**Melverley Internal Drainage Board**

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| R L R Jones FRICS FAAV |  | 17 Rowton Road |
| SURVEYOR & CLERK |  | Shrewsbury |
|  |  | SY2 6JA |
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| Our ref: RLRJ/JS/MIDB |  | Tel: 07980 785111 |
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| Date: 24 October 2019 |  |  |

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT**

# Kinnerley Village Hall on Wednesday 23 OCTOBER 2019

**Members Present:**

B Edwards (Chairman)

N Whittingham

A Kynaston

Councillor B Williams

R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

**Apologies:**

These were received from S Roberts, R Edwards, I Mansell and R B Cambidge

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|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19 June 2019** |
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|  | These had been previously circulated and were approved by the Board and signed by the Chairman. |
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|  | **Matters arising** |
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|  | Tontine Cottage |
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|  | The Chairman reported he had spoken with the owner of Church House, Melverley, who confirmed that he had in the relatively recent past, rodded the drain from his drive side pool which discharges into the Board’s maintained ditch alongside the public road and was running correctly. The Surveyor reported the only other item which could still be done was to check that the drain running from the roadside ditch in front of Tontine Cottage below the drive to Church House into their pond does run. |
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|  | Flooding – River Vyrnwy |
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|  | The Chairman reported the recent significant autumn flood had once again raised the issue of the management of Lake Vyrnwy and to a lesser extent, Clywedog Dam. It appears that Severn Trent Water do not lower water levels in readiness for anticipated rains,and so consequently, overtopping of the dams causes significant water to flow down the river at times of heavy rainwater exacerbating flooding in the Melverley area. He felt a review of the management strategy for these dams should be undertaken to more reflect the need for flood water storage. |
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|  | **Correspondence** |
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|  | The Surveyor reported that a new Drainage Officer had been appointed for Shropshire Council – John Bellis, formerly with Telford & Wrekin Council. He replaces David Edwards who left his post some months ago. The Surveyor would be meeting with Mr Bellis shortly. |
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|  | IDB Liaison Meeting with Environment Agency linked with the ADA branch meeting, would be held on 26 November 2019 in the Kidderminster area. The Clerk would attend. |
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|  | Ian Moodie of ADA reported on ADA’s extensive response to the FCERM strategy consultation from the EA. |
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|  | EA change in water transfer and abstraction licensing. IDBs are no longer exempt from licensing. Melverley IDB does not transfer water by pumping or abstract water, so this is not relevant to us. |
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|  | Following change of Prime Minister there has been a change in the ministerial team; Theresa Villiers was now the Environment Secretary; Therese Coffey was Minister in charge of Drainage and Water Issues and George Eustice had returned to an agricultural role. |
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|  | ADA provided information on the rationalising of the main river network by a project update. Selected watercourses in the pilot locations of Stour Marshes, Kent and Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire have officially changed from main river managed by the Environment Agency to ordinary watercourse managed by IDB under this project. |
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|  | Flood Re – a statement explaining Flood Re’s proposal to make British homes covered by this insurance scheme within flood prone areas, to be made more flood resilient. Essentially, instead of replacing like for like in any repair works, it was hoped that more flood resistant materials and methods of construction would be adopted and the additional cost met by the insurers. |
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|  | Mr S J Baker, Windsor House, Pentre, had written in about his assessment stating that the majority of his property was now garden. Following inspection, the Clerk agreed that only a small area was still classified as agricultural and his assessment would be amended. |
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|  | **Complaints** |
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|  | The Surveyor reported that he had received none. |
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|  | **Surveyor's Report** |
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|  | The Surveyor confirmed the work authorised at the last meeting at Lower Hendre near Maesbury Marsh, had been completed satisfactorily, although the account had not yet been received.  He reported R Morris had completed a great majority of the weed cutting and ditch clearing work prior to the wet weather and flooding experienced in early October. Brian Bebb had undertaken some of his work, but some still remained to be done.  The Surveyor then reported on a problem which had arisen on the Sandford Brook on the section of this watercourse upstream of Knockin Church. Water from the Sandford Brook (Weir Brook) was escaping into a honeycomb brick chamber which is built into the bank of the watercourse and running into a field drain system lying beneath a pasture field owned by R Moseley. This chamber takes a drain which runs from the opposite side of the watercourse serving a field drainage system in a field belonging to I Turner and farmed by S Roberts. There is a cast iron pipe which runs between the two chambers directly beneath the Sandford Brook. B Bebb contractor had been engaged by R Moseley following the appearance of a lake on his field. Bebb had managed to clean out the field drainage system of the collected silt and open up the ditch into which this drain empties and had sealed the chamber with grey clay to prevent water from the Sandford Brook getting into the system. However, the clay work had only lasted circa one week and water had found its way around the clay barrier and was entering the chamber once again. The Surveyor explained that the Board would have to resolve the situation as the Weir Brook cannot be allowed to discharge into the ratepayer’s field drainage system. He proposed to:   1. De-silt the Sandford Brook along the length from Sheepwash to Knockin Church, which would hopefully lower the bed level somewhat and prevent water overtopping the bank side as had happened causing flooding to Roberts’ field during the flood time early October. 2. The Sandford Brook would also be cleaned out to allow water from this to run via an alternative route to the Sheepwash watercourse.      1. The chamber in the bank of the watercourse would be removed and a replacement chamber constructed circa six yards away on the edge of the field of R Moseley. 2. A single piece of pipe running between the two brick chambers, one either side laid underneath the watercourse, would have to be laid possibly by drilling.   The Board approved these works and the Surveyor would proceed on this basis. |
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|  | **Clerk’s Report** |
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|  | Balances:   1. Community account - £50,754.76 2. Business Premium account - £57.85   List of receipts:  £25,192.61 – 4 April to 22 October 2019, including £18,867.66 of drainage rates, as detailed on the attached collector’s journal.  Payments made:  17 April to 22 October 2019, totalled £7,239.96, as detailed on the attached schedule. |
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|  | The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency foreign water payment, which was normally paid in April, had not yet been received and he would chase this up.  The annual Governance and Accountability Report had been returned by PKF Littlejohn with no comment and the audit fee has been paid. The Audit Notice has been posted on the website, as required. |
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|  | The DEFRA Annual Report was sent in for 30 September 2019.  The Melverley demands had been sent out on 10 September 2019. Since that date, approximately 50% of the rates had been received, which was thought to be a good start. The current arrears (154No ratepayers totalled £22,735.49, as per the schedule attached. |
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|  | Low Value Demands |
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|  | Discussion on this took place at the last meeting. The Clerk had talked with the operator of the DRS accounting system. They had a policy of not issuing low value demands, but keeping the ratepayer on their books and sending out demands covering more than one year’s rates when the demand reached the threshold set of, say, £5. This method had the merit of meaning the ratepayers were still on the system and liable to pay the rates, but some savings on administration by not sending out low value demands with their cost of postage and stationery, being avoided. |
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|  | Barclays Bank |
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|  | The Clerk received monthly bank statements, but had found that these were not frequent enough to provide the service he needs when ratepayers make payments online and request a receipt. He is organising ‘read only’ online banking for the Melverley IDB Barclays account. The Board agreed they would continue to make payments by way of cheques with two signatories. |
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|  | Reminders to ratepayers would go out in mid-November. |
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|  | Planning |
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|  | The Clerk reported on three planning applications:   1. 19/04432/EIA – extension to poultry unit including silos and associated works, Knockin Hall Farm. Clean water drainage was direct to the Board maintained watercourse already and this would continue with this extension proposal. 2. 19/040664/FUL – erection of agricultural building and biomass boiler, Plas Cerrig Farm, Llanymynech. This was for a replacement farm building following conversion of the traditional brick buildings to residential use. No information on drainage, other than it shall be to a sustainable drainage system, had been given. This is outside any flood area and no comment was necessary. 3. 19/0344/AGR – new agricultural building on land ex-Buckley Farm near Pentre. A new stone track had been formed from Pentre into this open agricultural land for the creation of a new farmstead. This would be for a circa 23m x 25m farm building with hardstanding around. This site lay within a flood risk area and the Board confirmed the Clerk should write to highlight this point. |
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|  | **Dates of Next Meeting** |
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|  | This was confirmed as 22 January 2020. |
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|  | **Any Other Business** |
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|  | Nigel Whittingham reminded the Surveyor that the top end of Fox Covert was not properly cleaned last time and still requires to be done, although it could be left until 2020 if found necessary. |
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| There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50 pm. | |

Signed: .............................................................

Dated: ..............................................................