**Melverley Internal Drainage Board**

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| R L R Jones FRICS FAAV |  | 75 Rowton Road |
| SURVEYOR & CLERK |  | Shrewsbury |
|  |  | SY2 6JA |
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| Our ref: RLRJ/JS/MIDB |  | Tel: 07980 785111 |
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| Date: 8 April 2021 |  |  |

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**ON WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 2021 AT 7:30 PM**

**Members Present:**

B Cambidge (Chairman)

A Kynaston

R Lloyd

Councillor B Williams

R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

**Member of Public:**

Jenny Maiden

**Apologies for Absence:**

These had been received from B Edwards and S Roberts

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|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 20 January 2021 by Zoom** |
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|  | These were approved by the Board and the Clerk confirmed a hard copy would be signed at the next in person meeting. |
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|  | **Matters arising** |
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|  | There were none not included in the agenda. |
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|  | **Surveyor's Report** |
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|  | Edgerley Sarn DoorsFollowing the fall in water levels since the 26 January flood, contractor R Morris has returned and completed the repairs to the top doors with a new horizontal steel support beam installed and the footbridge over the doors reconstructed. The likely cost will be about £2,500.The bottom doors are in fair condition only and it is recommended we consider refurbishing these with a new steel structure in place of the decaying timber support beam. Russell Lloyd stated that the bottom doors were catching on the concrete base and therefore not properly closing. The Board instructed the Surveyor to obtain a quotation for the necessary refurbishment work in time for a Board inspection at our next June outdoor meeting. |
|  | Little Sarn DoorAbout three years ago the Board took a decision not to spend money needed to repair this broken door as it was thought expensive in relation to the relatively small area of land protected (estimated 60 acres) from flooding by the sluice door. However, the Surveyor now believes in the two very large floods experienced in the last 14 months, extra water has been entering the Edgerley Sarn basin via the Little Sarn watercourse route as a consequence of the door no longer functioning. This has exacerbated flooding over a large area (several hundred acres). The Surveyor therefore thinks the Board should consider repairing the Little Sarn door. He was instructed to obtain a quotation for the Board’s consideration at its June meeting when we would also seek to inspect this door. |
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|  | Llwyn-y-Groes WatercourseR Morris has installed the culvert on the cross-ditch running into this watercourse which will assist in our annual weed cutting work. |
|  | Gwern-y-Daubll WatercourseFollowing the January flood, B Bebb has removed a huge amount of collected straw debris from the top side of the modern road bridge on the Wernlas to Maesbrook road, which was virtually blocking this watercourse.A very old small brick culvert needs replacing to allow us access with modern machinery to an area of woodland we cannot presently reach and so cannot clean a long length of this watercourse. This takes a huge volume of water in any flood. Estimated cost circa £1,000. |
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|  | Knockin to Kinnerley WatercourseB Bebb has removed a redundant semi-collapsed brick culvert on this length and some other minor blockages which were causing high water levels. |
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|  | Highway IssuesA new Shropshire Council’s Highways manager for the Oswestry division has recently been appointed. Victoria Doran has confirmed renewal of the blocked culvert under the road between the Malthouse and the Whitehouse at Melverley Green is on their contractor Keir’s work schedule.The Surveyor will push along with Melverley PC to get the road repaired at Melverley Green near the Old Chapel now we have got Mr Simms to reduce the level of his pond which was coming out into the highway. We will also try and assist the Council on the problem at the Pwll turn where water frequently collects on the road and near Coed-y-Rae, Maesbury Marsh where a culvert below the road is virtually blocked.The Surveyor would obtain contractors’ quotes for the 2021 maintenance works as per the previously approved schedule in readiness for the June meeting. |
|  | **Clerk’s Report** |
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| Bank Balances 23 March 2021 |
| Current account | £31,208.75 |
| Business premium account | £10,078.87 |
| Total: | £41, 287.62 |
| Rates Collected |
| 2020/21Receipts since 4 January 2021Made up as follows:HMRC VATRates collectedTotal:Payments since 4 January 2021Arrears as at 23 March 2021 | £33,624.89£7,670.78£5,882.65£1,778.13£7,670.78£8,736.26 (as per the schedule attached)£5,879.28 |
| The Clerk reported that 13 ratepayers represented over £4,800 of this total. The Board authorised the Clerk to engage a debt collector to pursue these as soon as is feasible with the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions. |

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|  | List of Payments 5 January 2021 to 23 March 2021 |
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| **Date** | **Payee** | **Net** | **VAT** | **TOTAL** |
| 06.1.21 | RLR Jones | 2259.50 |  | 2259.50 |
| 25.1.21 | B A Bebb (Maintenance) | 5397.30 | 1079.46 | 6476.76 |
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| **TOTAL** |  | **7656.80** | **1079.46** | **8736.26** |

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|  | Special Levy on Shropshire CouncilThis had been advertised as required and issued for 2021/22 and sent to Shropshire Council for payment at £7,960.92. |
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|  | Rate Demands 2021/22The rate in the £ was set 16.5p at the last Board meeting. Once the year end procedures have been done and the 2020/21 draft accounts prepared, the Clerk hoped to have the demands issued in June 2021. He intended to include a note to all ratepayers explaining the work of the Board with their demands. |
|  | Melverley Flood Action GroupThe Clerk representing the Board had attended the Zoom meeting on 1 March 2021 organised by the National Flood Forum for local residents to meet with all relevant stakeholder bodies; for example, Environment Agency, National Resources Wales, Shropshire Council, Melverley IDB. |
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|  | Kinnerley Parish Council Flood Prevention Working GroupThe Clerk had attended this meeting held on Zoom on 11 February. Charles Green from Maesbrook had given a useful presentation on the history of flooding at Melverley within this meeting. |
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|  | Meeting with Owen Patterson MP and Environment Agency West Midlands Chair, Clare Dinnis, 13 May 2021The Clerk had been invited to this on site meeting to view areas where improvements suggested by locals might be possible to help reduce the impact of flooding. The Clerk confirmed the Board Chairman was also invited. Councillor Brian Williams asked if he could attend to represent Shropshire Council should there be no other Shropshire Council representative included. |
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|  | **Update on Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (SVWMS)** |
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|  | Since the last Board meeting, Shropshire Council have submitted their planning application for the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road on the basis of a viaduct over the river with no linkage whatsoever to the flood barrier. At the Kinnerley PC Zoom meeting Mark Barrow, Shropshire Council Director of Place, spoke and confirmed this.Various Environment Agency speakers confirmed that the SVWMS will look at a wide range of flood reducing options, not just the flood barrier scheme. Consideration of upstream natural flood management schemes will be one option and also re-examining the role and operation of the Clywedog and Vyrnwy reservoirs to have more of a flood prevention role. With regards to accurate details of actual impact by a flood barrier on flood water levels in the Melverley and Pentre areas, much greater research and modelling is needed before they can advise on this.Russell Lloyd has been approached by consultants Ricardo, acting for Thames Water requesting access over their land to reach the New Cut outfall. They wish to take water samples and in the longer term install a flow gauge. At present Russell Lloyd has not given permission for this. Board members recommended that he wait until he receives something formally in writing and that a copy of this be passed to the Clerk for the Board’s information. |
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|  | **Complaints** |
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|  | There have been none since the last meeting. |
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|  | **Correspondence** |
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|  | The Clerk stated that all this came via Association of Drainage Authorities; he highlighted the following:- |
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|  | 1. ADA response to DEFRA’s call for evidence on local flooding.
2. Environment Agency statement saying that more than 300,000 homes were now better protected from flooding since 2015.
3. DEFRA Committee still feels there is a lack of clear flood resilience targets, which leaves England at risk of ‘playing catch up’ with climate change.
4. Public Accounts Committee was concerned that the next housing and building regulations scandal is brewing through flood protection failures with councils still allowing development in flood plain areas.
5. NFU calling for urgent action on integrated water management in new report.
6. The Flood & Coast 2021 event usually held at Telford will be a virtual event this year, held on 28 June to 1 July 2021.
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|  | **Date of Next Meeting** |
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|  | This was set for Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 7:00 pm start. Hopefully, this would be an in person meeting held at Kinnerley Village Hall for a short business meeting to essentially approve the 2020/21 accounts, followed by an outdoor visit to view the Edgerley Sarn and Little Sarn doors and also Brookside Caravan Park bank slip. |
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|  | **Any Other Business** |
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|  | Jenny Maiden, a member of public, asked if the Board had received the Shropshire Council money for the Tontine Cottage improvement scheme. The Clerk reported they had not as yet, but he would chase John Bellis. The Clerk was keen for the work to be done during the summer months when hopefully there were dry weather and good ground conditions. |
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| There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm |

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

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