**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  rlrj@melverleyidb.org.uk |
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| Date: 11 April 2023 |  |  |

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD AT KINNERLEY PARISH HALL**

**ON WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2023 AT 7:30 PM**

**Members Present:**

B Cambidge (Chairman)

B Edwards

Cllr V Hunt

Cllr B Williams

C Green (Kinnerley Parish Council representative)

A Jones

H Edwards (member of public)

R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

**Apologies for Absence:**

These had been received from John Bellis of Shropshire Council.

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|  | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held 18 January 2023** |
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|  | These were approved by the Board and signed by the Chairman. |
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|  | **Matters arising** |
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|  | The Clerk confirmed he would resend Board members address details to ADA so that they can receive ADA publications direct. |
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|  | **Surveyor’s Report** |
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|  | **2022 Maintenance** |
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|  | B Bebb has cleaned the ditch alongside the bottom end of Common Lane and completed the wooden sluice refurbishment and associated tree felling and burning up. All maintenance invoices have now been paid. |
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|  | **Little Sarn Culvert** |
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|  | The Surveyor proposes to re-enter negotiations with Shropshire Wildlife Trust over the Board’s decision to reinstate this flapped culvert on their land now we have the Biodiversity Action Plan in place. It is proposed this work is done in the dry summer months, as there is a long access route over their ground. The cost is now in the region of £8,000. The Surveyor will contact Carl Pickup, the reserves manager. |
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|  | **Flooding January 2023** |
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|  | A significant flood event occurred on 13 January 2023 with most of Melverley under water. However, levels did not quite reach those of 2022 and fortunately Pentre narrowly escaped the flood. |
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|  | **Severn Valley Water Management Scheme** |
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|  | Charles Green explained that this is progressing, but the timescale has slipped. They are still very much in discussion with the Welsh government over proposals for natural flood management in Wales and considering the details of schemes and the complexity of funding options. It was felt that these schemes will be key to getting anywhere near the likely required water volume to be stored in the Uplands. It was thought that they need to hold back at least as much as is contained in Lake Vyrnwy to make any appreciable difference. Vince Hunt stated that the concept of a flood relief barrier at Berwick is now very unlikely to happen. He also said that John Bellis may be helpful in providing information to us and to the Shropshire Council regarding SVWMS. Betton Cambidge was concerned that despite us writing to Severn Valley Partnership, we had not as yet had any notification or invites to any meetings regarding SVWMS. Charles Green felt that whilst the SVP say that they want input from interested parties and encourage dialogue, in reality they do not really engage. |
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|  | **Maintenance 2023** |
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|  | The attached schedule details those watercourses it is proposed to clean in 2023. |
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|  | **Melverley IDB Schedule of Proposed Maintenance 2023/24**  **W/c No Name Length (m) Last Cleaned**  11 Melv.Brook (Wernlas to Stonebridge) 710 4yrs  20 The Quabbs 510 4yrs  22 Argoed 300 4yrs  24 Common Lane 1740 4yrs  29 Farm Hall to Kinnerley Bridge (part) 350 4yrs  30 Heathwaen 1065 4yrs  35 Fox Covert 1210 4yrs  44 Battlefield 1730 4yrs  45 Lowlands 440 4yrs  46 Crickheath 2390 4yrs  49 Woolston (above Aston bottom lock) 1020 4yrs  54 Foxhall (north of canal) 1510 4yrs  60 The Waen, Maesbury Marsh 500 4yrs  51 Maesbury Marsh 820 4yrs  1 Melv. Brook ( R,Severn to Bontain Bridge) 756 12yrs  15051m  **Costs**  Maintenance 15051m @ £1.20/m est. £17154  Little Sarn Culvert & Ditch Cleaning 660m) £900  Weed Cutting Contract 10km £10000  TOTAL £36154  Approved Budget for 2023/24 is £37500 |
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|  | **River Morda Inspection** |
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|  | The Surveyor intends to inspect the River Morda with EA official during April to show him the poor condition and extensive tree and shrub growth which needs removing and he will advise Adrian Jones, David Ward and Betton Cambidge of the date of the meeting. |
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|  | **Clerk’s Report**   1. **Bank Balances as at 29th March 2023**   Current A/C £29902.05  Business Premium A/C £10101.88  Total £40003.93   1. **Rates Receipts as 29th March 2023**   Total rates received since 1.4.22 = £ 40388.80  This represents approx. 86.7% of rates demanded   1. **Arrears as at 29th March 2023**   These stand at £6238.77 from 56 ratepayers. The MOD rates of £2024.75 are outstanding but following chasing are expected soon   1. **Special Levy**   Shropshire Council paid the £9167.10 due for 2023/24 early on 22nd February.   1. **Other receipts**   Vat Refund on 6th March £5725.63  **6) Payments made since 3rd January 2023**  Net VAT Total  6.1.23 Kinnerley Parish Hall 7.50 7.50  6.1.23 ADA 597.00 119.40 716.40  31.1.23 RA Morris 23746.15 4749.23 28495.38  31.1.23 RA Morris 3405.00 681.00 4086.00  25.2.23 Rapidity 85.00 17.00 102.00  25.2.23 BA Bebb 8000.00 1600.00 9600.00  25.2.23 BA Bebb 3300.00 660.00 3960.00  21.3.23 Kinnerley Parish Hall 7.50 7.50  39148.15 7826.63 46974.78  **7)AGAR 2022/23**  We have been selected this year for a more detailed inspection as part of the 5% of annual returns potentially subject to this.  The accounts will be prepared ready for our June meeting when the AGAR will be presented and then approved for submission to PKF Littlejohn our external auditors. |
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|  | **Debt Collection** |
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|  | The Board approved the engagement of C Morris debt collector to pursue all arrears over £100. |
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|  | The Board also approved the issuing of a Small Claims Court case against J Clough for the last six years unpaid rates. |
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|  | **Complaints** |
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|  | The Surveyor reported Roberts of Foxhall had complained regarding persistent slippage of a length of bank on the Foxhall watercourse. The Surveyor would inspect and possibly seek to use simple piling or stone filled gabions to resolve this issue. It is intended to clean Foxhall watercourse during 2023 and therefore, this work needs to be done in liaison with the cleaning. |
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|  | **Correspondence** |
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|  | ADA Environment Day. This was held on 2 February at Thorney near Peterborough. The Clerk had attended and found it a very useful informative day. Among topics discussed were the Environmental Group Governance Guide for IDBs, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, ELM Schemes Level Management, Beavers Reintroduction Management, Floating Pennywort Non-Native Invasive Species Strategy, Eels Passage and Regulation, Lowland Peat Soils. |
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|  | Flood and Coast Telford – 6 to 8 June 2023. The Clerk had obtained a free pass for all three days from free Local Authority/IDB staff allocation. Access to the exhibition is free for any members who wish to attend. |
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|  | EA Chief Executive. Natural flood management is essential in the battle against climate change. |
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|  | The EA has produced an updated River Basin Management Plan for the Severn Catchment. |
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|  | The Met Office reported that February 2023 had been the driest for 30 years, but March since has been very wet and overall we now have an average winter rain situation. |
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|  | DEFRA announces new developments to deliver for people and nature. Biodiversity net gain is to be introduced from November 2023. This affects all housing developments with over nine units. |
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|  | DEFRA launches new strategy to protect biodiversity and the economy from non-native species. |
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|  | Invasive aquatic plants. CABI have produced a simple guide with good colour photographs to identify the five worst invasive aquatic species. |
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|  | Flood and Water Live – 5 and 6 July 2023, Carrington, Lincolnshire. The Chairman and Clerk may attend. |
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|  | John Bellis, Shropshire Council, would like to arrange a meeting with the Clerk and Chairman regarding the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, to give us a update. |
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|  | **Date of Next Meeting** |
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|  | Wednesday 21 June at 6:30 pm for a short business meeting followed by a field visit to view the condition of the River Morda, possibly followed by a meal at a local pub. |
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|  | **Any Other Business** |
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|  | ADA Marches Branch. Betton Cambidge as Chair has agreed to arrange a meeting based in the Melverley area for Marches branch members covering the Rea, Strine, River Lugg and Sow & Penk and Lower Severn IDBs. This would be for them to see our area and the issues we face, possibly viewing New Cut sluice, confluence of the two rivers, possibly Holly Banks Nature Reserve and the River Morda, to highlight maintenance issues. With the SVWMS under preparation, we thought it would be helpful to have an item on this as well. RJ will obtain dates from ADA Chief Executive and Shirel Steadman possibly late June or early July 2023. |
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| There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm | |
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Signed: .............................................................

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