

NOTES OF DRAINAGE INSPECTION

13TH MARCH 2015

Present:

Jeff Edwards (District Officer) (who had to go home early because he felt unwell)
Mr Keith Abblitt
Mr Peter Wagstaffe
Mr Derek Smith
Mr Lloyd Smith
Mr John Skoulding
Mr Peter Lummis
Mr Andrew Wagstaffe
Mr Paul Drinkwater
The Clerk

STOCKING FEN PUMPING STATION

An inspection of the Pumping Station, replacement manhole covers and the slacker on the river took place.

The following points need attention:

1. The Life Ring is contained in a cupboard which is painted red which indicates that it is for emergency use but there is no sign upon the cupboard which indicates that it contains a life ring. Signage should be ordered for the cupboard.
2. It was pointed out that the slacker platform should really be surrounded by a safety rail. The Clerk said he would look at the Report produced as a result of the health and safety review which the Board had carried out a few years ago to see what was suggested. It seemed difficult to believe that any recommendation had not been followed.

THE NEW BRIDGE TO BILL FEN MARINA

1. An inspection of the new bridge and the roadway leading to it took place. It was noted that there was a 6" pipe close to the riverbank which drained the upper field abutting onto the new roadway into the sock dyke within the land farmed by Lloyd Smith and family. It was noted that the pipe was not of the recommended diameter of 12" but there was no indication that the pipe was insufficient for the purposes for which it was installed. The Board will note that the sufficiency of the pipe will need to be monitored as time goes by.
2. There is a security gate across the river bank which should prevent any vehicles from being driven down to the Pumping Station and will enhance the Boards' security.

MILLFIELDS

1. The Board inspected the main drain which leads from Mill Lane across in the direction of Stocking Fen. The Stocking Fen side of the district is due to be slubbed out this year.
2. The footbridge put in place by the Ramsey Colts Football Club is broken and the boards have fallen into the dyke and needs repairing. A letter will need sending to the Club to ensure it is repaired if they intend to continue using it. If they don't intend to continue to use it, then they must remove it.
3. The Clerk pointed out that an application for planning consent had been made by the Football Club to place a roadway on the side of the main drain within the football field and a culvert would need to be installed at the top end to take the roadway into the adjoining field which the Football Club are acquiring from Lord de Ramsey for the purposes of playing football. The Environment Agency had opposed the application since they were not satisfied with the specification of the roadway. Board Members explained that slub would have to be deposited over the breadth of the roadway which it

was intended to insert within 9 metres of the brink of the dike. It should be ensured that the Board are not left with cost of carting away slub. If the Mill Lane football field is developed for residential housing, the development contribution payable should be used to ensure that the ditch is piped or this should be made a condition of the planning consent.

Lodes End Pumping Station

Members of the Board inspected the Pumping Station and the following points were noted:-

1. There is a gap at the edge of the fencing which would allow people to trespass onto the Boards' land which contains the pumping facility and the site of the old pumping facility. However Mr Skoulding commented that nobody was found to have trespassed, and, in the circumstances, there is no need to close up the gap. However, should anyone be found to be trespassing behind the fence, it will be necessary to close up the gap.
2. An examination of the slacker took place and it was felt that a safety rail should be manufactured and fixed to the slacker platform (as in the case of the Stocking Fen pumping station slacker).

Lunch and reception:

Members of the Board convened at the Jolly Sailor public house for a lunch at reception and discussion continued as to current drainage matters.

In particular, the death of Mr Brian Abblitt, one of the Board Members, was noted and he was formally remembered. As soon as the date of the funeral is known, the Clerk will notify the members.

**J A R Chrisp
Clerk to the Board
13th March 2015
R01107.0012**

