

**A MEETING OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND RIVER IVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM AT VALE HOUSE IN STEWARTBY AND VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2025 AT 2PM.**

**Directly Elected Members**

- \* J R Davison
- \*v J Polhill
- J Russell
- \*v T Wootton
- Vacant Position
- Vacant Position
- Vacant Position
- Vacant Position
- Vacant Position
- Vacant Position

**Co-opted Members**

- \* F Firth

**Appointed Members**

**Bedford Borough Council**

- \*v N Gribble
- \* D McMurdo
- R Rigby
- \* D Simmons
- A Spice
- \* M Towler
- \* J Weir

**Central Bedfordshire Council**

- \*v N Andrews
- \*v A D Brown
- \* A French
- H Wightwick
- \*v T Wye

**Jointly Appointed  
North Herts District Council**

- \*v E Fernandes
- \* Present (56%)
- \*v In attendance virtually

Doug McMurdo in the Chair

**In attendance:**

Phil Camamile (Chief Executive), Chris Collin (Operations Manager), Rachel Hughes (Senior Engineer), Phil Lovesey (Area Manager), Rob Scotford (ACCA Trainee Finance & Rating Assistant), and Alice Smith (Executive Assistant)

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
35/25 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	

**35/25/01** The Chair welcomed Emma Fernandes and Dylan Simmons to their first Board meeting. Members were also introduced to the new Operations Manager, Chris Collin. In addition, the Chair introduced Rob Scotford, Finance and Rating Assistant, who would be presenting the financial reports in the absence of the RFO, who was currently on maternity leave. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**36/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**36/25/01** Apologies for absence were received on behalf of James Russell.

**37/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**37/25/01** There were no declarations of interest reported to the meeting.

**38/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 May 2025**

**38/25/01** The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 19 May 2025 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

**39/25 ENGINEERING REPORT**

**39/25/01** The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

**39/25/02 Great Barford West Reservoir**

Jim Weir noted that a smaller orifice plate had been installed at the reservoir and asked for clarification, in layman's terms, on its function and potential impact during a storm event. The Area Manager explained that the plate would allow floodwaters to be retained in the reservoir for longer periods, thereby reducing flow rates into Great Barford. Previously, the reservoir had provided limited flood storage and was not performing as originally intended.

**39/25/03** Tom Wootton sought reassurance that the installation would not increase flood risk for Great Barford residents. It was agreed, and thereby RESOLVED, that officers would obtain written confirmation from the Panel Engineer confirming that this retrospective installation did not increase flood risk to residents of Great Barford.

**39/25/04 Blunham Flood alleviation scheme**

Tracey Wye requested an update on the project as the works were due to be completed by the end of September. The Area Manager provided a verbal update in the absence of the Principal Engineer. Members were advised Stantec have started work on Phase 3 of the scheme which includes final design and Tender pack, Central Bedfordshire Council's Flood Risk Team approved this work under the PSCA with the IDB last week. It is now hoped that the contract can be awarded in due course with works anticipated to begin in Spring 2026. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**39/25/05 Langford Bank Breach**

Tracey Wye expressed concern that the situation remained unresolved, describing it as "hanging in the balance." The Area Manager shared disappointment at the lack of progress and engagement from the Environment Agency (EA). Due to the location of the breach, the Environment Agency are initially responsible for providing a solution. If they deem this not to be a priority, the Board may use its permissive powers to undertake the works as it falls within the district but only with the EA's permission because it was a main-river.

**39/25/06** Members were advised that the affected land is unregistered, meaning the Board cannot enforce its permissive powers to require the landowner to repair the bank. As the breach lies within 8 metres of a main river, a Flood Risk Activities Permit (FRAP) is required before any works can be undertaken. The Area Manager and Operations Manager are scheduled to meet with the EA next week to discuss next steps following the Agency's assessment.

**39/25/07** Tracey asked whether any properties remain at risk until the issue is resolved. The Area Manager confirmed that this is the case, if the bank breaches, river water would flow through the smaller watercourse instead of the mill channel, and the downstream culvert is not designed to handle that volume of water. The Board remains extremely concerned and has raised these concerns with the EA in writing on several occasions.

**39/25/08** Members noted that this is the second recent instance where a FRAP has been required from the EA to carry out urgent repair works. The need to apply for these permits are causing significant delays are having a direct impact on the Board's district. Members expressed frustration that two flood risk management authorities are unable to work together more effectively to resolve such matters. It was further noted that FRAP approvals typically take around 24 weeks or longer, during which time flood risk remains elevated.

**39/25/09** Officers highlighted that the time and cost involved in applying for and awaiting FRAP approval often far exceed the cost of undertaking the remedial works themselves. It was agreed and RESOLVED that the Chair would write to Ian Hodge, Chief Engineer, Director of Standards, Asset Management and Engineering of the Environment Agency to request their assistance in addressing the challenges surrounding the requirement for FRAPs in emergency situations involving other flood risk partners.

DM

**39/25/10 Pix Brook, Standalone Farm Reservoir**

The Chair informed members he will visit the site on Monday 03 November with officers to understand the current situation with the reservoir. Members noted the sensitive nature of flooding in the area and are keen to find a solution. Nick Andrews requested he also be in attendance at the meeting as adjacent ward councillor and to represent CBC. RESOLVED that this be actioned.

AS

**40/25 OPERATIONS REPORT**

**40/25/01** The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

**40/25/02 Environment Agency Precept**

The Area Manager provided members with a verbal update following his attendance at the RFCC meeting on Thursday 23 October, he confirmed the precept rates for 2026-27 would increase by 2% subject to additional information being provided by the Environment Agency as per the Water Resources Act by the next RFCC meeting, if they failed to do this, then there would be no increase for 2026/27. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**41/25 AUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2024/25**

**41/25/01** The audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2025 was considered in detail and approved by the Board. The External Auditor had no matters to report. The Chair thanked officers for their work in achieving a clean opinion.

**42/25 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2025 TO 31 AUGUST 2025**

**42/25/01** The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

**42/25/02 Environment Agency Highland Water Contributions**

The Finance and Rating Assistant confirmed the Highland Water Contribution had been paid by the Environment Agency in full for 2025/26. Members were pleased to note this update.

**42/25/03 Ratepayers Due**

The Finance and Rating Assistant provided members with a verbal update regarding the number of outstanding ratepayers for 2025/26. Members were advised court proceedings are set for 10.00am on Tuesday 28th October at Luton Magistrates Court. In attendance will be Graham Tinkler Senior Rating & Enforcement Officer from the WMA and Rob Scotford. There are a total of 14 rate payers being summoned, totalling £1,246.12 in Rates Due. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**AW****43/25 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR 2025-26**

**43/25/01** The Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising.

**44/25 AUTHORITY TO APPEAR BEFORE A COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION**

**44/25/01** Members considered and approved that the ACCA Trainee Finance & Rating Assistant be authorised to appear on behalf of the Board before a court of summary jurisdiction in any proceedings instituted by or on behalf of the Board. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**45/25 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2026**

**45/25/01** The calendar of meetings for 2026 was considered and approved. Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB would meet as follows (subject to change following the amalgamation of the 3 IDBs):

Monday, 02 February 2026

Monday, 18 May 2026

Monday, 26 October 2026

**46/25 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**46/25/01** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Monday, 02 February 2026 at 2 pm, to be held in the Board Room at Vale House, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedfordshire, MK43 9ND and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

**47/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS****47/25/01 Upcoming Events**

The Executive Assistant advised members of the two upcoming events:

Date: 25 November 2025 @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Event: ADA Flood & Water Conference 2024

Location: One Great George Street, Westminster, London

Attendees: Open to 2 members, typically attended by Chair & Vice-Chair, open to other members if they were unable to attend

Date: 26 & 27 November 2025

Event: Floodex UK

Location: ExCel London E16 1XL

Attendees: Open to all Board members

**48/25 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIR**

**48/25/01** There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.

**49/25 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**

**49/25/01 Unconfirmed minutes of the last Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 23 September 2025**

The unconfirmed minutes of the last Joint Management Committee meeting held on 23 September 2025 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

**49/25/02 JMC's Operations Report**

The JMC's Operations Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

**49/25/03 JMC's Social Media Report**

The JMC's Social Media Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

**49/25/04 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts**

The JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 01 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

**49/25/05 JMC's Financial Report and Accounts**

The JMC's Financial Report and Accounts for the period 01 April 2025 to 31 August 2025 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising.

**49/25/06 Items for discussion at the next JMC meeting**

There were no issues raised by members for discussion at the next Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting on 02 December 2025. Should members wish to raise any item for discussion at the next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representative or the Chief Executive directly.

**50/25 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**50/25/01** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to exclude the public from the next part of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Board's Standing Orders.