

RAMSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD.

NOTES of ANNUAL DRAINAGE INSPECTION and Meeting on the 22nd of April 2022.

Starting with Breakfast at the Old Nene Golf & Country Club at 8 a.m.

Present: Peter Wagstaffe (Chairman), Dale Abblitt (Vice Chairman), Derek Smith, Lloyd Smith, Andrew Wagstaffe, Councillor John Palmer, Leo Butler (District Officer) and John Chrisp (Clerk).

Apologies: Keith Abblitt and Rupert Waters.

At Stocking Fen Pumping Station:

1. Matters requiring attention:

To enable rubbish to be removed and burnt, make fence next the gate detachable but capable of being secured by padlocks. Action: DA.

To provide steel safety fencing on the edge of the concrete platform next the sump. Action: DA

Instal lights on the wall of the pumping station next the Lifebuoy and over the entrance door to the pumping station to illuminate the working area and entrance. Action DA.

Running Light bulb needs replacing. Action DA.

Land drainpipe end flap (on F Smith & Sons land) to be replaced where it has become detached from the pipe end. Action: Clerk/MLC.

Weed Screen Grill: In a demonstration of the Automatic Cleaner it was noticed that weeds had been trapped under the grill which could not be lifted out by the Weed Screen Cleaner. Probably small debris pulled into the sump following flailing but need to seek advice because could be drawn into the pump and cause potential damage. Action: Clerk/MLC.

Signs warning of moving equipment to be fixed to the fencing. Action: Clerk/MLC.

2. Meter Readings taken 016863 and 054221. Clerk pointed out that we were still struggling to get Eon Next to install the Smart Meter.

At Stocking Fen Road (Corner of the Development Site):

Inspected the point at which the culvert was planned to enter the district drain close to the bend where the drain turns to follow Stocking Fen Road.

Discussed Application for Bye-law Consent only just submitted. The Board agrees that a Development Contribution of £10,000 was insufficient and we should get the MLC Planning Dept (Graham Moore) to substantiate a higher figure. The present calculation is on the basis of

unattenuated green field run-off rates not permeable hectareage. It was suggested we find out what figure the old system would produce as a guide.

No revetment drawings have been produced and figures for run -off to show how the developers expect to protect the opposite side and bottom of the drain and we still need these.

The Clerk mentioned that no consent will be given until the Board following advice from MLC Planning Dept and Engineers is completely satisfied.

At Lodes End Pumping Station:

Entered the area behind the fence and noted the repairs carried out.

Kick board removed from above the sump to allow chrome to be used to remove debris.

However, the contractor had not creosoted both sides of the fence.

The steps required by the Health and Safety Report were inspected but it was noted that the wooden shuttering at the top was proud providing a tripping hazard. Contractor to be asked to build up gravel around the shuttering so as to make the steps level with the ground around them and remove the hazard. Also, consider removing corners on the shuttering.

Action: Clerk.

Took electricity readings from the meter 014689 and 044476.

Lodes End Drove:

We did not visit the drove but it was noted that the Clerk, District Officer and Lloyd Smith will fix a time to inspect the private drains running into and along the west side of the drove in view of concerns raised by Mr and Mrs Boocock at the house on the corner of Oilmills Road and the Drove.

Drain Clearance and Maintenance:

The District Officer set out his plan to flail and slub out the Lodes End district this Autumn in accordance with the 2 Yearly Plan and to replace pipes in 2 of the culverts in the first and second fields on Stocking Fen Road out of Ramsey with pipes of a larger diameter in view of the need to take water at times of flash flooding. The obstruction of the culvert under Stocking Fen Road connecting the district drains from the roadside to the rear of the Industrial Estate is still being investigated with the help of the County Council as lead flood authority but thankfully it has caused no problem over the last 2 years.