

**A MEETING OF THE ALCONBURY AND ELLINGTON INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD AT BROOKFIELD FARM, GREAT STUKELEY AND VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 9 AM.**

<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Appointed Members Huntingdonshire DC</b>
M G Baker	
* K Baker	* S Cawley
A Lensen	* I Gardener
* B Lumbers	Vacant Position
* H Raby	Vacant Position
* E Ruston	Vacant Position
* J Sewell	Vacant Position
* G Warrener	Vacant Position
Vacant Position	Vacant Position
Vacant Position	Vacant Position
Vacant Position	Vacant Position
Vacant Position	Vacant Position
Vacant Position	Vacant Position
Vacant Position	Vacant Position

\* Present (32%)

Harry Raby in the Chair

**Officers in attendance:**

Phil Camamile (Chief Executive), Phil Lovesey (Operations Manager), Matthew Philpot (WMA Area Manager, East Anglia) and Alice Smith (Executive Assistant)

<b>ID</b>	<b>Alconbury &amp; Ellington IDB, Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>40/22</b>	<b>BRUCE CHAPMAN: IN REMEMBRANCE</b>	
<b>40/22/01</b>	A minute's silence was observed in remembrance of Bruce Chapman who had sadly passed away on 22 July 2022. Bruce had been a Board member since 1988 and his local knowledge would be greatly missed.	
<b>41/22</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	
<b>41/22/01</b>	Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mike Baker and Andrew Lensen.	
<b>42/22</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>42/22/01</b>	There were no declarations of interest made, other than those already recorded in the Members' Register of Interests.	
<b>43/22</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2022</b>	
<b>43/22/01</b>	The minutes of the Board meeting held on 16 June 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record. Arising therefrom:	

**43/22/02 25/22/05- Highways ditch, Woolley Road**

John Sewell requested a progress update; the Operations Manager confirmed that the Board had provided a cost estimate of around £18,000 to undertake the maintenance work on behalf of National Highways which included an option to adopt the asset (subject to Board approval). National Highways had since advised that this was too costly and alternative options would be explored. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**43/22/03 25/22/06 Borrow Pits, Brampton Park**

Liz Ruston confirmed that the fencing had been removed from the perimeter of the Borrow Pits at Brampton Park however advised the watercourse was now discharging into the Borrow Pits. The Operations Manager confirmed that the Board had not received any application for Land Drainage Consent for these works and that any discharge was therefore unconsented. Contact had been attempted by the Board's officers to members of the A14 Projects Team with no response yet received. Ian Gardener advised members that he could provide the contact details for the A14 Route Manager. RESOLVED that this be noted.

PL / IG

**43/22/04 33/22/01 Globe Lane, Alconbury**

Keith Baker requested an update and the Operations Manager confirmed that the works were due to take place before the end of the current financial year. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**44/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 07 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**44/22/01** The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 07 September 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record. Arising therefrom:

**44/22/02 40/22/04 – Question and Answer Session**

Cllr Ian Gardener advised members that his position on the Huntingdonshire District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel should read Chair of the Task and Finish Group of the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**45/22 PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF ALCONBURY & ELLINGTON IDB, BEDFORDSHIRE & RIVER IVEL IDB AND BUCKINGHAM & RIVER OUZEL IDB**

**45/22/01** The Chief Executive introduced the report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) and advised members that further to the approval in principle of the Pros & Cons of Amalgamation Paper last year by each of the 3 Member Boards in the Bedford Group of IDBs and following receipt of positive feedback on the proposals from most of the constituent billing authorities, board members and key partners; members were now being asked to consider and approve an amalgamation of the Alconbury & Ellington IDB, Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB and the Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB into a single new Statutory Board of 37,709 hectares.

- 45/22/02** The Chief Executive advised members that if all 3 Boards within the Bedford Group agreed to amalgamate, the Environment Agency's Anglian Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (Central) would be requested to start the statutory process of amalgamating the 3 Boards, using powers afforded by section 3 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. This process could take 3 years to complete, subject to the Environment Agency agreeing to the amalgamation being proposed.
- 45/22/03** The Chairman invited questions and views from all members present before putting the motion to the vote. No questions were raised, and no comments were made. It was proposed by Elizabeth Ruston, seconded by Ian Gardener, unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to amalgamate with Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB and Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB, as proposed in the report (For = 8 votes, Against = 0 votes, Abstentions = 0 votes).
- 45/22/04** The Chairman advised members that the Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB had met on 07 November 2022 and the Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB had met on the 14 November 2022, with both Boards agreeing to proceed with the amalgamation. RESOLVED that this be noted.
- 46/22 LETTER FROM SIMON HAWKINS, AREA DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EAST ANGLIA) REGARDING ALCONBURY BROOK FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME - TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS**
- 46/22/01** The Chairman expressed his disappointment with the response from the Environment Agency regarding the Alconbury Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme. The Chief Executive proposed that the Board complete the work on behalf of the Environment Agency using powers afforded by the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) and recommended allocation of £10,000 from the maintenance budget to undertake the much-needed maintenance work on the main river, on the understanding that this was match funded by the Environment Agency (EA).
- 46/22/02** The Operations Manager confirmed if approved by the Board the precept funding originally paid to the EA from the IDB would be used, but it was suggested that a maximum £10,000 of IDB funding should be allocated for further works providing the works benefitted the district and were cost efficient.
- 46/22/03** Members were advised that the EA were in agreement with these proposals, in principle.
- 46/22/04** Members were of the understanding that a legal agreement existed between Highways England (now National Highways) and the National Rivers Authority (now Environment Agency). It was understood that when the A14 was upgraded to dual carriageway westward from the Brampton Hut/A1 junction in the late 1980's/early 1990's, the Ellington Brook was re-aligned. It was also increased in size as it was designed to take unattenuated surface water run-off from the new road.
- 46/22/05** It was understood that upon completion of the A14 upgrade, the Ellington Brook had to be included in every annual maintenance programme as the EA now had a legal agreement with The Highways Agency to keep the

brook in good condition in order to accommodate surface water run-off from the road.

**46/22/06** Bob Lumbers questioned if there had been any challenge to the claim from the Environment Agency that they were not responsible for the maintenance of the river and if there had been sight of the legal agreement previously referred to. The Chief Executive advised that a Freedom of Information Request (FOI) should confirm one way or the other if there was such a legal agreement and should also highlight what responsibilities and obligations now fell to the EA.

**46/22/07** Members felt that before the Board committed to allocating any additional funds of its own, an FOI request should be submitted to the Environment Agency to request sight of the legal agreement. Members agreed to undertake works under the PSCA using precept funding already paid to the Environment Agency. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to proceed with the works.

PL

**46/22/08** Members were advised that the FOI request would need to be submitted by an individual, as opposed to a public body. Bob Lumbers confirmed that he would be happy to submit this request as an individual landowner with a vested interest in the works. Matthew Philpot suggested any FOI request was also submitted to National Highways. RESOLVED that this be actioned.

BL

*Post meeting note: FOI request submitted to the Environment Agency by Bob Lumbers on 27 November.*

#### **47/22 CORRESPONDENCE**

**47/22/01** No other correspondence requiring the Board's consideration had been received during this reporting period.

#### **48/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**48/22/01** It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Thursday, 02 February 2023 at 9 am, which would be held at Brookfield Farm, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AB and virtually via Microsoft Teams. It was noted that the agenda contained a typo; the time of the next Board meeting should read 9 am not 2 pm.

#### **49/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **49/22/01 Introduction to Matthew Philpot**

The Chairman introduced Matthew Philpot, the WMA's Area Manager for East Anglia. Matthew gave a brief introduction about his role at the WMA, his previous background at the Environment Agency and his experience as a Civil Engineer. He advised members that he had been working alongside the Group's Operations Manager, Phillip Lovesey to identify areas of improvement & implement operational changes where appropriate. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**50/22 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

**50/22/01** There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.

**51/22 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**51/22/01** 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.