

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/JS/MIDB

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

26 January 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 24th January 2018 at 7:30pm

Members Present:

B Edwards (Chairman)
Councillor S Bruce
Councillor B Williams
S Roberts
R Frank
G Kynaston
R Edwards
R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

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| 1 | Apologies |
| | These were received from B Cambidge, N Whittingham, W Jones. |
| 2 | Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman |
| | Board members confirmed B Edwards to continue as Chairman and R B Cambidge as Vice Chairman |
| 3 | Adoption of Governance Documents |
| | The meeting adopted the governance documents covering Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Members Code of Conduct and Register of Members Interest as previously adopted. |
| 4 | Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th October 2017 previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman. |
| 5 | Matters Arising: |
| (i) | The Surveyor confirmed that he had written to the Canal and Rivers Trust and W Griffiths Farms, stating the Board would no longer continue to maintain the watercourses within the Nature Reserve area. G Kynaston reported that very considerable earthworks had taken place, with large pools excavated, some to a very great depth. Removal of large mounds of spoil or their levelling remained to be done |



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| | when ground conditions were drier. |
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| (ii) | River Morda The Surveyor confirmed that the EA had undertaken some maintenance work on the River Morda, removing the large fallen tree reported and members confirmed that EA had undertaken further maintenance along the banks of the River Morda within the Board area during Autumn 2017. |
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| (iii) | R Edwards confirmed that he was pleased with the culvert at Maesbrook Farm, the work having now been completed. |
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| 6. | Correspondence |
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| | ADA Newstream December 2017 |
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| a) | ADA have produced an updated document entitled "Introduction to Internal Drainage Boards". |
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| b) | Welsh Government had confirmed they would implement Schedule 3 to resolve the approval and adoption of SUDS and will introduce statutory standards. |
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| c) | European countries give approval for the use of weedkiller Glyphosate for a further 5 years. |
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| d) | DEFRA produced a document to advise EA on the criteria for main river designation. |
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| e) | DEFRA have produced new farming rules for water as from the 2 nd April 2018. |
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| f) | ADA have given details of the transparency fund for grant aid for smaller authorities to assist with the development and improvement of websites. |
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| g) | EA proposal for licencing of water abstraction to include water transfers; despite lobbying from NFU and ADA, this is going to happen. |
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| | ADA Newstream November 2017 |
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| i) | The Environment Secretary Michael Gove announces plans to consult on a new independent body on environmental standards. |
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| ii) | EA produced document – entitled "Natural Flood Management – part of the Nation's Flood Resilience". The concept of this is to work with natural processes to reduce flood risk. |
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| iii) | The construction industry have produced a guide to sharing expertise on creating successful sustainable urban drainage schemes. |
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| 7. | Complaints |
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| | There have been none reported since the last Board meeting and Board Members reported none. |
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| 8. | Surveyor's Report |
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| | <p>Surveyor confirmed that all of the planned maintenance work for 2017/18 had been completed with the exception of No 8 New Cut – above the road crossing. This length is very deep down and requires a longer armed machine than our contractor, R Morris had. The Surveyor felt that it was not essential this is cleaned this time but would recommend that this would be added to the work for 2018/19 and to include clearance of shrubs, bushes and scrub which has grown up on the east bank, which is the bank from which this watercourse is cleaned.</p> <p>Water levels in this section are in fact governed by the concrete cill below the road bridge and also concrete cill below the Edgerley Sarn sluice gate.</p> |
| | <p>Works completed were Watercourses 6 Upper Turfmoor, Watercourse 33 - Sheepwash, Watercourse 32 - Knockin to Sandford, and Watercourse 31 -Kinnerley to Knockin. Ray Morris had also completed the weed cutting contract which the surveyor felt left the main watercourses in good condition for the higher winter water levels and Weir Brook and Melverley Brook were flowing well when inspected. Ray Morris had not done two small short lengths intended to be done – 600m at the bottom end of Acksea and circa 200 metres to Coppice Farm on the Llwyn-y-groes watercourse.</p> |
| | <p>The surveyor confirmed that Brian Bebb had completed Wern Llyddan (WC. 27) and Tir-y-coed (WC.23) and the top end of Felton Moor (WC.36). Due to very recent wet land conditions he had not been able to do the piling work instructed on No 36 or relay the lifted pipes through Felton Moor wood. This work would now be deferred to August 2018 when ground conditions are as dry as possible.</p> |
| | <p>The surveyor reported that following the heavy snow in early December and recent gales, a considerable number of trees had come over after completion of the maintenance work, particularly a large tree at the bottom end of WC.11 Bontain Bridge to Brookhouse Lane, which will have to be removed in the near future as this is causing an obstruction.</p> |
| | <p><u>Maintenance Work 2018/19</u></p> |
| | <p>The surveyor went through the suggested maintenance work for 2018/19.</p> |

Proposed Maintenance Work

| W/C No. | Name | Length | Yrs since last cleaned |
|---------|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 15 | Osbaston-Stonebridge to Pen-y-parc | 680 | 5 yrs |
| 16 | Osbaston Top End | 3200 | 5yrs |
| 26 | Doverley | 3960 | 4yrs |
| 34 | The Avenue | 865 | 4yrs |
| 39 | Acksea(part) | 650 | 8 yrs |
| 55 | Redwith | 360 | 5yrs |
| 49 | Woolston (part) | 2250 | 5yrs |
| | | 13,245m | |

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Weed Cutting

| W/C No. | Name | Length |
|---------|---|--------|
| 10 | Melverley Brook below Bontain | 245 |
| 11 | Melverley Brook Bontain to Brook House Lane | 1380 |
| 12 | Melverley Brook – Brook House Lane to Argoed Road | 1760 |
| 13 | Melverley Brook – Argoed Road to Wernlas Road | 1425 |
| 28 | Kinnerley Brook to Farmhall | 960 |
| Pt39 | Acksea | 650 |
| 38 | Belan Bank | 290 |
| Pt32 | Sandford Brook | 690 |
| Pt36 | Felton Moor | 1000 |
| Pt41 | Llwyn-y-groes | 1420 |
| | | 9820m |

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| | S Roberts commented that in reality he had cleaned out most of the watercourses in Osbaston top end, as they were badly in need of doing. The surveyor would liaise with Roberts over this. He also commented that there could be alot of tree work needed to gain access to WC 49 – the lower part of Woolston. |
| 9. | Clerk's Report |
| | The current balances are:- |
| | Current Account: £45,883.94 |
| | Payments since last meeting £5,813.60 as per cash book |
| | Receipts since last meeting £915.05 as per cash book |
| | Outstanding debtors - £13,036.07 |
| | <u>Planning</u> |
| | <u>Melverley Green Chapel</u> |
| | Application for conversion to private dwelling with very small lean-to extension. This lies close to a large natural pond. Foul drainage was to be to a dry eco sewage system rather than a septic tank on sewage treatment plant with outfall. This was welcomed. |
| | Surface water as existing, small lean-to extension of insufficient size to cause concern over extra surface water runoff. |
| | <u>St David's, Maesbury Marsh</u> |
| | Construction of additional dwelling within grounds of the property and remodelling of existing property. Foul drainage to mains sewer. Surface water to soakaways or possibility to Board maintained watercourse. |
| | The Clerk confirmed that our auditors for this year and in the future would be PKF Littlejohn who have won the contract in place of Mazars. They had recently run a webinar for Clerks to help them prepare for this year's audit. This would be available online from 25 th January. |

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| | The Clerk reported that Flood and Coast 2018 Drainage/Conference on Flood Risk Management and Drainage would be held on 20 th – 22 nd March 2018 at Telford International Centre. Members were encouraged to attend which is free, and make use of the exhibition on our doorstep. |
| 10. | Review of Clerk's Remuneration |
| | The Clerk reported that a fee of £7,200 had remained unchanged since April 2014. This was a flat fee and was not linked to the actual rateable income which of course has gone up during that period. The Board, on a motion proposed by Steve Roberts, seconded by Geoff Kynaston agreed to an increase of £7,800 as from 1 st April 2018. |
| 11. | Budget 2018/19 |
| | The Clerk presented two budgets, one based on £15p in the £ and one based on 15.5p in the £. The latter would produce an additional £1,401.78 in income. The increase in salary approved - £600 per annum, plus VAT was not incorporated in the budget figures submitted. The Board after consideration felt that it was appropriate to have some increase in the rate to cover the salary increase and it was agreed that the rate in the £ increased to 15.25p for the financial year 2018/19. This was on a motion proposed by Steve Roberts and seconded by Geoff Kynaston. |
| 12. | The Special Levy to Shropshire Council would therefore increase to £7,357.79. |
| 13. | EA Liaison Meeting |
| | The Clerk reported that he and Betton Cambidge, Vice Chairman had attended the meeting in Stourport on 14 th December. This meeting was attended by Chief Executive and Technical Manager of ADA and Catherine Wright who is an EA Board Member. Natural Resources Wales were not present at this meeting but proposed to attend in 2018. |
| | Innes Thompson, Chief Executive of ADA felt that 2017 had been a very positive year with drainage and water and flood risk management moving up the importance scale with DEFRA. Working in collaboration with the various agencies was most important. The recent ADA Conference he felt had highlighted the collaboration work rather than the divisions between the various agencies. |
| | Ian Moodie reported that the public sector corporation agreements were strongly encouraged for partnership working and reported that there were five remaining pilot projects under way; the River Lugg would be one of these in 2018. |
| | There would be consultation on charging for Flood Defence Consents in readiness for a new scale of charges from 1 st April 2018. For the small Boards with turnover under £25k – there is some potential for grant aid support under the transparency code fund. |
| | ADA was encouraging the concept of "sustainable drainage" rather than SUDS sustainable urban drainage schemes as rural areas were just as much impacted by such drainage measures. |

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| | EA reported that they had a successful major training incident response exercise recently. Mark Bowers reported that the EA as a national body was now much better prepared for responding to major flood incidents as all regions could call on the national resource, pulling in other regions as needed. |
| | Paul Flynn of the EA operations confirmed that the EA had an improved maintenance budget and the new funding arrangements allowed them to plan ahead much better knowing what their budget would be 2 years ahead. They had done a lot of desilting works this year and weed cutting, and at Molverley had done some emergency repairs to the argae at Brook Cottage, Pentrehylin; a lot of tree work is also being planned for the next three months which included work on the River Morda |
| | James Bevan EA Chair supported 'desilting/dredging work where there is a benefit from this' which is a great help as there was concern that environmental matters were suppressing the need for routine maintenance and delilting work on main rivers. |
| | Anne Wheeler, Chair of the meeting and Chair of the Severn and Wye Regional Flood Defence Committee is retiring in June 2018 and we await the appointment of the new Severn and Wye RFCC Chairman, who is appointed by DEFRA. |
| 14. | ADA Marches Branch Meeting |
| | Members of each of the Board's from Molverley, Rea, Strine and Lugg make up the Marches Branch with Lower Severn members also attending but having no voting rights. Charles Pudge of River Lugg was confirmed as Chairman and James Ireland of River Lugg Board is confirmed as the ADA Director for our branch. These roles will be for two years and then other board members and staff can put themselves forward for election to these roles. It is confirmed that it is intended to hold only one ADA Marches branch meeting annually to be held with the annual EA/IDB Liaison meeting, so as to minimize costs. It is intended at this stage that there will be no subscription for membership to ADA Branch. |
| 15. | Date of next meeting |
| | This was set for Wednesday 28 th March 2018. Provisional dates were set for June meeting Wednesday 27 th June 2018 and the October meeting 24 th October 2018. |
| | There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm |

Signed.....

Dated

