

Minutes of a meeting of the Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Monday 28th February 2023 at The Falcon Hotel, 1 London Street, Whittlesey at 6.30pm

Present: M Dale (Chairman), M Sweet (Vice-Chairman), R L Price (CEO), O Wheatley, Cllr K Mayor, Cllr A Miscandlon.

Apologies for Absence – R Stevenson, J Fountain, Cllr B Wicks, Cllr D Laws

FD13/22 Confirmation of Minutes – **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2022 were recorded correctly and that they be signed as being a true and accurate record.

FD14/22 Pumping Station

The CEO reported that the telemetry installation by Lee Dickens Ltd had been completed and was fully operational. The installation of a digital syphon valve (DSV) was completed, and testing was to start imminently. The Chairman reported that the DSV was being installed as a failsafe option should the flap-valve fail to seal, and water start to backflow through the pump.

FD15/22 Pension Cessation

The CEO reported that the payment plan had been agreed with the Pension Company and that on the signed and approved minutes being released from the July 2022 meeting that the agreement and payment plan would come into effect.

FD16/22 District Officer

MD reported that the entire district would be flail mowed and basket cut in this year's drainage maintenance scheme. North Level IDB would be cleansing the counter drain. M Sweet questioned the timing of the counter drain works due to ground nesting birds. M Dale suggested that the counter drain should be cut from the southside the next time its done.

ACTION: R Price to ask North Level to consider cutting the counter drain from the South.

General Matters-

FD17/22 a) Risk Management and Health & Safety

The CEO reported that a Health and Safety Audit was still to be arranged.

FD18/22 b) ADA and EA

The CEO reported that the ADA were in talks with DEFRA and Ofgem to investigate the rising standing charge costs on new electric tariffs. ADA had gathered data from all Boards across the United Kingdom with some stations seeing an increase as high as 1000% in the past 2 fiscal years. Cllr K Mayor stated that it was reassuring to know that the matter was being discussed at a higher level of Government due to the added pressure that energy prices have put upon local authorities.

FD19/22 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2020/21

The CEO reported income of £16,731.79 and an expenditure of £21,201.88. A deficit of £4,470.09 was reported. This was due to Lee Dickens Telemetry install being paid out of reserves.

FD20/22 Rates and Levy Requirement

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2021/2022:

- a) Proportion to be borne by Agricultural Sector 40.82%
- b) Proportion to be borne by Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council 59.18% In 2023/2024 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £1,191.64. The estimated net expenditure of £31,720.67 in 2023/2024 is equivalent to:
 - a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 26.75p in the £ to raise £13,011.94
 - b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £18,864.43

After discussions the Board decided to use some reserves to offset against the predicted increase in electricity costs.

RESOLVED – that a rate of 22p in the £ be levied:

- a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land & buildings of 12p to raise £10,701.40
- b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £15,514.68
- c) That the Clerk/Consultant be authorised to collect any outstanding drainage rate through the appropriate court
- d) That the seal be affixed to the Record of drainage rate and special levies.

FD21/22 Date of next Meeting – 26th June 2023