

ROMNEY MARSHES AREA INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

A meeting of the Board was held at Appledore Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT.

Elected Members:

S Body Esq., P Boulden Esq., L Cooke Esq., (Vice-Chairman), E Langrish Esq., Mrs H Langrish, E Lovejoy Esq., D Thompson Esq. A Wellsted Esq., S Wright Esq. and M Wrout Esq.

Appointed Members:

Cllr G Allison, C Body Esq., Cllr P Coe, Cllr Mrs C Creaser, Cllr Mrs A Hicks, Cllr ARJ Hills, Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr C Hoggart, D Lovejoy Esq. (Chairman), Cllr A Mier, D Oliver Esq., Cllr P Osborne, Cllr Mrs K Rye, Mrs C Solly and Cllr D Wimble.

Staff:

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, D Lovejoy Esq. asked that the Board stand for a minute's silence in memory of William Maylam who had recently passed away. Mr Lovejoy informed the members that Mr Maylam had served the Board and its predecessors for 41 years, including 23 years as Chairman until 2014.

829. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk, acting as Chairman, welcomed the members to the meeting and made special welcome to Cllr Jane Hiscock, as a new member, and Cllr ARJ Hills as a returning appointed member.

Apologies were received from:

Elected Members.

A Clifton Esq., A Clifton-Holt Esq., J Langrish Esq. and T Piper Esq.

Appointed Members;

A Cragg Esq., Cllr C Goddard, Cllr Mrs S Prochak and Cllr S Scoffham.

830. ELECTION 2023 – RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Clerk, acting as Returning Officer, explained that no poll had been necessary and therefore, as he had received no resignations, all retiring members were re-elected for the next three years.

831. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Clerk thanked those members who had returned their Register of Interest forms and stated that he would chase those outstanding.

832. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was PROPOSED by Cllr P Osborne, SECONDED by Cllr Mrs C Creaser, and agreed UNANIMOUSLY that D Lovejoy Esq. be re-appointed as Chairman to the Board for the following three years.

833. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was PROPOSED by Cllr D Wimble, SECONDED by Mrs H Langrish, and agreed UNANIMOUSLY that L Cooke Esq. be re-appointed as Vice-Chairman to the Board for the following three years.

834. APPOINTMENT OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

It was PROPOSED by S Wright Esq., SECONDED by Cllr C Creaser and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall comprise L Cooke Esq. (Committee Chairman), A Clifton Esq., Cllr P Coe, F Cooke Esq., D Furnival Esq., Cllr C Hoggart Esq., Mrs H Langrish, D Lovejoy Esq.,(Ex-Officio) Cllr P Osborne, Mrs C Solly, D Thompson Esq. and Cllr D Wimble.

835. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 28th JUNE 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2023, 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.

836. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

837. ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Clerk/Engineer read through the previously distributed report and explained that the main topic of the events towards the end of October into November and the effects of Storm Ciaran were covered in a separate report.

838. REPORT ON FLOOD EVENTS FOR THE PERIOD 26TH OCTOBER TO 7TH NOVEMBER

The Clerk/Engineer read out the report he had written concerning the two-week period of extreme rainfall which had caused flooding throughout the area. He explained that over 200mm of rain had fallen in that time, compounded by Storm Ciaran and the fact that many stretches of Main River had yet to be weedcut in the Denge, Romney and Walland districts. Intense discussion on the subject continued with the Clerk/Engineer explaining that issues with watercourse maintenance on Main River were being discussed with the EA, with the need to avoid a repeat performance the following year.

839. 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.

840. INTERNAL CONTROL REVIEW & FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT.

The Finance Officer asked that the Board consider the changes made to the Internal Controls document which considered the risks of the Board's recent procurement of a card reader that allowed both remote and face to face payments of drainage rates and consent fees. It was PROPOSED by Cllr P Coe, SECONDED by Cllr C Hoggart and resolved unanimously that the document be adopted; this was then duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

841. ACCOUNTS VOUCHERS

A list of accounts paid since the last meeting had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Vice-Chairman explained that he was a Director of WM Cooke & Son to which a payment had been made for plant hire, he stated that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had scrutinised the accounts paid and asked if members had any questions; there were no issues raised.

842. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

843. 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.

844. BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN REVISION

The Assistant Clerk/Engineer explained that the Board's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) had been revised as legislation had changed since the original was drawn up. He stated that certain animal species had been removed from the plan and others added but the original habitats list remained unchanged. It was PROPOSED by Cllr C Hoggart, SECONDED by Cllr P Osborne and resolved unanimously that the revised Biodiversity Action Plan be adopted by the Board.

845. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Main Board meeting would be held at 2 pm on 31st January 2024, venue to be confirmed.

846. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lastly the Vice-Chairman offered to take interested members on a tour of the district to enable better understanding of the issues being faced by the Board from an operational perspective.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1550 hrs.