

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, 13 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 2 PM.

Directly Elected Members

- * J R Davison
- * J Polhill
- * J M Ream
- J Russell
- T Wootton
- Vacant Position
- 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

Jointly Appointed

North Herts District Council

- * S Jarvis
- * Present (56%)

Doug McMurdo in the Chair

In attendance:

Phil Camamile (Chief Executive), Phil Lovesey (Operations Manager), Alice Smith (Executive Assistant), and Nicole Souter (Principal Accountant)

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute

Action

01/23 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

01/23/01 The Chairman welcomed Julian Polhill to his first Board meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
<p>02/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>02/23/01 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of James Russell and Tom Wootton. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	
<p>03/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>03/23/01 There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.</p>	
<p>04/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2022</p> <p>04/23/01 The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 14 November 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p>05/23 ENGINEERING REPORT</p> <p>05/23/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:</p>	
<p>05/23/02 West of Bedford Growth Area Master Plan</p> <p>The Chairman was pleased to report that Bedford Borough Council should now be in a position to complete the legal agreements, which were expected to take place before the end of the current financial year. The Council and Developers had been made aware that if the agreements had not completed before 31 March 2023 the Board would not be actively perusing the matter further. If any maintenance work needed to be done on the Marsh Leys system in future, the Board would serve notice on the landowners to carry out the work in the usual manner. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	
<p>05/23/03 Hitchin Road, Henlow</p> <p>The Chief Executive confirmed that the work was due to be completed by the 31 March 2023 if/when Central Bedfordshire Council were able to reinstate the necessary permissions to close the road.</p>	
<p>05/23/04 Steve Dixon encouraged the Board to take a firmer stance on developments of this nature in future and reported the disruption faced by residents in Henlow. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	

05/23/05 Ampthill Road

Anthony Brown questioned if the work had been costed and sent to the Developer. The Operations Manager advised members that the work had been costed by the Board's Principal Engineer and the information had been provided to the Developer on the 08 February 2023. A response had yet to be received from the Developer. RESOLVED that this be noted.

05/23/06 Oxford to Cambridge Express Way

Anthony Brown questioned if the Board had received any further updates regarding the project. Martin Towler advised members that the project was currently under judicial review with an outcome expected around June 2023. RESOLVED that this be noted.

06/23 OPERATIONS REPORT

06/23/01 The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

06/23/02 Chemical Weed Control

Frank Firth queried the chemical weed control work which was yet to be undertaken and reported as 0% in the progress report. The Operations Manager confirmed, as reported at the Board's November meeting, he was unable to find a suitable contractor to carry out the works. An individual assessment was therefore made on each section of watercourse with the majority being re-allocated to receive Weedcutting instead. RESOLVED that this be noted.

06/23/03 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The Operations Manager highlighted that the Board's focus in 2023/24 would be on mink control to improve Water Vole numbers; pollarding to preserve the life of Willows; and on reducing Non-Native Invasive Species. The directly elected Board members were encouraged to speak to the Board's officers if they were interested in having a mink trap on their land. RESOLVED that this be noted.

**07/23 FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2022 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

07/23/01 The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 November 2022 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

07/23/02 The Principal Accountant highlighted that the projected out-turn deficit of £127,280 was considerably less than the original budgeted deficit of £409,097 for 2022/23. It was noted that this was largely down to reduced capital and maintenance works expenditure and cost savings being achieved within the joint administration and technical support budget. RESOLVED that this be noted.

08/23 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RATE ESTIMATES FOR 2023/24

08/23/01 The detailed Rate Estimates for 2023/24, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), were considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

08/23/02 Maintenance Works Programme for 2023/24

The detailed Maintenance Works Estimate for 2023/24 as prepared by the Operations Manager, totalling £779,822 was considered in detail and approved.

08/23/03 Anthony Brown questioned why the Board had previously determined that maintenance work was required on a particular watercourse, but the same watercourse was not now deemed to be a priority. The Operations Manager advised members that the Board undertakes a rolling programme of asset inspections: watercourses are inspected by the Boards' asset surveyors, assessed for overall condition and recorded into the individual Board's Asset Management System. This information was then used to identify the watercourses most in need of maintenance work when preparing the forthcoming annual maintenance programme.

08/23/04 The Board aims to carry out essential watercourse maintenance on the high-risk category 1 watercourses each year. They were maintained in a good condition to reflect the consequences from flooding. The current watercourse condition inspection regime prioritised medium risk category 2 watercourses, followed by lower risk category 3 watercourses, to better develop and inform the future three-year maintenance programme. RESOLVED that this be noted.

08/23/05 Administration & Other Expenses for 2023/24

The Administration and Other Expenses Estimate for 2023/24 was considered in detail and approved. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the charge of £547,439 in the Board's Rate Estimates for 2023/24.

09/23 FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24
LAY AND SEAL THE DRAINAGE RATE AND SPECIAL LEVIES

09/23/01 Annual Values as at 31 December 2022

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the aggregate annual values as at 31 December 2022, used for the purposes of raising and apportioning expenses from drainage rates and special levies for 2023/24 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book).

09/23/02 Main Area

It was proposed by Frank Firth, seconded by Martin Towler and agreed to approve Option 3 as presented, which equated to a drainage rate increase of 7.00% and an average special levy increase of 6.23%, from 4.316 pence in the pound to 4.618 pence in the pound. This increase was designed to deliver a balanced budget within the next 4 years (as agreed last year) by only carrying out works which can be completed by the Group's current internal workforce and minimising external spend with contractors (8 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstained):

Reserves	£182,461
Occupiers Drainage Rates	£78,560
Bedford Borough Council	£657,118
Central Bedfordshire Council	£393,104
North Herts DC	£5,631
South Cambs DC	£173
	£1,317,047

09/23/03 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.

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
<p>09/23/04 Earmarked Balances and Reserves</p> <p>The adequacy and appropriateness of the Earmarked Balances and Reserves was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book).</p> <p>09/23/05 Dave Hodgson requested a meeting with the Group's Principal Accountant to obtain a greater understanding of how the special levy for Bedford Borough Council had been calculated. It was agreed that such a meeting would be arranged. Steve Dixon requested that Central Bedfordshire Council also be provided with the same information and that a similar meeting be arranged to discuss this. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p> <p>09/23/06 Dave Hodgson also queried why the date of the ONS figures used to calculate the rate per person were different for each Council. The Principal Accountant advised members that the population figures had been taken from individual Local Authority websites, many of which did not reflect the most up to date information. Dave Hodgson suggested that officers should obtain the data directly from ONS in future. The Chairman confirmed that these figures would be obtained and the rate per person circulated to Dave Hodgson and Steve Dixon after the meeting. RESOLED that this be noted.</p>	<p>NS/DH/SD</p> <p>NS</p>
<p>10/23 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>10/23/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Monday, 22 May 2023 at 2 pm, to be held in the Board Room at Vale House, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedfordshire, MK43 9ND and virtually via Microsoft Teams.</p>	
<p>11/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>11/23/01 Register of Members Interests Form & Board Member Authorisation Forms</p> <p>The Executive Assistant reminded members that the Register of Members Interests Forms & Board Member Authorisation Forms should be returned to the office as soon as possible. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	
<p>12/23 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN</p> <p>12/23/01 There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.</p>	

13/23 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**13/23/01 Unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 19 December 2022**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 19 December 2022 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

13/23/02 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.

13/23/03 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts

The JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 01 April 2022 to 30 November 2022 (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.

13/23/04 JMC's Financial Report

The JMC's Financial Report for the period 01 April 2022 to 30 November 2022 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

13/23/05 JMC's Projected Out-turns and Estimates

The JMC's Projected Out-turns for 2022/23 and Estimates for 2023/24 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

13/23/06 Review of Development Contributions

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:

13/23/07 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to increase the unattenuated surface water development contribution rate/impermeable square metre to £7.42 (an increase of 14.2% on the previous year) with effect from 1 April 2023.

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
<p>13/23/08 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.</p>	
<p>13/23/09 The Chief Executive advised members that an additional paragraph had been included this year to ensure that all discharges to riparian watercourses within the Drainage District which ultimately ended up in the Board's system would also be charged for. Members welcomed this addition.</p>	
<p>13/23/10 Items for discussion at the next JMC meeting</p> <p>There were no issues raised by members for discussion at the next Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting on 02 May 2023. 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>14/23 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS</p>	
<p>14/23/01 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.</p>	