

**A MEETING OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND RIVER IVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM AT VALUE HOUSE IN STEWARTBY AND VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 18 JANUARY 2022 AT 2 PM.**

**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 (56%)

**In attendance:**

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

Craig Stewart, Arron Iliffe, James Mellor (Members of the Public)

<b>ID</b>	<b>Bedfordshire &amp; River Ivel IDB, Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>01/22</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>01/22/01</b>	Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Graeme Coombes and Mark Robins.	
<b>02/22</b>	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
<b>02/22/01</b>	The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new year. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
<b>03/22</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>03/22/01</b>	Jo Davison declared an interest in the Central Beds Blunham Works as detailed in the Operations Report. RESOLVED that this be noted.	

**04/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2021**

**04/22/01** The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 8 November 2021 were confirmed and signed as a true record. Arising therefrom:

**04/22/02 Highland Water Contributions (35/21/02)**

The Chief Executive advised members that the highland water contribution claim for 2021/22 had now been paid by the Environment Agency in full. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**04/22/03 Advantages and Disadvantages of Amalgamation**

The Chief Executive advised members that the Discussion Document regarding amalgamation had now been considered by all 3 Boards in the Bedford Group, with 2 of the 3 Boards agreeing to continue the discussions. The one remaining Board was currently consulting with the Local Council before deciding on whether or not to reconstitute or amalgamate. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**04/22/04** The Chairman advised members that an article was circulated in the NFU's East Anglian weekly e-newsletter, encouraging farmers and landowners to get involved with and become members of their local IDB. At present no response had been received. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**04/22/05 Consortium Agreement**

The Chief Executive advised members that the draft Consortium Agreement had now been approved by all 3 Member Boards, in principle, and would come into effect from 1 April 2022 after the agreement had been signed by the 3 IDB Chairs. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**05/22 ENGINEERING REPORT**

**05/22/01** The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

**05/22/02 Stewartby Park**

The Chairman confirmed that a letter would now be drafted by the Engineer for the Chairman to sign, which could then be sent to the Solicitors of Stewartby Park. RESOLVED that this be noted.

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**05/22/03 Pix Brook, Standalone Farm Reservoir**

Frank Firth questioned if the delay in upgrading the telemetry raised any immediate concern. The Director of Engineering advised that the flow remained restricted when the gates were raised into the upright position and utilised the letterbox culvert, which continued to provide maximum attenuation. Therefore, there was no immediate concern. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**05/22/04 Housing development at Hitchin Road, Henlow**

The Director of Engineering updated members on the latest position: Heads of Terms had been drafted to primarily protect the Board from all increased costs/liabilities howsoever arising from the development, which would be sent to Paradigm shortly. The Chairman advised members that an offer to settle had also been received from the Paradigm Housing Group the day before today's Board meeting.

**05/22/05** The Chairman invited members of the public to comment on this section of the Engineering Report. Craig Stewart, a representative of the Paradigm Housing Group, confirmed that an offer had been issued in writing yesterday morning and welcomed negotiations with the Board to resolve the matter. The Chairman noted a response was required by the end of the week and welcomed Arron Iliffe's offer of providing the timeline for anticipated completion on the project.

**05/22/06** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Board's Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to resolve this matter.

**05/22/07 Conservation and Biodiversity**

Frank Firth acknowledged the new duty placed upon IDBs to enhance the natural environment following enactment of the Environment Act 2021 and recognised the additional costs the Board would be faced with. He questioned if these additional costs had been included within the budget for 2022/23. The Director of Engineering confirmed that a budget of £30,000 for each Board had been allocated in the budgets for 2022/23 to fulfil this new duty. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**05/22/08** James Russell questioned if any new funding was available to the Board, following the 'new burdens principle'. The Director of Engineering advised that he was not aware of any additional funding being provided. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**06/22 OPERATIONS REPORT**

**06/22/01** The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

**06/22/02 Environment Agency**

The Operations Manager provided a verbal update to members regarding the precept works being undertaken at Bells Brook, Biggleswade; Girtford Bridge, Sandy and River Ivel, Blunham. De-silting surveys had also been requested by officers between Langford Mill to Langford Garden Centre and Blunham South Mills weir to Sandy weir. Additional works had been requested for the River Ouse in Bedford. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**06/22/04 Works Programme for 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25**

The Operations Manager presented the three-year works programme from 2022/23 to 2024/25. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the three year works programme for Bedfordshire and River Ivel IDB.

**06/22/05 Central Beds, Blunham Works**

The Operations Manager presented the proposed additional works that were required at Blunham and highlighted the need to alleviate flooding via a gravity outfall when the River Ivel was not in flood. Members were advised that the works would be carried out in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council for an estimated cost of £13,000.

**06/22/06** The Chairman questioned if Central Bedfordshire Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards the work. Cllr Tony Brown advised he would approach the Council and liaise with the Operations Manager accordingly. RESOLVED that this was noted.

TB / PL

**06/22/07** The Operations Manager advised members that work would only be carried out if further evidence suggested that the work would significantly reduce flood risk in the area. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to add the additional works to the 2022/23 programme and to seek a financial contribution from Central Bedfordshire Council.

**07/22 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2021**

**07/22/01** The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 November 2021 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

**07/22/02** James Russell questioned how the Board planned to address the Y-T-D deficit of £156,878 shown in the Income and Expenditure Account. The Chief Executive advised members that this deficit figure did not include the Board's Highland Water Contribution payment, which had not been paid by the Environment Agency within the reporting period, but which had been received in full on the 14 December 2021. Receipt of this payment from the Environment Agency would turn the deficit into a small surplus. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**08/22 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RATE ESTIMATES FOR 2022/23**

**08/22/01** The detailed Rate Estimates for 2022/23, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), were considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

**08/22/02** Cllr Tony Brown asked for clarification regarding the Indicative Forecast, the Principal Accountant advised the sentence should read "The estimates have been based on a 4% increase in rate and special levy income for 2022/23 and a 4% increase in each the following 4 years." RESOLVED that this be noted.

**08/22/03 Capital Programme for 2022/23**

The detailed Capital Works Estimate for 2022/23 as prepared by the Director of Engineering, totalling £105,624 was considered in detail and approved.

**08/22/04 Maintenance Works Programme for 2022/23**

The detailed Maintenance Works Estimate for 2022/23 as prepared by the Operations Manager, totalling £833,073 was considered in detail and approved.

#### 08/22/05 Administration & Other Expenses for 2022/23

The Administration and Other Expenses Estimate for 2022/23 was considered in detail and approved. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the net consortium charge of £701,944 in the Board's Rate Estimates for 2022/23.

#### 09/22 INDICATIVE FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

09/22/01 The indicative five-year forecast and adequacy of Earmarked Balances and Reserves, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

09/22/02 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve in principle the increases in Drainage Rates and Special Levies for the next 5 years as set out in the Indicative Five-Year Forecast.

#### 10/22 FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/23 LAY AND SEAL THE DRAINAGE RATE AND SPECIAL LEVIES

##### 10/22/01 Annual Values as at 31 December 2021

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the aggregate annual values as at 31 December 2021, used for the purposes of raising and apportioning expenses from drainage rates and special levies for 2022/23 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book).

##### 10/22/02 Main Area

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve Option 3 as presented, which equated to a drainage rate increase of 4% from 4.15 pence in the pound to 4.316 pence in the pound. This increase was designed to deliver a balanced budget within the next 5 years:

Occupiers Drainage Rates	£73,143
Bedford Borough Council	£611,639
Central Bedfordshire Council	£374,393
North Hertfordshire DC	£5,263
South Cambridgeshire DC	£161
Reserves	<u>£476,907</u>
	<b>£1,541,506</b>

10/22/03 Cllr Tony Brown and Cllr Frank Firth objected to an increase of 4% and queried why Central Bedfordshire Council was receiving a 7.37% increase in special levy when all other authorities were increasing around 4%. The Principal Accountant explained this was due to the movement of land from agriculture to developed land (Special Levy). James Russell requested that the movements in area for each authority be detailed in future to clearly

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show the movement from agricultural land to developed land each, which would explain why some authorities have higher increases than others.. RESOLVED that this be noted.

- 10/22/04** Cllr Tony Brown questioned why the rate per person figures were not up to date for all billing authorities. The Principal Accountant advised, this was based on the information that was publicly available at the time of reporting. RESOLVED that this be noted.

## **11/22 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 11/22/01** The Annual Review of Development Contributions Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

- 11/22/02** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to increase the unattenuated surface water development contribution rate/impermeable square metre to £6.49 (an increase of 18% on the previous year) with effect from 1 April 2022.

- 11/22/03** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for commuted sums to be determined on a case-by-case basis and to authorise the Clerk to negotiate on this basis.

- 11/22/04** Tom Wootton questioned if the impermeable area provided by developers and used to calculate the contribution was ever checked by officers. The Director of Engineering advised that the Board did check the larger areas, but not all areas.

- 11/22/05** The Chairman highlighted this as an area for improvement. Cllr Dave Hodgson suggested officers write to local authorities requesting that this information be passed on to the IDB to ensure surface water development contributions were correct. RESOLVED that this be noted.

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## **12/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12/22/01** The next Board meeting would take place on Monday, 6 June 2022 at 2 pm. Venue to be confirmed and paperwork to be circulated nearer the time.

## **13/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **13/22/01 Board Membership**

The Chairman advised Mark Robins was leaving his position of Estate Director at Southill Estates and therefore would be resigning as a Board Member with immediate effect. It was highlighted that this left 8 vacancies on the Board that needed to be filled. RESOLVED that this be noted.

- 13/22/02** The Chairman thanked Mark for his contribution to the Board over the last 3 years.

ID	Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
14/22	<b>OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN</b>	
14/22/01	There were no further comments raised by members of the public at today's meeting.	
15/22	<b>CONSORTIUM MATTERS</b>	
15/22/01	<b>Unconfirmed minutes of the last Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 20 December 2021</b>	
	The unconfirmed minutes of the last Joint Management Committee meeting held on 20 December 2021 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.	
15/22/02	<b>JMC's Operations Report</b>	
	The JMC's Operations Report (copies of which are filed in the Report Book) were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.	
15/22/03	<b>JMC's Proposed Depot Extension Report</b>	
	The JMC's Proposed Depot Extension Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and noted. Arising therefrom:	
15/22/04	The Chairman highlighted the budget estimate assessment provided last year was significantly under the cost estimate provided within the report.	
15/22/05	Frank Firth asked for confirmation that planning approval wouldn't be required for the building extension following initial approval when the building was first built in 2012. The Director of Engineering advised members that planning permission wouldn't need to be re-applied for. Cllr Dave Hodgson recommended officers confirm this with the local planning authority because the reserved matters application was submitted over 10 years ago.	<b>JO</b>
15/22/06	Cllr Dave Hodgson questioned what operational issues couldn't be carried out with the current depot arrangement. The Operations Manager advised welfare facilities were currently situated within the main office building and at times had been difficult to access; and the need for additional storage had also become an issue with the group's increasing amount of equipment. Cllr Hodgson requested a business case be brought to the Board detailing the cost benefit of storing equipment inside as opposed to externally.	<b>JO / PL</b>
15/22/07	Jo Davison felt the inflation figures quoted within the document were not representative of the current climate and were therefore likely to increase further.	
15/22/08	Cllr Tony Brown questioned why grasscrete hadn't been considered for the total amount of additional storage area required. The Operations Manager advised grasscrete could only accommodate wheeled machines up to 40 tonnes and would be unsuitable for tracked machines. RESOLVED that this be noted.	

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
<p><b>15/22/09</b> The Chairman acknowledged the urgent need for additional storage however felt that the warehouse building extension was unaffordable in the current climate. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to proceed with the concrete yard extension and grasscrete temporary parking area upon agreement from the Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB to meet 40% of the associated costs.</p>	
<p><b>15/22/10</b> The Chairman acknowledged the need for accessible welfare facilities however noted that the group's operatives were out on site for a large proportion of their working week. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED that officers investigate alternative welfare solutions.</p>	<b>JO / PL</b>
<p><b>15/22/11 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts</b></p> <p>The JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 November 2021 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p><b>15/22/12 JMC's Financial Report</b></p> <p>The JMC's Financial Report for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 November 2021 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p><b>15/22/13 JMC's Projected Out-turns and Estimates</b></p> <p>The JMC's Projected Out-turns for 2021/22 and Estimates for 2022/23 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p><b>15/22/14 Items for discussion at the next JMC meeting</b></p> <p>There were no issues raised by members for discussion at the next Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting on 25 April 2022. 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.</p>	
<p><b>16/22 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>16/22/01</b> 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.</p>	