

**ROMNEY MARSHES AREA INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

A meeting of the Board was held at Appledore Village Hall on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 2.00 pm.

**PRESENT.**

Elected Members:

A Clifton Esq., A Clifton-Holt Esq., L Cooke Esq., (Vice-Chairman), Mrs H Langrish, E Lovejoy Esq., D Wheeler Esq. and M Wrout Esq.

Appointed Members:

Cllr P Coe, Cllr Mrs C Creaser, Cllr ARJ Hills, Cllr J Hiscock, Cllr C Hoggart, D Lovejoy Esq. (Chairman), D Oliver Esq., Cllr Mrs K Rye, Mrs C Solly and Cllr D Wimble.

In Attendance:

Mr M Burgess

Staff:

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

**847. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting and asked the Clerk for any apologies.

Apologies were received from:

Elected Members.

S Body Esq., P Boulden Esq., E Langrish Esq. J Langrish Esq., C Ramus Esq., A Wellsted Esq. and S Wright Esq.

Appointed Members;

C Body Esq., A Cragg Esq., Cllr A Mier, Cllr P Osborne, Cllr Mrs S Prochak and Cllr S Scoffham.

**848. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 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.

**849. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**850. 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.

**851. ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The Clerk/Engineer read through the previously distributed report and drew members' attention to the desilting works on the Lydd Petty Sewer which were underway. He stated that a decision had been made to extend the work to include an extra 650 metres of watercourse to Pigwell Stops.

## 852. 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 materials, 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.

## 853. RATES TO BE WRITTEN OFF

The Finance Officer asked the Board to consider a list of rates recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be written off. She explained the case for each account and asked for any questions. With no questions raised it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr ARJ Hills, **SECONDED** by Cllr C Creaser and unanimously agreed that rates to the total value of £163.79 be written off.

## 854. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

## 855. FINANCIAL ESTIMATES 2024-25.

The papers containing the revised estimates for 2023-24, and the proposed annual estimates for 2024-25 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 that the Board consider a rate rise of 4.5% for 2024-25. After further, detailed discussion it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr P Coe **SECONDED** by Cllr C Creaser and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:

- (i) that the financial estimates for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 be approved and adopted;
- (ii)
  - (a) the Special Levy on Ashford Borough Council shall be £13,550
  - (b) the Special Levy on Folkestone & Hythe District Council shall be £565,880
  - (c) the Special Levy on Rother District Council shall be £154,354
- (iii) the Board do hereby make a drainage rate of 6.66p in the pound in respect of Agricultural Land and Buildings for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024;
- (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	1.978	
Works of Maintenance	2.357	
New and Improvement Works	-	
Environment Agency Precept	<u>2.690</u>	7.025
<u>Less:</u>		
Government Grants	-	
Environment Agency Contribution	0.313	
Other Income	<u>0.078</u>	<u>0.391</u>
		6.634
<u>Add for Adjustment to Balance</u>		<u>0.026</u>
		6.660

(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 2024, 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.

**856. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next Main Board meeting would be held at 2 pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024, venue to be confirmed.

**857. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr ARJ Hills stated that Kent County Council would be investigating a surface water flooding event at Uden Road, Dymchurch under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act as more than 5 properties were affected. He also stated that meetings were due to be held between relevant authorities with regard to improving all areas of water management on Romney, Walland and Denge Marshes; the Clerk/Engineer informed the Board that he would be attending any such meeting.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 1450 hrs.