

ROMNEY MARSHES AREA INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

A meeting of the Board was held at Appledore Village Hall on Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT.

Elected Members:

S Body Esq., Mrs H Langrish, J Langrish Esq., A Wellsted Esq., S Wright Esq. and M Wrout Esq.

Appointed Members:

C Body Esq., Cllr M Burgess, Cllr P Coe, A Cragg Esq., Cllr ARJ Hills, Cllr C Hoggart, D Lovejoy Esq. (Chairman), Cllr A Mier, D Oliver Esq., Cllr P Osborne, Cllr Mrs S Prochak, 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.

Attending:

Mr M Sharpe and Mrs P Sharpe.

793. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and asked the Clerk/Engineer to read out the apologies from those members unable to attend.

Apologies were received from:

Elected Members.

A Clifton Esq., A Clifton-Holt Esq., D Cole Esq., F Cooke Esq., L Cooke Esq. (Vice-Chairman) and E Lovejoy Esq.

Appointed Members;

H Bates Esq., Cllr H Norton and Cllr Mrs K Rye.

794. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 22nd JUNE 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 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.

795. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

796. ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Clerk/Engineer read through the previously distributed report and updated the members on the progress of the Board's annual weedcut which nearing completion. It was noted that after an extremely dry summer September rainfall had slowly begun to recharge the district, but again, in heavy downpours; the Chairman added that he had recorded approximately 200mm of rainfall since the beginning of November.

797. 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.

798 ACCOUNTS VOUCHERS

A list of accounts paid since the last meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. After reading through the payments the Financial Officer asked for members' questions; there were no issues raised.

799. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

800. EXTERNAL AUDITORS CERTIFICATE AND OPINION.

The Financial Officer reported that External Auditor's report had been received with no matters required for attention. The Chairman thanked the officer for her proficient work.

801. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Main Board meeting would be held at 2pm on Wednesday 25th January 2023, venue to be confirmed.

802. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk/Engineer reported on the recently held ADA South East Branch meeting. The Assistant Clerk/Engineer added that the EA's Area Manager had informed those attending that the Agency was suffering from staff shortages in general and was finding recruitment difficult.

Cllr Mrs S Prochak reported that some residents in Robertsbridge were still suffering from surface water flooding from roads and asked if any data existed that would show how surface water levels interacted with fluvial flooding. The Clerk/Engineer stated he would approach the EA for further information.

Lastly the Assistant Clerk/Engineer reported on the new beaver legislation necessitated by the species being given protected status, and the challenges this could present for water level management in the district. The Romney Marshes Area IDB, as a key stakeholder in the area, will be included in any discussion regarding proposals for licensed enclosures. The newly-reformed Catchment Partnership, of which both the Board and the EA are members, is likely to be the forum for this, and will give us the opportunity to raise our valid concerns regarding how appropriate it is to release beavers into an intensively managed lowland land drainage system. It was noted that beaver escapes from licensed enclosures in the River Stour, Kent IDD had caused significant damage to water control structures and embanked watercourses.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 1450 hrs.