**Melverley Internal Drainage Board**

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| R L R Jones FRICS FAAV |  | 17 Rowton Road |
| SURVEYOR & CLERK |  | Shrewsbury |
|  |  | SY2 6JA |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Our ref: RLRJ/JS/MIDB |  | Tel: 07980 785111Email: rlrj@melverleyidb.org.uk |
|  |  |  |
| Date: 10 April 2025 |  |  |

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**HELD AT KINNERLEY PARISH HALL**

**ON WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2025 AT 7:30 PM**

**Members Present:**

B Cambidge (Chairman)

B Edwards (Vice Chairman)

A Jones

Mrs L Bennett

C Green

R Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

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|  | **Apologies for Absence:**  |
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|  | These were received from A Kynaston, R Lloyd, D Ward. |
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|  | **To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2025** |
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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 reported that he had not as yet updated the Policy Statement, which was referred to in the previous minutes; this would be done prior to the next meeting. |
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|  | Members reported that the consultation period for Vyrnwy to Frankton 132 kV overhead line, closes on April16. Board members requested that the Clerk make an official submission regarding the need for a 10 m working width berm between pylons and watercourses, the impact of drainage by the construction of the pylons and the need for drainage issues to be rectified. |
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|  | **Clerk’s Report** |
|  |  |
|  | Bank Statement as at 08.01.25Current Account £59001.96Business Premium Account £10,36.62Total **£69340.58** |
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|  | Receipts since 08.01.25 |
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| --- | --- |
| Rates Collected | £8168.30 |
| Interest (1.3.25) | £36.57 |
| VAT Refund | £7143.51 |
| EA Foreign Water Grant less Precept | £2826.00 |
|  |  |
| Total: |  **£18174.38** |

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|  | Payments since 08.01.25 |
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| Date | Payee | Invoice Reference | Nett | VAT | Total |  |  |  |
| 26/1/25 | Kinnerley Parish Hall | 853 | £40.00 |  | £40.00 |  |  |  |
| 26/1/25 | R A Morris | 2134 | £12765.60 | £2553.12 | £15318.72 |  |  |  |
| 26/1/25 | R A Morris | 2138 | £10147.70 | £2029.54 | £12177.24 |  |  |  |
| 26/1/25 | WT Jones | 59 | £500.00 | £100.00 | £600.00 |  |  |  |
| 20/2/25 | R A Morris | 2139 | £3014.00 | £602.80 | £3616.80 |  |  |  |
| 20/2/25 | E Davies | 0053 | £154.00 |  | £154.00 |  |  |  |
| 25/2/25 | B A Bebb | 491 | £8905.00 | £1781.00 | £10686.00 |  |  |  |
| 25/2/25 | Rapidity | 10086 | £187.00 | £37.40 | £224.40 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  | £35718.30 | £7103.86 | **£42817.16** |  |  |  |

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|  | Bank balances as at 24.03.25 |
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|  | Current Account £34322.61Business Premium account £10375.19Total **£44697.80** |
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|  | 2024/25 RatesTo date we have collected £41180.01 in rates this year. This represents approximately 90% of this year’s rates. Total arrears stand at approximately £14900 from approx. 75 ratepayers. Reminder letters were sent out in January to all ratepayers owing £50 or more. And about £7000 has come in since. I have been phoning some of the larger debtors and anticipate receiving further rates prior to the yearend. By the yearend we had actually received a further £538.70. The Board approved that the Clerk engage a debt collector to chase up the outstanding arrears.  |
|  |  |
|  | DEFRA – Storm Damage and Asset Improvement Scheme |
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|  | The third instalment of grant (£925.00) under this scheme towards the cost of the Little Sarn argae and culvert renewal has been submitted and should be received soon. This will make £17325 in total covering the full cost. Grant was received on30th March. |
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|  | Planning  |
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|  | There have been no planning applications requiring comment since my last report. |
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|  | Special Levy invoice for £10132.06 for 2025/26 has been submitted to Shropshire Council. |
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|  | EA Payment (Foreign Water Grant less Precept) for £2826 for 2024/25 was paid in February. |
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|  | **Surveyor’s Report** |
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|  | 2024 MaintenanceInvoices for our contractors’ work have been paid:RA Morris Ditch Cleaning £12765.00 Weed cutting £10147.70 New Cut work £3014.00BA Bebb Ditch cleaning £8905.00 |
|  |  |
|  | 1. Weir Brook Bottom End

Ray Morris has undertaken the tree cutting work on the Weir Brook downstream of Bontain Bridge as far as the Sluice into the River Severn. Following this he has very recently cleaned this length removing a lot of silt which should improve its flow capacity helping to discharge flood water more speedily. His invoice for this will be paid in 2025/26 year. |
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|  | 1. 2025/26 Maintenance Programme

The suggested Programme is shown below.

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| W/C No  | Name | Length(m)  | Last Cleaned  | Remarks |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Upper Turfmoor  | 2425 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Edgerley Sarn  | 3260 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | Stonebridge to Penyparc  | 680 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Maesbrook Isaf  | 3945 | 4 yrs | less 250m done in 2024 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | Pwll  | 900 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | Common Lane + Simms  | 1740 | 6 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 27 | Wern Llydan  | 3050 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 31 | Knockin Brook | 1560 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 33 | Sheepwash (part)  | 770 | 4 yrs |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total: | 18330m |  |  |

I also recommend that No 13 Melverley Brook between Argoed road bridge and Wernlas road bridge (1425m) should be desilted this year rather than only weed cut in the light of the silt deposition found in the Melverley Brook downstream.I anticipate this will cost circa £32500 which with £8000 towards work on the River Morda uses most of our 2025/26 maintenance budget figure |
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|  | The Board approved the proposed maintenance schedule.The Surveyor also recommended, on a request from ratepayer, J Radford, that the leg running west from the Llwyn-y-groes watercourse be cleaned this year. He also suggested that the Llwyn-y-groes watercourse be cleaned this year rather than only weed cut. A Jones reminded the Surveyor that the large tree at the junction of the Crickheath watercourse with the R. Morda still needs to be cleared. |

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|  | **River Morda Grant Scheme for Environmental Work** |
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|  | The Surveyor reported that Lucy Wood had been tasked by Guy Pluckwell to prepare the business case for this scheme. The process was all taking longer than originally indicated, but it was hoped that a firm proposal could be ready to be consider by the Board at our June meeting. The Surveyor reported that he had suggested that the geographic area for the scheme be widened, from merely the Morda catchment to the Board area. |
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|  | **Correspondence** |
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|  | This was all essentially from the ADA News stream. |
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|  | 1. ADA Environment Day – held near Peterborough, had been a useful day, which the Surveyor had attended.
2. ADA and ASA are strategic partners in the Flood and Coast 2025 Conference and Exhibition, to be held at Telford on 3 to 5 June.
3. DEFRA has announced that £2.65bn will be committed to build or maintain up to 1,000 flood defences protected more than 66,000 properties during this parliament.
4. MHCLG has will be undertaking an overhaul of Local Plans.
5. The Environment Agency is promoting enhanced flood and coastal erosion risk digital services using its latest data and mapping.
6. There is serious cause for concern by water experts that the government has decided not to bring forward mandatory SUDS regulation adoption.
7. The government is launching a ‘national conversation on land use’, this will map the best areas for farming and nature and development.
8. Beaver wild release – a milestone for nature recovery in England.
9. DEFRA has set out its UK biodiversity commitments to protect nature.
10. FCERM research and development programme – this produced growing evidence of the benefits of natural flood management.
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|  | **Any Other Business** |
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|  | The Chairman reported that the ADA Marches branch meeting would be held on 4 June at Gloucester, hosted by the Lower Severn IDB. Board members were invited to attend and any interested in travelling to Gloucester should contact the Clerk. Whilst Lower Severn IDB was a much larger board in terms of area and finance, many of the issues it faces are relevant to us. it was hoped that a carload could travel from Melverley. |
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| There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20 pm.  |
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Signed: .............................................................

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