

**ROMNEY MARSHES AREA INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

A meeting of the Board was held at Brookland Village Hall on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 at 2.30 pm.

**PRESENT.**

Elected Members:

L Cooke Esq., E Langrish Esq., C Ramus Esq. D Thompson Esq. and D Wheeler Esq.

Appointed Members:

Cllr G Allison, C Body Esq., A Cragg Esq., Cllr P Coe, Cllr C Hoggart, Cllr ARJ Hills, Cllr Ms W Nevard, D Oliver Esq., Cllr P Osborne, Cllr Rev H Norton, Cllr Mrs K Rye, Mrs C Solly 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.

**781. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Vice-Chairman, acting as Chair, welcomed the members to the meeting and introduced newly-appointed member David Oliver from Rother District Council. The Chairman asked the Clerk/Engineer to read out the apologies from those members unable to attend.

Apologies were received from:

Elected Members.

S Body Esq., A Clifton Esq., D Furnival Esq., J Langrish Esq., A Wellsted Esq., S Wright Esq. and M Wrout Esq.

Appointed Members;

Cllr M Burgess, Cllr C Goddard, D Lovejoy Esq., Cllr A Mier and Cllr Mrs S Prochak.

**782. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 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.

**783. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**784. 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; the Clerk/Engineer advised the Board that the rewording to HMRC Notice 75 had taken place regarding the use of red diesel for works beneficial to agriculture.

**785. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Clerk/Engineer read through the report and highlighted the exceptionally dry weather the district had experienced, broken only in the last few weeks by rainfall throughout the area. He made mention of the strong elver run witnessed by staff which, although better than recent years, compared poorly to those seen some ten years ago.

#### **786 ACCOUNTS VOUCHERS**

A list of accounts paid since the last meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. L Cooke Esq. stated that the payments to W M Cooke and Sons were to his business for rent of a workshop and the hire of machinery.

#### **787. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

The Financial Officer gave a comprehensive breakdown of the Income and Expenditure for the financial year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. No questions were raised.

#### **788. FINAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2022**

The Final Accounts, having been previously circulated and examined and confirmed by the Internal Auditor, were presented to the Board by the Financial Officer. After acknowledging the excellent work of the Financial Officer, it was PROPOSED by Cllr ARJ Hills, SECONDED by Cllr P Coe and carried unanimously that the Final Accounts be approved and be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Engineer.

#### **789. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BOARD'S INTERNAL CONTROL REVIEW & FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Clerk/Engineer referred to the previously-distributed report discussing a minor change to part of the Board's Internal Control Review and Financial Risk Assessment which had received approval by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Financial Officer also made reference to an addition to the assessment regarding the safeguarding of expenditure when using online payments, which would now require dual authorisation. It was PROPOSED by Cllr ARJ Hills, SECONDED by Mrs C Solly and voted unanimously that the changes be made. The Chairman and Clerk duly signed the updated documents.

#### **790. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT & ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS**

The Financial Officer discussed the Internal Audit and drew attention to the previously circulated Internal Audit Report. She advised that there were no problems identified and that the Internal Auditor was satisfied with the way the Board operated. The Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return was then presented to the Board by the Clerk/Engineer. It was PROPOSED by Cllr P Coe, SECONDED by Mrs C Solly and voted unanimously that the statement should be signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk. The Financial Officer then presented the Accounting Statements 2021/22. It was PROPOSED by Cllr P Coe, SECONDED by Mrs C Solly and voted unanimously that the accounting statements be signed and dated by the Chairman.

#### **791. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Main Board meeting would be held at 2pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, venue to be confirmed.

#### **792. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

D Oliver Esq. asked if the staff were aware of the condition of the bank of the River Rother upstream of Udiam Bridge. The Assistant Clerk replied that the Environment Agency had been alerted by Board staff and attempts had been made to repair the eroded bank. He stated that the works were not successful and the EA were still to solve the issue.

Cllr ARJ Hills informed the Board that the EA's Lydd Ranges Scheme was progressing satisfactorily; he added that they were to soon have another attempt on refurbishing the Denge Outfall.

A Cragg Esq. told the Clerk that he was no longer a Newchurch Parish Councillor but had been reinstated as an appointed member to the Board by the Council, the Clerk noted the change.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1530 hrs.