**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 |
|  |  |  |
| Date: 23 September 2021 |  |  |

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7:30 PM**

**AT KINNERLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**Members Present:**

B C Edwards (Chairman)

B Cambidge

A Kynaston

N Whittingham

R Frank

R Lloyd

Councillor B Williams

Sally Herbert-Jones (member of public)

R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

**Apologies for Absence:**

These had been received from S Roberts and A Jones.

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|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 23 June 2021** |
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|  | These were approved by the Board and were signed by the Chairman. |
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|  | **Matters arising** |
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|  | There were none raised. |
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|  | **New Model Standing Orders** |
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|  | The Clerk explained that DEFRA had approved new model standing orders for internal drainage boards, which would allow them to meet either in person or remotely through Zoom or Teams or in a hybrid model, whereby some members would be present at a meeting and others would join via Zoom. On a motion proposed by Nigel Whittingham and seconded by Andrew Kynaston, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt these new model standing orders. Whilst generally they would prefer to meet in person, the adoption would give them flexibility should the need arise. |
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|  | **Surveyor’s Report** |
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|  | 2021 Maintenance  This is progressing well with good ground conditions. Some corn and silage crops have yet to be harvested, so the contractors have not been able to clean these lengths, but will return as soon as the crops are off. B Bebb has done much of 26 Doverley, 19 Maesbrook Isaf and 21 Pwll. R Morris has done most of Edgerley Sarn, using a weed bucket and has greatly improved the flow and dropped the level significantly. He has also done most of Upper Turfmoor and a good part of Wern Llydan. He is concentrating on those ditches which are to be cleaned and will move on to those to be weed cut afterwards. |
|  | Edgerley Sarn Doors  Ray Morris has the steel work and some that he has cut already and expects to be in a position to install the frame a re-hang the doors , water levels permitting, starting on Monday 27 September. |
|  | Little Sarn Door  At the site meeting on 23 June, Board members agreed to replace this. The Surveyor contacted Shropshire Wildlife Trust who have asked whether it is essential for this to be replaced; they are keen for more water to get onto their land and beyond for nature conservation reasons. The Board had a lengthy discussion on this matter. The members felt generally that by replacing this defunct culvert and sluice gate they were only reinstating the general standard of drainage which this land had enjoyed for decades. It is only in recent years since the culvert flap rusted away, that water has been flowing up through the culvert onto Shropshire Wildlife Trust land and up onto other ratepayers’ land upstream. Some of these landowners impacted by this additional water now getting up into their ground had complained that extra flood water was affecting them. The area of land impacted by this upstream of SWT’s land was approximately 60 acres, significantly more than that owned by SWT. The Clerk reminded Board members that they had a duty to consider nature conservation and biodiversity matters. It was explained that in a very big flood the culvert and argae are overtopped anyway. However, in low to medium level floods, reinstating the culvert and flap would mean that some land would then be free of water up until the time the argae was overtopped. This would in reality provide some additional flood water storage capacity.  Weighing up all these matters, the Board felt that in this case the ratepayers’ concerns upstream of SWT’s land outweighed SWT’s request and instructed the Surveyor to respond to SWT accordingly. It was added that this work was readily reversible should matters change in the future, with more priority being given to re-wetting of land, which could readily be achieved by removing the flap . |
|  | Tontine Cottage Improvement Scheme  Shropshire Council have now confirmed in writing through Victoria Doran, Highways manager, that they contribute £4,000 towards this. We have therefore instructed B Bebb to proceed, hopefully doing the work within the next month. The cost of plastic pipe has risen considerably since the early 2020 quote, so costs will increase. We are seeking to locate an asbestos water main in this vicinity before he starts. |
|  | **Clerk’s Report** |
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|  | Bank Balances at 1 September 2021 |
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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Current Account  Business Premium Account  Total | £35,096.32  £10,079.12  £45,175.44 | |
|  | The Clerk reported that as at 22 September, the current account balance was £42,302.46, meaning our total funds came to £52,381.58. |
|  | Receipts Since 9 June 2021 |
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|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Rates collected | £18,453.62 | |
|  | 143 receipts since 1 August represents approximately 48% of the 2021/22 rates demanded.  The Clerk reported that an additional £7,306 rates had come in up to 22 September, meaning the total was now £25,659.62, or approximately 64% of rates demanded. |
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|  | Payments Since 9 June 2021 – as set out in the table |
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|  | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Date | Recipient | Net | VAT | Gross | |  |  |  |  |  | | 23.0621 | R A Morris (new culvert) | £378.24 | £75.65 | £453.89 | | 23.06.21 | Balfours (internal audit fee) | £100.00 | £30.00 | £120.00 | | 01.07.21 | R L R Jones (quarterly management fee and expenses) | £2,343.50 |  | £2,343.50 | | 14.08.21 | Water Management Alliance (DRS annual maintenance) | £461.00 | £92.20 | £553.20 | | **Totals:** |  | **£3,282.64** | **£187.85** | **£3,470.59** | |
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|  | **AGAR** |
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|  | Year Ending 31 March 2021 |
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|  | This was submitted to our auditors prior to 30 June deadline. The auditors asked us to amend our response to Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement Part 4 on our return, from ‘Yes’ to ‘No’, as we failed to submit the 2020 return prior to 31 August 2020 deadline (not meeting until 9 September 2020 to approve the return). And thus, technically we did not comply with all the accounts and audit regulations during the year 2020/21. An amended return was sent to them initialled by the Chairman and advertised on the website as requested. On 21 September the external auditors’ formal report was received and this has been approved with only the above matter noted. |
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|  | **Melverley Flood Action Group** |
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|  | Clerk attended the Multi-Agency meetings on 13 July and 21 September. |
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|  | **Pentre/Edgerley Flood Acton Group** |
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|  | The first meeting of this newly formed group on Zoom was held on 6 September, to which the Clerk had been invited, but unfortunately could not attend .He is preparing plans of the area showing the Board maintained watercourses for them, as he did for the Melverley group. |
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|  | **Shropshire Council’s Special Levy** |
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|  | The levy due for 2020/21 has not been paid. The Clerk is chasing this along with the 2021/22 levy. Payment of these will bring in circa £15,000. He will ask Vince Hunt/Brian Williams to pursue this payment if it does not arrive soon. |
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|  | **Planning** |
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|  | There had been no applications of particular drainage concern since our last meeting. |
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|  | **Complaints** |
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|  | The Chairman reported that Mr Hamer was concerned regarding a collapsed bridge on the Kinnerley to Knockin watercourse. The Surveyor would investigate. |
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|  | **Date of Next Meeting** |
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|  | This was set for Wednesday 19 January 2022. |
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|  | **Elections 2021** |
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|  | 2021 is an election year and the date set for nominations to close is 29 September 2021. Should an election need to be held, the date will be 26 October 2021.  The Clerk explained that following examination of the Board’s constitutional makeup, there were potentially four Council appointed members spaces available and ten elected spaces. The Clerk reported that Councillors Brian Williams and Vince Hunt had been appointed as Shropshire Council representatives. The Clerk suggested to the Board that as we had two further spaces available, that the Melverley Parish Council and the Kinnerley Parish Council each be asked to nominate a representative to join the Board to represent Parish Council interests. On a motion proposed by Brian Williams and seconded by Bryan Edwards, this motion was approved.  The Jan19th 2022 meeting would be the first meeting of the new Board when members would appoint a chairman and standing orders ,members code of conduct, policy statements and financial regulations would need to be adopted. |
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|  | **Any Other Business** |
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|  | Bryan Edwards reported that the EA are about to start work on repairing the Weir Brook doors.  Sally Herbert-Jones reported that work on reconstructing the Crows Nest length of the argae near Melverley was almost finished, with reseeding about to be done. She was concerned that this had finished three months’ later than anticipated and in reality the initial design had to be significantly altered once the contractor was on site.    Sally Herbert-Jones also raised the matter that with many incomers to the Melverley IDB area in recent years, many people living within the area were unaware of the work of the Board or were under the belief that if they paid a rate they handed over all responsibility for drainage matters to the Board. She felt it was important that the Board should better explain their role and for locals to be better informed. The Board agreed that they would spend money on producing a flyer for inclusion in the 2022 demands mailing explaining the work of the Board and possibly including a map of the extent of our area, as of course it extends far beyond Melverley parish. |
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| There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45 pm. | |
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Signed: .............................................................

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