

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, 03 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 2PM.

Directly Elected Members

- J R Davison
- * J Polhill
- * J Russell
- *v T Wootton

Vacant Position
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
- *v R Rigby
- A Spice
- * M Towler
- *v J Weir
- Vacant Position

Central Bedfordshire Council

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

Jointly Appointed

North Herts District Council

A Willoughby

- * Present (52%)
- *v In attendance virtually

Doug McMurdo in the Chair

In attendance:

Phil Camamile (Chief Executive), Phil Lovesey (Operations Manager),
Trevor Skelding (Principal Engineer), Alice Smith (Executive Assistant), and Nicole Hunter (Principal Accountant)

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute

Action

01/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

01/25/01 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Jo Davison, Andrea Spice, Helen Wightwick and Alistair Willoughby. RESOLVED that this be noted.

02/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

02/25/01 Doug McMurdo declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 of the Financial Report and Agenda Item 8 of the Rate Estimates Report for 2025/26 as Chair of the Bedfordshire Pension Fund. RESOLVED that this be noted.

03/25 MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 05 NOVEMBER 2024

03/25/01 The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 05 November 2024 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

04/25 ENGINEERING REPORT

04/25/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

04/25/02 Ampthill Road

The Principal Engineer confirmed that the developer, Miller Homes, had now made contact with the Board and had claimed that they were unaware of the Board's requirement for an agreement. The Board's officers were liaising with the developer in an attempt to resolve the matter. RESOLVED that this be noted.

04/25/03 Pix Brook, Standalone Farm Reservoir

The Principal Engineer advised members that the Panel Engineer had confirmed alterations could be made to the gates on the basis that the crest of the reservoir was not altered in order to try and resolve the issues being faced with the telemetry and electronic operation of the gates. RESOLVED that this be noted.

04/25/04 Howard Close, Wilstead

Members were advised that the issues were being caused by a foul blockage, which had now been resolved by Anglian Water. RESOLVED that this be noted.

04/25/05 Telemetry

The Principal Engineer advised members that the electricity supply to the telemetry system at Progress had now been disconnected. RESOLVED that this be noted.

04/25/06 Bed_B73 Running Track Watercourse & Newnham Avenue

The Chair advised members that the matter was to be escalated within Anglian Water as had been ongoing for over 10 years and posed risk to both people and property. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Chair to write to head of Anglian Water to try and progress the matter.

PC/DM**05/25 OPERATIONS REPORT**

05/25/01 The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

05/25/02 PSCA Works – Environment Agency

The Operations Manager advised members that works to the main river at Biggleswade along the River Ivel had been completed and the repair to the footpath had also been approved by Central Bedfordshire Council's Rights of Way team. Cadent Gas attended site on 03 February to mark out the gas main which runs across the site and these works were now able to be undertaken. RESOLVED that this be noted.

05/25/03 IDB Precept Liaison Officer

The Operations Manager confirmed that the Board's officers had met with the Environment Agency's new IDB Precept Liaison Officer, on 09 January 2025. It was hoped that this role would improve transparency by providing the Board with more detailed information on how its precept funds were being allocated. RESOLVED that this be noted.

05/25/04 Tranche 2A Funding

The Operations Manager confirmed that the Bedford Group had received funding for two emergency pumps and associated equipment to the value of £160K. Delivery of the pumps was expected to be before 31 March. RESOLVED that this be noted.

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
<p>05/25/05 Tranche 2B Funding</p> <p>Members were informed that an application for funding to replace the surface water pump at Beeston, totalling approximately £12,000, was submitted on 31 January 2025. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	
<p>05/25/06 A421 Flood Event</p> <p>Tom Wootton inquired whether the Board believed National Highways was any closer to releasing the report on the A421 flood event. The Operations Manager stated that, while he had expected the report to have been published by now, no update had been received to date. Tom Wootton requested that the Board write to National Highways to seek an update and obtain reassurance that measures were in place to prevent a recurrence of the event.</p>	PL
06/25 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 OCTOBER 2024	
<p>06/25/01 The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2024 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:</p>	
<p>06/25/02 Environment Agency Highland Water Contribution</p> <p>The Principal Accountant informed the Board that the Highland Water Contributions for 2024/25 and 2025/26 were unlikely to be paid in full. It was anticipated that only 75% of the total claim would be received for 2024/25 and 45% for 2025/26.</p>	
<p>06/25/03 The Chair highlighted the significant impact this reduction would have on the Board's income. After discussion, it was RESOLVED that the Board would formally appeal the decision if/when official notification of the shortfall was received from the Environment Agency.</p>	PC
<p>06/25/04 Members were advised that the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) was scheduled to meet on 13 February to make the decision, and the outcome would be communicated to members accordingly. Expressing their frustration at the anticipated cost shifting, members also requested that the Chief Executive write to local MPs to seek their support on this matter should the shortfall in funding materialise.</p>	PC
<p>06/25/05 The Chair highlighted the new income stream from Surface Water Development Contributions, which should ultimately reduce the Board's reliance on the Environment Agency's Highland Water Contribution if it was taken up by constituent levy paying councils. The Chair encouraged appointed members to engage with their respective councils to support the adoption of this process.</p>	

06/25/06 Julian Polhill welcomed the new income stream, however noted that this relied on development continuing in the area.

07/25 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED WRITE OFFS OVER £100

07/25/01 The proposed write offs over £100 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

08/25 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RATE ESTIMATES FOR 2025/26

08/25/01 The detailed Rate Estimates for 2025/26, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), were considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

08/25/02 Maintenance Works Programme for 2025/26

The detailed Maintenance Works Estimate for 2025/26 as prepared by the Operations Manager, totalling £941,624 was considered in detail and approved.

08/25/03 Administration & Other Expenses for 2025/26

The Administration and Other Expenses Estimate for 2025/26 was considered in detail and approved. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the charge of £518,739 in the Board's Rate Estimates for 2025/26.

**09/25 FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26
LAY AND SEAL THE DRAINAGE RATE AND SPECIAL LEVIES**

09/25/01 Annual Values as at 31 December 2024

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the aggregate annual values as at 31 December 2024, used for the purposes of raising and apportioning expenses from drainage rates and special levies for 2025/26 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book).

09/25/02 Main Area

Anthony Brown proposed a 4% increase in the drainage rate; however, the proposal was not seconded

It was proposed by Doug McMurdo, seconded by Frank Firth and agreed to approve Option 3 as presented, which equated to a drainage rate increase of 5% and an average special levy increase of 6.45%, from 4.803 pence in the pound to 5.043 pence in the pound:

Reserves	£315,959
Occupiers Drainage Rates	£87,939
Bedford Borough Council	£779,276
Central Bedfordshire Council	£435,411
North Hertfordshire District Council	£10,150
South Cambs Council	<u>£189</u>
	£1,312,965

09/25/03 Indicative Five-Year Forecast

The indicative five-year forecast was considered in detail and approved, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising.

09/25/04 Earmarked Balances and Reserves

The adequacy and appropriateness of the Earmarked Balances and Reserves were considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising.

10/25 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10/25/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Monday, 19 May 2025 at 2 pm, to be held in the Board Room at Vale House, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedfordshire, MK43 9ND and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

11/25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**11/25/02 CEO Exit Plan**

The Chair advised members of the CEO's Retirement Exit Plan which had been circulated to all members via email last week. Members noted receipt of the plan.

12/25 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

12/25/01 There were no other matters raised by the public.

13/25 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**13/25/01 Unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 03 December 2024**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 03 December 2024 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

13/25/02 JMC's Operations Report

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

13/25/03 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts

The JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 01 April 2024 to 31 October 2024 (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.

13/25/04 JMC's Financial Report

The JMC's Financial Report for the period 01 April 2024 to 31 October 2024 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

13/25/05 JMC's Projected Out-turns and Estimates

The JMC's Projected Out-turns for 2024/25 and Estimates for 2025/26 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

13/25/06 Annual Review of Surface Water Development Contributions and General Development Contributions

The Annual Review of Surface Water Development Contributions and General Development Contributions Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

13/25/07 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to increase the Surface Water Development Contribution (SWDC) rate/impermeable square metre by 5% on the previous year with effect from 1 April 2025 as follows:

SWDC per m2 of impermeable surface		
Discharge Rate	Impermeable Area	
	< 0.5HA	≥0.5HA
≤ Qbar	£1.71	£1.71
≤5x Qbar	£1.71	£8.58
>5x Qbar	£1.71	£17.17

13/25/08 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to increase the General Development Contribution rate/impermeable square metre from £9.00 to £9.45 (an increase of 5% on the previous year) with effect from 1 April 2025.

13/25/09 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for commuted sums to be determined on a case-by-case basis and to authorise the Chief Executive to negotiate on this basis.

13/25/10 Updated Investment Strategy

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

13/25/11 ADA Conference Report

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

13/25/12 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 29 April 2025. Should members wish to raise any item for discussion at the next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representatives, Justin Farrington Smith, Philip Bowsher and the substitute member Nick Hawes, or the Chief Executive directly.

14/25 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

14/25/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED that as there were no items of confidential business to discuss, a separate set of confidential minutes would not be produced for this meeting.

15/25 UNCONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JMC) MEETING HELD ON 03 DECEMBER 2024

15/25/01 The unconfirmed confidential minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 03 December 2024 were considered in detail, noted and approved. There were no matters arising.

16/25 ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS.

16/25/01 There was no other confidential business to discuss. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and contribution, and declared the meeting closed.