995.03</u>	599,564.36
		<u>4,159,285.44</u>			<u>4,159,285.44</u>

Finance officer's review and key messages

The Board reviewed and noted the key finance messages of the Responsible Finance Officer.

a) Payments for 2026

The Board considered and approved the Payments for 2025/2026.

(NB: The Chairman and the Vice Chairman declared an interest in the payments made to them as District Officers.)

b) Annual Accounts and Finance Papers 2025/2026

The Board considered and approved the Annual accounts and Finance Papers for the year ended 31st March 2026, as required in the Audit regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Return, on behalf of the Board for the financial year ended 31st March 2026.

B.2204 Finance Report – Looking ForwardFinance officer's summary and key messages

The Board reviewed and noted the key finance messages of the Responsible Finance Officer.

a) Fees, Remuneration & Subscriptions:

District Officers' Fees

The Board gave consideration to the District Officers' fees for 2026/2027.

RESOLVED

That the sum of up to £5,710 be allowed for the services of the District Officers for 2026/2027 and this be split equally between the District Officers.

(NB: The Chairman and Vice Chairman declared a financial interest when this item was discussed.)

b) Charges for hire of plant when engaged on private work

Consideration was given to whether any revisions were necessary in the Board's charges for hiring plant when engaged on private work (last reviewed – June 2025): -

Flail mower

Present charge - £48 per hour (inclusive of operator's wages etc)

(NB – Travelling time being charged in addition to working time)

(NB: The Chairman declared a financial interest when this item was discussed as he uses the Board's services and Mr Roger Gladwin declared an interest as a Member of Euximoor IDB)

RESOLVED

That the charge be increased to £50 per hour

That the Board continue to undertake the flail mowing on behalf of Euximoor IDB

c) Precept

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.

The Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) determined that the Precept will increase by 2% for 2026.

The precept for 2025 was £44,138.59.

RESOLVED

That the Precept is paid in full.

d) Estimates for 2026/2027

The Board reviewed the estimated budget for 2026/2027 as recommended by their Responsible Finance Officer.

The Board enquired whether the Board's funds were being invested. Miss Ablett advised that funds were only deposited in a business premium account at the moment, but it was hoped that some funds would be invested in a Treasury Deposit account going forward.

RESOLVED

That the budget be approved.

That some of the Board's funds be invested in a Treasury Deposit account to maximise interest received.

e) Rate Requirement for 2026/27

The Board considered the proposals for special levy and drainage rates in respect of the financial year 2026/2027 and were informed by Miss Ablett that under the Land Drainage Act 1991 the proportions of their net expenditure to be met by drainage rates on agricultural hereditaments and by special levy on local billing authorities would be respectively 75.55% and 24.45%.

Miss Ablett reported the rate required to meet the estimated net expenditure for 2026-2027 is 31.25p and that this was a reduction from the 33.25p raised in 2025/26.

She reminded members that 2025-2026 had been a dry year, which had resulted in a reduction in the electricity costs. As these costs are weather dependant fixing a budget is difficult. The Board should take this into account when considering the rate as there is no guarantee further storm recovery grants would be received. They also need to consider raising funds for future capital works, especially if the Board's request to use the loan monies for other capital projects other than the electrification of Cock Fen pumping station is denied by Defra.

Members agreed that the rate should remain at 33.25p in view of future capital works that may be required and the unknown factors regarding electricity costs.

RESOLVED

- i) That a total sum of £313,146 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.
- ii) That the amounts comprised in the sum referred to in ii) above to be raised by drainage rates and to be met by special levy are £236,582 and £76,564, respectively.
- iii) That a rate of 33.25p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the district.
- iv)
 - a) That a Special levy of £46,144 be made and issued to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk for the purpose of meeting such expenditure
 - b) That a Special levy of £30,420 be made and issued to Fenland District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.
- v) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies and to the special levy referred to in resolution iv).
- vi) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

B.2205 Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED

That the next meetings of the Board shall be held as follows: -

- i) Wednesday 20th January 2027 at the Lamb & Flag
- ii) Wednesday 26th May 2027 with an inspection, followed by the meeting at the Lamb & Flag and a meal.

B.2206 Any other Business

With no other business raised the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

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Chair

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Date