WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

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Administered by:

18th November 2026

Dear Board Members

Upcoming meeting of the Board
Thursday 26th November 2026

Please find overleaf the agenda for the meeting of the Board to be hosted at the Lakeside Lodge, Pidley PE28 3DF at 2pm on Thursday 26th November 2026.

Please arrive by 10am for the Inspection, followed by lunch at 1.00pm and then the meeting.

As you'll be aware, we administer twenty-three Boards that mostly all meet within similar date ranges. Thank you to the majority of Members who already confirm their attendance proactively.

Please help us manage your Board effectively by **proactively letting Gemma know as soon as possible, by telephone or email, if you can attend the meeting, or not, or if you're uncertain.** This results in less abortive time and cost to the running of all Boards.

It is important that we have early confirmation whether or not the Board will be quorate.

Yours truly

P BURROWS, FCIWEM C.WEM CEnv PSAg

Clerk to the Board

WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Thursday 26th November 2026 – 10am Inspection (Lunch 1pm & Meeting 2pm)

Lakeside Lodge, Pidley PE28 3DF

Agenda:

Item No	*Topic*	*Format*	*Lead*
1	Welcome & apologies	Verbal	Chair
2	Declarations of Interest • Consider the independence of the internal auditors	Verbal	Chair
3	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Pages 3 - 12	Chair/Clerk
4	Constitution & Membership	Pages 13 - 15	Clerk
5	Chairmans Items • Pocket Park • Lowland Peat Grant • Drainage Works	Verbal	Chair
6	Clerks report	Pages 16 - 17	Clerk
7	Consulting Engineer's Reports.	Pages 18 - 28	Clerk or Engineer
8	District Officer's Report	Verbal	Clerk
9	Finance Report • Determination of land for rating • Budget Review	Pages 29 - 30 Page31 Page 32	Clerk
10	Date of Next Meeting 20th May 2027	Verbal	Chair
11	Any other business	Verbal	Chair

(NB: If required for any agenda item:

In pursuance of Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting when the above matters are being considered by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.)

At a Meeting of the Warboys, Somersham & Pidley Internal Drainage Board
Held at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley on Thursday 28th May 2026.

PRESENT

Daniel Brown (Chair)
Thomas Noble (Vice Chair)
Stephen Edgley
Daniel Edwards
David England
Dan Fabb
James German
Ian Johnson
Sam Johnson
Charlotte Lowe
Lucy Munns
Jonathan Short
Hugh Whittome

The Lead Clerk Mrs Ruth Martin representing the Clerk was in attendance.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B.1958 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Carney, M Heading and A Sweeney

B.1959 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.

Mr Whittome declared an interest as Chair of the Middle Level Commissioners Board.

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

B.1960 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were confirmed as a true record, and no Matters Arising were identified.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on the 27th November 2026 are recorded correctly and that they be confirmed and signed.

B.1961 Confidential Items Subject to Legal Privilege

This item is excluded under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Ms Howe left the room for this item.

B.1962 Constitution & Membership

Mrs Martin advised the Board that there are currently 6 vacancies on the Board pending Reconstitution. She reported that the Reconstitution is still waiting for Defra to advertise the schedule as reported at the last meeting, and that the Reconstitution has not progressed any further since the Board last met.

Training

Mrs Martin reminded Board members that Board training is reported on the IDB1 form and asked to advise the Clerk of any training completed or required. The Board discussed Health and Safety training which is reported on under Health and Safety in the minutes.

B.1963 Clerk's Report

Mrs Martin asked that the Clerk's Report be taken as read.

Policy Reviews

Mrs Martin asked the Board to consider delegating the approval of new and updated policies to the Clerk, as there are several polices that need to be developed and published. The Board agreed to this proposal.

Waste Exemptions

Mrs Martin updated the Board on the current position with Waste Exemption licences and the proposals as detailed in the Clerks report. She drew their attention to the plan to move each IDB to having their own suite of waste exemptions, and that it is likely that there will be a need for associated training for IDBs and their District Officers.

IDB1 (Annual Reporting to Defra)

Mrs Martin advised the Board that extra information is being reported on the IDB1 return and the challenges that this is causing. This includes additional information relating to drain maintenance which is compiled for the Board with support from the District Officer, and Mrs Martin stressed to the Board the importance of keeping this data and providing the information when it is requested. She added that Defra have been asked to provide more information on why this level of detail is necessary.

RESOLVED

That the Clerks Report is noted.

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

Environment Officers Report

Mrs Martin referred the Board to the Environment Officers report, and the Chair advised that he, the District Officer and Mr Whittome had met with Sofi Lloyd. Mr Whittome updated the Board on their discussions, particularly highlighting the challenges the Board faced in dealing correctly with badgers, and a discussion on drain cleansing was had by the Board. Mr Whittome added that a good water vole population in the District shows the positive effect of the Board's work. The Board discussed the importance of balancing ecology with cost and water management and approved the Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Board agreed to setting a Biodiversity budget of £250 for a swift box, and Board members were encouraged to report sightings using the iRecord app as detailed in the Environment Officers report.

RESOLVED

That the Biodiversity Action Plan is agreed

That a £250 fund for Biodiversity to be set aside to be used for swift boxes

B.1964 Consulting Engineers' Reports

Mrs Martin referred to the Consulting Engineers' report, asking that it be taken as read.

The Chair reported successful bids had been made for funding for the weedscreen refurbishments at the Washways and Pidley Pumping Stations from the T2B Storm Recovery fund, and that the vibration in Pump 1 at Washways was still ongoing. The Lowland Peat Recovery Fund has presented the Board with an opportunity to bid for funding for works to the Acre Fen Slacker, water control structure at Red Tile Farm, and a new slacker at Puddock. These are all expensive items so the Chair will keep pushing to seek funding for these. Mr I Johnson reminded the Board that they had previously agreed to fund the Puddock slacker from the Board's funds, but to receive grant funding for this would be preferred.

New FCERM Grant Funding Guidance

The Board noted the new guidance and considered the Consulting Engineers comments. The Chair advised the Board that he had been in contact with the Consulting Engineer to discuss critical failure points within the District. The Board agreed to develop an asset improvement plan for future asset refurbishment and noted how this would support future funding applications.

Planning

The Board were advised of the discussion at the Finance Meeting regarding the development at Little Acre Fen, and Mr I Johnson outlined to the Board the potential issue that an attenuation pond would create for the management of the water for the Board. The Board agreed with his proposal that any discharge from this catchment should be an unattenuated discharge downstream of Washways Pumping Station into Fenton Lode.

Mechanical & Electrical

The Board considered the Mechanical & Electrical report and noted the content.

The Pumping Station reports were considered, and Mr Whittome asked about pump planning, and Mr S Johnson added that the pumps at Washways are an issue. Mr Whittome questioned the report details regarding the pumps at Puddock and asked that the M&E Engineer review the content of the report, as there are 2 pumps there and one has recently been refurbished. Mr I Johnson flagged that the Pidley pumps are probably the Board's highest risk if both pumps are unserviceable. The other pumps highlighted in red in the report have alternative arrangements that could be put in place. The Chair advised that all pumps are tested regularly, and that there are no issues with the pumps at Pidley Pumping Station. Mr I Johnson agreed that provided the Board have adequate funds to purchase two pumps should they both suddenly need replacement, this would be the best standby position.

RESOLVED

That the reports are noted.

That an asset improvement plan for future asset refurbishment be developed

That any discharge from the Little Acre Fen catchment should be unattenuated and discharge downstream of Washways Pumping Station into Fenton Lode.

B.1965 Health & Safety

The Chair advised that he and the Vice Chair had met with AW Safety to carry out inspections, noting that they had inspected the same places as before and with the same comments being made. He advised that the railings at Westmoor Pumping Station need repairing and he proposed that he seeks a quotation for the works for the Board to discuss at the next meeting. Mr Whittome agreed that the work needs doing. The Chair advised that grant funding had been received to install a new concrete ramp down to the Westmoor Pumping Station, and that this looks good.

Mrs Martin then gave an overview of the Clerks Health and Safety report and the recommendations that the Board consider showing how it could strengthen its approach to health and safety. The Board were asked to take note of their Health and Safety accountabilities and reminded that they cannot delegate their responsibilities.

Mr Whittome advised that either one Board member takes on this responsibility, or that the Board collectively take the responsibility. He also felt that as the Board have an employee, he should have some Health & Safety training. Mr I Johnson proposed that the Board's employee (the District Officer) attend a one-day Health & Safety training course, and this was agreed by the Board.

The Board were advised that MLC are planning to terminate their agreement with AW Safety (formerly Cope) in August 2026, but that the Boards agreement would continue until August 2027, after which time alternative service providers would be considered. It is MLCs intention to develop a service provision which they would offer to IDBs, and the Board agreed to consider such a provision dependent on cost. The Board also noted their contentment to remain with AW Safety until the contract termination next year.

RESOLVED

That the report is noted.

That the District Officer attend a one-day Health and Safety training course

B.1966 District Officer's Report

The Chair gave a verbal report on behalf of the District Officer. He had reported at the November meeting that the gear box on the truck was being repaired, and this is now complete, although it took 6 weeks and cost around £4,000. There have been some small issues when using the flail with the new digger, but Komatsu have been out and adjusted the flow pressures to the flail. Mr Fabb added that they had initially thought that there was a leak on the slew motor, but this was not the case, and the adjustments resolved the problem. The Chair advised that the skids, blades, rotor bearings and hydraulic pipes have all been replaced.

The Chair advised that he will be developing a works programme with the District Officer, which will include monthly goals, but acknowledged that as they do not meet every day management is not as the Chair would like.

The Board discussed the possibility of purchasing a slubbing bucket and trailer but concluded that this would not be necessary at the present time.

Mr Whittome updated the Board on some discussions which had been held at the Finance Committee meeting, and the Board agreed to list the works they wanted the District Officer to attend to with a guidance on priority, and this can be considered at an Annual Review with the District Officer.

The Chair reminded the Board that at the November meeting they had discussed the refurbishment of the grille on the culvert at the border with Sutton & Mepal IDB following repair by Mr I Johnson. Mr Fabb has provided a quotation for the works, and explained to the Board the proposed repair, and the design was discussed by the Board. Mr Fabb then left the room whilst the quotation was discussed. The Chair advised that a quote of £2700 had been received, and Mr German added that the price was similar to the cost of a new galvanised slacker. The Board agreed to accept Mr Fabb's quotation, and Mr Fabb returned to the meeting.

The Chair reported that he and Mr Fabb would be going to look at the Westmoor Pumping Station railings, and Mr I Johnson suggested that the Board set a budget for the works so that it would not be necessary to return to the Board for an agreement to carry out the works. Mr Whittome proposed that the Board agree that the Chair and Vice Chair decide if they should accept a quotation once provided, to allow for the works to progress before the next meeting. The Board agreed with this proposal. The Chair highlighted the High Fen weed screen electricity cable protection, and the Board agreed that this be looked at when reviewing Westmoor Pumping Station.

RESOLVED

That the quotation for the refurbishment of the culvert grille is accepted.

That the Chair agrees a price for the repairs to Westmoor Pumping Station railings and that the work can be commissioned.

B.1967 Governance

Mrs Martin asked the Board to consider the Governance report and that its content be noted.

Completion of the Annual Return of the Board – 2024/2025

RESOLVED

i) The Board considered and approved the comments of the Auditors on the Annual Return for the year that ended on the 31st March 2025.

ii) The Board considered and approved the Audit Report of the Internal Auditor for the year that ended on the 31st March 2025

The Board noted the continued appointment of Whitings as Internal Auditor.

Consideration of potential litigation, liabilities, commitments.

Mrs Martin 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. She 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 31st March 2025.

Risk Management Strategy and Internal Controls

The Board did not highlight any specific risks or issues not covered within the Board's Risk Management Strategy (published in 2024 and on the website), noted the system of financial Internal Controls (as published on website) and no additional controls were highlighted as required.

Insured Values

The Insurance Valuations were reviewed, and the Board agreed that they were content with the valuations.

RESOLVED

That the valuations are acceptable

IDB1 (Annual Report to Defra)

RESOLVED

That the Board note the submission of the IDB1 to Defra.

Exercise of Public Rights

Mrs Martin 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.

Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED

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

B.1968 Finance Report – Looking Back

Finance officer's review and key messages

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

Payments for 2025

The Payments were reviewed and accepted.

Highland Water Contributions

The Board noted the Highland Water contributions.

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.1969 Finance Report – Looking Forward

Finance officer's review and key messages

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

Fees & Remuneration

Property Rental and Tenancy Review

The Board discussed the current position and condition of the bungalow and discussed appointing a letting agent to deal with the management of the tenancy. Some Board members were reluctant to do this, due to the costs involved, but Mr Whittome advised them of the requirements of the landlord and the implications if they do not ensure compliance of the property. The new Renters' Rights Act has changed how landlords should manage their properties and the Board need to ensure compliance with the Act, which results in quite a lot of work to do. Mr I Johnson added he understood what Mr Whittome was saying. The Board asked the Lead Clerk in conjunction with the Chair investigate the costs involved in appointing an agent to manage the tenancy.

RESOLVED

That the cost of appointing an agent to manage the tenancy be investigated

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 £24,146.78.

RESOLVED

That the Precept is paid in full.

Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes.

The Board considered the recommendation for the determination of annual value for rating purposes.

RESOLVED

i) That the determination recommended be adopted by the Board
ii) That the Clerk be empowered to serve notices and to take such other action as may be necessary to comply with statutory requirements.
iii) That the Chairman and the Clerk be empowered to authorise appropriate action on behalf of the Board in connection with any appeal against the determination.

Rate Arrears

The Board discussed rate arrears at the November meeting, following which the Vice Chair and Mr Fabb contacted the ratepayers involved and have successfully secured payment.

The Board were asked to consider the writing-off of rate arrears amounting to £2,602.48 relating to the period April to October 2016.

RESOLVED

That the rate arrears amounting to £2,602.48 be written off.

Estimates & Rate Requirements for 2026/27.

Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed budget as recommended by their Responsible Finance Officer and the Finance Committee, and the Chair proposed that the budget be agreed. This was unanimously supported.

RESOLVED

That the budget is agreed.

Rate Requirement for 2026/27

Mrs Martin advised that the budget indicated that a rate of 31.0p in the £ would need to be set, and that this had been recommended by the Finance Committee.

The Chair advised that the budget included the proposed Fenton Lode slubbing and asked the Board if they were happy to use BJ Plant for these works following the Boards satisfaction with their works the previous year. The Board agreed with the proposal.

Mr Whittome commented that there has been a 20% increase in budgeted fuel costs, but we cannot predict how these may change. There is also the unknown impact on electricity prices in October when the current contract ends, we do not know what the renegotiated rates will be like in relation to the current rates. This makes setting the budget for these items challenging.

The Chair asked the Board for their considerations, and Mr Whittome proposed that a rate of 31.0p in the £ be set, and this was seconded by the Vice Chair. The Board agreed unanimously with the proposal.

RESOLVED

i) That the estimates be approved.

ii) That a total sum of £257,007 be raised by drainage rates and special levy.

iii) 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 £228,914 and £28,093 respectively.

iv) That a rate of 31.0p in the £ be laid and assessed on Agricultural hereditaments in the District.

v) That a Special Levy of £7,183 be made and issued to Fenland District Council, and £20,910 be made and issued to Huntingdonshire District Council for the purpose of meeting such expenditure.

vi) That the seal of the Board be affixed to the record of drainage rates and special levies referred to in resolution v).

vii) That the Clerk be authorised to recover all unpaid rates and levy by such statutory powers as may be available.

viii) That BJ Plant continue to carry out works for the Board

B.1970 Date of next Meeting

RESOLVED

The next meeting of the Board be held on Thursday 26th November 2026 meeting at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley and commencing with a District Inspection at 10am, lunch at 1pm and followed by the meeting.

That the following Meeting of the Board be held on Thursday 20th May 2027 at 5.30pm at Lakeside Lodge, Pidley.

B.1971 Any Other Business

The Chair reported to the Board that the outstanding issue with Bartletts has been resolved, and a backlog payment has been received. It has been agreed that the current agreement will continue, and annual invoices will be raised for future fees. The Chair will also contact Ollie Barlett to discuss the removal of material next to Washways Pumping Station.

The Chair reported that the Board are owners of a small parcel of land in Fenton Way, Chatteris, adjacent to a Nightlayers IDB Board drain and that an adjacent landowner wishes to cross the Boards land with an electricity cable. Wayleave negotiations have begun and a commuted sum has been asked for. Mr Edgley advised that the construction works have already progressed a long way. The Board agreed that a single commuted sum would be preferred to an annual payment.

The Chair updated the Board with progress on the issues at the Persimmon Homes site, Abbot Walk, advising that Mark from Persimmon Homes has been in touch with him and that he is concerned that people have been driving along the Boards drain, although it is believed that Persimmon have not gated the entrances. The trees within the Board's maintenance strip have been removed following involvement of MLCs Enforcement and Compliance Officers.

The Chair asked the Board to notify him if they see any development close to any Board drains.

At the November meeting the Board discussed land within the District that was not being rated as it was not know who the land belonged to. Mr I Johnson and Mr Heading took on the task of trying to identify landowners. Mr I Johnson reported progress back to the Board, and that land they had previously thought was 'missing' from the rated areas is droves and therefore not rateable land.

Ms Lowe asked if an update on the Somersham Pocket Park could be given and the Chair advised that the Board are still in negotiations with Tarmac, and that both the Board and the landowners want a resolution to the current situation.

Mr Edgley gave an update on the problems faced with fly tipping within the District.

Mr Whittome thanked the Chair and Vice Chair on behalf of the Board for all the work they do to support the Board.

With no other business brought to the attention of the Chair, the meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**4**
Meeting:	**WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**CONSTITUTION & MEMBERSHIP**
Date:	**Thursday 26th November 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Gemma Ashby**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Note the position regarding elections and consider the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments within its appointment of officials.
B. Note the current status of its membership and the role they each play as members serving the interests of the Board.
C. Review attendance records and identify any resolutions as necessary.
D. Outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training.

1. Current status

1.1 The table below outline the current composition of the Board and the quorum as detailed in the standing orders.

	Elected Members	Appointed Members	Total Members	Quorum
Composition	15	N/A	16	
Actual	15	1 HDC	16	
Vacancies	0		0	

1.2 The table below details the current elected members of the Board

No	Name	Status (one of four categories)	Commentary
1	Jacob Armstrong	Nominee of ratepayer (Mr C Armstrong)	
2	Daniel Brown	Ratepayer	Chairman
3	David Cornwell	Nominee of ratepayer (Mr D Cornwell)	
4	Stephen Edgley	Nominee of Ratepayer (Mr A Edgley)	
5	Daniel Edwards	Ratepayer	
6	David England	Ratepayer	
7	Daniel Fabb	Ratepayer	
8	James German	Ratepayer	
9	Marc Heading	Ratepayer	
10	Ian Johnson	Ratepayer	
11	Sam Johnson	Ratepayer	
12	Lucy Munns	Nominee of ratepayer (Mr G Munns)	
13	Thomas Noble	Ratepayer	Vice Chair
14	Jonathan Short	Ratepayer	
15	Hugh Whittome	Ratepayer	

1.3 The table below details the current appointed members of the Board.

1.4 Special levy paying District Councils appoint members to Boards and their role is to be part of the Board representing all the non-agricultural interests within the Board's district.
The Council must consider appointing members who have relevant knowledge or experience that is relevant to the Board and its district.

1.5 Appointed members do not need to be councillors or employees of the Council, therefore can represent wider relevant interests within the district, e.g. major infrastructure, commerce, community groups, environmental interests.

No	Name	Appointing Council	Commentary (one of three categories)
1	Charlotte Lowe	HDC	Councillor

1.6 All Members are reminded that have equal status to each-other around the Board table and are here to serve the interests of the Board.

2. Attendance

2.1 The table below outlines the attendance record for the last four meetings of the Board.

Elected Members

No	Name	28/05/2026	27/11/2025	29/05/2025	24/02/2025
1	Jacob Armstrong	-	Present	Present	Present
2	Daniel Brown	Present	Present	Present	Present
3	David Cornwell	-	Present		Present
4	Stephen Edgley	Present	Apologies	Present	Present
5	Daniel Edwards	Present	Present	Present	Present
6	David England	Present	Present	Present	Present
7	Daniel Fabb	Present	Present	Present	Present
8	James German	Present	Present	Apologies	Present
9	Marc Heading	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
10	Ian Johnson	Present	Present	Present	Present
11	Sam Johnson	Present	Present	Present	Present
12	Lucy Munns	Present	Present	Present	Apologies
13	Thomas Noble	Present	Present	Present	Present
14	Jonathan Short	Present	Present	Present	Present
15	Hugh Whittome	Present	Present	Present	Present

Attendance at Chairs Meetings

No	Name	5/12/2025	6/12/2024	6/10/2023	13/12/2022
1	Dan Brown	Present	Present	N/A	N/A

Appointed Members (current and previous)

No	Name (Council)	28/05/2026	27/11/2025	29/05/2025	25/02/2025
	James Carney (FDC)	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
	Adela Costello (HDC) substitute if C Lowe not available	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1	Charlotte Lowe (HDC)	Present	Present	Present	Present

3. Elections, vacancies & appointments

3.1 In appointing the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Board is expected to follow the principles within the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, there is a strong presumption that no individual should serve in any one post for more

than ten years. The tenure of the current Chairman is 2 years, and the tenure of the current Vice Chairman is 2 years.

4. Composition and amalgamations

4.1 The Board is encouraged to continually monitor and review its membership, financial and climate resilience, along with assessing its influence locally, regionally and nationally. These are all factors that may lead the Board to consider changing its composition and/or amalgamation with (an)other Board(s). See 'The IDB governance future within the Middle Level of the Fen' within the Clerk's Report.

4.2 Amalgamations and composition changes are not swift processes and can take a number of years. They require planning and additional/specialist resourcing by the MLC as your clerk, Environment Agency and Defra. Therefore, the Board is encouraged to think ahead five to ten years in its decision making, thinking about the next generation.

5. Training

5.1 IDBs are expected by Defra to support relevant externally accredited training and/or professional development of its Board Members, officers and employees (if appropriate). It is therefore recommended that the Board identifies and budgets for any such requirements.

5.2 In addition, IDBs are expected by Defra to provide in-house training and/or professional development opportunities for its Board Members, officers and employees (if appropriate).

5.3 Topics that Defra suggest are i) Governance ii) Ethics iii) Finance iv) Environment v) Health, safety & welfare and vi) Communications & engagement.

5.4 The Board are asked to outline the training undertaken in the last year as well as future needs or plan for training. Members are asked to identify any topics areas they would value further training on as well as any site inspections that would help them undertake their role on the Board more effectively.

5.5 Member training is reported to Defra as part of the annual IDB1 return.

Author Name: Gemma Ashby
Role: Senior Business Support Officer

Middle Level Commissioners		Item No:	6
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB**	**Subject:**	**CLERK'S REPORT: STRENGTHENING WORKS PLANNING & DELIVERY**
Date:	**26th November 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Paul Burrows**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Refresh themselves as to the Members' Code of Conduct and ensure their Declarations of Interest are up-to-date.
B. Acknowledge that there are areas of strengthening needed in how the Board plans, scopes, commissions, and assures works delivery.
C. Develop an Action Plan based on the actions identified in this paper and monitor its delivery via future meetings.

1.1 Our role at the Middle Level Commissioners is to provide advice and guidance to IDBs that, if followed, manages Board Members' legal and financial risks, and meets the governance standards expected of a public authority.

1.2 Board Members carry personal responsibility and should refresh themselves as to the Members' Code of Conduct and ensure their Declarations of Interest are up-to-date.

1.3 Having met with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Board Members I Johnson, D Fabb and J German, along with the Board's employee and District Officer A Sweeney, there are areas of strengthening required in how the Board plans, scopes, commissions and assures works delivery. Strengthening has an added importance given the Board's desire to secure grant and external funding for future capital works.

1.4 Works programming and delivery is currently led by a 'Core Group' of Board Members, and it is important that, if this approach is to continue, they have a clear and documented delegation of authority from the Board (Action 1), and the Board ensures they have sufficient internal controls in place (Action 2). Internal Controls should be documented and followed, for example, if Board Members are also contractors to the Board, there needs to be suitable separation of interests.

1.5 The Board has an employee who is the Board's District Officer, however the Board has not put in place a Job Description with clear roles and responsibilities for the planning, scoping, commissioning and assurance of works delivery (Action 3). The Board as a collective is the employer and line manager, therefore the reporting lines to the Board ought to be clear and the Board need to have measures in place to manage performance and conduct, and deal with any issues or grievances (Action 4).

1.6 The Board needs both a) an environmental representative and b) a health & safety representative identified from its membership and that Member ought to be part of the 'Core Group' (Action 4). Responsibilities for both workstreams also need to be clarified with measures put in place to ensure due diligence and assurance of contractors as well as the Board's in-house operations (Action 5).

1.7 The Board has paid for and has been provided with advice, guidance and resources to enable them to plan and conduct routine maintenance works compliantly with environmental law, without compromising its wider water management objectives. The resources, such as Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to assist with this are also available via https://middlelevel.gov.uk/idb-portal/. In addition, there is advice and guidance service available to request ecological and environmental assessment of all non-routine work approaches, well in advance if possible, or for reactive approaches where necessary. A request form for such an assessment is also available from the same page on the MLC website (ESR template).

1.8 A draft Catchment Management Plan (CMP) has also been developed for and supplied to the Board covering a large part of the district. The CMP sets out the maintenance intensity and approaches required to maintain the required flood risk management service on a reach-by-reach basis. This can be expanded by the Board, who are best placed to consider such information, to cover the entire district (Action 6) and instructions on how to do this are also available on the IDB Portal on the MLC website.

1.9 These combined resources provide the information that the Board needs to commission and assure their routine maintenance, passing the relevant information to their contractors ahead of works delivery. They also serve as a data capture mechanism to inform the Annual Report (IDB1) submitted to Defra each year.

2.0 Training is made available for contractors, and it is strongly recommended that Board's only use contractors who have been suitably trained as part of their supplier due diligence and procurement approach (Action 7).

2.1 Once roles, responsibilities and delegations have been clarified, the Board needs to apply the advice and guidance already provided and use it to plan and budget for the 2027/28 works programme (Action 8).

Author Name: Paul Burrows
Role: Clerk

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**		**7**
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: CHIEF ENGINEER'S SUMMARY & CAPITAL PROGRAMME**	
Date:	**Thursday 26th November 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**		**Nicola Oldfield**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

- **A. Approve the 5-year investment plan and allocate funds as indicated in Appendix 1.**
- **B. Approve the development of a business case and allocate funds for Puddock Pumping Station refurbishment.**
- **C. Approve the recommendations in the M&E Report:**
  - **a. Obtain quotes for Pidley and Westmoor Pump inspections for subcommittee authorisation.**
  - **b. Authorise the replacement of the PFC units at Puddock Pumping Station.**
  - **c. Authorise installation of an alarm and CCTV at Washways Pumping Station.**

1. Enforcement & Compliance First Year Progress Report

It has now been a year since Dave Coles and Tony Payne joined the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) to establish the Enforcement and Compliance Team. During this first year, the team has made significant progress in strengthening compliance, recovering outstanding fees, and engaging with key stakeholders across the region.

During this period, the team has opened a total of 109 individual enforcement cases, spanning 22 Board areas. This reflects both the scale of historic non-compliance issues and the proactive approach taken to address them.

Some high-value recoveries and successful interventions have been achieved, including the successful recovery of approximately £860,000 of outstanding fees owed to MLC and associated Boards. These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of a structured, consistent enforcement approach and improved stakeholder engagement.

The team has delivered strong and measurable results, both in terms of financial recovery and improved compliance across the Middle Level. They have demonstrated their value through persistent enforcement, effective negotiation, and the ability to engage constructively with previously non-compliant stakeholders.

With a solid foundation now in place, the team is well positioned to continue ensuring compliance, supporting strategic developments, and protecting the interests of the Middle Level Commissioners and the Boards they serve.

Ongoing Work and Strategic Engagement

The team continues to actively manage a range of ongoing cases and strategic projects.

Honeysome Industrial Estate, Chatteris

Ongoing negotiations with the landowner of the Honeysome Industrial Estate, Chatteris, continue in relation to the requirement to undertake vegetation clearance works on the embankment of Fenton Lode, which forms part of the wider site. A recent site meeting between representatives of the landowner and Board Officers resulted in positive engagement and progress towards securing agreement of the proposed works. Discussions are ongoing but it is anticipated that a satisfactory outcome will be achieved by the end of the calendar year.

2. Summary of Key Planning Issues

We will, when possible, seek the Board's input, rather than wait for Board meetings. This will be done via correspondence with the Chair, Vice Chair, District Officer and any appropriate sub-committees.

Refer to Appendix 2 for more details.

3. Lowland Peat Water Schemes (Discovery and Implementation Grants)

The Discovery grant bids will fund the creation of water management implementation plans to enable the raising and managing of water tables in lowland peat soils.

A successful bid was made on behalf of the Board to fund a project to the value of £183k.

The key outcomes and completion dates of this project are as follows.

ID	Description of Milestone	Evidence of completion	Date
MS1	Condition Assessment of Washways and Puddock Assets	Condition Assessment Report	30/04/2027
MS2	Optioneering Report for Puddock Pumping Station culvert.	Report	30/06/2027
MS3	Detailed Design Development of works at Fillenham Drain Weir, Acre Fen Penstock, Red Tile Farm Penstock, Washways Penstock.	Design Drawings and Documents	31/07/2027
MS4	Completion of the catchment modelling	Modelling Report	30/09/2027
MS5	Production of draft implementation plan(s), draft executive summary, and draft case study.	Submission of the draft documents (implementation plan(s), executive summary, case study) to the Environment Agency Lowland Peat Water Grant team	15/11/2027
MS6	Implementation Plan	Final Report	31/12/2027

The Implementation Plan will detail how water tables in peat soils can be raised if discovery confirms that this is appropriate and achievable for the district.

The plan will identify the operating systems and infrastructure required to deliver water table raising in the project area. It is expected to provide sufficient detail to inform a further bid for grant to fund works delivery. This may be under the Lowland Peat Implementation Grant which will open in April 2028.

Outcomes from the discovery project will be shared with the Board at the May 2028 meeting.

4. Asset Investment

An asset investment plan has been drafted based on known asset condition and the Key Health Indicators contained in the M&E Report. This is presented in Appendix A.

Critical works

Critical works are needed to sustain the operation of the existing assets in the short to medium term. To effectively plan, resource and deliver these works, this 5-year programme needs budgeting for now, and as plans develop further costs can be confirmed.

The Board is asked to approve the 5-year investment plan and allocate budgets as indicated.

Capital works

Puddock Pumping Station has been classed as the highest priority for refurbishment based on KHIs and the fact they are submersible pumps with inherent inefficiencies as described in the M&E Report. It is recommended that the pumps and control panels be replaced.

The availability of FCERM Grant in Aid funding is uncertain. Although pumping station refurbishments should attract GiA under the new funding scheme, the Board should consider budgeting for the works if GiA is unavailable.

It is recommended that the Board seeks GiA to fund delivery of this project, but the Board will need to fund some initial work to develop the Business Case. Activities to be funded by the Board include:

- Collate asset data and identify gaps in knowledge.
- Undertake additional data collection/surveys as required; further asset data may be required through visual or detailed asset inspections.
- Engage with Environment Agency and any other key stakeholders, e.g. works to replace pumps will need to be assessed to ensure the works comply with the Eel Regulations 2009.
- Assess the options (as required for the Business Case).
- Obtain cost estimates for the work.
- Write the Business Case and submit to EA for assurance and approval for funding.

The estimated engineering fees for this are £5-8k plus costs for any additional surveys.

The estimated cost of the works is £800,000.

The Board is asked to:

a) approve the development of a Business Case for GiA funding, and
b) approve a contingency budget for delivery of the works if GiA is unavailable.

Author Name: Nicola Oldfield
Role: Chief Engineer

Appendix 1: **Asset Investment Plan**
Appendix 2: **List of planning applications since last report**
Appendix 3: **M&E Report**

Appendix 1

Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB
Asset Investment Plan

		Investment (£) for Board Approval November 2026													
Asset	**Built**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**2032**	**2033**	**2034**	**2035**	**2036**	**2037**	**2038**	**Future**	**Comments**
Acre Fen	1984				60,000					15000*	8000^			537,600	Depends on outcome of Lowland Peat Water Discovery project
High Fen	1976				100,000					15000*	4000^	4000^		1,728,000	
Pidley	1979	50,000		50,000					15000*	4000^	4000^			3,840,000	
Puddock	1992		20,000	800,000										2,880,000	Potential for GiA funding in 2028
Washways	1975					200,000					20000*	5000^	5000^	9,162,240	Depends on outcome of LPWD project
Westmoor	1962	50,000		50,000					15000*	4000^	4000^			1,574,400	
Washways downstream sheet piling refurb/replace	1975?			TBC										TBC	Depends on outcome of LPWD project
Water transfer penstocks at pumping stations	Various			TBC										TBC	Depends on outcome of LPWD project
Other water management structures across the district	Various			TBC										TBC	Depends on outcome of LPWD project
Total		**100,000**	**20,000***	**900,000**	**160,000**	**200,000**									

*Dewater, inspect, business case, plan works

* Dewater and inspect 5 years after overhaul to inform asset condition, residual design life and plan for future investment

^ Develop plans for future investment and write business case for grant funding (2 years duration)

Future spend is the estimated replacement cost based on £1.2m per cumec plus 60% contingency

Design life of a new station is 70-75 yrs

Appendix 2

There have been 20 planning applications responded to since the last meeting.

There have been no applications for Byelaw Consent (to undertake works in and around watercourses) granted since the last meeting.

There have been 1 application for Byelaw Consent (to discharge to a watercourse) granted since the last meeting.

There have been no infiltration device applications acknowledged since the last meeting.

Appendix 3

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**7**
Meeting:	**WARBOYS SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY IDB (Hereafter referred to as the Board)**	**Subject:**	**CONSULTING ENGINEERS REPORT: MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL**
Date:	**Thursday 26th November 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Dave Bantoft**

1. M&E key messages and advice

Other than the matters previously reported or described below, only routine maintenance has been carried out since the last meeting and the pumping plant at each of the stations is mechanically and electrically in a satisfactory condition. **The stations and pumps are at an age where reliability is a concern and a plan should be put in place to inspect, repair or replace items as necessary to ensure ongoing reliability.**

The District Officer supplies regular electricity meter, and pump hour reads which are a great help in verifying electricity bills and supports IMSERV meter operator appointments for meter reads and meter repairs.

1.1 M&E Equipment Key Health Indicators

			Pump		Weedscreen			
Station	**Built**	**Pump**	**Overhaul**	**Control Panel**	**Weedscreen Bars**	**WSC Gantry**	**WSC O/H**	**WSC Controls**
Acre Fen	1984	1984	2006	1984	1984	N/A	N/A	N/A
High Fen	1976	2021 (1) 2009 (2)	2021 (1) 2020 (2)	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020
Pidley	1979	1979	2005 (1) 2007 (2)	2016	2003	2003	2026	2026
Puddock	1992	1992	2004 (1) 1992 (2)	1992	1992	N/A	N/A	N/A
Washways	1975	1975	2016 (1) 2016 (2) 2016 (3) 2016 (4)	2016	1998	1998	2026	2026
Westmoor	1962	1962	2007 (1) 2008 (2)	2011	2000	2016	2016	2016

The Key Health Indicators table above shows the critical area for concern and improvement is the pumps. The pumps range from 5 to 64 years old with last refurbishments ranging from 5 to 34 years ago.

Submersible pumps such as those at Puddock and High Fen are often not cost effective to repair and lead time on new pumps can be up to a year. Standard pumps are normally cost effective to repair and lead times can be as short as 4 weeks or can be over a year if impellors are damaged and have to be reverse engineered. Costs can be in the range £30k to £100k depending on pump condition.

2. Pump Inspection & Repair/Replacement Plan

A basic pump inspection & repair/replacement plan has been produced to assist in planning and budgeting for the upcoming works necessary to ensure the resilience of the stations. It has been based on inspection and repair of the existing plant where feasible to ensure the stations resilience in the short to medium term. As many stations are now in excess of 50 years old a plan needs to be started for the future major overhauls or replacements.

YEAR	SITE	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING
2027	Pidley pump 1 Inspection & Repair	50K	BOARD
2027	Westmoor Pump 1 Inspection & Repair	50K	BOARD
2028	Puddock 2 New Pumps and control Panel	800K	POTENTIAL GiA
2029	Pidley pump 2 Inspection & Repair	50K	BOARD
2029	Westmoor Pump 2 Inspection & Repair	50K	BOARD
2030	High Fen Pump 2 New Pump	100K	BOARD
2030	Acre Fen pump Inspection & Repair including new control panel	60K	BOARD
2031	Washways Pump with highest hours	50K	BOARD
2031	Washways Pumps 2,3,4	150K	BOARD

In general, the works have been prioritised relating to time from last overhaul.

Acre Fen priority has been reduced as it is a small pump with less pumping hours per year and could be over pumped more easily than other sites.

Puddock pumps are submersible and unlikely to be cost effective to repair, the control panel also requires replacement. This is an opportunity for a more comprehensive site refurbishment with modern more efficient pumps with variable speed drives.

High Fen Pump 2 was overhauled at short notice in 2020 and due to lead time for cable glands was rebuilt using old units, it has since suffered low insulation resistance readings which indicate there may be water ingress. This pump should be replaced with new.

Washways pumps were overhauled in 2016 and as the station is such a critical station one pump should be removed for inspection in 2031 and its condition used to determine when the other pumps should be inspected.

Please confirm if the board would like quotes for the Pidley and Westmoor Pump inspections including estimates for repairs so that the subcommittee can authorise the works to be completed in 2027/28.

3. M&E Maintenance Works

3.1 <u>Puddock</u>

The pumps at Puddock regularly show water ingress on the control panel. The insulation resistances are currently satisfactory.
These submersible pumps have been in the longest of the boards pumps and lead times for overhaul or replacement of pumps of this type can be from 6 months to well over a year.

The meter at Puddock was exchanged in May 2026.

The last routine inspection took place at Puddock Pump Station on 8th September 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Slacker leaking excessively
2) Outlet doors not closing completely
3) Pump 1 PFC Fuse 1 blown – removed other fuses on capacitor

The PFC units on both pumps should be replaced. Cost is likely to be c£3k. This units ensure the pumps are using electricity as efficiently as possible.

Please authorise the replacement of the PFC units, cost c£3k

3.2 **Westmoor**

The last routine inspection took place at Westmoor Pump Station on 14th September 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Hose Drums need re-coating
2) Level Controller Buzz
3) Top Grease lines on both pumps don't seem to be getting grease through and need to be investigated

3.3 **Acre Fen**

The Pump Cabinet is heavily corroded, and replacement should be considered or fencing around the station which would allow better access with digger to clean the screen. The control panel is from 1984 and the oldest of the WS&P control panels.

The Weedscreen bars are damaged and there are now gaps which may allow debris into the pump causing major damage to pump. Replacement of this screen is likely to cost c£20k

The last routine inspection took place at Acre Fen Pump Station on 14th September 2026.

3.4 **High Fen**

Routine inspections have identified that Pump 2 insulation resistance has been fluctuating over the last few years. This may be an indication of water ingress into the motor. Pump 2 has been set to duty and will continue to be monitored. If Pump 2 requires replacement the support frame will also need replacing as it is heavily corroded. Pump 2 discharge pipe is weeping which needs to be investigated to determine the repair required. Pumps of this type are often not viable to repair, and replacements can be over 6 months lead time.
The last routine inspection took place at High Fen Pump Station on 4th September 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Pump 2 resistance varying, switched Pump 2 to duty, MLC to Monitor
2) Pump support frame is heavily corroded, if pump 2 needs to be removed a new frame will be required
3) Pump 2 outlet pipe is showing signs of weeping & Pump 2 lid missing

The Weedscreen Cleaner check confirmed operation was all ok.

3.5 **Washways**

The station was broken into onto 28th September 2026, and the engine batteries were stolen, the cables cut and various other cables onsite stolen. This put both diesel engines out of action for a week while parts were sourced and fitted. If this had been during a storm event the station would not have been able to cope.

Washways is a highly critical station and security measures such as alarm and CCTV should be installed to protect the station. The District Officer has obtained a quote of c£5k for an alarm and CCTV system please confirm if the board would like for proceed with the works.

Pump 1 vibration has been investigated and traced to a worn idler shaft in the clutch assembly. Initial signs are that pump, and gearbox are good although this cannot be confirmed until clutch has been repaired. The clutch manufacturer no longer has a UK manufacturing base, and we are in the process of souring the parts from Holland, if obsolete and unavailable we will need to have the parts reverse engineered. The clutch is currently stripped awaiting parts, if there is a long lead time on parts then we can reassemble so the pump could be used as a last resort if necessary.

Last routine inspection took place at Washways Pump Station on 29th September 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Running order 3241
2) Pump 4 Engine showing fault code 000729(002D9h). Also Pump 4 Engine won't re-engage switch back to engine, MLC to investigate

3.6 **Pidley**

Access to Pidley station is problematic through the majority of the pumping season due to the condition of the tracks and these should be improved to facilitate safe access.

Pump 1 has become noisy which is thought to be the motor bearings, this needs to be investigated and confirmed, overhaul of the motor including replacement bearings is likely to cost c£5k. This may need to be done this season if it shows signs of deteriorating. If the pump inspection & repair goes ahead in 2027 this will be included within this works.

The last routine inspection took place at Pidley Pump Station on 4th September 2026. Recommendations / remarks include:

1) Pump 1 Noisy Motor (bottom bearing?)
2) Upstream sensor not displaying anything
3) Pump 2 Motor heater fuse has been removed as the heater does not work. To rectify this the motor would need to be overhauled

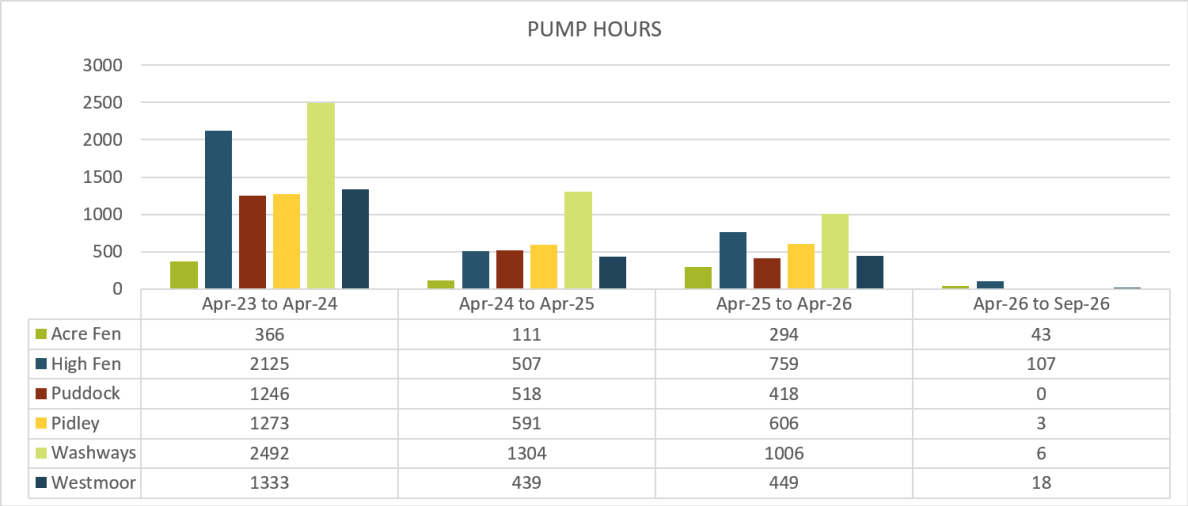
4. Inspections

4.1 HSB Engineering annual inspections for insurance were carried out on 8th September 2026 at Westmoor, High Fen & Pidley. The HSB inspection was not carried out at Washways as the weedscreen was away for overhaul with CW Engineering.

4.2 The mandatory site Electrical Installation Condition Reports (due every 5 years) were completed successfully in December 2023.

Station	EICR Date	EICR Due
Acre Fen	6-Dec-2023	6-Dec-2028
High Fen	6-Dec-2023	6-Dec-2028
Pidley	13-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2028
Puddock	13-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2028
Washways	6-Dec-2023	6-Dec-2028
Westmoor	13-Dec-2023	13-Dec-2028

5. Pump Hours



	Apr-23 to Apr-24	Apr-24 to Apr-25	Apr-25 to Apr-26	Apr-26 to Sep-26
Acre Fen	366	111	294	43
High Fen	2125	507	759	107
Puddock	1246	518	418	0
Pidley	1273	591	606	3
Washways	2492	1304	1006	6
Westmoor	1333	439	449	18

6. Water level Management

The pumping stations have summer and winter pump level references based on historic values which serve as very good reference points. I would actively encourage pump attendants to vary these to suit their current catchment conditions. For example, running pump start and stop levels at intermediate settings above the base winter settings during times of high Soil Moisture Deficit and then reducing towards winter level setpoints as the SMD reduces or if there is heavy rainfall forecast. This needs to be balanced with ensuring the pump has a good operating range, so it is never short cycling (hunting). This can also be used to ensure maximum benefit of the lower night electricity rate.

Ultimately this takes more operator time but will produce more efficient running and reduce costs. We can advise on this if needed and show some good and bad examples to help with setting and monitoring your pumps.

Author Name: Dave Bantoft
Role: M&E Engineer

Provided by the Middle Level Commissioners		**Item No:**	**9**
Meeting:	**WARBOYS, SOMERSHAM & PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**	**Subject:**	**FINANCE REPORT**
Date:	**Thursday 26th November 2026**	**Officer Responsible:**	**Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to:

A. Consider the Finance Officer's Summary
B. Note the Budgeting Review within Appendix 2.
C. Lowland Peat
D. Note the Highland Water contributions
E. Review and approve Determination of Land for rating purposes and Rate arrears
F. Note the Precept to the Environmental Agency

Finance Officer's review and key messages

For the rating estimates for 2026/2027 standard provisions were made for general expenditure with specific items included where known. Standard figures had been reviewed and approved by the finance committee.

1. **Budget Monitoring**

1.1 The current forecast for income/expenditure to 31st March 2027 shows that expenditure could be in excess of the budget against which rates were set. Appendix 2

The main cause of the adverse variance is the additional cost of Drain works done which is approximately £17,000 more than the budget. In addition, members are advised that these figures are estimating pumping costs to be in-line with the budget proposal against which the rates have been set and should therefore also consider the significant financial implications major storm events can have on drainage Board budgets.

At the time of setting the budget new Electricity rates for the period commencing 1st October 2026 were not known. The actual rates are in line with the budgeted rates set. These rates are set for the period to 31s March 2027. New rates will be known when setting the 2027/2028 budget.

2. **Lowland Peat Grant**

2.1 During the year MLC were successful in securing Grant Aid on behalf of the Board in respect of the Lowland Peat Grant Fund. The sum of £191,075 has been awarded with works to be completed by 31st March 2028. The likely expenditure in this financial year is likely to be in the region of £40,000.

3. Highland Water Contributions

3.1 Under Section 57 of Land Drainage Act 1991 the Board can make a claim for funding to the Environment Agency for the additional costs of the onward management of water from the

district's highland. It is at the Environment Agency's discretion if they pay the contribution, and it is accounted for within the local team's annual maintenance budget.

3.2 When completing the budget proposal claims were estimated against the likely out-turn for 2025/2026 and the budgeted expenditure for 2026/2027. The highland water claim included within the rating estimates was £21,489. The final submitted claim amounted to £21,845.17 (£22,637.66 representing 80% of the Board's estimated expenditure for the financial year 2026/27 less £(792.490 representing an over claim of the financial year 2025/26).

3.3 Payment of the submitted highland water claims have been received in full. The forecast has been completed using the submitted claims.

4. **Determination of land for rating purposes and rate arrears – Appendix 1**

5. Precept to the Environment Agency

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 precept for 2026/2027 is £24,630 (2025/2026: £24,147).

Author Name: Andrew Wool/Sam Ablett
Role: Head of Finance/Assistant Treasurer

Appendix 1 Determination of Land Values for Rating and Rate Arrears

Appendix 2 Budget Monitoring

Appendix 1

Warboys Somersham & Pidley IDB Determination of Annual Values for Rating purposes May-26

2026-2027

Location	Reason for change.	Area (Hectares)	Agricultural Land	Special Levies Fenland	Special Levies Hunts.	Special Levies TOTAL	Rate W/Offs
	Transfer value to Special Levy - £65.95 per hectare						
	Opening Values (£)	4431.461	739,983	22,957	67,453	830,658	
	Opening %		89.08%	2.76%	8.12%	99.97%	
Doddington Road, Chatteris	Sold as individual building plots	1.083	-135	71			41.85
Roundhouse Farm Puddock Road Warboys	Domestic Dwelling	0.211	-36	14			22.68
Roundhouse Farm Puddock Road Warboys	GIS Rating Review	-8.346	-1,107				343.17
Previously Red Tile Farm	Arrears relating to April - October 2016						2602.48
West Street Chatteris	Housing Development	1.970	-274	130			98.64
	Total determinations	4223.115	-1,552	215	0	0	
	Closing Values (£)		738,431	23,172	67,453	829,056	
	Closing %		89.11%	2.76%	8.12%	100.00%	
							£3,108.82

Appendix 2

WARBOYS SOMERSHAM AND PIDLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
BUDGET MONITORING 2026/2027

		Actual 2021/2022	*Actual 2022/2023*	*Actual 2023/2024*	Actual 2024/2025 £	Actual 2025/2026	Approved budget 2026/2027 £	Actual - To 31st October 2026 £	Forecast 2026/2027 £
1	District labour (including District Officer's salary)	*36,089*	*65,747*	*37,145*	42,449	47,676	51,500	24,685	51,500
2	Rates, insurances and telephones	*4,452*	*4,616*	*5,614*	6,557	9,112	10,250	11,761	11,761
3	Repairs and renewals	*19,401*	*17,122*	*29,494*	37,509	15,614	43,591 C	10,390 C	43,591
4	Drainworks	*83,345*	*16,267*	*12,354*	15,970	28,082	34,500 D	5,625 D	51,820
	Piling works								
5	Fuel (oil and electricity)-including District Officer's travelling	*48,545*	*68,792*	*210,247*	85,364	82,693	101,000	29,084	101,000
6	Administration charge, Audit fee, printing, stationery, advertising, Association of Drainage Authorities subscriptions etc	*23,516*	*23,975*	*25,531*	28,729	30,598	32,400	13,911	32,400
7	Environment Agency - Precept	*21,877*	*22,314*	*22,984*	23,673	24,147	24,630	24,630	24,630
8	Capital Reserve Fund	*12,532*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Internal Loan Repayment	-	-	-	-	10,317	10,317	5,158	10,317
		249,757	*218,833*	*343,369*	240,252	248,238	308,188	125,246	327,019
	Improvement works	*10,632*	*28,361*	-	16,371	144,120	-	- H	94,059
	LESS Interest on Deposit Accounts, Private Works, Highland Water Contributions, Contributions from Development Charges Account etc	*72,719*	*54,987*	*39,276*	157,611	180,506	51,181 I	27,783 I	145,240
	Net Expenditure	*187,669*	*192,207*	*304,093*	99,012	211,853	257,007	97,462	275,838
	Rate Requirement								
	Rate set	*21.00p*	*22.00p*	*27.00p*	*32.00p*		31.00 p		