

MINUTES of an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING held on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7 pm at the Old Nene Golf & Country Club, Muchwood Lane, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE26 2XQ.

PRESENT: Mr Peter Wagstaffe (Chairman)(PW), Mr Dale Abblitt (Vice Chairman)(DA), Councillor Roger Brereton (RB), Mr Keith Abblitt (KA), Mr Lloyd Smith (LS), Mr Andrew Wagstaffe (AW), Mr Derek Smith(DS), Councillor Steve Corney (SC), Mr Leo Butler (District Officer) (LC) and Mr John Chrisp (Clerk)(JC).

Apologies were received from Councillor Eric Butler and Mr Rupert Waters.

#### EGM 23.1.1

##### APPROVAL of MINUTES:

Having been proposed by DS and seconded by RB, it was resolved that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meetings of the 13<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 and the Public Interest Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 be approved. All members present voted in favour with the exception of SC who abstained since was not present at any of the meetings.

#### EGM 23.1.2

APPROVAL of ESTIMATES and FIXING of the Agricultural Rate and Local Authority Precept for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The Estimates and Calculation Sheet having been circulated prior to the meeting were discussed and amended so as to take account of the continuing possibility of increased electricity rates allowing an extra £2,000.00 for electricity.

AW proposed and LS seconded the motion to adopt the Estimates with this one amendment and to amend the Calculation Sheet to take this into account and accordingly to fix the Rate and levy the Local Authority Precept in accordance with the same (as shown attached). The motion was duly carried with all members present voting in favour.

The Rate was fixed at £0.1124233 in the £ to raise £5,167.09 of its expenditure for the year and a Special Levy was raised on the Huntingdonshire District Council to raise the balance of its expenditure in the sum of £33,741.70.

The Chairman and the Clerk were also directed to sign the Rate Book accordingly.

#### EDM 23.1.3

CONFIRMATION of the FORMAL AGREEMENT with the MIDDLE LEVEL COMMISSIONERS to take Responsibility for the Management of the Board's Finances from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

It was proposed to accept the terms of the Letter from the MLC dated the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (copy attached). The motion was proposed by PW and seconded by LS and duly passed with all members present voting in favour.

#### EGM 23.1.4

REPORT on the MEETING with ADA and the SAAA relating to Governance and Administration.

The Clerk reported that a meeting took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 between PW, the Clerk, Mr Innes Thomson (Chief Executive of ADA) and Mr Peter Bateson (ADA and a Trustee of the Small Accounts Accounting Authority – SAAA) to discuss points arising out of the late submission of the AGAR in the past few years. A copy of a Report prepared by Mr Innes Thomson was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these Minutes. ADA and the SAAA approached the Board in the spirit of helpfulness and with a view to assist the Board in complying with its Governance responsibilities for the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and in the future.

#### EGM 23.1.5

APPROVAL by BOARD MEMBERS to pass their CONTACT DETAILS to ADA.

Innes Thomson of ADA had asked for the contact details of the Members to ensure delivery of the ADA Gazette. All Board Members present gave authority to the Clerk to pass these on to ADA.

#### EGM 23.1.6

REGISTER of MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Forms of Declaration need to be completed. The Clerk said he would ensure that the Forms were sent out for Completion.

#### EGM 23.1.7

UPDATE on outstanding ADMINISTRATIVE and ENGINEERING WORK:

##### EGM 23.1.7.1

Change in the Ratio between Elected and Appointed Members of the Board:

The Clerk reminded the Board that a decision had been made by the Board to obtain the approval of the Local Authority to apply to Defra for the Ratio to be changed so as to have more appointed members than elected members for the purposes of the Land Drainage Act 1991, Schedule 1, Part 2. The ratio currently proposed is 5 Appointed Members and 4 Elected Members. It was the feeling of the Board that if any Elected Members were lost it would deprive the Board of much needed experience and know-how. In the circumstances it was proposed by the Chairman PW and seconded by RB that the ratio proposed should be 6 Appointed and 5 Elected which would not make the Board too large and allow the District Council to appoint 2 Members from those who would have been elected maintaining the same 7 persons who would have been elected on the Board. The motion was passed with all members present voting in favour.

##### EGM 23.1.7.2

The Clearance of the Culvert under Stocking Fen Road adjacent to High Lode Industrial Estate:

With the help of Cambridgeshire County Council and their agent ADC Ltd (drain clearing services) the condition of the pipe in the culvert was found to be intact after CCTV examination but was half silted up and hence the partial blockage. ADC jetted the pipe with water, and we have seen CCTV footage showing the unblocked culvert. It may be prone to silting up and so will need to be cleaned out more frequently.

### EGM 23.1.7.3

#### VAT Claims and Rate Arrears:

VAT Claims are up to date.

Rate Claims are in the hands of MLC. The Clerk needs a further meeting with the MLC Financial Clerk.

### EGM 23.1.7.4

#### Bye-Law Consent to Rose Homes (EA) Limited – Development of 80A Newtown Road, Ramsey:

DA has spoken with Steve Buddle, the Company's representative, and it has been agreed that the Company will pay £23,000 as a Development Contribution this Spring when the house building work commences. The Clerk will ascertain a date for insertion into the Bye-Law Consent by which the Contribution will be payable and then issue the Consent for signing by the Chairman and the Clerk. It was proposed that this Development Contribution be accepted, and the Consent should be issued with such conditions drafted by the Clerk as are appropriate, the proposal being made by KA and seconded by DS was passed with all Members present voting in favour.

### EGM 23.1.7.5

#### Replacement or Refurbishment of the Pumps at the Pumping Stations:

The Clerk had discussed this with David Bantoft, the engineer at MLC. Both pumps are coming up to 45 years old. The life of a pump is generally about 50 years. A note has been made that in 2025 the Board should start preparing Schemes for replacement or refurbishment of the Pumps. Time will need to be given for applications for Grant Aid to facilitate this.

### EGM 23.1.7.6

#### Installation of Telemetry at the Pumping Stations:

This involves remote automatic monitoring of water levels so as to be aware of what action should be taken to manage and control the levels in particular when there are hazardous events.

Approximate costing £4,000 to £5,000 per pump. Suggest this be carried out over 2 years, one pump one year and the other the year after to spread the cost. This will be brought back before the Board once we have costs estimates from David Bantoft.

### EGM 23.1.7.7

#### Investigation of Blocking of Private Drains at the rear of Nos 171 to 189 Oilmills Road:

The complaint by the Mr and Mrs Boocock, owners of 171 Oilmills Road, Ramsey Mereside has not yet been resolved. They have been told that we need a continuous volume of water generated by some days of rainfall to gauge whether as a result of grass deposits there is impedance to the flow of water which will enable the Board to serve notice on the owners and occupiers to unblock the drains and remove deposits. As soon as there is a few days of continuous rainfall LB (District Officer), LS and the Clerk will conduct an investigation. Currently there is no evidence of flooding of the rear gardens of the houses, so there is no immediate risk of flooding.

### EGM 23.1.7.8

#### Tendering for Contract Drainage Work:

LB is asked to obtain quotes from Lattenbury Services and AHW Farms(Andrew Wagstaffe) for the slubbing out work in Stocking Fen this Autumn and then to accept the better quote and place the order in good time for the work to be carried out.

There being no other business the Meeting having commenced at 7 pm ended at 8.15 pm.