

Melverley Internal Drainage Board

R L R Jones FRICS FAAV
SURVEYOR & CLERK

New Windsor House
Oxon Business Park
Bicton Heath
Shrewsbury
SY3 5HJ

Our ref: RLRJ/DBB/MIDB

Tel: 01743 241181
Direct Line: 01743 239222
Fax: 01743 242300

2 May 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 12th April 2017

Members Present:

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

1	Apologies
	These were received from Councillor B Williams, Steve Roberts and Nigel Whittingham.
2	Minutes
	Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th January 2017 – these were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.
3	Matters Arising
	R Cambidge reported that The Quabbs road raising scheme had been completed by Shropshire Council.
	The Surveyor reported that W T Jones was agreeable to the Board dealing with the slips as part of our maintenance programme in Autumn 2017. The cut bushes had been removed from the field for him to burn.
	Arrears – the arrears of S Lawrence were discussed and the Board approved a reduction of half of the sum owing.
4	Correspondence
a)	ADA April - ADA backs IDB's local governments of Water Level Management

b)	Updated Guide on Practitioners' Accountability
c)	Small Authorities Audit Appointment update – P K K Littlejohn Accountants take over from Mazars as from April 2018.
d)	Telford Flood & Coast Conference – 28 th /30 th March at the International Centre. Clerk had attended and found it useful. There was a particularly large representation from the local authorities giving examples of recovery and defence work following serious flooding in northern England in 2015.
e)	ADA March -FCERM – research news
f)	ADA announces a first tranche of Main River maintenance transfer to IDB's pilot schemes.
g)	EFRA – scrutinizes Flood and Water Management Act
h)	Indepth publication on Glyphosate and its importance to the use of water level management in light of the possible ban of its use by the EU.
i)	Value of your IDB's publicity leaflet.
j)	New report shows future opportunities for PSCA'S.
k)	ADA Marches Branch formed.
l)	Guidance on Design, Operation and Adaptation of Reservoirs for flood storage purposes. This concept is likely to come more to the fore as across the country in upland areas there are many under used reservoirs.
	<u>ADA February</u>
m)	ADA urges government to apply robust controls to reduce flood risk – MP's have criticised the prevention report.
n)	ADA agrees nation's flooding strategy must serve both rural and urban areas to succeed and NFU publishes flooding manifesto.
	<u>February 2017</u>
o)	National Audit Office DEFRA report on IDB's has criticized the operation of IDB's in some respects the key findings were:-
(i)	There is no statutory governance standard for IDB's and no government department takes an active role in ensuring that IDB's meet good standards of public administration.
(ii)	There is very limited oversight of IDB's operations.
(iii)	ADA supports the Department in overseeing the sector and addressing concerns but there is no formal agreement between the department and ADA to support this relationship.

(iv)	Most IDB's report they do not have Board members with appropriate environmental expertise, instead accessing the skills they need through consultants.																																										
(v)	Some smaller IDB's have reported benefits from merging with each other or forming consortia.																																										
(vi)	If an individual has a concern about an IDB's conduct, it is not always clear whom they should approach and the Department has no role under the legislation in ensuring that any concerns raised are addressed.																																										
(vii)	Because of weak oversight and assurance requirements, IDB's are not well placed to manage the expectations associated with public expenditure and are vulnerable to potential conflicts of interest.																																										
p)	<p>ADA has submitted a response to the review and making some correctional facts and seeking to alter some emphasis in the report.</p> <p>There may be future changes arising as a consequence of this report but with parliamentary time being so restricted due to Brexit, it was thought unlikely that proposals for changes would come forward quickly.</p>																																										
5	Complaints																																										
	None had been reported to the Clerk and there were none from the floor.																																										
6	Surveyor's Report																																										
	The Surveyor confirmed that the maintenance programme would be as discussed in the January meeting. In addition the weed cutting contract work would continue. Last year 9,000 metres was cleaned at a cost of £8,700. In addition we would undertake Maesbrook Farm culvert and re-levelling of pipes in Felton Moor wood. Tenders for the maintenance work would be sought shortly.																																										
	Programme for 2017																																										
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	Virtually all our maintenance payments had gone out in this last period.
	<u>Arrears</u>
	These stand at £7,157.70 plus the Special Levy demand of £6,691.05 from Shropshire Council. The arrear with the MOD is being chased. 8 ratepayers have been referred to our debt collector – if these were received – c. £4,000 income would be collected.
	<u>Special Levy</u>
	The Clerk confirmed that he had done a review of the areas of non-agricultural use within the Internal Drainage District and identified a further 8.03 hectares of land which was in use for new residences, garden extensions, commercial building, sewage works, water treatment works etc., which had been created since the 1992 revaluation. As a consequence of this, the amount demanded from Shropshire Council via the Special Levy had increased to £6,691.05, representing 15.9% of the Board's income; as opposed to 13.5% previously.
	<u>Planning</u>
	The Clerk referred to the application by The Canal and Rivers Trust to extend the Aston Lock's Nature Reserve, by the creation of two sizeable pools. Discussion over this was held with G Kynaston and R Cambridge, knowing the ground well, and suggested the top end of our watercourse which runs solely through the land within the Nature Reserve be removed from our maintenance list and passed to the CRT. The downstream section which adjoined open farmland to the north and took land drains from this adjoining farmland should continue to be a Board maintained ditch. Access for maintenance of this ditch must be ensured by their proposals. The Clerk would take this up with the Canal and Rivers Trust.
8.	Date of Next Meeting
	This was set for Wednesday 28 th June 2017. This could be linked with our annual outdoor field meeting, it would be dependent on whether there was anything in the Board area we wish to inspect.
9.	Any Other Business
	Councillor Arthur Walpole reported that he would not be seeking re-election in the forthcoming Council elections and would therefore cease to be a Board member after May 8 th . The Board Chairman and members thanked him for his input into the Board's work and it was hoped that his replacement would be an equally helpful and valuable member of the Board.
	There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm

Signed

Stephen Edwards

Dated

28.6.17