

A MEETING OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND RIVER IVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM AT VALE HOUSE, BROADMEAD ROAD, STEWARTBY, BEDFORDSHIRE, MK43 9ND AND VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 2PM.

Elected Members

- * J R Davison
- * J M Ream
- M Robins
- * J Russell
- * T Wootton

Vacant Position
 Vacant Position
 Vacant Position
 Vacant Position
 Vacant Position
 Vacant Position

Appointed Members

Bedford Borough Council

- G Coombes
- D Hodgson
- * C McHugh
- * D McMurdo
- M Nawaz
- J Sampson
- * M Towler

Central Bedfordshire Council

- * A D Brown
- * S Dixon
- * F Firth
- R Morris
- B Spurr

North Herts District Council

- * S Jarvis
- * Present (44%)

Doug McMurdo in the Chair

In attendance:

Phil Camamile (Chief Executive), Phil Lovesey (Operations Manager), John Oldfield (Director of Engineering), Alice Smith (Executive Assistant), Nicole Souter (Principal Accountant), Scott Brewster (Senior Engineer)

Craig Stewart, Arron Iliffe, Lindsay Oakes, Mitch Dale (Members of the Public)

ID	Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
24/21	MEMBERSHIP OF NEWLY ELECTED BOARD	
24/21/01	The Chief Executive reported that following the recent Election of Drainage Board Members, the number of valid nominations received had not exceeded the number of places available. Tricia Turner and John Scott had also decided to step down as members, which left 7 vacancies on the Board that needed to be filled. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
24/21/02	The Chairman thanked both Tricia and John for their invaluable contribution to both the Board and the JMC over several years.	
25/21	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
25/21/01	The Chairman welcomed four members of the public to today's meeting and advised Members that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of minute taking.	

26/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

26/21/01 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Graeme Coombes, Dave Hodgson, Robert Morris, Mohammed Nawaz and Mark Robins.

Post meeting note: Apologies for absence were also received on behalf of Jake Sampson.

27/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

27/21/01 Cllr Steve Jarvis & Cllr Steven Dixon declared an interest during the Engineering Report regarding the Pix Brook Catchment study. Cllr Jarvis represented North Hertfordshire District Council and Cllr Dixon represented Central Bedfordshire Council. Both councils were critical key partners within the project. RESOLVED that this be noted.

28/21 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

28/21/01 It was proposed by Mr F Firth, seconded by Mr A Brown, unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to elect Mr D McMurdo to serve as the Board's Chairman for the next three-year term to 31 October 2024.

28/21/02 It was proposed from the Chair, seconded by Mrs J R Davison, unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to elect Mr J Russell to serve as the Board's Vice-Chairman for the next three-year term to 31 October 2024.

29/21 ELECTION OF JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JMC) REPRESENTATIVES

29/21/01 Following the resignation of John Scott and Tricia Turner as members of the Board and subsequently the JMC, there were two vacancies. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to elect Mr D McMurdo, Mr J Russell and Mrs J Davison to represent the Bedfordshire and River Ivel IDB on the Joint Management Committee for the next three-year period to 31 October 2024.

29/21/02 The Chairman advised that the one remaining vacancy would hopefully be filled at the next Board meeting. Members were therefore encouraged to step forward if they were interested in helping to represent the Board on the Group's Joint Management Committee.

30/21 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2021

30/21/01 The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 7 June 2021 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

31/21 ENGINEERING REPORT

31/21/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

31/21/02 Pix Brook Catchment Study

The Director of Engineering sought continued support for involvement in the ongoing Pix Brook Catchment project as a critical partner and to direct officers to assess options for supporting the capital project. Cllr Frank Firth requested clarification regarding the cost of supporting this project to the Board. The Director of Engineering advised that the indicative figures included within the report included the cost to the Board of supporting the project and were incorporated within the initial draft outline business case study, which would hopefully be funded by the EA. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to continue supporting this project for the time being.

31/21/03 Pix Brook Innovation Resilience Fund project

The Director of Engineering requested continued support for the Pix Brook Innovation Resilience Fund project as a critical partner. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to continue supporting this project for the time being.

31/21/04 Housing development at Hitchin Road, Henlow

Members were advised that the housing development referred to in the report remained un-consented and were requested to consider the appropriate course of action, moving forward. The Chairman reminded members that the Byelaw zone highlighted on the plan within the report was only 7 metres as required under the old Byelaws. However, DEFRA had recently confirmed the Board's new Byelaws, which had increased the Byelaw zone width to 9m and reaffirmed the need for a clear working area.

32/21/05 The Chairman invited members of the public to comment on this section of the report. Mitch Dale, representative of Paradigm Housing, advised they had nothing to add.

32/21/06 Cllr Tony Brown expressed disappointment that the development had been allowed to reach this stage without prior intervention/discussion.

32/21/07 Cllr Tom Wootton requested that the Board's solicitors consider adding a charge to the houses in order to recuperate costs when work had to be done to the watercourse or the pipeline in future. The Chairman advised members that due to the type of development and ownership this may not be possible but would pass on the comment for further consideration.

DM

32/21/08 James Russell requested officers to investigate if the development was in breach of any planning permission/planning conditions granted.

JO

32/21/09 The Chairman felt that without a site visit a decision of this magnitude could not be taken. It was requested that an invitation be sent to all members along with representatives from Paradigm Housing to allow them to be present at the meeting if they choose.

JO

Post meeting note Site meeting arranged for Friday 26th November 2021 at 9:30am.

32/21/11 Kings Ditch, Bedford

The Director of Engineering informed members that the new pumping station on King's Ditch, in the grounds of Bedford Girls School, had been completed and successfully commissioned in August 2021. Minor snagging works were programmed for half term and extra training was to be provided to operatives from the mechanical and electrical installers. It was confirmed that one pump had already been operating during the recent heavy rainfall.

32/21/12 The Chairman was delighted with the outcome of this project and requested that the new pumping station be opened by the mayor.

JO

33/21 OPERATIONS REPORT

33/21/01 The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

33/21/02 Public Sector Co-operation Agreement with the Environment Agency

The Chairman welcomed feedback in relation to the Board undertaking maintenance work on behalf of the Environment Agency via a Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA). Members agreed to renew the 5-year agreement that had expired on 30 June 2021, to enable works to be carried out that benefitted the Board's catchment, subject to the Board's costs being fully reimbursed.

33/21/03 Cllr Tom Wootton questioned if the work being undertaken could be sub-contracted out, given that the Board's own workforce could be diverted onto other works which could potentially hold up our own programme. The Operations Manager confirmed that this could be done, however, it may be beneficial instead to carry out PSCA works ourselves and sub-contract out a higher percentage of the Board's maintenance programme. RESOLVED that this be noted.

33/21/04 The Chairman advised members that PSCA Works would be included within the Operations Report and reviewed at future meetings, moving forward. RESOLVED that this be noted.

PL

33/21/05 Environment Agency Precept Payment

The Operations Manager informed members that at the last RFCC meeting, a 2% increase on the Environment Agency Precept payment was agreed for all IDBs. RESOLVED that this be noted.

34/21 AUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2020/21

34/21/01 The audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2021 was considered in detail and approved by the Board. The External Auditor had no matters to report. There were no matters arising.

35/21 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

35/21/01 The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

35/21/02 Highland Water Contribution

The Principal Accountant advised members that the highland water contributions claim for 2021/22 had yet to be received from the Environment Agency. The Principal Accountant explained that the claim for 2021/22 was due to be paid by the Environment Agency to the Board in September, however the Environment Agency had since reported that all claims had come in over budget and therefore, they had requested additional information to support the claim. This additional information had been provided at the end of October and full payment was anticipated shortly. RESOLVED that this be noted.

36/21 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2022

36/21/01 The calendar of meetings for 2022 was considered and approved. Bedfordshire and River Ivel IDB would meet during 2022 as follows:

Tuesday, 18 January 2022
Monday, 6 June 2022
Monday, 14 November 2022

36/21/02 All Board meetings would start at 2 pm and be held via Microsoft Teams and at Vale House, to be confirmed prior to the meeting date and subject always to the Government's COVID-19 guidelines at the time.

37/21 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

37/21/01 The next Board meeting would take place on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 2pm. Venue to be confirmed and paperwork to be circulated nearer the time.

37/21/02 The Chairman highlighted a typo on the agenda and confirmed that the meeting would start at 2pm and not 9am as stated. RESOLVED that this be noted.

38/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**38/21/01 ADA Conference**

The Chief Executive informed members of arrangements for this year's ADA Conference. The ADA Conference was being held online this year and would take place on 10th November from 10:30 to 12:30. The event would be free to attend, but participants must pre-register. Registration for the event was now open via the ADA website and the link had been circulated to all members in advance.

39/21 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

39/21/01 There were no further comments raised by members of the public at today's meeting.

40/21 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**40/21/01 Minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 26 July 2021**

The minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 26 July 2021 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

40/21/02 Unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 19 October 2021

The unconfirmed minutes of the last Joint Management Committee meeting held on 19 October 2021 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

40/21/03 JMC's Health, Safety & Welfare Report

The JMC's Health, Safety & Welfare Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), was considered in detail and adopted. There were no matters arising.

40/21/04 JMC's Operations Report

The JMC's Operations Report (copies of which are filed in the Report Book) were considered in detail and adopted. There were no matters arising.

40/21/05 JMC's People Management Report

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

40/21/06 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts

The JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved for publication on the Group's website. There were no matters arising.

40/21/07 JMC's Financial Report

The JMC's Financial Report for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and adopted. There were no matters arising.

40/21/08 Interim CEO's Progress Report

The Interim CEO's Progress Report as at 26 July 2021 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and noted. Members thanked the Interim CEO for his Report. There were no matters arising.

40/21/09 Discussion Document Advantages and Disadvantages of Amalgamation

The Discussion Document detailing the advantages and disadvantages of amalgamation, as recommended by the JMC (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

40/21/10 Members acknowledged the large number of elected member vacancies, on the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Board and on the other Member Boards within the Bedford Group. RESOLVED that this be noted.

40/21/11 Cllr Steve Dixon felt that members from all 3 Member Boards would benefit from a meeting with another Drainage Board who had recently gone through the amalgamation process to help negate any concerns members may have. The Chairman advised members that if the Board agreed in principle to an amalgamation this would happen next.

40/21/12 Jo Davison and Cllr Steve Dixon requested that the National Farmers Union (NFU) be approached and asked to assist in filling a larger proportion of the elected membership, as an alternative to reconstituting/amalgamating. The Chairman welcomed this suggestion and confirmed that he would ask the NFU for help with this.

DM

40/21/13 Cllr Tom Wootton questioned how long the amalgamation process may take. The Chief Executive informed members that the statutory process could in theory be completed in 18 months, assuming Defra didn't receive any objections to the amalgamation, although experience tells us that it always takes longer than it should (it could take the EA and Defra between 2 to 3 years to complete the statutory process).

40/21/14 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consult the constituent billing authorities on amalgamating with the Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB and Alconbury and Ellington IDB.

PC

40/21/15 Consortium Agreement

The draft Consortium Agreement as recommended by the JMC (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. The Chief Executive advised members that this agreement would regularise the current arrangement, which had been operating at the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards for many years. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Chairman to be empowered to sign the Consortium Agreement on behalf of the Board. There were no matters arising.

40/21/16 Items for discussion at the next JMC meeting

There were no issues raised by members for discussion at the next Joint Management Committee meeting on 20 December 2021. Should members

wish to raise any item for discussion at the next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representatives or the Chief Executive directly.

41/21 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

- 41/21/01** 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.