

RAMSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

NOTES of the ANNUAL DRAINAGE INSPECTION held on the 16th March 2023.

(1) Starting at STOCKING FEN PUMPING STATION.

Reference was made to the Health and Safety Inspection Report by Cope Safety Management dated 15th February 2023 (attached) circulated prior to the inspection. The intermediate safety rail above the sump should be positioned approximately 18 inches further forward to allow easier access for use of a chrome in weed clearing. Action – DALE ABLITT

It was noted that the signage warning those entering within the perimeter fence that there were moving parts had not been erected. Dale Ablitt said that the Notice had been acquired and would be erected forthwith. Action – DALE ABLITT.

Those attending the inspection heard the pump engine running and commented that it did not sound right. The Clerk mentioned that on an inspection by the MLC last summer the engineer commented that the thrust bearing might need attention but solved the problem temporarily by greasing the bearing. This problem has been monitored since then.

In a recent inspection by the MLC this was picked up again and the Clerk had asked David Bantoft the engineer at MLC with overall responsibility for the pump inspections to investigate further, provide a cost estimate and carry out any necessary works. Action – CLERK & MLC.

A skip needs to be sited correctly on the concrete platform to collect the reed and waste deposits falling from the bucket of the weed screen cleaner. It should be taken away and emptied frequently and the site needs a general tidy up. The path to the door of the pump house was found littered with falling stones creating a trip hazard and needs clearing. The bank above this path has no grass cover holding it together so as to prevent it being eroded and depositing debris on the path; and so it was suggested that the bank be prepared for seeding with grass.

Action – DALE ABLITT and DISTRICT OFFICER.

(2) At the NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OUTFALL from the ACCENT HOMES / HILL PARTNERSHIPS Development:

It was noticed that :-

- (a) the mouth of the pipe in the culvert was partly blocked by concrete and was not properly supported at the discharge point;
- (b) where the head-wall has been built it should have been back-filled into the int the highway verge and the verge should be made good or it will slip into the drain and erode the support of the road. There are signs of slippage already. Significant rectification is necessary.
- (c) The bottom of the Board's drain beneath the outfall is lined with stone covered by a steel mesh which does not align with the level of the bottom of the drain either side which will cause an obstruction to the flow of water in the drain and result in silt building up within the drain. Members of the Board queried the necessity for this lining to the bottom of the drain. If a lining is necessary, surely this should be to the side of the drain where water is ejected from the

These concerns will be taken up by the Clerk with the Graham Moore, Planning Officer, of the Middle Level Commissioners. As yet we have not heard whether he has conducted his inspection of the outfall pursuant to the conditions of the Bye-law Consent.

Action – CLERK and MLC.

(3) Visit to MILL LANE PLAYING FIELDS:

Members visited to view the district drain and the outfall from the Ramsey Colts Club Building. Whilst the drain at the outfall appeared overgrown with reeds and the outfall was not visible, there were no signs that the outfall was not operating correctly.

There is a private drain which joins the bend into the district drain leading from Abbey Fields Estate. The riparian responsibilities lie with the Ramsey Town Council and De Ramsey Estates. Members with an interest in this drain inspected and found that there were copious bushes and trees growing out of the drain which will impede the flow of water which will need removing but currently this does not appear to be causing any flooding. If it did, the Board would have to take steps to ensure that the watercourse was cleared.

(4) At LODS END PUMPING STATION:

On arrival it was found that the electricity supply had tripped and so had to be reset. There were no apparent problems with the pump except that the main contactor had been found on routine inspection by the MLC to be noisy but they were keeping an eye on it, although at some stage the contactor will require attention.

Nothing else at the Pumping Station produced comment.

(5) MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME for 2023.

The whole of Stocking Fen District on the Biennial Programme will be flayed and slubbed out. There are no more drain maintenance works to be carried out now that the 2 new larger diameter culvert pipes at Stocking Fen Road had been inserted last year.

Notice needs to be given to the landowners/occupiers whose land will be affected.

Action – DISTRICT OFFICER.

(6) Finished at the OLD NENE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB with Lunch.