

Melverley Internal Drainage Board

R L R Jones FRICS FAAV
SURVEYOR & CLERK

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15 January 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2016

Members Present:

B Edwards (Chairman)
R B Cambidge (Vice Chairman)
N Whittingham
W Jones
G Kynaston
S Roberts
R Frank
Councillor S Bruce
Councillor A Walpole
R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

1	Apologies
	These were received from Councillor B Williams. Chairman welcomed R Frank as a new member of the Board.
2	Appointment of Chairman & Vice Chairman
	Following the election in 2015, this was the first meeting of the new Board. Mr Bryan Edwards was appointed Chairman on the motion proposed by R B Cambidge, seconded by W Jones. Mr R B Cambidge was elected as Vice Chairman, the motion proposed by B Edwards and seconded by N Whittingham
3	Adoption of Regulations as to proceedings – Members Code of Conduct Board Governance
	The meeting adopted the regulations as to proceedings, covering committees or subcommittees, standing orders, order of debate, common seal and suspension of standing orders. They also adopted the members code of conduct and governance ordnances.
4	Approve Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th October 2015
	These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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5	Matters Arising
i)	Surveyor confirmed that Turfmmor watercourses through the various cottage gardens at Turfmoor had been cleaned by hand.
ii)	The Clerk confirmed that the large arrears outstanding from Shropshire Council and MOD had been paid.
iii)	The Chairman raised the query from Brian Oakley of Mount Pleasant, Hopton as to cleaning of certain ditches on his ground near the Pwll. The Surveyor would contact him to confirm whether these were Board maintained watercourses.
6	Correspondence
a)	6/10/15 – Ian Moodie, ADA requesting information regarding the Board’s use of herbicides. ADA were hoping to put forward a case to DEFRA and EA to allow the use of herbicides in some circumstances.
b)	4/11/15 - Ian Moodie, ADA – Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. The notification of local ground truthing meetings by the EA. These were a Quality Control/Quality Assurance mechanism to check the EA’s draft risk assessments with benefit of the local area knowledge.
c)	17/11/15 – Ian Moodie, ADA – EA Briefing Note setting out their revised programme approach to implementing the Eels Regulations. Due to the great cost of the works required in altering sluice gates etc to permit the passage of eels their policy now was that this work would only be insisted upon when upgrading refurbishment work was being considered.
d)	Ian Moodie, ADA – Meeting with Oliver Letwin MP, along with NFU, CLA, LGA to discuss water level management and opportunities to improve investment decisions in FCERM
e)	23/11/15 – Ian Moodie, ADA – Summary of the latest DEFRA and EA FCERM developments in readiness of the DEFRA/EA/Stakeholder Form on the 19 th November.
f)	25/11/15 – Ian Moodie, ADA – Details of the DEFRA budget under the Spending Review
g)	Ian Moodie, ADA – Audit for small authorities. A new procurement body was being set up to seek quotations for IDB’s future audits from April 2017. The Board confirmed they were in agreement with joining this system rather than seeking their own audit arrangements.
h)	6/12/15 - Flood Forecasting Centre – Notification of Alert System
i)	Ian Moodie – Finance and Accountability for smaller category 2 authorities in England – a Practitioner’s Guide to proper taxes to be used in the preparation of accounts and governance statements. There was a request for comments on the first draft. This document would be used in relation to the audit quotation.



j)	08/01/16Innes Thompson – ADA, requesting evidence of poorly maintained watercourses that result in obstruction to the evacuation/flow of water ready for a meeting with the DEFRA Secretary
k)	Shropshire Council have produced the Shropshire and Staffordshire Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 1 Strategy covering both counties, Part 2 – Policies and Procedures specific to Shropshire.
l)	Paper from Charles Cowap – Harper Adams University – regarding valuation framework for assessing the value of land for IDB purposes.
7.	Complaints
i)	Maesbrook Farm – partial bridge collapse over the Gwern-y- Daubll. Part of the stone and concrete decking had fallen into the watercourse and was partially obstructing this culvert. It was inspected on the 13 th January and water completely filled the culvert. There is an obstruction on the upstream side caused by a collection of trash. Discussion as to the best possible way of repairing this bridge arose and it was thought that the cheapest solution would be a reinforced concrete slab over the hole. Surveyor instructed to meet with the farmer indicating the Board considered this was the occupier's responsibility but the Board may consider a financial contribution.
ii)	Stonebridge to Pen-y-Parc watercourse – partial obstruction of ditch caused by a tree having partially blown over, lifting the tree root into the watercourse. The Surveyor would arrange for the contractor to clean this.
8.	Surveyor's Report
	<p>Fortunately the majority of the maintenance work, desilting and weed cutting had been completed prior to the end of October when persistent and prolonged wet weather and associated flooding had started. E Lewis has completed No 7 Dunkett, B Bebb has completed No 42 The Fields and also replaced the collapsed culvert near The Quabbs which prevented any access to some land.</p> <p>R Morris has completed watercourse 41, Llwyn-y-Groes which has much improved this and this was now running well despite the high water levels experienced.</p> <p>Culvert over the old railway line had been installed to assist movement of track machine up this watercourse.</p> <p>R Morris has finished the weed cutting to the best of our knowledge, having returned on a few occasions. The weed cutting work had much increased the available channel cross-sectional area for the flow of water which had certainly helped during the very high water levels experienced in November and December 2015.</p> <p>J Roberts had not yet done No 60 The Waen. This would now have to wait for drier ground conditions to be done.</p> <p>Maintenance bills had recently been received from the contractors, Morris, Bebb and Lewis totalling £13,906.59. These would be paid shortly.</p>

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9.	Clerk's Report
	<p>Cash Book – Current A/c £17,154.64 Tracker A/c - £57.59 Payments since last meeting - £19,609.13 Receipts since last meeting - £8,075.08 All as per attached details</p> <p>Arrears currently stood at £16,433.87 as per the attached.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that George Morley trading as Cheshire Credit, who had helped us for many years has recently retired and stopped trading. The Clerk would approach Charles Morris, Shrewsbury who works in conjunction with Frank Pashley from Pant to obtain a quotation for pursuing arrears.</p>
	<p>Relatively few planning applications had been submitted in recent months, the Chairman raised one – that 'Shalom' a mobile home will be placed with a permanent dwelling, subject to an agricultural tie.</p>
10.	Budget 2016/17
	<p>The Clerk circulated two budgets, (i) based on 14.5p in the £ which is no change from existing which produced a deficit of £1,96.26 and (ii) based on 15p in the £ which will produce an extra overall income of £1,354.41.</p>
11.	Approval of Rate & Special Levy
	<p>The Clerk stated that Shropshire Council would be increasing its council tax this year and Councillor Arthur Walpole that this is likely to be 3.99%. After some discussion, the surveyor suggested that a slight increase be included as it was evident with serious winter floods that were being experienced this year, there would be additional maintenance work needed and that opportunity to slightly increase the rate should be taken when council tax rates were increasing. Board approved budget based on rate of 15p in the £</p> <p>On a motion put forward by R B Cambidge, seconded by Nigel Whittingham, the Board agreed to a rate of 15p in the £ for 2016/17. The Board approved a Special Levy of £5,514.49 be levied against Shropshire Council</p>
12	Creation of Severn & Wye Branch of ADA
	<p>At the recent EA/IDB Liaison Meeting, the Technical Director Ian Moodie attended. He suggested that this meeting could be utilised as the basis for Severn and Wye Branch of ADA.</p> <p>Following change in arrangements for the Welsh IDB's, now being run by Natural Resources, Wales, these are represented at ADA Board level by Wales Director. The Lower Severn Board approximately 2 years ago had come out of the Severn & Wales Branch and joined the south-west branch. This has left the three Shropshire Boards, Meverley, Rea and Strine together with the River Lugg Board at Leominster having no representation at ADA level. ADA wish for the smaller Boards along the Marches to be represented at ADA and want to create a new branch.</p> <p>The costs of the Liaison meeting are met by the Environment Agency and there would therefore be no requirement to levy a subscription on the individual Boards to run this</p>

	<p>branch. The branch would have the right to nominate and appoint a director to go up to the ADA Board three times a year to represent their views. ADA reimburse costs of travel to these meeting.</p> <p>Having an ADA branch would ensure that either ADA Chairman, Chief Executive or Technical Director would attend this meeting once a year when we would have the opportunity of hearing direct from ADA about current issues affecting the water level management industry. The Clerk and other Board members felt it would be helpful to have a direct link to the decision makers at ADA. Flooding and water level management is back in the public eye, following the severe flooding experienced in the North West, Yorkshire and Scotland. It does seem that warm, wet winters are becoming more regular and flooding matters will remain high on the political agenda.</p> <p>The Board confirmed they would be agreeable to joining the Severn and Wye Branch, subject to the costs being minimal.</p>
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th April at 7:30pm at Kinnerley Village Hall</p>
	<p>Land at Quabbs – Potential Pollution</p> <p>Betton Cambidge reported that an area of land near The Quabbs which is used for storage of extensive items has been badly affected by recent flooding with many stored materials washed away and deposited on other landowner's ground, together with plastic sheeting caught in the roadside wire fence. The Clerk would liaise with the Environment Agency over any potential flood risk. The Parish Council have recently written to Shropshire Council over the matter.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10pm.</p>

Signed

Suzanne Edwards

Dated

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