

**A MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAM AND RIVER OUZEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS
HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM AT VALE HOUSE IN STEWARTBY AND VIRTUALLY
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 23 JANUARY 2023 AT 2 PM.**

Elected Members

- * P Bowsher
- * J Farrington Smith
- * N Hawes
- * R Haynes
- D Hunt
- * D Osborn

Vacant Position

Vacant Position

Vacant Position

Vacant Position

Vacant Position

Co-opted Member

- * P Hirons

Appointed Members

Buckinghamshire Council

- * H Mordue

Central Bedfordshire Council

- * A Brown
- S Dixon
- * G Perham
- P Snelling
- B Spurr

Vacant Position

Milton Keynes City Council

- S Balazs
- * G Bowyer
- * R Exon
- * V McPake
- L Townsend
- J Wilson-Marklew

- * Present (48%)

Vanessa McPake in the Chair

In attendance:

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

ID	Buckingham & River Ouzel IDB, Minute	Action
01/23	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
01/23/01	The Chair welcomed Justin Farrington Smith to his first Board meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
01/23/02	The Chair advised members that she would be conducting the meeting due to Paul Hirons suffering a broken leg before Christmas, Paul was however present on Teams. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
02/23	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
02/23/01	Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Scott Balazs, David Hunt, Brian Spurr, Lauren Townsend and Jennifer Wilson-Marklew. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
02/23/02	An apology for absence was also received from Peter Snelling after the meeting.	

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	03/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
03/23/01	Phillip Bowsher declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 of the Engineering Report as the Milton Keynes Parks Trust owned the land either side of the Kingston Weir. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
03/23/02	Vanessa McPake declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 of the Operations Report as Caldecotte Brook fell within the boundary of her Ward. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
03/23/03	Phillip Bowsher also declared an interest in Agenda Item 8 of the Rate Estimates for 2023/24 as an employee of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
	04/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 07 NOVEMBER 2022	
04/23/01	The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 07 November 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record. Arising therefrom:	
04/23/02	45/22/10 Northamptonshire Councils - LLFA Consenting The Chief Executive advised members that a further six-month extension had been agreed with West Northamptonshire Council to provide consenting services, upon receipt of their outstanding Special Levies and Unpaid Invoices from 01 October 2022 until 31 March 2023. It was confirmed that the contract fee had also increased from £200 per consent to £500 per consent. Approvals were in the process of being finalised to allow for a similar extension with North Northamptonshire Council, which would be subject to a separate extension agreement letter. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
04/23/03	46/22/02 Stony Stratford The Operations Manager confirmed that the Environment Agency had indicated that they planned to remove silt from one of the bridge arches which ran under Queen Eleanor Street but was unable to confirm the dates this work was due to be undertaken. Further updates would be provided at the next Board meeting in June 2023. Vanessa McPake requested updates be provided to her as the work progressed. RESOLVED that this be noted.	PL
04/23/04	48/22/03 Income and Expenditure Account Anthony Brown questioned why the income from the Milton Keynes (MK) tariff agreement was not able to be accessed and had therefore been removed from the projected out-turn shown on the Income and Expenditure account. The Chief Executive reiterated that it was highly unlikely that this money would ever be received but confirmed to members no work had been undertaken by the Board in relation to the agreement and therefore no costs had been incurred.	
04/23/05	The Chief Executive advised members that MK Tariff income had been included in the Board's budget for many years, but nothing had ever been received in previous years and nothing was due to be received this year.	

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	<p>This budgeted income was therefore distorting the Board's financial position - the Board had been overspending and running down its reserves over very many years. If this continued at the same rate, the Board would have no money left in its general reserve within 3 years.</p>	
04/23/06	<p>Phillip Bowsher provided members with some background to the MK Tariff and questioned if officers from the Board were in discussion with MKCC who now managed the fund. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Board's Principal Engineer was in regular contact with officers at MKCC about the possibility of accessing MK tariff and other matters. Phillip Bowsher agreed that the MK tariff income should be removed from the budget but requested a meeting with the Principal Engineer to discuss the tariff and that an update from officers be included in the Engineering Report for future Board meetings. RESOLVED that this be actioned.</p>	AS
05/23	ENGINEERING REPORT	
05/23/01	<p>The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:</p>	
05/23/02	Kingston Weir	
	<p>The Chief Executive confirmed that a meeting with MK Parks Trust, MKCC and Anglian Water took place on 16 January 2023 to establish the responsibility of the outfall and possible options for repair. Anglian Water's Water Recycling Networks Manager, Tom Birch met with officers and upon discovery of an historic map detailing the relationship between the IDB and Anglian Water as the client, it was confirmed the asset was the responsibility of Anglian Water.</p>	
05/23/03	<p>Members were advised Tom Birch had verbally accepted this responsibility on site. Phillip Bowsher detailed a similar meeting and outcome around 5/6 years ago when the drawing first came to light. He hoped continued discussions from the Board's officers and Anglian Water would allow for a speedy resolution.</p>	
05/23/04	<p>The Chief Executive confirmed this would be followed up by officers in two weeks' time. RESOLVED that this be noted.</p>	PC/TS
05/23/05	BMK Waterway Park	
	<p>Phillip Bowsher advised MK Parks Trust was a member of the consortium and confirmed the terms of reference relating to the consortium were currently being revised. He questioned if the IDB felt they were sufficiently represented on the consortium. It was confirmed that the Buckingham and River Ouzel IDB and Bedfordshire and River Ivel IDB don't have any direct representation on the consortium at the moment and that it would be beneficial to be directly represented.</p>	
05/23/06	<p>The Chief Executive confirmed that a number of members from the Bedfordshire and River Ivel Board were members of the consortium although represented other organisations. Members felt it would be beneficial for an officer from the Bedford Group to be present on the consortium to represent the IDB.</p>	

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05/23/07	Phillip Bowsher advised he would follow this up with the consortium during their next terms of reference discussion. RESOLVED that this be noted.	PB
	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	Interactive Maps	
	Members thanked officers for providing access to the interactive maps which were now included within the Board's meeting paperwork. The Operations Manager advised members that this was an improvement made by the Group's recently appointed GIS/Asset Technician. It was hoped that additional information could be shown on the interactive maps as he progressed within the organisation.	
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	Special Levies for 2022/23	
	The Principal Accountant confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council's special levy second instalment of £13,554.50 remained outstanding from the 01 November 2022. Officers were actively chasing this payment. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
	<i>Post meeting note: Payment was received in full on 27 January 2023.</i>	
07/23/03	Environment Agency Precept	
	Anthony Brown questioned if the Board could obtain information from the Environment Agency on where the Board's precept money had been spent within the local area. He raised concerns that the funds were being placed within a central pot and no local benefit was being received.	
07/23/04	The Operations Manager confirmed that approximately 50% of the Board's precept was allocated to maintaining local assets within the district. The remaining 50% was allocated to maintaining main rivers, however, as had been highlighted in recent Operations Reports this work hasn't ever actually been completed by the EA. The Board had offered to undertake work on behalf of the Environment Agency (EA) through a PSCA (Public Sector Cooperation Agreement), but the EA had not wanted us to do the work. The Operations Manager hoped that work under the PSCA on behalf of the EA could be undertaken within the district in future years.	
07/23/05	Anthony Brown welcomed this type of arrangement however remained concerned that the precept would continue to be charged by the EA with no benefit being seen in the local area. The Operations Manager confirmed a	

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	breakdown of expenditure detailing where the precept was to be spent had been requested from the EA on multiple occasions.	
07/23/06	The Chief Executive confirmed that the Precept had to be paid, however an IDB may appeal against the charge if they felt it was unfair and could request details of how it was to be spent by the Agency. Members agreed and thereby RESOLVED to put the EA on notice of the Board's intention to appeal the precept charge for 2023/24. If no further information was forthcoming, then officers were instructed to appeal the present.	PC / NS
07/23/07	Justin Farrington Smith requested that a copy of the appeal letter be sent to all members of the Board to allow for the issue to be raised with local MPs. RESOLVED that this be noted.	ALL
07/23/08	Vanessa McPake felt that this issue should also be raised at a future EA RFCC meeting to highlight the reasoning for the Board's appeal. 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 £535,267 was considered in detail and approved.	
08/23/03	It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to contribute up to £6,500 towards work that will be carried out by the Milton Keynes Parks Trust in 2023/24, which is deemed to benefit the Board.	NS
08/23/04	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 £354,777 in the Board's Rate Estimates for 2023/24.	
08/23/05	Richard Haynes questioned if differential rates could be set for the occupiers' drainage rate and the special levies rate. The Chief Executive advised members that this could not happen: Section 38 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 enabled the division of Drainage Districts for the purposes of setting different drainage rates and special levies in each sub-district. In principle, Differential Rates were typically only used to reflect differential levels of service. This may occur where geographically a part of the District was pumped and another part drained via gravity, or where some parts of the District received a reduced or enhanced level of benefit from IDB activity.	
08/23/06	The increase for special levies was higher this year than it was for drainage rates because of the increase in the proportion of aggregate annual value that had occurred as a result of development in the area. As land is developed and no longer farmed, the proportion of the Board's net	

expenditure that is financed from drainage rates reduces, and the proportion of the Board's net expenditure that is financed from special levies increases. The councils would now be collecting Council Tax and/or Business Rates from this land, which should help them to fund this increase in their proportion of the Board's net expenditure.

08/23/07 Members requested a small working group be established to address the concerns highlighted within the Rate Estimates Executive Summary for 2023/24, which had also been raised by officers last year when the Rate Estimates for 2022/23 were approved and more recently by the Internal Auditor. RESOLVED that this be actioned.

PC/AS

**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 Vanessa McPake, seconded by Howard Mordue and agreed to approve Option 3 as presented, which equated to a drainage rate increase of 7% and an average special levy increase of 7.93%, from 5.270 pence in the pound to 5.639 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 to Category 1 and 1a watercourses (5 in favour, 4 against):

Reserves	£25,239
Occupiers Drainage Rates	£64,203
Buckinghamshire County Council	£32,118
Central Bedfordshire Council	£301,252
Cherwell DC	£96
Milton Keynes City Council	£378,101
South Northamptonshire Council	<u>£15,274</u>
	£816,283

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.

09/23/04 Earmarked Balances and Reserves

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).

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10/23	DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING	
10/23/01	It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Tuesday, 06 June 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.	
11/23	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
11/23/01	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 returned to the office as soon as possible. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
12/23	OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN	
12/23/01	There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.	
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.	

ID	Action
<p>13/23/05 JMC's Projected Out-turns and Estimates</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>13/23/06 Review of Development Contributions</p> <p>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:</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<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 all discharges to riparian watercourses within the Drainage District that 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>	