

ROMNEY MARSHES AREA INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

A meeting of the Board was held at Brenzett Village Hall, on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT.

Elected Members:

D Cole Esq., L Cooke Esq., E Langrish Esq., Mrs H Langrish, E Lovejoy Esq. , A Wellsted Esq., S Wright Esq. and M Wrout Esq.

Appointed Members:

Cllr G Allison, Cllr R Bird, Cllr P Coe, Cllr C Hill, Cllr A Hills, Cllr J Johnson, R Langrish Esq., R Nickerson Esq., Cllr C Solly, Cllr R Wilkins and Cllr D Wimble.

Staff:

N. Botting Esq., Clerk/Engineer to the Board, Mrs D Chalcraft, Financial Officer and R Monje Esq., Assistant Clerk/Engineer to the Board.

651. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Vice-Chairman took the Chair due to the Chairman's absence, welcomed members to the meeting, and asked the Clerk to read out any apologies for absence;

Apologies were received from:

Elected Members;

A Clifton Esq., J Langrish Esq. and D Thompson Esq.,

Appointed Members;

Cllr M Burgess, Cllr A Cragg, Cllr C Goddard, D Lovejoy Esq. Cllr P Osborne, R Patten Esq. and Cllr N Waters.

652. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2018.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2018, having previously been circulated to members prior to the meeting, were taken as read. The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the previous meeting and signed by the Chairman.

653. MATTERS ARISING.

There were no matters arising.

654. APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

The Vice-Chairman gave an overview of the approved minutes from the F&GP Committee; there were no issues raised.

655. ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Clerk/Engineer read through the report and gave further detail on the Board's maintenance activities since the last meeting. Cllr D Wimble asked if the EA intended to weedcut the 1st Hoornes Sewer downstream of 40 Acre bridge at Burmarsh; the Assistant Engineer explained that the EA were due to cut the watercourse but had suffered operational staff shortages recently, hence the delay.

656. ACCOUNTS VOUCHERS.

A list of accounts paid since the last meeting had been circulated to members prior to this meeting. The Vice-Chairman explained that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had scrutinised the accounts paid and declared that the payment to W M Cooke and Sons was for rent at his premises. He then asked if members had any questions; with no issues raised, the list was subsequently approved.

657. RATES TO BE WRITTEN OFF

Rates totalling £22.08, having been recommended to be written off by the F&GP Committee, were presented for Board approval; it was subsequently PROPOSED by Cllr A Hills, SECONDED by S Wright Esq. and agreed unanimously that the rates be written off.

658. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The Financial Officer gave a comprehensive breakdown of the Income and Expenditure Report for the year to date; no questions were raised.

659. INTERNAL CONTROLS REVIEW.

The annual review of the organisation's internal controls was presented to the Main Board by the Financial Officer which considered financial risks and appropriate insurance review arrangements. She advised that there were only changes to the Board's computer back up system in comparison to last year's document and asked that the Board consider its adoption. It was PROPOSED by Cllr P Coe, SECONDED by Cllr R Wilkins and agreed unanimously that the document be signed.

660. INTERIM AUDIT REPORT.

The Financial Officer discussed the findings of the Interim Audit which looked at the first six months of the financial year. She informed the Board that the Internal Auditor had advised that staff should compile a register which would identify strategic risks that may affect the Board, and secondly that they should develop further documentation on GDPR. Lastly, she explained that the Auditor's next visit was due in May.

661. ADOPTION OF NEW POLICY STATEMENT.

The Clerk gave an overview of the previously-distributed documentation which included copies of the Board's current policy statement and the proposed replacement which included up to date legislation. After brief discussion it was PROPOSED by Cllr A Hills, SECONDED by Cllr P Coe and resolved unanimously that the new Policy be adopted by the Board, with a review in five years.

662. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2019-20.

The papers containing the revised estimates for 2018-19, and the proposed annual estimates for 2019-20 had been circulated to members prior to this meeting. The Clerk read through and offered further comment on the current year and following financial year's estimates. He concluded that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had recommended a 1.99 % increase in the drainage rate for 2019-20. It was PROPOSED by S Wright Esq., SECONDED by R Langrish Esq., and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

- (i) that the financial estimates for the year ending 31st March 2020 be approved and adopted;

- (ii)
 - (a) the Special Levy on Ashford Borough Council shall be £11,037
 - (b) the Special Levy on Rother District Council shall be £126,004
 - (c) the Special Levy on Folkestone & Hythe District Council shall be £461,613

- (iii) the Board do hereby make a drainage rate of 5.44p in the pound in respect of Agricultural Land and Buildings for the year commencing 1st April 2019;
- (iv) the purposes for which the said Special Levies and Drainage Rate are made and the amount in the £ for each of those purposes are as hereunder set out:-

	p	p
Expenses of Administration	1.381	
Works of Maintenance	1.822	
New and Improvement Works	-	
Environment Agency Precept	<u>2.440</u>	5.643
<u>Less:</u>		
Government Grants	-	
Environment Agency Contribution	0.274	
Other Income	<u>0.020</u>	<u>0.294</u>
		5.349
<u>Add</u> for Adjustment to Balance		<u>0.091</u>
		<u>5.440</u>

(v) the said rate shall be paid at Suite 7, Old Barn Offices, Salts Farm, East Guldeford, Rye, East Sussex giving the Ratepayers the option of paying by two equal instalments; the first on demand and the second on 1st October 2019, providing the total of any instalment exceeds five pounds.

(vi) notice of said rate shall be given by affixing the notice in one or more public places in the district.

663. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

It was agreed that the next Main Board meeting would be held at 2 pm on 26th June 2019, venue to be confirmed.

664. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Clerk informed the Board that the ADA South East Branch meeting was set for the end of April and invites to Board members would be forthcoming.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1505hrs.