

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, 06 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 2 PM.

Directly Elected Members

J R Davison
J Polhill
*v J M Ream
* J Russell
T Wootton

Vacant Position
Vacant Position
Vacant Position
Vacant Position
Vacant Position
Vacant Position
Vacant Position

Co-opted Members

* F Firth

Appointed Members

Bedford Borough Council

G Coombes
*v N Gribble
P Martin-Moran-Bryant
* D McMurdo
*v A Spice
M Towler
* J Weir

Central Bedfordshire Council

*v N Andrews
A D Brown
* A French
*v H Wightwick
*v T Wye

Jointly Appointed

North Herts District Council

*v S Jarvis

* Present (48%)

*v In attendance virtually

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

39/23 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

39/23/01 The Chair welcomed Jim Weir to his first Board meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.

40/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

40/23/01 Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Tony Brown, Graeme Coombes, Jo Davison, Julian Polhill, Martin Towler and Tom Wootton. RESOLVED that this be noted.

41/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

41/23/01 There were no declarations of interest reported to the meeting.

42/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2023

42/23/01 The minutes of the last Board meeting held on 19 June 2023 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

43/23 ENGINEERING REPORT

43/23/01 The Engineering Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

43/23/02 Quest Pit

Members expressed concern regarding the lack of communication from Quest Pit developers following approval of the planning application. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED that the Chair would send a letter to the Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council reiterating the Board's position that Land Drainage Consent could not be approved by the Board.

PC/DM

43/23/03 The Chair informed members about significant changes in how Officers would handle development of this nature in future. Following a request at the recent Induction Day for Board members, objections made by officers would also be sent to the Local Planning Authority's Appointed Members. This change was expected to help members support the Board's position at planning meetings. RESOLVED that this be noted.

43/23/04 Frank Firth proposed that the Board's Officers should also attend planning meetings to reinforce the Board's objections in future. The Chair, along with Officers, would start attending Planning Committee meetings when similar concerns arose with a development in future. RESOLVED that this be noted.

ID	Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB, Minute	Action
43/23/05	It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED that members from Central Bedfordshire Council would meet with Officers to initiate discussions about requesting the Council to treat the Board as a Statutory Consultee in the future. RESOLVED that this be noted.	AS
43/23/06	James Russell suggested that the Board re-establishes contact with LPA Planning Officers by introducing an annual training day. The aim being to ensure that Planning Officers were well informed about the significance of the Board's comments. RESOLVED that this suggestion be noted and subsequently implemented.	AS
43/23/07	Hitchin Road, Henlow	
	Frank Firth thanked officers for their continued work at Hitchin Road, Henlow and noted the progress made to date. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
43/23/08	East West Rail (EWR)	
	Jim Weir questioned if the Board's Officers had seen the EWR Southern Route Flooding Report. It was confirmed that Officers had not seen the document. Jim confirmed that this document would be circulated to Officers after the meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.	JW
43/23/09	BMK Waterway Park	
	Tracey Wye advised that if a formal invitation was yet to be received from Ian Dalgarno, she would arrange for an invitation to be sent, given that Ian Dalgarno was no longer a Councillor.	TW
43/23/10	The Chair thanked Tracey for her assistance and advised members that a meeting with the Mayor and officers was also scheduled to take place in the next few weeks. The outcome of this meeting would be reported at the next Board meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.	TS
43/23/11	Stotfold Mill	
	Frank Firth questioned the ongoing dispute at Stotfold Mill. The Operations Manager advised members that the Board were currently trying to act as mediators in the dispute to reduce flood risk. RESOLVED that this be noted.	
44/23	OPERATIONS REPORT	
44/23/01	The Operations Report was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:	

44/23/02 Mink Control Project

Jim Weir questioned if the Board had a timeline for eradicating mink within the district and questioned if water voles and mink could live side-by-side. The Operations Manager informed members that the Waterlife Recovery Trust (WRT) hoped to see a significant reduction in mink with the roll out of the project, however had advised that eradication depended on many variables, including the number of traps, the time frame, catchment area, available funding etc much like any other conservation project. The project had achieved a lot in a short time frame. Dr Tony Martin who originally started WRT had thought it would take 10 years to eradicate mink from the area. Members were informed that mink and water voles could not live side-by-side. RESOLVED that this be noted.

45/23 AUDITED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR 2022/23

45/23/01 The audited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending 31 March 2023 was considered in detail and approved by the Board. The External Auditor had no matters to report. The Chair thanked officers for their work in achieving a clean opinion.

46/23 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2023

46/23/01 The Financial Report for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2023 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). Arising therefrom:

46/23/02 Income and Expenditure Account

The Principal Accountant highlighted the actual Y-T-D surplus of £776,877 compared to the budgeted surplus of £675,897. Members were advised that this was predominantly due to planned savings within Joint Administration, greater income received from consenting services and higher interest received than expected. RESOLVED that this be noted.

46/23/03 Highland Water Claim

Members were advised that the Highland Water claim was higher this year than initially anticipated due to the increased cost of maintenance works that were carried out during the last financial year (2022-23). Payment from the Environment Agency was expected in November 2023. RESOLVED that this be noted.

46/23/04 James Russell noted the late payment of the Highland Water claim and the impact this may have on cash flow if not paid in a timely manner. The Chair advised he intended to raise this at the next ADA Great Ouse meeting. RESOLVED that this be noted.

47/23 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2024/25

47/23/01 The calendar of meetings for 2024/25 was considered and approved. Bedfordshire & River Ivel IDB would meet as follows:

Monday, 05 February 2024

Monday, 20 May 2024

Monday, 28 October 2024

Monday, 03 February 2025

47/23/02 All Board meetings for next year would be hybrid meetings, to start at 2 pm and be held via Microsoft Teams and in the Board Room at Vale House.

48/23 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

48/23/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Board to next meet on Monday, 05 February 2024 at 2 pm, to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

49/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**49/23/01 Upcoming Events**

The Executive Assistant advised members of the two upcoming events:

Date: 21 November @ 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Event: ADA Flood & Water Conference 2023

Location: One Great George Street, Westminster, London

Attendees: Open to 2 members, typically attended by Chair & Vice-Chair, open to other members if they were unable to attend

49/23/02 Date: 22nd & 23rd November 2023

Event: Floodex UK

Location: ExCel London E16 1XL

Attendees: Open to all Board members

49/23/03 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 were still outstanding for: Graeme Coombes, Phillipa Martin-Moran-Bryant, Julian Polhill, Tom Wootton and Tracey Wye. RESOLVED that this be actioned.

50/23 OPEN FORUM: TO HEAR FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRMAN

50/23/01 There were no members of the public present at today's meeting.

51/23 CONSORTIUM MATTERS**51/23/01 Unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 26 September 2023**

The unconfirmed minutes of the Joint Management Committee meeting held on 26 September 2023 were considered in detail, noted and adopted. There were no matters arising.

51/23/02 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.

51/23/03 JMC's Schedule of Paid Accounts

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

51/23/04 JMC's Financial Report

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

51/23/05 Policy Updates and New Policies

The Protocol on Virtual and Hybrid Meetings Policy, Biosecurity Policy, Gifts and Hospitality Policy and the Planning & Byelaw Strategy were considered in detail and approved (copies of which are filed in the Report

Book). Members were advised that following approval of the Planning & Byelaw Strategy by the three Member Boards, all constituent Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) would be consulted on the strategy for a 6-week period. RESOLVED that this be noted.

51/23/06 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 04 December 2023. Should members wish to raise any item for discussion at the next meeting, they should contact any of the Board's representatives, Doug McMurdo, James Russell, Jo Davison, Frank Firth or the Chief Executive directly.

52/23 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

52/23/01 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED that as there were no items of confidential business to discuss that a separate set of confidential minutes would not be produced for this meeting.

53/23 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 JUNE 2023

53/23/01 The confidential minutes of the last Board meeting held on 19 June 2023 were confirmed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

54/23 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

54/23/01 The unconfirmed confidential minutes of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) meeting held on 26 September 2023 were considered in detail and approved. Arising therefrom:

54/23/02 Members noted the excellent progress which had been made during the last two years under the current arrangement with the WMA, through which Chief Executive and other services had been provided to the Bedford Group and its three Member Boards. It was noted that the current agreement had already been extended and would expire on 22 March 2024. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to seek to extend the current arrangement with the WMA for a further period until 31 March 2025.

DM

54/23/03 It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to apply to join the WMA Group as soon as possible before 31 March 2025, if acceptable terms and conditions of membership could be established with the WMA.

DM

55/23 ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

55/23/01 There was no other confidential business to discuss. The Chairman thanked members for their attendance and contribution, and declared the meeting closed.