

Melverley Internal Drainage Board

R L R Jones FRICS FAAV
SURVEYOR & CLERK

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13 April 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2016 AT 7:30PM

Members Present:

B Edwards (Chairman)
N Whittingham
W Jones
Councillor B Williams
Councillor S Bruce
Councillor A Walpole
R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

1	Apologies
	These were received from G Kynaston, B Cambidge, R Frank.
2	Approve Minutes of previous meeting 13th January 2016
	Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.
3	Matters Arising
	The Clerk has yet to see B Oakley regarding Mount Pleasant and his query. Whilst the blockage on the Stonebridge to Pen-y-Parc watercourse has been cleared, further work is still needed to remove the raised tree root properly. Councillor A Walpole reported that the concern over pollution arising from the land used for material storage at The Quabbs was with Shropshire Council and the EA to pursue.
4.	Correspondence
	This was mostly received via email from ADA
	a) 02/02/16 – Small Authorities Audit Appointments – we agreed to go with this scheme at the last meeting and not opt out.
	b) 03/02/16 – DEFRA Committee asking for written evidence about how flooding

	<p>is predicted and how flood defences are currently funded and planned but also how we can be better prepared for future floods and natural systems.</p> <p>c) 10/02/16 – BBC Radio 4 “Farming Forum Programme” covered flooding on the 9th February – ADA Chief Executive took part.</p> <p>d) 10/02/16 – Water transfers into IDB’s. DEFRA were consulting on proposals to remove exemptions from extraction licensing for transferring water into IDB’s from outside water bodies – not applicable to Rea IDB.</p> <p>e) 15/02/16 – Reform of advertising election notices. We spent c.£200 on the 2015 notice. Hopefully the reforms will allow in future website advertising, if the reform goes through.</p> <p>f) Proper Practices Guidance for small authorities in England consultation document. The final document has now been received.</p> <p>g) 16/03/16 Flood Defence spending outlined.</p> <p>h) 31/03/16 ADA response to changes in water abstraction licencing exemptions in England and Wales.</p> <p>i) EIA transposition: EIA (land drainage improvement works regulations 1999).</p>
5.	Complaints
	<p>The surveyor reported that following pursuance of arrears, Mrs W Lelleck stated that she is refusing to pay her rates on the basis that her garden ground was now subject to flooding following the piping of the roadside section of the Dovaston Watercourse. She believes that a drain ran from a low spot in her garden to discharge into the previous open watercourse. The culverting of the length has stopped the outfall for her drain. Whilst Shropshire Council Highways who undertook this work maintain they found no such drain, she is adamant that the drain has been blocked. Discussion arose with some members knowing the property for many years and the previous occupant, Mr R Lelleck. He had been an exceptional gardener and it was thought highly likely that he would have ensured good drainage of his ground. The surveyor suggested that a drain be laid from the low spot direct to our watercourse just upstream of the inlet headwall to the culverted section.</p> <p>Mr W Jones indicated that he thought in reality there had previously been a ditch running from her garden towards the watercourse which might be practical to use. The surveyor was instructed to investigate and resolve the issue.</p> <p>Other complaints arising from debt chasing were from C E Jones Lower Hendre, Coedy-Rae and the Clerk and Surveyor would see him shortly. S Lawrence of Trepennal, who was in dispute over payment for previous years rates due to the mess left on his land left by a past contractor. Again the surveyor would meet with Lawrence and agree a resolution to this problem which may involve writing off part of the debt</p>

6. Surveyor's Report

All maintenance works had been completed apart from c.450m at the top end of Acksea which had been omitted. Watercourse 61 The Waen, near Maesbury Marsh had been cleaned. The surveyor indicated that some repair of the ditch bank immediately adjacent to the public highway at its end was necessary to prevent bank slippage. This was where a drain from roadside ditch crossed under the road and discharged to our Board maintained ditch. There is no proper headwall to this drain and water was soaking into the bank and causing slippage.

Surveyor confirmed that extra cleaning work on the Llwywy (between Meverley Tontine and Doverley Brook) had been cleaned. He explained this watercourse was very flat and took an important drain from the Meverley Tontine area which, unless the outfall was kept clear, meant water on the road could not get away.

It was felt that the weed cutting work undertaken in the Autumn had been very successful and had kept the principal channels open which had coped well with the high levels of flood water experienced this winter. Flooding in terms of its length had been some of the worst experienced but it was not a particularly high flood.

He reported on a recent meeting between Shropshire Council EA and Parish Councillors regarding priorities for raising of low spots on roads in the area. This was by way of £100,000 item in Shropshire Council Highways budget. Whilst the shopping list could by no means all be met, two principal ones would be a section of the road near the Royal Hill and The Quabbs road low spot. It had been suggested that a culvert be put under the road at The Quabbs to allow free movement of flood water beneath the raised road.

The Surveyor has proposed a programme of maintenance for 2016/17.

WC No	WC Name	Metres	Last cleaned
1	America	1330	5 yrs
2	Buckley	1140	5 yrs
4	Pentre/Tom Lane	1400	5 yrs
5	Lower Turfmoor	1500	5 yrs
9	Edgerley Sarn	3260	5 yrs
17	Gwern-y-daubl	2065	4 yrs
18	Looking Glass	2625	4 yrs
19	Maesbrook Isaf	3945	4 yrs
21	Pwll	900	4 yrs
39	Acksea (top end)	450	5 yrs
		18,615m	

Estimated cost £18,615

Weed Cutting Programme

WC No	WC Name	Metres	Comments
10	Melverley Brook to Bontain pt	450	
11	Bontain to Brook House Lane	1380	
12	Brookhouse Lane to Argoed Rd	1760	
13	Argoed Rd to Wernlas Rd	1425	
28	Kinnerley Brook to Farm Hall	940	Whole length i.e. extra 290m
pt32	Sandford Brook	420	
pt36	Felton Moor	1000	
pt39	Acksea	780	Kinnerley Brook to Caravan Park. Brookhouse Rd Bridge to other road. (omit length through CP)
Pt41	Llwyn-y-groes	1730	Add Lower House leg (550m) + extra at bottom end 130
38	Belan Bank	290	
		10,175	Extra 920m over 2015/16
		@0.85p	Say £8,650

This would produce an overall expenditure of over £31,000 and maybe too much and some of the watercourses, i.e. 19 – Maesbrook Isaf and Pwll made need deferring to next year. The length recommended for weed cutting is slightly more than 2015/16 as it was found that some lengths were omitted and do need annual weed cutting to make a proper job. Additional lengths are watercourse 28: right up to the Farmhall railway culvert and 41 Llwyn-y-groes leg up to Lower House is added and bottom 130m down to the roadside wood to be included.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

The Reserves Manager reported that the sluice gate to Little Sarn had been damaged by winter floods and the Surveyor would shortly inspect to see what repair is required.

7. Clerk's Report

Balances - £6094.71 + £58 Tracker account

Payments since last meeting - £18,973.19

Receipts since last meeting - £7,913.26

Details of these are shown on the attached payment and receipts reports

Payments made include:-

Zurich Insurance, ADA subscription and all outstanding contractors accounts.

Arrears

	<p>These currently stood at £11,731.76, however Charles Morris, debt collector has collected a significant amount of rates c.£4,325.25, making an overall balance of £7,465.51.</p> <p>Whilst inevitably the debt collection would cost us money, c.£1,700 including VAT, it had been a very helpful exercise and the number of debtors had been reduced greatly, concentrating on all those over £100. His research had resulted in a number of changes of ratepayer being identified with assurances that rates would be paid in the future by the correct ratepayer.</p>
	<p>The three main outstanding bills were those were there are disputes with C E Evans-£660.11, S Lawrence - £1,226.00. Some debts were for a period covering more than 6 years and more debts prior to the 6 year cut off would have to be written off. However, the Clerk would pursue a 6 year's debt for Clough and Lelleck and Connell. With the monies brought in by Charles Morris, it was thought that our overall balances going forward would be in the region of £9,000.</p>
	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p>
	<p>The Clerk reported the following:-</p>
	<p>16/003734 Quabbs Cottage – erection of a 2 storey extension to the cottage north of the public road was approved as it was essentially a renewal of the previous non-implemented permission.</p>
	<p>16/080-4 Little Duglands – the erection of a 2 storey extension, rear porch with alteration and repair. Pre-application advice had been given regarding drainage. This was under consideration.</p>
	<p>16/00015/EIA Knockin Hall Farm, The Avenue – R Moseley. Two large poultry sheds and Biomass building to be built adjacent to the existing modern buildings on the far side of the Poplar wood. This was approved. The large volume of surface water from the roofs of these sheds would be dealt with by attenuation scheme with stoned open trenches and hydro brake and underground tank for collection of water. The drain discharging to the watercourse would require discharge consent would be of only 150 diameter with a volume limited to that which would run off from open farmland.</p>
	<p><u>Foreign Water Grant</u></p>
	<p>The Clerk confirmed that he had received notification of this Foreign Water Grant £5999 – Precept payment to EA £3,587 net payment from EA £2,412 – this should be paid early April.</p>
	<p>8. Date of Next Meeting</p>
	<p>This was set for Wednesday 15th June 2016 at 7:30pm</p>
	<p>9. Any Other Business</p>
	<p>Councillor B Williams raised the future arrangements for ADA in the Severn and Wye</p>

	area. The Clerk outlined what had been agreed at the last meeting and that we were waiting to hear from ADA as to when and if this new branch would be created.
	N Whittingham reported that the top end of Watercourse 35 Fox Covert had not been done by B Bebb. He felt that this was not vital at the moment but really a good brushing out may well suffice.

Signed

John Edwards
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Dated

15.6.16
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