

BEDFORDSHIRE AND RIVER IVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Board Meeting

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Board meeting at 11am on 23 September 2020 held remotely via Microsoft Teams

PRESENT: D McMurdo (Chairman), J R Davison, F Firth, S Jarvis, C McHugh, R Morris, M Nawaz, M Robins, J Russell, J Scott, T Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: B Agass (Chief Executive & Clerk of the Boards), J Oldfield (Director of Operations), N Souter (Accountant), A Smith (Committee Clerk) and B Cannon (Senior Engineer).

Mr D McMurdo chaired the meeting and informed members that following on from Agenda Item (no. 9) at the 1st June meeting where the following items were agreed this extra-ordinary meeting was subsequently being held.

- **A subgroup would be formed of the JMC members of the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Board**
- **The Board agreed the subgroup would have delegation to determine and agree whether the proposed pumping station would be powered by diesel or electric.**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from A D Brown, D Hodgson, S Dixon, B Huckle and J Ream and J Sampson. Mr Dixon expressed his support for the project.

2 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF AN EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND RIVER IVEL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS HELD 10 JULY 2020.

The Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes to the Board and explained this was in fact a meeting of the subgroup as delegated at the June Board meeting and not an extra ordinary meeting as outlined on the agenda.

Members noted the unconfirmed minutes.

4 KINGS DITCH – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Chairman presented the report containing the additional information relating to The Kings Ditch Flood Risk Alleviation (FAS) Scheme, he advised that the report had been produced to allow members to understand the scale of the project which has been ongoing for a number of years and the risks involved.

The following comments were made-

- One member felt the report clearly set out details of the scheme in chronological order and provided detailed information on the events taken place over the last 17 years.
- A member noted the amount of risk the Board will be taking on and felt the risks hadn't been fully mitigated which caused some concern. The Chairman explained that although there are risks identified, which may continue, these risks will need to be mitigated and a better understanding gained. He added this would be achieved through the work of the project group and nominated sponsor as outlined in recommended in 11.3 should members approve the recommendation.
- Another member also raised concerns regarding the risks involved and also noted the expiry of some of the quotations previously obtained. The Chairman advised further decision making was still to take place which would involve obtaining valid quotations.
- A member of the subgroup added that the risks have been discussed in some detail and a key risk was the level of available in-house capacity to deliver the project. The member praised the valiant effort of the officers involved especially during the recent difficult circumstances

The Chairman thanked officers for their hard work on the project, over many years and the many challenges they have faced. The Chairman explained the project had taken much longer than originally estimated however this has been due to valid reasons as laid out in the report.

Members agreed the following recommendations (Mrs. J R Davison abstained from voting on recommendations 11.2 and 11.3) -

11.1 Consider the content of this report and reaffirm their overall commitment to the original intended outcomes - to seek to provide an appropriate permanent flood defence solution in the vicinity of the Kings Ditch in Bedford.

11.2 Agree to extend the scope of the work undertaken by the Board's preferred supplier in relation to the scheme to include full programme and project management and delivery on site by providing additional capacity and continuity.

11.3 Endorse the establishment of a project team co-ordinated by the Board's preferred supplier with appropriate representation from the Board's engineering and finance teams, relevant partner organisations and a member sponsor nominated by the Board.

Doug McMurdo was proposed and nominated by the Board as a member sponsor.

5 DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING – 16 NOVEMBER 2020

The meeting closed at 11:25am.