**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 January 2020 |  |  |

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT**

# Kinnerley Village Hall on Wednesday 22 JANUARY 2020

**Members Present:**

Betton Cambidge

Steve Roberts

Robert Frank

Andrew Kynaston

Councillor B Williams

R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

Sally Herbert-Jones – member of public

Jenny Maiden – member of public

 **Apologies:**

These were received from B Edwards and N Whittingham

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|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 October 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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|  | The Clerk confirmed he had met with John Bellis, Shropshire Council Drainage Officer at the November Environment Agency/IDB liaison meeting. He had expressed an interest in coming to a board meeting. |
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|  | The Clerk confirmed he was now able to view online the bank statements. Payments for the account however, were still operated by cheque with two signatories. The Clerk had seen in action online banking for making payments and was satisfied that the security arrangements, whereby two persons separately had to log online to authorise a payment, was sound and could be recommended to the board, if the board wished to go down this route. This would be added to the next board meeting agenda. |
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|  | Tontine Cottage – Flooding |
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|  | The Surveyor outlined the problems experienced at Tontine Cottage, an old cottage sited in Melverley near to the former Tontine pub, set down somewhat below the road level and suffered from road water flowing into its grounds and in 2019 the house was flooded on four occasions. The occupant Mr Maiden is aged 90 and needs a full time carer. The Maiden family have spent substantial sums, circa £10,000 on drainage improvements at the property over the last few years. Recently they have engaged Mr Arnon Hazan to install a new surface water drainage system incorporating non-return valves. The system drains to two separate outfalls, one running to the south and one to the north. Despite the work the Maidens have undertaken, they are concerned that the drainage system into which their systems outfall are not fit for purpose and they may well still suffer flooding as a consequence.  |
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|  | *Outfall running south* – this connects to a Highways road gulley at the corner of their garden and Church Drive and thence runs underground parallel with the wall of the former Tontine pub, also taking rainwater from the Tontine to a gulley adjacent to the car park where the drain turns 90 degrees and runs below the public road to a shallow depression running in front of the property Minafon. This depression is then culverted beneath two entrances to the property and then continues as a roadside ditch for about 150m to the point where the Board maintained ditch starts. This is at the point where the public road turns away towards the river bridge. The roadside ditch was badly silted up, but recently the riparian owner of the field adjoining, Mr C Trow, has cleaned this length himself. It was agreed that the Board would clean the remaining section of open ditch and jet the culverted sections to ensure all these were running clear. This would be at the Board’s cost. This work would be undertaken by Mr A Hazan, the Maiden’s contractor. |
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|  | *Outfall running north* – this discharges to a Highways gulley set in the centre of the opening to their property. This gulley sits above the general level of their drive and this gulley merely discharges to a shallow roadside ditch about 15m away. This ditch then runs in a northerly direction running under two tarmacked entrances to Pleasant View and ultimately to a shallow open ditch which leads towards the back drive to Church House Caravan Park close to the post box. The levels of the underground pipes to this drain are probably set too high, but water does run out northwards, although there is concern that in extreme heavy rain it would not flow away fast enough and the non-return valve would operate causing more problems for the property. When the ditch reaches the post box there is no evidence of any drain or continuing pipe. However, from investigations with Mr Martin Davies, he informs us that there is a drain which runs westward alongside the drive to Church House Caravan Park, which then crosses the drive to discharge into a small pond belonging to Mr Grimsley, owner of Church House. There is a further drain leading out of this pond, which runs across Colin Trow’s pasture field and ultimately discharges to the Board maintained roadside ditch about 150m to the north. It is evident that the ditch from the post box to the pool is hardly functioning and is probably blocked by hedge roots, and the drain from the pond is only circa three inch diameter clay butt joined pipe, which has settled and furred up and is extremely difficult to rod and ensure that it runs correctly. The Surveyor’s belief is that the long term solution is to lay a new drain from the post box under the Church House Caravan Park drive entrance then under Colin Trow’s field parallel with the roadside hedge and thence under the stoned farm access land to discharge into the board ditch. This is about 180m length of drain. A quotation for the work necessary to include a connecting drain from the pond to an inspection chamber on the new drain comes to £6,900, plus VAT. This is a very substantial sum and the Board felt that as this new drain would greatly assist the road drainage system, that Shropshire Highways should be approached for a contribution. The Board had great sympathy for the Maiden’s plight and confirmed that they would do the work on the outfall running south and were keen to assist on the work to the outfall running north, but feel due to the cost would need help from Shropshire Council. Councillor Brian Williams agreed to arrange a meeting with the Highways engineer, possibly Stewart Lockley or senior above, to look at this. The opportunity would also be taken to look at a number of other Highway drainage issuesin the Board area. |
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|  | **Complaints** |
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|  | Sally Herbert-Jones had previously shown two points to the Surveyor on the road from Melverley to the Black Horse where water was persistently ponding and flooding the road. |
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|  |  *Pwll Turn*The Surveyor had looked at this and thinks that the Highways drainage system discharges to a ditch which runs along the Pwll Lane as far as the corner where the road turns sharp left. This is at the point where the drive to Grove Farm runs off. The ditch here runs into an underground drain which probably runs under the road and across towards Grove Farm. It is evident that this drain is blocked and water is not running. The Surveyor would speak to Mr John Simpson owner of Grove Farm about this and seek to get Shropshire Highways to jet the drain to try and resolve this drainage issue. |
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|  | *Road near Pentreheylin*This pool gathering on the road could be simply resolved by a road gulley and circa 15m of drain through the bank to discharge to a Board maintained ditch nearby. The Surveyor would look at this with the Highways’ surveyor. |
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|  | *Coed-y-Rae*Persistent water lying on the road leading from Maesbury Marsh to Coed-y-Rae close to the canal humpback bridge. It appears that the drain beneath the Highway is blocked, possibly due to a displaced stone culvert or tree roots at the downstream end. Again, the Surveyor would look at this with Shropshire Highways. |
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|  | *Coed-y-Rae Lane*The underground drain leading from the end of our Board maintained ditch, which runs down Coed-y-Rae Green Lane is blocked and a lake has appeared on R Frank’s and a neighbour’s ground. John Roberts had been instructed to investigate this and it may well require lifting and relaying of a section of the pipe. There are a number of ash trees close to the pipe in one location and this could be the source of the problem. |
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|  | *Acksea Watercourse*Ian Mansell complained about high water levels just upstream of the Brook House Bridge. John Finney, downstream of the bridge, had removed an obstacle from the watercourse, but this has not seemed to make any difference. The Surveyor will investigate underneath the road bridge; there may be a blockage here to remove. |
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|  | **Correspondence** |
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|  | Notification that David Noble, a former ADA Secretary/Chief Executive Officer 1986 to 2009, had died. |
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|  | ADA seven point plan for water level and flood risk management announced ahead of the general election. |
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|  | Research into factors affecting the IDB Board membership and their impact on Board governance report produced. Councillor Williams reported that he had had a telephone interview by a researcher, as indeed had our Chairman Brian Edwards. We believe 15 boards only had been interviewed as part of this research. |
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|  | Five YouTube training modules from ADA’s Good Governance workshops available for IDB members. |
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|  | DEFRA commissions surface water drainage review. |
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|  | Results of IDB Health, Safety and Welfare survey published. |
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|  | **Surveyor's Report** |
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|  | All de-silting work ordered for 2019/20 has been done despite the serious flooding this year, with the exception of the Common Lane, where water levels were just too high for the work to be done. All maintenance bills have been received and are now paid and John Roberts has also been paid for the Lower Hendre ditching work adjacent Coed-y-Rae Lane. |
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|  | *Proposed maintenance for 2020/21* |
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|  | * Schedule of watercourses proposed to be cleaned is attached. Overall length has been cut back somewhat to allow for the extra items needed in 2020, i.e. Coed-y-Rae blockage, Sandford Brook work and possibly the Melverley Road improvement scheme.
* The weed cutting programme was recommended to continue as previously with approximately 9,320m to be done. This work does help to ensure the effectiveness of the watercourses in the wet winter months.
* The Surveyor reported on the Sandford Brook upstream of Knockin church, where water from the brook was flowing into a brick chamber situated in the side of the channel and getting into a field drainage system of R Moseley adjoining, causing a lot of sand to be brought down and blocking the drains. Brian Bebb had sealed the chamber with clay and this had worked initially, but ultimately the water has found its way around the clay and is running strongly into this drainage system. This cannot continue and the proposal is to install a new sealed drain which runs underneath the watercourse from an existing chamber on the west side to a new chamber to be constructed well out of the watercourse on R Moseley’s ground to the east. This would probably be in steel and the drainage pipe would be threaded through this. This was necessary to ensure there were no joins in the pipe in the area of our watercourse. Brian Bebb’s quotation of £3,300 for this work was accepted by the Board and he would be instructed to do the work when ground conditions are drier.
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|  | Water resources West |
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|  | A request from Strine IDB had been received. They were keen to have representation on this group, which researches water source provision in the west of the UK. However, they would ideally like to be linked with other boards in this. We decided however, that we could not comment further until more details of the time and cost involvement were known. |
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|  | Pond creation grants |
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|  | The Surveyor reported that EA had some money for a pond creation or restoration scheme operated by Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The Chair suggested that Mr Grimsley of Church House, Melverley, might be interested in this scheme. |
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|  | **Clerk’s Report** |
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|  | Bank balance at 22 January 202 - £30,735.83, taking into account recent payments. |
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|  | Payments made since the last meeting, as per schedule attached - £31,796.80 |
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|  | Receipts received for 2019/20 :Rates - £28,910.59. This represented 208 ratepayers.Arrears outstanding - £11,452.90. This represented 103 ratepayers, of which 27 were below £20. Reminder letters would be sent out to 71 ratepayers. Of the arrears outstanding, approximately £8,000 was due from only 14 ratepayers and we anticipate that we will get £6,500 of arrears in before the year end. |
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|  | To approve 2020/21 budget and set the rate in the pound and special levy on Shropshire Council |
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|  | The Surveyor worked through the budget papers explaining the assumptions on which his budget was based, which would allow for some modest increases in costs including a 5% increase in his salary. The anticipated bank balance at the end of March 2020 was £36,949. The proposed budget was based upon 15.8p in the pound, being a 0.32% increase. This produced an estimated surplus of only £104.80. After some discussion, on a motion proposed by Councillor B Williams and seconded by A R Kynaston, a rate of 16p in the pound was approved by the Board together with the budget This was a 3.22% increase. The special levy on Shropshire Council would be [To be inserted] |
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|  | The EA/IDB liaison meeting |
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|  | * The Clerk had attended as Betton Cambidge was unable to do so. Innes Thomson from ADA Chief Executive gave an update on national and regional highlights including seven key points that had been sent in a letter to all prospective MPs.
* Mark Bowers, the EA West Midlands manager, provided an update on highlights and key issues. He mentioned in particular the floods experienced in 2019, which had caused much additional work for their work staff.
* Richard Blackwell from Water Resources West gave an update on the work that they are preparing in relation to water resources in the western half of the UK.
* John Bellis from Shropshire Council gave a short update on his new role.

Individual IDBs gave reports on the work they have undertaken.* The Clerk gave a more detailed report on this occasion, trying to explain the history of Melverley IDB and its regular flooding, with excess flood water breaking through the gap in the argae off the River Morda and then flooding into our area and running round to Melverley. The water then drains into the River Severn via two sluices and this can only happen when the River Severn level has dropped sufficiently to allow the sluice doors to open This flood storage remit has been ongoing now for 200 plus years and we deal with this regular flooding in our normal work. The prospect of a payment for flood water storage under a government agricultural environmental scheme has been mooted and this would be warmly welcomed by many of our ratepayers. 2019 has been a difficult year for the Board with floods in June, October and November, causing additional work. It has been noted that the EA’s reduction in cleaning of main rivers and obstruction removal is beginning to cause issues for some of our ratepayers. He also raised the future management of the two main reservoirs at the top end of Severn and Vyrnwy,and whether their management operation could be amended to include a flood water storage role.
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|  | **ADA Marches Report** |
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|  | A short ADA branch meeting AGM took place. Key points to raise were that the Chairman, Charles Pudge and the Secretary, Adrienne Davies, both indicated they wished to step down at the next AGM and the constituent members must find new blood to take over these roles. |
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|  | **Dates of Next Meeting** |
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|  | These were provisionally set for Wednesday 8 April and Wednesday 24 June. Brian Williams indicated he could not attend 8 April and asked if it could be altered to 1 April. The Clerk will discuss with the Chair on his return from holiday and respond accordingly. |
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| There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 pm. |

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

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