

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

16 June 2016

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE 2016

Members Present:

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

1	Apologies
	These were received from B Cambidge, Councillor B Williams, R Frank
2	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th April 2016
	These were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman
3	Matters Arising
i)	The drain for Mrs W Lelleck would be done post 1 st August to minimise any environmental restrictions.
ii)	The Clerk had seen C E Jones who had now paid his arrears.
iii)	S Lawrence arrears – an allowance would be agreed with Mr Lawrence to resolve this outstanding issue.
iv)	Councillor Walpole confirmed that Shropshire Council were progressing preparatory work on possible raising of road from Royal Hill towards Buckley.
v)	The Clerk confirmed that arrears has been significantly reduced through the use of debt collector Charles Morris.
4	Correspondence
	This was received principally from ADA
a)	Floodex 2016 – a new demonstration event held 18 th & 19 th May at Peterborough had

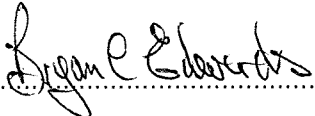


	gone well.
b)	IDB Clerk's Meeting – Thorney 6 th July. The clerk would not be attending on this occasion.
c)	ADA's appearance before the Commons EFRA Committee on future flood prevention strategy
d)	Robert Cauldwell – farmer from Lincolnshire had been appointed the new Vice President of ADA who ultimately will take over from Henry Cator.
e)	Environment Agency Chief Executive appears before the EFRA Committee
f)	EFRA Committee publishes Worsfold Review "of Environment Agency's Flood Maintenance" – this has taken 18 months to publish and was in part critical of EA's maintenance strategy.
g)	The Lords had voted in favour of a SUDS amendment to the Housing Bill. The Government had done away with the proposal for SUDS to be obligatory on all new development; whether they would agree with the Lords' amendment is yet to be heard.
h)	Changes to IDB election advertising means that we can now use the website rather than expensive newspaper advertising.
5.	Complaints
	The Surveyor had received none and none were reported from members.
6.	Surveyor's Report
i)	<p>Quotations for 2016/17 Maintenance work had been received from E Lewis, B Bebb and R Morris & J Roberts. Accepting the lowest price tenders from each of the contractors, this year's work would cost £13,494 + VAT. In addition, there would be the cost of hedge brushing and tree cutting/flailing etc., producing an anticipated cost of say £17,000 + VAT.</p> <p>The weed cutting contract to R Morris will cost c.£8,650 for 10,175 metre length.</p> <p>It is hoped that this year's weed cutting work, being the second year would be less ancillary tree cutting/flailing work needed.</p> <p>In addition there would be a culvert repair at Maesbrook Farm to be completed. The total cost would therefore be £26,650 plus VAT. At this level of expenditure there would be an increase in balances to go forward to help build up the Board's reserves.</p>
ii)	<p>Little Sarn Sluice – this has been inspected along with B Bebb a representative from Aquatic Control Engineering. Essentially the two ends of the galvanised steel culvert through the argae had collapsed leaving the headwall structures either end isolated. The flap gate to the downstream side had broken and water was flowing through the argae whenever water levels rose. The best way of repairing this structure would be a</p>

	<p>new plastic pipe laid rather than trying to use the existing corrugated iron culvert which had deflected from its round shape. It would need a new headwall with flapgate and new headwall upstream with trash grating. The total cost of this work is likely to be in the region of £10,000.</p> <p>Discussion arose among members as to whether this level of expenditure was warranted on protecting a relatively small area of land. The sluice gate is sited within the Hollybanks Nature Reserve of Shropshire Wildlife Trust and they have indicated they would be happy for the sluice not to be reinstated.</p> <p>It was thought that perhaps 25 acres of other persons land may directly drain to this ditch. It was explained that the sluice gate operates and offers protection only at relatively low water levels in the Weir Brook. At any significant flood times the argae is overtopped and water comes in to the area upstream. In such cases much of the flood water rather than running back through Little Sarn finds its way to the watercourse to the north and east, being the Edgerley Sarn watercourse. The Board decided not to proceed with the reinstatement of the sluice at this time but to monitor the position and await feedback from local ratepayers. The Board could review their decision in the light of experience.</p>
7.	<p>Clerk's Report Current Balances - £15,494.53 Tracker Account - £57.60</p>
	<p>Receipts since date of last meeting - £16,620.04 Payments since last meeting - £7,606.94 Current debtors - £6,265.02</p>
	<p>The Clerk confirmed that receipts had been high following the involvement of Charles Morris, debt collector, who had been very successful in getting arrears in. Shropshire Council had also paid the Special Levy for 2016/17 at an early date.</p>
	<p>The Clerk explained that whilst debtors stood at £6,265.02, within this there were a number of payments which he recommended be written off. The Board approved writing off:- R Waite £405.36 P A Rogers £175.56 F Mathers £185.94 Clough Lelleck c. £500</p> <p>Of the remaining large arrears, B Edwards £1,212, the Clerk was in contact with the family of Mr Edwards who had died c. 3 years ago and was reasonably confident that this would be paid. S Lawrence – part of this sum should be recovered by agreement and the rest would then be written off.</p>
	<p>The Clerk confirmed that he wished to have a policy this year of sending a reminder in August after 2 months and thence after 3 months demands that had not been paid would be referred to a debt collector. The Board approved this approach.</p>
	<p><u>Planning</u></p>
	<p>There would be a planning appeal for 3 houses on land at Maesbury Marsh and we</p>

	would be responding by sending our concerns regarding drainage issues on this ground.
	<u>Planning Applications</u>
	16/02029/OUT – an erection of a detached dwelling on Heathwaen Lane, Kinnerley. Whilst there were no drainage issues for this site, it was outside of the areas for development in the village and the Parish Council would object accordingly. A similar application had been refused some while ago.
	16/01840-4 – Change of Use of land to Caravan Park for touring caravans at Llwyn-y-groes opposite Llwyn-y-groes Lodge. This site is in the Board area but was in an area which was subject to regular flooding although this particular site would not normally flood. The application included installation of septic tank. The surveyor felt that the 3.7 acre site could accommodate a soakaway for this. There were other issues pertaining to access and visual screening which had been raised but from a drainage perspective there was no reason for a particular objection.
8.	Approval of Accounts
	The 2015/16 accounts were circulated to members and on a motion proposed by Councillor A Walpole and seconded by N Whittingham, these were approved by the Board. The Accounts were signed by the Chairman and the responsible financial officer accordingly.
9.	Approval of DEFRA Return
	The Clerk went through the Annual Government Statement 2015/16 forming part of the Annual Return. On a motion proposed by N Whittingham and seconded by Councillor S Bruce, the Annual Return was approved and signed by the Chairman and responsible financial officer accordingly.
10.	Any Other Business
	N Whittingham raised use of correct emails
	Date of next meeting – this was set for Wednesday 28 th September 2016

Signed



Dated

.....