

MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Board held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Old Nene Golf and Country Club, Muchwood Lane, Ramsey, Huntingdon PE26 2XQ.

PRESENT: Mr Dale Abblitt (Vice Chairman)(DA), Mr Derek Smith (DS), Councillor Roger Brereton (RB), Mr Keith Abblitt (KA), Mr Lloyd Smith (LS), Mr Rupert Waters (RW), Mr Andrew Wagstaffe (AW), Mr Leo Butler (District Officer)(LA) and Mr John Chrisp (the Clerk)(JC).

APOLOGIES: Mr Peter Wagstaffe (Chairman) and Councillor Steve Corney.

#### 22.3.1

ABRIDGEMENT of Short Notice of the Meeting.

All Members present resolved to accept short notice in view of urgent issues arising, in particular concerning the internal audit and approval of the AGAR for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

#### 22.3.2

STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS and ANNUAL GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

JC reported that the draft Statement of Accounts and AGAR had not yet been signed off for a number of reasons and since Whittings were unable to work on the audit in August due to holiday absences and JC had only just received lengthy enquiries which commanded careful attention and upon which he was working. In the circumstances it would not be practicably possible, despite the fact that he had asked for a meeting in person with the Account Manager to speed things up which had not materialised, to meet the deadline for submission of the AGAR by 15<sup>th</sup> September to PKJ Littlejohn, the accountants conducting the central audit for the SAAA.

He said that he believed that the Statement of Accounts and the AGAR in their present form as presented at the meeting were accurate but in the event that there should be any amendments he would liaise with the Chairman and/or the Vice Chairman to make any amendments before signing with a view to ratification by the Board at a later meeting.

The Board subsequently unanimously resolved to approve the Statement of Accounts and the AGAR and directed that they be signed.

#### 22.3.3

REPORTS on ENGINEERING WORKS.

##### 22.3.3.1

Biannual Drain Clearance at Lodes End and Installation of 2 new culverts at Stocking fen Road:

LA said he was worried that Philip Green who had been contracted to do the work would not have time to carry out the work this year. In the circumstances it was proposed that Mr Green be given a further chance to confirm his commitment and then if he could not carry out the work this year LA would look for a replacement contractor.

#### 22.3.3.2

Repair or Replacement of Slacker at Stocking Fen Pumping Station:

Chris Convine, an engineer from the Middle Level Commissioners had agreed to visit and inspect the slacker with a view to advising the Board as to the work necessary.

#### 22.3.4

REPORTS updating the position on the issue of BYELAW CONSENTS for DRAINAGE DISCHARGES:

##### 22.3.4.1

By ACCENT HOMES and HILL PARTNERSHIPS at Stocking Fen Road:

JC reported that following a meeting and final agreement by the Applicants to pay a Development Contribution of £40,000 and to give an undertaking to pay all costs due from the Board to the Middle Level Commissioners for their consultancy service in relation to the Application for the Consent, the Development Contribution was paid and the BYELAW CONSENT was issued. Special thanks were given to DA who had successfully concluded the negotiations and agreed with the Applicants' Building Surveyor the amount of the Contribution.

##### 22.3.4.2

By ROSE HOMES (EA) LIMITED at 80A Newton Road, Ramsey (former Shotbolt's Yard) in Stocking Fen:

JC reported that the Middle Level Commissioners' Planning Department had done little to progress the handling of the Application for this Consent since it was lodged with them on the 1st March 2022. The Law says we should acknowledge and start to engage with the Applicants within 3 months and any delay in dealing with such applications could result in the Consent being granted by default. JC had picked up the application and has been dealing with application for some months now. The Board took the view that the MLC should be asked to do nothing further and that their costs be paid to date. JC and DA were asked to conclude the issue of the Consent with conditions and negotiate a figure for payment of a Development Contribution with the Applicant direct.

#### 22.3.5

UPDATE on the INVESTIGATION of the BLOCKAGE of the CULVERT under Stocking Fen Road on the eastern side of High Lode Industrial Estate:

JC reported that he was continuing his efforts to bring about CCTV investigation by the Count Council's drainage contractor ADC and he felt that it needed someone who knew the directors of ADC to kickstart the investigation. He had employed Chris Convine from MLC for this person and asked him to approach ADC direct.

#### 22.3.6

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22.3.6.1 EOn Next Electricity Supply:

A close eye is being kept on the meter readings at both pumping stations and at present there is no cause for alarm. It was suggested that JC looks for an opportunity to fix the price taking into account when future price rises are expected.

22.3.6.2 Outstanding Financial Matters from previous years:

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RW said that the Accountants Management Report from last year was quite clear when it recommended action to be taken to recover (1) Highland Water Contributions, (2) previous years Drainage Rates, and (3) VAT. He had emailed the Clerk earlier this year about these matters and raised the matter of short notice of meetings. The Clerk had reported that the Highland Water Contributions had been recovered but the VAT repayments still need to be recovered and the Rates collected. He suggested that the action to achieve these tasks should be taken urgently and the Clerk said he would set himself a timescale to submit the VAT Claims by end of January 2023 and to meet up with the MLC who were collecting the Rates for us to progress the recovery of the Rates.

The meeting having commenced at 7 pm ended at 8.15 pm.