

**ROMNEY MARSHES AREA INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

A meeting of the Board was held at Brookland Village Hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 2.00 pm.

**PRESENT.**

Elected Members:

S Body Esq., P Boulden Esq., A Clifton Esq., L Cooke Esq., J Langrish Esq., E Lovejoy Esq., C Ramus Esq. A Wellsted Esq., S Wright Esq. and M Wrout Esq.

Appointed Members:

C Body Esq., Cllr M Burgess, Cllr P Coe, Cllr C Hoggart, D Lovejoy Esq., Cllr A Mier, Cllr Ms W Nevard, R Nickerson Esq., Cllr Rev H Norton, Cllr Mrs K Rye 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.

**769. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and asked those present to stand for a minute's silence in respect of the passing of Mr Brian Wrout who had served as a Board member for 30 years. The Chairman then asked the Clerk/Engineer to read out the apologies from those members unable to attend.

Apologies were received from:

Elected Members.

A Clifton-Holt Esq., D Cole Esq., D Furnival Esq. E Langrish Esq., Mrs H V Langrish, D Thompson Esq. and D Wheeler Esq.

Appointed Members;

H Bates, Cllr A Cragg, Cllr C Goddard, Cllr ARJ Hills, Cllr P Osborne, Cllr Mrs S Prochak and Mrs C Solly.

**770. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 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 were duly signed by the Chairman.

**771. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk stated that any matters would be picked up in the meeting agenda.

**772. APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.**

The approved minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee recent meetings were taken as read

**773. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Clerk/Engineer read through the previously distributed report and gave an update on the condition of Kitsbridge Pumping Station which had suffered an electrical motor failure. He explained that staff had examined the pump itself which, due to a mechanical problem, had put undue load on the motor causing the fuses to blow repeatedly. Having addressed the mechanical problem, the motor was refitted and the pump was now running correctly.

#### 774. ACCOUNTS VOUCHERS

A list of accounts paid since the last meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Financial Officer explained that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had scrutinised the accounts paid and asked if members had any question; there were no issues raised.

#### 775. RATES TO BE WRITTEN OFF

Rates totalling £24.18, having been recommended to be written off by the F&GP Committee, were presented for Board approval; it was subsequently PROPOSED by S Wright Esq., SECONDED by L Cooke Esq. and agreed unanimously that the rates be written off.

#### 776. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

#### 777. 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, and asked that the Board consider its adoption. It was subsequently PROPOSED by S Wright Esq., SECONDED by Cllr Mrs K Rye and agreed unanimously that the document be approved and signed.

#### 778. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2022-23.

The papers containing the revised estimates for 2021-22, and the proposed annual estimates for 2022-23 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 4.5 % increase in the drainage rate for 2022-23. After further discussion it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr C Hoggart, **SECONDED** by M Wroust Esq., and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:

- (i) that the financial estimates for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 be approved and adopted;
- (ii)
  - (a) the Special Levy on Ashford Borough Council shall be £12,073
  - (b) the Special Levy on Rother District Council shall be £137,819
  - (c) the Special Levy on Folkestone & Hythe District Council shall be £504,916
- (iii) the Board do hereby make a drainage rate of 5.95p in the pound in respect of Agricultural Land and Buildings for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022;
- (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	1.681	
Works of Maintenance	1.996	
New and Improvement Works	-	
Environment Agency Precept	<u>2.536</u>	6.213

<u>Less:</u>		
Government Grants	-	
Environment Agency Contribution	0.280	
Other Income	<u>0.012</u>	<u>0.292</u>
		5.921
<u>Add for Adjustment to Balance</u>		<u>0.029</u>
		<u>5.950</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 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, 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.

#### **779. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Main Board meeting would be held at 2 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022, venue to be confirmed.

#### **780. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1440 hrs.