

Melverley Internal Drainage Board

R L R Jones FRICS FAAV
SURVEYOR & CLERK

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29th March 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 28th March 2018 at 7:30pm

Members Present:

B Edwards (Chairman)
Councillor S Bruce
R B Cambridge
N Whittingham
R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

	Before the commencement of the meeting the Chairman requested members to observe a silence in memory of recently departed respective former Board Members John Cooke and Bill Jones who had recently died. John Cooke was Chairman of the Board for over 30 years until his retirement in 2015 and Bill Jones had been a member since 2008
1	Apologies
	These were received from G Kynaston and R Edwards
2	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4th January 2018
	Previously circulated subject to the amendment of the Special Levy paid by Shropshire Council was £7,357.79 were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3	Matters Arising
	The Clerk's remuneration
	The Clerk reported that on March 18 th he had a meeting with a Partner of Balfours and they had indicated that despite the recent increase approved the remuneration agreed was not sufficient to cover the costs of time involvement of the Clerk, his secretarial staff and accounts staff and that in effect Balfours were subsidising the cost of running the Drainage Board. Balfours gave notice they would be withdrawing from Drainage Board work and the Board would have to find alternative arrangements.
	Richard Jones explained that he would be prepared to continue in the role of Clerk and Surveyor independent of Balfours, bringing in his own secretarial and accounting support staff. It is possible that he would need to be employed directly by the Board. The Clerk would investigate and come forward with a proposal ready for the next Board

302

	meeting.
4.	Correspondence
	This had been relatively limited. The Clerk mentioned the following:-
a)	The Government had produced their 25 year Environment Plan.
b)	The Environment Agency had begun free consultation on de-maining pilot projects. This was looking into the possibility of IDB's taking over responsibility of certain stretches of main river from the EA.
c)	The new RFCC Committee Chairman for Severn and Wye would be Sherelle Steadman. She is an experienced engineer who has been a Board committee member for several years.
d)	Flood and Coast Exhibition at Telford is taking place on the 20 th – 22 nd March. The Clerk had not attended this year.
5.	Complaints
	The Clerk reported being contacted by Richard Cheale, Shropshire Council Drainage Officer over a fallen tree blocking the watercourse near Queens Head. Whilst within the Board area, this was not a Board maintained watercourse and the landowner had been advised accordingly.
	Bryan Edwards reported the problem of water from a pond adjacent to Meverley Green Chapel. The water level of this had risen such that it was flooding over the public road. B Edwards had seen Mr Sims of New House Farm, who owned the pool and he had now reduced the water level. He also reported a problem with blocked drain running under the public road near Little Hendre; the Surveyor would inspect with him. It was probable that jetting would be required to clear this.
6.	Surveyor's Report

Proposed Maintenance Work for 2018			
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
23	Tir-y-coed (bottom end)	550 est	
		13,795m est	
Pipe relaying at Felton Moor estimated at £2,000. Due to the wetness of the winter it has not been feasible to do this and this would now be done in August time.			
Weed Cutting Contract			

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

	<p>This would be undertaken as per 2017. The Surveyor will be seeking quotes from contractors shortly for work to start on 1st August and finish 31st October. The Surveyor confirmed that B Bebb's bill for £7,170.20 in respect of cleaning watercourses 23 Tir-y-coed, 27 Wern Llyddan, 36 Felton Moor have now been paid.</p> <p>All maintenance bills due have been paid and so the current bank balance is a fair reflection of our situation.</p>
7.	Clerk's Report
	Current Balances - £20,641.55
	Business Saver - £57.64
	Receipts since last meeting - £3372.79 as per cash book
	Payments since last meeting - £28,670.18 as per cash book
	Outstanding debtors - £9,516.80 – of these £7,094.48 were this year's rates.
	There are 29 arrears over £50 which we propose to pursue via the debt collector.
	Special Levy on Shropshire Council for 2018/19 was £7,357.79, representing 17% of our income. This percentage has risen, due to recalculation of the Special Levy including a further area of land – Heathwaen Fishing Pool / Lodges which are now business rated.
	<u>Planning</u>
	<p>There have been relatively few planning applications, other than small house extensions. One application which is 18/06023/4 Change of Use from buildings to wedding/events venue at Hilley Farm, Pentre. The Environment Agency had made a holding objection on the grounds that the flood risk assessment was inadequate. An application for an anaerobic digester had been previously submitted with the same flood risk assessment which had been withdrawn.</p> <p>It was felt that any significant flooding in Pentre had a reasonable advance warning period and it was highly unlikely that guests would be in a situation where they were stranded by flooding at the site; whilst the Hilley Buildings were unlikely to flood themselves, the access roads to and from could be inundated.</p>

8.	Date of Next Meeting:
	This was set for Wednesday June 20 th and it may be possible to have an evening inspection/walk linked to this meeting.
9.	Any Other Business
	Following the death of Bill Jones Board Member, the Clerk confirmed that Russell Lloyd of Cae Howell had expressed an interest in joining the Board. Members approved that the Clerk contact him to be co-opted as actual member numbers are below the set numbers we can have The Clerk would contact Mr Lloyd accordingly.
	Mr Edwards indicated that Howard Edwards of Edgerley may also be interested.
	There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:25pm.

Signed..... *Hyem C Edwards*

Dated *20. 6. 18*