

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, 14 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 2 PM.

Directly Elected Members

- J R Davison
- 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 (48%)

Doug McMurdo in the Chair

In attendance:

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

ID Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute

Action

40/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

40/22/01 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Anthony Brown, Graeme Coombs, Jo Davison, and Christine McHugh. RESOLVED that this be noted.

40/22/02 Apologies for absence were received from John Ream after the meeting.

41/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

41/22/01 There were no declarations of interest reported to the meeting.

42/22 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 06 JUNE 2022

42/22/01 The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 06 June 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising from members present at the meeting. However, Anthony Brown had requested an update on the following items:

42/22/02 26/22/05 Court Proceedings

The Principal Accountant advised members that before instigating court proceedings, the total outstanding drainage rates amounted to £6,136.74. The Board was only able to take 3 ratepayers to court, which amounted to £973.01, liability orders were obtained, and these details were passed on to the bailiffs. 2 of these ratepayers have subsequently paid, which had reduced the total drainage rates outstanding to £5,552.61. The bailiff was unable to locate the third ratepayer's address but was actively investigating and pursuing their enquiries. The remaining ratepayers were unable to be taken to court due to inaccuracies on their account, following a land registry check or since being informed of a change of land occupancy. There was now £4,918.89 outstanding and of these remaining amounts, £4,164.19 was due to be paid by two ratepayers. RESOLVED that this be noted.

42/22/03 31/22/02 WRE Representative

The Executive Assistant advised members that a date had yet to be arranged for David Thomas, ADAs representative on the WRE Board, to meet with all 3 Boards following their individual requests for an update on progress made. It was hoped this meeting could take place early in the New Year. RESOLVED that this be noted.

43/22 ENGINEERING REPORT

43/22/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

43/22/02 West of Bedford Growth Area Master Plan (Marsh Leys)

The Chief Executive advised members that the Board was waiting for Bedford Borough Council to confirm that they were ready to simultaneously complete the legal agreements. Email correspondence would suggest that the Borough Council should soon be in a position to do this. RESOLVED that this be noted.

43/22/03 Housing Development at Hitchin Road, Henlow

Members were pleased to hear that an agreement had been reached in principle with Paradigm Housing Ltd to retrospectively consent this development and that work was currently underway on-site to replace the existing culvert with a much larger box culvert, as had been specified by the Board. RESOLVED that this be noted.

43/22/04 Northamptonshire Councils - LLFA Consenting

The Chief Executive advised members that the original 5-year Service Level Agreement with Northamptonshire Council had ended on 31 March 2022, which was extended by the former Director of Engineering for a period of 6 months to allow both of the new Northamptonshire Unitary Councils to prepare for taking this service back in-house. During this time, the Councils had not been able to recruit the staff to do this and had therefore asked the Group for a further extension of 6 months, to expire on 31 March 2023. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) had failed to pay their special levies for the last 18 months and had not paid for the consenting services provided by the Group. Therefore, as of 1 October 2022 the Group had ceased administering West and North Northamptonshire's consenting function. On communicating this decision to WNC all outstanding special levies and invoices were then paid.

43/22/05 The Chief Executive confirmed that the Group's Officers had attended a meeting with WNC on 11 November 2022 at their request to discuss extending the agreement for a further 6-month period on revised terms, which ensured that the Group's costs were fully reimbursed, and that the Council would introduce its own Byelaws during the 6-month extension period, moving forward.

Post meeting Note: WNC have agreed to the Group's revised terms and therefore the contract has been further extended until 31 March 2023.

43/22/06 Pix Brook, Standalone Farm Reservoir

The Chief Executive provided an update regarding the flood gates at Pix Brook Reservoir and confirmed that they were now fully operational. RESOLVED that this be noted.

44/22 OPERATIONS REPORT

44/22/01 The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

44/22/02 Frank Firth questioned if all Covid restrictions had now been removed and whether operatives were back to sharing vehicles when required. The Operations Manager confirmed that all restrictions had been removed. RESOLVED that this be noted.

45/22 AUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2021/22

45/22/01 The audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2022 was considered in detail and approved by the Board. The External Auditor had no matters to report. RESOLVED that this be noted.

46/22 FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

46/22/01 The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

46/22/02 Highland Water Contribution

The Principal Accountant advised members that the highland water contribution for 2022/23 had now been received, in full, on 11 November 2022 from the Environment Agency (EA). The Principal Accountant explained that the claim for 2022/23 was due to be paid by the EA to the Board in September, however the EA had requested additional information to substantiate the claim. This additional information had been provided at the beginning of October and full payment was received on 11 November 2022. RESOLVED that this be noted.

46/22/03 Special Levies Issued by the Board

The Principal Accountant confirmed that all Special Levies issued by the Board had now been paid in full. RESOLVED that this be noted.

47/22 PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF ALCONBURY & ELLINGTON IDB, BEDFORDSHIRE & RIVER IVEL IDB AND BUCKINGHAM & RIVER OUZEL IDB

47/22/01 The Chief Executive introduced the report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) and advised 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.

49/22/02 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.

49/22/03 The Chairman invited questions and views from all members present before voting on the motion. No questions were raised, and no comments were made. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman agreed and thereby RESOLVED to amalgamate with Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB and Alconbury & Ellington IDB, as proposed in the report (For = 11 votes, Against = 1 vote, Abstentions = 0 votes).

49/22/04 The Chairman advised members that the Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB had met on 07 November 2022 and agreed to proceed with the amalgamation, and the Alconbury & Ellington IDB were to meet on 22 November 2022. The outcome of this meeting would be shared with all Board members in the Bedford Group of IDBs after 22 November 2022. RESOLVED that this be noted.

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48/22 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2023/24

48/22/01 The calendar of meetings for 2023/24 was considered in detail and approved. Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB would meet as follows:

Monday, 13 February 2023

Monday, 22 May 2023

Monday, 20 November 2023

Monday, 05 February 2024

48/22/02 All Board meetings would start at 2 pm via Microsoft Teams and/or at Vale House in Stewartby.

49/22 CORRESPONDENCE**49/22/01 Co-Option of Board Member**

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Julian Polhill to fill one of the eight casual vacancies on the Board.

50/22 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

50/22/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Monday, 13 February 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.

51/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**51/22/01 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.

51/22/02 Joint Management Committee Vacancy

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to appoint Frank Firth as a member of the Joint Management Committee (JMC).

51/22/03 Register of Members Interest Form & Board Member Authorisation Forms

The Executive Assistant reminded members that the Register of Members Interest Forms & Board Member Authorisation Forms should be completed and returned to the office as soon as possible. RESOLVED that this be noted.

51/22/04 Board Papers: Format

The Chairman requested that the papers for all future Board meetings be provided in a landscape format to enhance the viewing experience for the majority of members who received their meeting papers electronically. RESOLVED that this be noted.

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52/22 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

52/22/01 There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.

53/22 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**53/22/01 Unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 17 October 2022**

The unconfirmed minutes of the last Joint Management Committee meeting held on 17 October 2022 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

53/22/02 Notes of the Joint Meeting held on 07 July 2022 to discuss the proposed amalgamation with independent experts

The notes of the Joint Meeting held on 07 July 2022 to discuss the proposed amalgamation with independent experts were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

53/22/03 JMC's Operations Report

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

53/22/04 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts

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

53/22/05 JMC's Financial Report

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

53/22/06 Updated Local Government Pension Scheme Employers Policy Statement

The updated Group's Local Government Pension Scheme Employers Policy Statement (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

53/22/07 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 19 December 2022. Should members wish to raise any item for discussion at this next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representatives: Doug McMurdo, James Russell, Jo Davison and Frank Firth, or the Chief Executive directly.

54/22 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

54/22/01 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.