

NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

23rd June 2021

At the Meeting of the Board held this day at the Drainage Office, Thorney

Present:

M H S Sly (Chairman)

Cllr A C Beal	Cllr M Humphrey
Cllr G Booth	Cllr Mrs D Laws
Cllr C J T H Brewis	Cllr Mrs K Mayor
Cllr R Brown	Cllr N Meekins
D R Coates (to 10.00a.m.)	H Neale
G T Fisher	Cllr M Seymour
A J N Gee	Cllr N Simons
N J Harris	J W J Sly
Cllr P Hiller	A J Wadsley
Mr J Holdich OBE	J Waltham

In attendance:

P D Sharman (Chief Executive)
J Stubley (Operations Engineer)
S Smith (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend were received from W E C Gee (Vice-Chairman), J A Clarke, Cllr S Clark, C J Cutteridge, Cllr M Haseeb, P T Hurn, Cllr A Miscandlon, S Proctor.

The Chairman explained that Cllr S Allen had taken up the role of Deputy Leader of Peterborough City Council and had been replaced on the Board by Cllr M Haseeb. He thanked Cllr Allen for his attendance and input at previous Board Meetings.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED (755)

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st April 2021, copies of which having been circulated with the Agenda, be taken as read and certified under the hand of the Chairman as being a correct record of the business of such meeting.

3 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Item 3 – page 793

The Chief Executive explained that he is aware of ongoing issues with our tenant at the Dog in a Doublet Public House, with conifers dropped in the Counter Drain, plus blockage issues with a neighbour's septic tank and soakaways causing problems with surface water discharge from the pub over the boundary fence into our pumping station yard. He confirmed that this is an ongoing battle and confirmed that a letter asking them to stop has been sent.

Cllr Laws raised concerns should the tenants decide to burn the conifers due to the volume of trees.

Mr Fisher commented that they do burn rubbish and when they have been asked to stop they make unpleasant remarks. He also confirmed that they have buried horses on the land.

The Chairman commented that this appears to be a matter for Peterborough City Council Environmental Health and the Environment Agency. The Chief Executive confirmed that he is working with the Environment Agency and this is ongoing.

Cllr Laws confirmed that the tenants have been reported to the RSPCA as they have goats and pigs escaping on a regular basis and these have caused near collisions on the North Bank road to which the police have been called.

Cllr Hiller commented that as it is tenanted have the Board met with the landlord. The Chief Executive responded that it is owned by Quaffings and they have been informed via a copy of the correspondence sent to the tenants.

Cllr Hiller commented that he feels that this is a wider issue and has gone beyond the initial complaint and Peterborough City Council should be involved from a regulatory point of view.

Item 7 – Page 801

The Operations Engineer provided an update regarding works to the pointing doors at Rings End Sluice, these have now been postponed until mid August and will take eight weeks to complete. The Chairman asked if the works would definitely take place in August. The Operations Engineers responded that the works were likely but not definite.

Cllr Laws asked who had confirmed the works. The Operations Engineer responded that J P Stanney from the EA. Cllr Laws replied that she would attempt to influence the timescale for the works by contacting Stephen Barclay MP. The Board agreed with this approach.

4 PROCEEDINGS AND STANDING ORDERS

The Chief Executive explained that ADA have issued an amended model Proceedings and Standing Orders to enable the Board to continue to hold remote meetings indefinitely. It was agreed that the Board would adopt the changes.

RESOLVED (756)

To approve and accept the amended Proceedings and Standing Orders.

It was proposed by Cllr Booth and seconded by Cllr Beal and supported by majority vote.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest in relation to Item 14 Planning Matters were given as follows:

Councillor Hiller – Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning at Peterborough City Council;
Councillor Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning at Fenland District Council;
Councillor Mayor – Member of Planning Committee at Fenland District Council;
Councillor Beal – Member of Planning Committee at South Holland District Council.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Operations Engineer reported that there were no updates.

He confirmed that the next meeting of the Health and Safety Committee would take place on 7th July 2021 and he would report back to the Board following that meeting.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Executive referred to the preface and the Finance Report enclosed with the Agenda and updated the position regarding income from drainage rates and special levies.

He explained the reason for the increase in Maintenance of Drains being due to piling and revetment works.

He explained that Maintenance of Pumping Stations was higher due to weedscreen refurbishment and the increase in Capital Scheme from Revenue being due to extra refurbishment works at Hundreds Pumping Station.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the first tranche of Special Levies had been received.

He explained that a Development Levy and Commuted Sum had been received from Larkfleet Homes to deal with surface water following the building of new homes in Thorney.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive for his report.

Members raised no further questions and in conclusion it was

RESOLVED (757)

That the Financial Report be accepted and approved.

8 ENGINEER'S REPORT

1 Rainfall has been as follows:

		April		May	
		mm	inch	mm	inch
a)	Tydd P S	4.5	0.2		
b)	Sutton St Edmund	5.3	0.2	64.9	2.6
c)	Thorney Offices	4.8	0.2	73.3	2.9
d)	Cross Guns	9.2	0.4	95.0	3.7
e)	Dog-in-a-Doublet	5.6	0.2	73.0	2.8
f)	Peakirk	4.8	0.2	83.4	3.3
g)	Hundreds	5.4	0.2	75.8	3.0

2 Hydrometric Information

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
13.04.21	4.8	33.4	18.05.21	10.5	37.1
20.04.21	6.5	45.5	25.05.21	10.0	30.9
27.04.21	7.5	58.0	01.06.21	13.5	54.0
04.05.21	7.0	51.9	08.06.21	17.1	73.7
11.05.21	9.6	43.0			

3 Pumping hours have been as follows:

		April	May
a)	Poplars	24	24
b)	Denhams	0	3
c)	Dog-in-a-Doublet (New) (Large)	17	44
	(Small)	0	0
	Dog-in-a-Doublet (Old)	0	0
d)	Cross Guns – Electric	0	63
	– Diesel	37	26
e)	Mouth Lane – Electric	8	3
	– Diesel	1	0
f)	Willow Holt	6	16
g)	Tydd – Electric	36	59
	– Diesel	27	15
h)	Postland	4	3
i)	Newborough	11	32

j)	Peakirk	3	2
k)	Hundreds	20	0
		194	290

4 Maintenance to 1st June 2021

		2021/22	2020/21
a)	Hand Roding	Nil	(Nil)
b)	Machine Roding		
	CAT 320	Nil	(Nil)
	Volvo EC250	Nil	(Nil)
	Hitachi ZX130	Nil	(Nil)
	Hired	Nil	(Nil)
	Tractor and Weed Basket	Nil	(Nil)
c)	Flailing		
	John Deere 6170R	Nil	(Nil)
	Claas Arion 650	Nil	(Nil)
	John Deere 6175R	Nil	(Nil)
	Hired	Nil	(Nil)
d)	Mudding Out – Machine		
	Volvo EC250	Nil	(Nil)
	CAT 320	Nil	(Nil)
	Hired	Nil	(Nil)
e)	Mudding Out – Hand	Nil	(Nil)
f)	Chemical Weed Control		
	Roundup Pro-biactive – tractor	Nil	(50,000m)
	Roundup Pro-biactive – hand	Nil	(4,175m)
	Total	Nil	(Total 54,175m)
g)	Piping Side Dykes	Nil	(12m)
h)	Revetment Work	840m	(120m)
i)	Cott Raking – Machine	Nil	(Nil)
j)	Tree Cutting – Machine	Nil	(Nil)
k)	Properties		

Substantial work has been undertaken at Tydd Pumping Station house. The old windows and lintels have been removed and we are now awaiting delivery of new windows. Repairs to brickwork have also been undertaken.

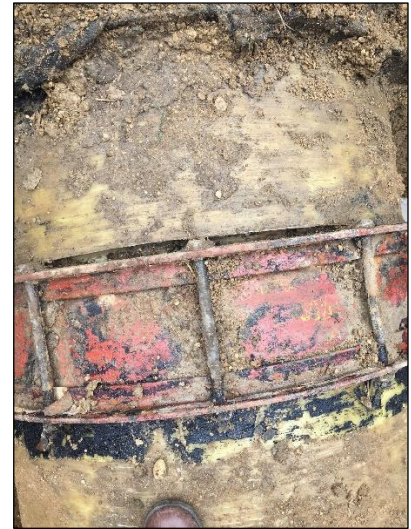
The downstairs floor in Cross Guns Pumping Station house (living room and hallway) has been removed and replaced due to rotten timber joists and floorboards. Drain installation work in the garden has also been undertaken in an attempt to eliminate standing water from beneath the house.

l) **Pumping Stations**

Postland pump number 1 was removed in early February. Extensive corrosion to the pump casing was discovered and the pump is still currently being repaired by Fenflow Engineering Limited.

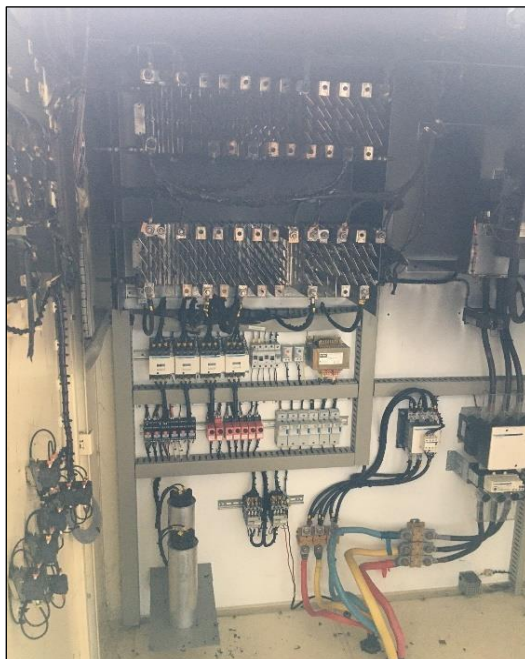
Tydd Pump number 2 is also currently being repaired by Fenflow Engineering Limited following removal in January 2021. Failure of the thrust bearing cooling system caused damage to the bearing surfaces. It is anticipated that the pump will be repaired by mid-June.

Following an investigation into water behind the pumps at Newborough Pumping Station it was discovered that a fiberglass discharge pipe immediately downstream of pump number 1 has broken. Replacement parts are currently being sourced to repair this.



Split visible within the fibreglass discharge pipe

Failure of electrical equipment (exact source still unknown, pending electrical investigation) at Cross Guns Pumping Station caused the control panel to pump number 5 to overheat. As a result, pump numbers 4 & 5 are now out of commission until the repairs are made. We are currently in discussion with the Board's insurers.



Heat damage on control panel for pump 5

New PLC systems, HMI screens, replacement flatpump cables and limit switches have been installed on the automatic weed screen cleaners at Dog in a Doublet, Cross Guns, Tydd, Poplars and Willow Holt pumping stations. Orders have been placed to upgrade the remaining weed screen cleaners at Mouth Lane, Postland and Newborough. It is anticipated that these will be complete in July 2021.

Routine maintenance to the Board's other pumping stations.

m) **Water Level Control Structures**

Fresh water feeds from the River Welland and Nene are currently closed.

Sluice gates are being lowered and dam boards are being installed where water levels will not disrupt piling and bank repair work.

n) **Board's Plant**

General repairs and maintenance to Boards' plant and vehicles.

Photos of maintenance works



Repairs to Cross Guns Pumping Station House



Piling Works



Capital Works to 31st March 2021

Bank repair work has been undertaken on the New South Eau at French Drove following a 280m long substantial bank slippage in the winter. This was undertaken by the Boards long reach Volvo EC250 excavator.





New South Eau bank repair

Public Sector Cooperation Agreement Works (PSCA)

No further works to report

Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA)

Bridges and Culverts

The Bridges and Culvert replacement scheme was finished in March 2021. We have placed a further bid for future funding in 2021/22 and are currently awaiting feedback from the Environment Agency.

Culvert Relining Projects

Work remains outstanding on the following pipe lining schemes

1. Seadyke Drain, Murrow

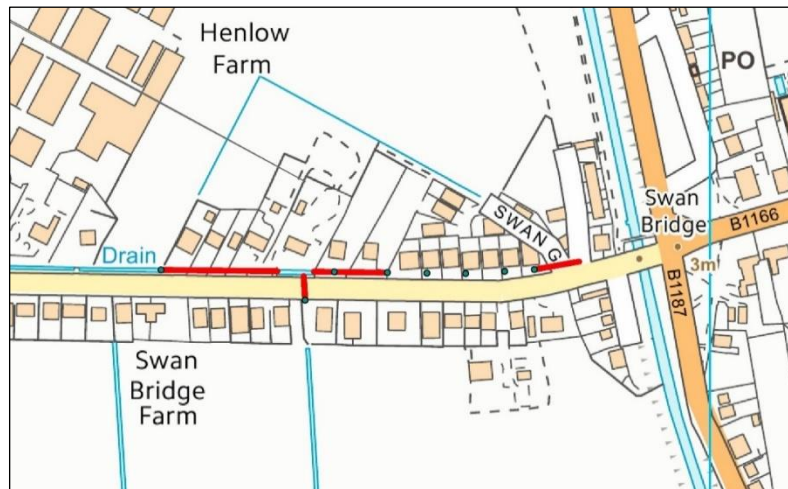
Phase 1 of the pipe lining was complete in December 2020. Due to the poor condition of the pipe, two sections of pipe required re-laying which involved deep excavation within gardens and driveways. A civil engineering contractor was appointed to undertake the work due to the Board's current workload and complexity of the project. Work was successfully completed by May 2021.



The remaining 40% of the pipe lining is scheduled for mid-August.

2. Mill Drain Culvert Relining

The order has been placed for the pipe lining work on Mill Drain, Parson Drove. Work is scheduled to be undertaken in early August 2021.



Mill Drain pipe lining plan

Hundreds Pumping Station Refurbishment

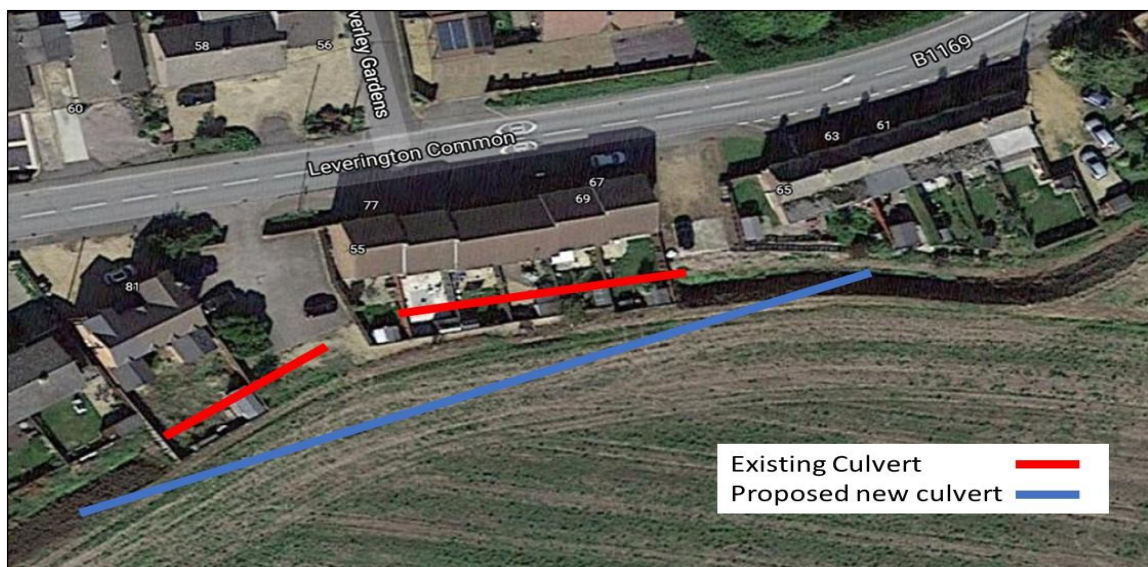
We are awaiting the final finishes and the installation of a new gate spindle at Hundreds Pumping Station as part of the recent refurbishment. It is anticipated that final works will be complete in mid-June.

Martin Childs Ltd have dammed off and pumped out the tilting gate bay to investigate the hinge fault at Hundreds PS. Luckily on this occasion no damage was found to the hinges and the gate is now working. Subsequently divers have been employed to jet out and clear behind the gate. It is now fully operational again.

White Engine Drain Culvert Replacement

This scheme involves installing a new 100m long culvert adjacent to White Engine Drain, Leverington. The existing collapsing pipeline will then be infilled and abandoned. Landowner permission for the new culvert has now been granted and a wayleave agreement is being drawn up.

Construction work has begun using the Board's plant and labour. It is anticipated to take approximately 2 weeks to complete.



Plan of White Engine Culvert replacement

Foul Anchor Sluice Refurbishment Phase 2

Initial indications are that the business case has been accepted by the Environment Agency for the replacement of the two outer doors on the Foul Anchor Sluice. The central doors were replaced in 2015 and the two outer doors are now showing signs of deterioration and require replacement. The business case is currently being reviewed by the National Project Assurance Service (NPAS) and we are awaiting final confirmation of the funding.

Schemes being prepared

Tydd Catchment Hydraulic Model Update
Cross Guns Pumping Station Refurbishment – including surveying and modelling
Mouth Lane Pumping Station refurbishment
Mortons Leam improvements (RFCC Local Choices)
Bridges and culvert replacements – Various sites
Main Drain dredging
White Engine Drain Culvert Replacement
Future FDGiA schemes
Drain slip repairs - Various

The Operations Engineer reported that the average rainfall across the catchment for June so far is 44.5mm, Soil Moisture Deficit on 15 June 2021 is 99.9mm and Pumping hours for June being 52 hours.

The Operations Engineer reported that:

- The Tydd Catchment Hydraulic Model is making slow progress;
- Cross Guns Pumping Station refurbishment is making slow progress;
- Tenders for the Mouth Lane hydraulic modelling are due next week;
- Mortons Leam improvements are proving difficult due to workloads, flooding on the Washes and the timescale given by Natural England, dependent upon approvals works could take place in February or September;
- There is ongoing preparation for Bridges and culvert replacements; Main drain dredging; White Engine Drain Culvert Replacement, FDGiA Schemes and Drain slip repairs;
- Maintenance works have not started;
- Twenty two locations are subject to piling works, with materials being difficult to obtain;
- Work at Tydd Pumping Station house is ongoing to windows, décor, damp and tiling. In answer to a question from Cllr Laws the Operations Engineer responded that the house is currently uninhabited and boarded up as the windows have a 12 week lead time and have not been fitted at this time;
- Cross Guns Pumping Station house has had a new floor in the living room as water has entered the house, rotted timbers have been replaced and drainage installed;
- Postland Pumping Station pump number 1 is still awaiting repair by Fenflow;
- Pump number 2 at Tydd Pumping Station has been repaired and in action from 18 June 2021;
- New flange and adaptors are being sourced for the discharge pipe at Newborough Pumping Station;
- PSCA weed cutting will begin in July and dredging in August;
- EA feedback awaited regarding FDGiA bridges funding, with the expectation being £189k;
- Hundreds Pumping Station works are 99% complete, the spindle has been replaced, divers have investigated the tilting doors and there are no apparent faults with the gates.

The Chief Executive shared his frustration regarding FDGiA funding where local sign off is required and funding available from 1st April but this has not been received which means planning for schemes is difficult. He informed Members that it is the responsibility of the RFCC and Lincolnshire Boards are currently asking for local sign off for FDGiA Projects. He asked if Cllr Hiller as representative on the RFCC could pursue for a decision. Cllr Hiller asked the Chief Executive to provide him with the contacts from the Lincolnshire Boards as he was not aware of the issues concerned and would seek an update on progress.

Cllr Booth asked if the failure of electrical equipment at Cross Guns Pumping Station had triggered any alarms. The Operations Engineer responded that there are fail safe mechanisms which did not work. There are no temperature sensors within the panel. He confirmed that two quotes have been received for the repairs with a third one awaited.

The Chief Executive clarified that the insurers are currently investigating the incident at Cross Guns Pumping Station and it is believed that a surge of power and the start up process not initialising had caused the panel to overheat.

The Chief Executive provided information in relation to the testing of safety alarms being on a five year basis and the need to install a fail safe mechanism. The Chairman requested that fail safe features be installed and tests be carried out annually.

Mr Harris asked if there are any cooling systems or fans in the control panel. The Operations Engineer confirmed that there are no cooling systems as it would not normally get hot.

Cllr Simons asked how the soil moisture deficit records had changed in the last ten years. The Operations Engineer responded that there is no pattern and the Chairman confirmed that rainfall and soil moisture deficit occur randomly and can be extreme.

Cllr Booth asked if residents' concerns in relation to Mill Drain relining and digging up of their land were founded. The Operations Engineer responded that the course of the lining would be beneath and adjacent to Fen Road. Cllr Booth commented that residents feel that there is an easier route that could be explored at Swan Gardens. The Operations Engineer confirmed that this option had been explored and the pipe came to a dead end at Swan Gardens which may have been due to a new house being built.

The Chairman thanked the Operations Engineer for his comprehensive report.

RESOLVED (758)

That the Engineer's report be accepted and approved.

9 BUFFALO LVT RECOVERY PROJECT

The Chairman on behalf of himself and the Vice-Chairman apologised that the Board were not aware of the Buffalo LVT Recovery Project prior to it being broadcast on social media and in the press. He reported that it was a fast moving event and it had been unsure whether the Buffalo LVT could be located. He reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had watched the extraction and he commented that it had been a proud moment and praised the professionalism of North Level. He explained that his great grandfather at the time had been Chairman of North Level Commissioners and the Vice-Chairman's grandfather had been the Vice-Chairman, creating that continuity and link to the Board from 1947.

The Chief Executive added his apologies that he had been unable to keep the Board informed of events, as there had originally been no guarantee that the tank would be found and events had snowballed once it was found.

The Chairman reported that he was proud of the Boards involvement in the tanks extraction and further reported that the Works Supervisor had since been into the archives and had found the Engineers drawings of where the tank would likely be found.

The Junior Engineer played a video of the Buffalo being found thirty feet underground, buried under 75 years of mud.

In 2018 a local farmer called Daniel Abbott had read an old newspaper article regarding 16 tanks/amphibious vehicles and it had become his ambition to resurrect one of the vehicles from their muddy graves. The video provided information regarding the MOD carrying out geophysics and a dig to find their location.

The Chairman reported that he had purchased two engines from the USA and David Brown of Huddersfield had taken the gearbox for their apprentice team to refurbish.

Cllr Brewis commented that it was a fascinating story and congratulated all for their involvement in the project.

Cllr Beal commented that it would be good if the Board could be involved in any further recovery works.

Mr Holdich commented that it is a fascinating story and good history and requested that the link to the film shown be emailed to Board Members to show the importance of drainage.

Cllr Booth commented that there is a lot of information to research and asked if the Board could update the information Boards at Tydd Pumping Station.

Mr Fisher confirmed that he has an aerial photograph of the 1947 floods and agreed that he would get a copy for display.

The Chairman reported that March 2022 will be the 75th Anniversary of the Floods and requested that the Chief Executive update the history display boards. He reported that Dan Snow a British Historian had made a podcast and Al Murray who is also a Historian had planned a competition to fund the proposal for a further extraction, with a view to making a full documentary. If a second extraction were to take place North Level would request remuneration for their work.

The Chairman reported that the Buffalo tank would not be for sale as it is still officially the property of the MOD and it will stay in the local community.

Cllr Booth agreed that the Board could not be expected to micromanage all such projects, however the wider history should be noted and he suggested that the Board contact the Imperial War Museum. The Chairman confirmed that the National Tank Museum had been approached.

10 RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8th JUNE 2021

Mr J Sly (Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee) reported on behalf of the Committee, he asked Members to note the Committee's recommendations in Item 5 when considering Item 11 on the Main Agenda and Item 6 when considering Item 12 on the Main Agenda.

Mr Sly reported that there were no new policies, the Committee had reviewed, amended and approved twelve existing policies.

He confirmed that the Committee had considered changes to the Pay Policy and a clause had been added, with a note to accept the policy in its amended format and negotiations to take place if required.

Dealing with the recommendations from the Governance and Audit Committee it was:

RESOLVED (759)

That the Board note the recommendations from the Governance and Audit Committee to approve and accept the:

1. Annual Governance Statement at Section 1;
2. Accounting Statements at Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability and
3. Management Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021.

11 TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The Chief Executive referred to the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 being Section 1, Accounting Statements 2020/21 being Section 2 and the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21, requesting approval from the Board for their acceptance.

Members discussed the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2020/21 and it was noted that all boxes have been checked and signed off by the Internal Auditor.

It was proposed by N Harris and seconded by H Neale and by majority vote to accept the findings in the Annual Governance Statement, Section 1 and

RESOLVED (760)

That the Board approve and accept the Annual Governance Statement at Section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2021.

It was proposed by Cllr Booth and seconded by Cllr Seymour and by majority vote to accept the findings in Accounting Statements 2020/21, Section 2 and

RESOLVED (761)

That the Board approve and accept the Accounting Statements at Section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr Mayor and seconded by Cllr Brewis and by majority vote to accept the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21.

RESOLVED (762)

That the Board approve and accept the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive, the Finance Officer and the wider team for all their hard work in preparing the Accounts within the legislative timescales.

12 TO RECEIVE THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The Chief Executive explained the Management Accounts, income, expenditure, the highlights from Maintenance and Pumping Stations and colour coding across documents to aid understanding. He explained that the movement on Accounts from Capital Works had been to fund the refurbishment of Hundreds Pumping Station, being £109,087.

The Finance Officer explained in detail the Statement of Movement on the General Reserve for 2020/21.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Accounts had been scrutinised by the Governance and Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Laws and seconded by N Harris and by majority vote to accept the Management Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked the Finance Officer for her hard work and the Team in preparing the Accounts.

RESOLVED (763)

That the Board approve and accept the Management Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021.

13 TRAINING – MANAGING RISKS AND HAZARDS

The Chief Executive explained the requirement for training Members, as requested annually on the IDB1 form. ADA have formulated online units of training for Board Members.

The Junior Engineer played a training video addressing the subject of 'Managing Risks and Hazards'.

The Training covered:

- The concept of identifying internal and external risks;
- Analysing and putting a system in place to monitor risk;
- Setting up a Risk Register;
- Analysing the frequency and severity using a Risk Management Matrix;
- The importance of keeping as much documentation as possible;
- Improving working environments and staff development;
- Integrating risk management into the Boards values;
- Insuring against risks and potential losses.

The Chairman thanked the Junior Engineer and the Chief Executive for the training and presentation.

The Chief Executive commented that after watching the video he feels that the Board manage risks and hazards in a professional manner and that the training taken from the ADA Good Governance Guide covers the subject well.

There were no comments from Members.

14 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications

The Chief Executive explained that any queries of local authorities regarding planning applications were now highlighted and a request made to the relevant authority for further information to aid a decision from the Board.

b) Enforcement of Byelaws

The Chief Executive advised Members that there were no matters in relation to the Enforcement of Byelaws.

RESOLVED (764)

That the report is received and its contents noted.

15 MEETING DATES 2022

The Board considered and agreed the Boards Meeting Dates as set out for 2022. The Chairman requested that Board Members note the dates in their calendars and diaries and to address any queries to the Chief Executive or the Administrative Clerk.

It was noted that if the meeting takes place at the Board's office it will be at the time on the schedule and if a virtual meeting it will be at 9.00a.m.

RESOLVED (765)

To approve and accept the Meeting Dates for 2022.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive reported that Tenders for the Foul Anchor refurbishment had been sent to six companies, the only company to supply a full tender was Martin Childs Ltd. He asked if the Board were happy to accept this tender or whether they required a retender to take place.

Mr Fisher commented that he would accept the tender from Martin Childs.

The Chairman asked Members if they had any objections to accepting the tender from Martin Childs.

Cllr Booth asked the Chief Executive to confirm the amount quoted. The Chief Executive responded that the amount was £600k, which was in line with the amount spent on the inner doors of £750k.

Cllr Booth asked if there was likely to be any issues with the EA if three quotes were not received. The Chief Executive responded that this was unlikely.

It was agreed by majority vote that the tender from Martin Childs would be acceptable.

Mr J Sly reported that he had received an email from ADA on 28th May 2021 in relation to the use of white diesel from April 2022 and the cost to the Board as a result.

The Chief Executive responded that the latest information from ADA was not positive and discussions are ongoing, with the plan being to align maintenance operations with agriculture and retain red diesel use for the Board's plant. He provided the cost comparison, red diesel being 50 pence per litre, white diesel being £1.00 per litre and biofuel being £1.20 per litre.

The Chairman confirmed that the decision has not been finalised as HVO could result in a reduction in emissions and Co2, this is ongoing.

Cllr Hiller reported that PCC are currently trialling the use of HVO, they are having a tank installed and the reduction in emissions is reported to be 90%. He stated he is happy to share the results of the trial with the Board and supply a paper on the subject for discussion.

Cllr Simons reported that he is involved with the trial and will discuss the trials with Cllr Hiller to provide the information to share with the Board.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hiller and agreed that the information on the PCC trials be shared with the Board.

Cllr Brown raised concerns regarding the turning at the junction at Pode Hole Quarry. It was agreed that this was not a question for the Board and he would discuss his concerns with Cllr Hiller after the meeting.

Cllr Beal asked if the Board had any problems with bats in buildings as SHIDB had to put their bat boxes on poles. The Junior Engineer/Conservation Officer confirmed that the Board does not have any problems with bats in buildings.

Cllr Laws raised concerns regarding the proposal of reservoirs in Fenland without engagement with local authorities or councils and asked if the Board had been involved in discussions.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Board were involved and there were various work groups and stakeholders involved, confirming that he had taken part in a Teams Meeting on the subject on the previous day. He confirmed that both CCC and FDC were represented on the meetings.

The Chairman confirmed that the Board are part of WRE and the Chief Executive reported that the proposals were for reservoirs in Lincolnshire on the Forty Foot and the Fenland Great Ouse catchment, however no site location decision had been made and would be subject to wider consultation on multiple sites. The Chief Executive agreed to provide Cllr Laws with contact details to ensure Fenland's involvement in the process.

Cllr Laws asked the Chief Executive if the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flow Partnership would be continuing. The Chief Executive confirmed that it would.

Cllr Laws asked for details regarding a Fenland Peat project as it raises concerns regarding agricultural and development. The Chairman confirmed that there is a Lowland Peat

Strategy, however this is not a project driven by the Board and he responded that he would provide details outside of the meeting.

H Neale asked if the Board meeting in September would be via Zoom. The Chairman responded that the Board would endeavour to meet in person if future government regulations allowed for this.

H Neale commented that he had noticed an accumulation of algae on some of the Boards drains and asked if this was being addressed. The Operations Engineer responded that the Boards aerators are currently being used in local hotspots and confirmed that he will speak to the EA Fisheries Team regarding plans for improving oxygenation.

The Junior Engineer is responsible for DO recording and the Operations Engineer agreed that he would send the DO levels to H Neale after the meeting.

There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked all Board Members for attending the virtual meeting and staff for their hard work and for the video of the Buffalo LVT.

.....
Chairman

.....
Dated