

Minutes of a meeting of the Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Thursday 30th July 2021 at The Three Horseshoes, March Road Turves, at 7.00pm

Present: P D Band (Chairman), M W Dales, T J Fletcher, R L Price (CEO)

Apologies for Absence – M Sweet, R J Stevenson, O Wheatley, Cllr C Boden, Cllr D Laws, Cllr A Miscandlon.

Declaration of members Pecuniary Interest – M W Dale expressed his interests in his land and potential planning.

154/20 Confirmation of Minutes – **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2020 were recorded correctly and that they be signed as being a true and accurate record.

155/20 Pumping Station

The CEO reported that the telemetry installation by Lee Dickens Ltd had been completed and was fully operational.

156/20 District Officer

MD reported that the entire district would be flail mowed and basket cut in this year's drainage maintenance scheme.

General Matters-

157/20 a) Risk Management and Health & Safety

M W Dale motioned for Security Fencing to be installed around the Pumping Station site to prevent the potential for accidents to curious members of the general public; once the current Pandemic had passed. This motion was passed, with the understanding that when able to the NFU would also complete a Health and Safety audit for the Board.

158/20 b) ADA and EA

The Boards application for a New Abstraction Licence, was received on 21/10/2019. The Consultant reported that the following comment had been received regarding the application. The Agency have looked at the application and as there are no details about the transfer structure (a penstock) including dimensions and upstream and downstream water levels, we are unable to estimate the quantities that could potentially be transferred per hour, per day and per year. The application form also refers to a Water Level Management Plan which may also help to estimate the quantities of water transferred through the Penstock at Mortons Leam. The Consultant reported that he had spoken to the Agency and the matters raised would be dealt with.

RESOLVED 159/20b – The CEO had undertaken a survey of the Inlet and provided dimensions and flowrates to the EA which in turn had been approved.

159/20 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2020/21

The CEO reported that the estimates of income and expenditure had not needed to change with the board making a deficit of £1,837.58 in 2019/20 due to the increased electricity usage and pumping station maintenance costs from higher-than-average rainfall. Also, the board have now started to pay for their water transfer license at a annual fee of £375.

160/20 Annual Accounts 2019/2020

a) The Board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2019/2020 and signed the Certificate of exemption as the Boards turnover did not exceed £25,000.

b) Audit Arrangements – External Audit – Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as external auditor.

The 2019/2020 audit has been advertised with inspection of accounts from Monday 13th July to Friday 28th August 2020. 3 Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex-Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has undertaken the internal examination for the 2019/2020 accounts. The Board noted the internal auditors report on 2019/2020 financial years accounts.

161/20 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 2020/2021:

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 2019/2020 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £1,189.97. The estimated net expenditure of £14,285 in 2019/2020 is equivalent to:

a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 12.00p in the £ to raise £5,829.36 b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £8,450.28

RESOLVED – that a rate of 12p in the £ be levied:

a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land & buildings of 12p to raise £5,829.36

b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £8,450.28

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.

170/20 Date of next Meeting – tbc