

THE RAMSEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Old Nene Golf & Country Club, Muchwood Lane, Ramsey.

Present:

Mr Peter Wagstaffe ( Chairman), Mr Paul Drinkwater ( Vice Chairman), Mr Lloyd Smith, Mr Derek Smith, Mr Keith Abblitt, Mr Dale Abblitt, Mr John Skoulding, Mr Leo Butler ( District Officer) and Mr John Crisp ( Clerk).

AGM 18.1

Apologies: Mr Andrew Wagstaffe, Councillors John Palmer and Eric Butler.

AGM 18.2

Declarations of Interest: None were made and the Clerk reminded the meeting that the Forms of Declaration now need to be signed which must be done annually.

AGM 18.3

Minutes of the AGM held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 having been circulated prior to the meeting were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

AGM 18.4

Matters Arising: There were none which did not fall under the items on the agenda.

AGM 18.5

Appointment of Independent Internal Auditor:

Mr Russell Wright of the Whittlesey Consortium of Internal Drainage Boards had consented to act in relation to the Accounts and Governance Return for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and all being in favour was duly appointed. The Clerk reported that following an audit by Mr Wright of the Accounts for the Year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the Accountants for the Audit Commission had given a qualified certificate but that the issues taken up would be corrected so far as possible in the Return to be made this year. These were principally matters of form arising from the way figures were presented in the boxes on the Governance Return Form, in particular whether the Share Portfolio with Charles Stanley Stockbrokers and the Investec Annual Bond should be shown as long term investments . No issue was taken on the correctness of the figures.

## AGM 18.6

Approval of the Accounts and Confirmation of Payment of the Cheques drawn for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

The Accounts of the Board for the period ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 together with the List of Cheques having been circulated prior to the meeting were discussed. It having been proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Lloyd Smith and being unanimously approved, the List of Cheques was confirmed by the meeting. It having been proposed by the Vice Chairman and seconded by Mr John Skoulding the Statement of Accounts was approved and accepted unanimously by the meeting.

## AGM 18.7

District Officer's Report.

AGM 18.7.1. Dale Ablitt will carry out the work to replace the doors to the Pumping Stations with metal doors and make the adjustment to the railing at Lodes End Pumping station for £1800 plus VAT. The meeting decided it was not necessary to go for comparative estimates/ quotations because it was thought that no better ones could be obtained in view of the highly competitive quotation received from Dale Ablitt.

AGM 18.7.2. Davies Contractors will clear the culvert which takes the main drain under Stocking Fen Road and at the same time will lower and insert a larger diameter pipe into the culvert on the edge of the Chairman's field with Stocking Fen Road.

AGM 18.7.3. The Clerk will approach Alan Palmer ( A. Palmer of Whittlesey ) to discuss work to be carried out to clean out the private ditch running adjacent to his field in Lodes End Drove which had appeared to be blocking the flow of water along the private drains running from the top end of the Drove at Oilmills Road.

AGM 18.7.4. It was reported that the electricity meter at Lodes End Pump was not changing over properly to lower tariff but advice had been taken from MLC engineer who said the cost of changing the meter would be more than the savings involved in ensuring charges at the lower tariff at night-time. It was decided to keep an eye on the charges and make a decision later on if necessary.

AGM 18.7.5. Lodes End Pump tripped during the bad weather in January possibly as a result debris being caught up in the pump. All now appears well but we shall have to keep an eye on the pump.

AGM 18.7.6. The District Officer has been laying rat bate himself in view of the difficulty in obtaining a vermin control contractor.

AGM 18.7.7. The summer levels have now been set at both pumps.

The Board accepted the District Officer's Report with all members present voting in favour and thanked Mr Leo Butler for his services.

## AGM 18.8.

Appointments for the Coming Year.

AGM 18.8.1. Chairman- Mr Peter Wagstaffe-proposed by Mr Paul Drinkwater and seconded by Mr John Skoulding with all Members present voting in favour.

AGM 18.8.2. Vice Chairman- Mr Paul Drinkwater – proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Derek Smith with all Members present voting in favour.

AGM 18.8.3. District Officer – Mr Leo Butler – at a salary of £2500.00 plus car mileage and approved expenses proposed by Mr Lloyd Smith and seconded by Mr Dale Abblitt with all members present voting in favour.

AGM 18.8.4. Clerk to the Board - Mr John Chrisp – at a salary of £9500.00 per annum with normal expenses as proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman with all members present voting in favour.

## AGM 18.9

The Estimates or the Year 2018/ 2019.

AGM 18.9.1 Having been circulated prior to the meeting these were discussed and accepted as proposed. The Board decided to raise £20,915.84 towards an estimated expenditure of £ after taking into account the surplus for the year ending the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and to fix an agricultural rate of £0.06044p in the pound to raise £2,777.62 of its' expenditure by way of agricultural rates.

AGM 18.9.2. The Board also levied a precept payable by Huntingdonshire District Council for the balance of its' expenditure for the year in the sum of £18.138.22.

AGM 18.9.3 The Estimates for the current year, the Agricultural Rate and the Local Authority Precept were proposed by the Vice Chairman and seconded by the Chairman with all Members present voting in favour. The Chairman and the Clerk were requested to seal the Rate Book accordingly.

## AGM 18.10

Health and Safety – The slope from the bank down to the Stocking Fen Pumping station was not considered a problem by the District Officer and the Board Members. Otherwise there was nothing else to discuss.

## AGM 18.11

Installation of a Weedscreen Cleaner at Stocking Fen Pumping Station.

AGM 18.11.1. The Clerk reported that Mr David Thomas of MLC was still working on the project and the grant application and there was nothing specific to report.

AGM 18.12.

The Clerk mentioned that it was strange that no Biodiversity Action Plan update had been delivered by Mr Cliff Carson of MLC. The Clerk said he would enquire and circulate.

AGM 18.13.

Planning Applications submitted during the year had been dealt with by MLC's Planning Consultant and there was no particular application which needed to be discussed by the Board.

AGM 18.14.

Consents to Discharge.

AGM 18.14.1. The land adjacent to the Ramsey Community Centre is up for sale and has not yet been developed so no application has been received for a Consent.

AGM 18.14.2. John Shotbolt's Yard is the subject of a planning application and will be sold as land for residential development. A consent for discharge is likely to be made when a developer purchases the land.

AGM 18.15.

The Proposal for MLC to take over the management of the Board's financial services.

The MLC need to develop the relevant software to cope with this. There will be a report later on.

AGM 18.16.

Review of Policies:

AGM 18.16.1. The Financial Regulations will need revising in order to enable MLC to have authority to make payments on behalf of the Board. The Clerk is currently conducting a review and will report back to the Board.

AGM 18.16.2 The Board will consider what policies require review and report at the EGM fixed for the 13th June.

AGM 18.17

Any Other Business and Correspondence:

The Clerk reported on general correspondence handled throughout the year and there being no other business the Meeting having started at 7pm ended at 8.30pm.

