

A MEETING OF THE ALCONBURY AND ELLINGTON INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD AT BROOKFIELD FARM, GREAT STUKELEY AND VIRTUALLY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2024 AT 9 AM

Elected Members		Appointed Members Huntingdonshire DC	
*	M G Baker		S Cawley
	K Baker	*	I Gardener
	M Chapman		Vacant Position
	A Lensen		Vacant Position
*	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

* Present (16%)
*v In attendance virtually

Harry Raby in the Chair

Officers in attendance:

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

ID	Alconbury & Ellington IDB, Minute	Action
01/24	WELCOME	
01/24/01	The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and advised members that the meeting was inquorate, given that there were only 4 members present. Proxy voting forms had therefore been circulated to those members who had given their apologies prior to the meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
02/24	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
02/24/01	Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Keith Baker, Stephen Cawley, Mark Chapman, Andrew Lensen, Bob Lumbers, Liz Ruston and Geoff Warrener. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
03/24	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
03/24/01	There were no declarations of interest reported to the meeting.	

04/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2023

04/24/01 The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 14 November 2023 were confirmed and signed as a true record. Arising therefrom:

04/24/02 Members were read an extract of Andrew Lensen's email which contained the following reference to the minutes of the last meeting; "There is no mention in the minutes of my point last time of the lack of EA management of the Alconbury brook and leading to flooding." It was agreed to add Andrew's comment to the minutes.

05/24 ENGINEERING REPORT

05/24/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

05/24/02 A14

The Operations Manager advised members that the works had been awarded to Lattenbury Services, however an intended start date was yet to be confirmed. Furthermore, the agreed commuted sum of £5,381.63 had yet to be received and would be recalculated using the rates for 2024/25 if it had not been received before 31 March 2024. RESOLVED that this be noted.

06/24 OPERATIONS REPORT

06/24/01 The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

06/24/02 Maintenance Contract work for 2024/25

The Operations Manager advised members that the maintenance contract work for 2024/25 would be the final year of the 3-year works contract. It was agreed that the current 3-year contract period had worked well and requested that the works be tendered for a further 3-year period (from 2025 to 2028) at the appropriate time.

06/24/03 To assist with the preparation of budgets, the Operations Manager advised members that the tenders for the 3 year works programme would be issued in November/December 2024, with invitations being sent to contractors who had previously been awarded the works contract. RESOLVED that this be noted.

06/24/04 Environment Agency Works

Members were read a further extract from Andrew Lensen's email which contained the following;

"I have spoken to Phil Lovesey today but wish to have it on record that we are completely unhappy at the flooding we have had 4 times now this winter from overtopping of the Alconbury brook.

The channel is tiny due to lack of management and needs slubbing out & de weeding so it can take the volumes of water required during high rainfall events.

We have lost in the region of 10 ha of crop due to flooding this year.”

06/24/05 The Chair and members were disappointed that Andrew laid blame to the lack of Environment Agency maintenance on the Board. Members understood his frustration however felt it was unfair to blame the Board for another organisation’s work or lack of it, particularly so, given that he was a member of this Board.

06/24/06 The Alconbury Brook fell under the Environment Agency’s jurisdiction as a main-river and there was nothing further that the Board could do about that. Members were reminded that the Board had on many occasions previously requested the EA to carryout maintenance on the Alconbury Brook, so that the Board could then fulfil its own statutory function. Officers had also requested the EA to de-main the river, so that the Board could take it on as an ordinary watercourse. More recently, officers had requested the EA to use the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement it had with the Bedford Group of IDBs, so that the Board could carry out the work on the Agency’s behalf. RESOLVED that this be noted.

06/24/07 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to advise Andrew that he should contact the Environment Agency directly and request them to carry out the much-needed maintenance work on the Alconbury Brook. The Board would be happy to do the work for the EA on its behalf.

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06/24/08 Andrew’s email also advised that he wished to vote against the proposed increase of 2% in drainage rates for the following reasons;

1. “We are not being serviced properly by the Board due to the brook and our losing crop because of flooding.
2. All Boards should look as to how to save money not just continually put-up rates. That is the easy option.
3. There are sufficient funds in the accounts.”

06/24/09 The Operations Manager advised members that the watercourses which fell under the Board’s jurisdiction had been maintained regularly to a high standard and the events downstream were main-rivers and therefore outside of the Board’s control.

06/24/10 Members were reminded that during 2023/24 the Board had completed around £25k worth of maintenance work on behalf of the Environment Agency via the Public Sector Co-Operation Agreement. Officers were keen to do more of this type of work for the Agency, however all such works needed to be approved by the Environment Agency. RESOLVED that this be noted.

07/24 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

07/24/01 The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 October 2023 was considered in detail and noted (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising.

08/24 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RATE ESTIMATES FOR 2024/25

08/24/01 The detailed Rate Estimates for 2024/25, (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book), were considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

08/24/02 Maintenance Works Programme for 2024/25

The detailed Maintenance Works Estimate for 2024/25 as prepared by the Operations Manager, totalling £92,735 was considered in detail and approved.

08/24/03 Administration, Technical Support & Other Expenses for 2024/25

The Administration, Technical Support and Other Expenses Estimate for 2024/25 as recommended by the Joint Management Committee was considered in detail and approved. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the charge of £27,703 in the Board's Rate Estimates for 2024/25. 8 in favour, 1 against.

**09/24 FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25
LAY AND SEAL THE DRAINAGE RATE AND SPECIAL LEVIES****09/24/01 Annual Values as at 31 December 2023**

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the aggregate annual values as at 31 December 2023, used for the purposes of raising and apportioning expenses from drainage rates and special levies for 2024/25 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). 8 in favour, 1 against.

09/24/02 Main Area

It was proposed by Ian Gardener, seconded by John Sewell and agreed (by members present and through the submitted proxy voting forms) to approve Option 3 as presented, which equated to a drainage rate increase of 2% and an average special levy increase of 1.99%, from 4.254 pence in the pound to 4.339 pence in the pound. 8 in favour, 1 against:

Reserves	£1,427
Occupiers Drainage Rates	£11,787
Huntingdonshire District Council	<u>£88,728</u>
	£100,515

09/24/03 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). 8 in favour, 1 against. There were no matters arising.

09/24/04 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). 8 in favour, 1 against.

10/24 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10/24/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the next Board meeting to take place on Tuesday, 28 May 2024 at 9 am, which would be held at Brookfield Farm, Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Huntingdon, PE28 4AB and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

11/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**11/24/01 ADA Environment Day**

The Executive Assistant advised members of the upcoming ADA Environment Day on Friday, 02 February 2024, at Park Farm, Thorney, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Members were advised that this event was free to attend in-person and fittingly coincided with World Wetlands Day which planned to be an insightful day with a host of speakers talking on a range of topics relevant to management of the lowland freshwater environment. Members were encouraged to attend if they were able.

11/24/02 Co-option of Charles Dallywater as a Board Member

Those members present proposed that Charles Dallywater be co-opted as a Board member to fill one of the four vacancies. The Operations Manager advised members that he would speak with Mr Dallywater to ascertain his interest. Due to the meeting being inquorate, members were advised that this proposal would be included on the agenda for the next Board meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.

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12/24 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

12/24/01 There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.

13/24 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**13/24/01 Unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 04 December 2023**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 04 December 2023 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

13/24/02 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.

13/24/03 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts

The JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts for the period 01 April 2023 to 31 October 2023 (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.

13/24/04 JMC's Financial Report

The JMC's Financial Report for the period 01 April 2023 to 31 October 2023 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

13/24/05 JMC's Projected Out-turns and Estimates

The JMC's Projected Out-turns for 2023/24 and estimates for 2024/25 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) were considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising.

13/24/06 Annual 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:

13/24/07 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to increase the unattenuated surface water development contribution rate/impermeable square metre to £9.00 (an increase of 21.3% on the previous year) with effect from 1 April 2024. 8 in favour, 1 against.

13/24/08 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.

13/24/09 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 30 April 2024. Should members wish to raise any item for discussion at the next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representative, Harry Raby or the Chief Executive directly.

14/24 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

14/24/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED that as there were no items of confidential business to discuss, a separate set of confidential minutes would not be produced for this meeting.

15/24 UNCONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JMC) MEETING HELD ON 04 DECEMBER 2023

15/24/01 The unconfirmed confidential minutes of the last Joint Management Committee meeting held on 04 December 2023 were considered in detail, noted and approved. There were no matters arising.

16/24 ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS.

16/24/01 There was no other confidential business to discuss. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and contribution, and declared the meeting closed

