

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 held at The Conference Room Breckland Lodge Attleborough at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present:**

Mr T Jolly (Chairman)  
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)  
Mr A Bingham (Board Engineer)  
Mr T Beevor  
Mr S Askew  
Mr A Southgate  
Mr N Doig  
Mr D Stammers  
Ms A Kester (Quidenham Estate)

**1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence received from Mr P Hall, Mr A Thornton and Mr I Walker. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2. Minutes of Meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The minutes of the meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman, proposed by D Stammers and seconded by N Doig and carried unanimously.

**3. Matters Arising**

A. Developments within the Board

**Attleborough Southern Urban Expansion.**

Mr Bingham reported that discussions are ongoing at the moment with the developers (Homes England) and the LLFA (Norfolk County Council) to put in place a site wide SuDS strategy.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the drainage strategy for the initial Homes England phase of the development.

Anglian Water are applying for Consent to Discharge from the new terminal wastewater pumping station that will serve the whole of the SUE. The Consent to Discharge is for surface water runoff from the pumping station compound and access road to the IDB maintained watercourse.

**Land off Hargham Road Attleborough – Lovells.**

Mr Bingham said the Consent Agreement for Site 1 (west of Hargham Rd) is with Solicitors and awaiting completion and payment of the agreed amount.

Site 2 (east of Hargham Rd) is currently at the design stage, received detailed proposals for the surface water drainage strategy have not

yet been received. This site will need a Discharge Consent and payment of the SWDC.

### **Land off Carvers Lane Attleborough – Places for People.**

Agreement in principle has been agreed with the Highways Agency for the grant of an Easement to the Board to maintain the watercourse within the highway boundary. The Board and National Highways need to enter into a legal agreement – NH are slow and negotiations protracted.

Mr Bingham is discussing Heads of Terms with the Developer to move this part forward. The Developer needs to clear the ditch and remove some trees so levels can be ascertained.

### **Land off Norwich Road Attleborough.**

The Consent to Discharge has been agreed to be split into two Consents as the Developers of the two halves are different. This is at the request of Hill Group who has confirmed they will cover the Boards additional costs. We are pushing to get the first Consent completed.

In respect of the Mill Lane flooding various parties have carried out works to try to improve the position. Works include putting in a new weed rake on the Briar Gardens headwall and other clearance works.

These works should lower the flood risk but not eliminate it. All RMA's have been cooperating to reduce flood risk by clearance works on the watercourse. The IDB has cleared the maintained watercourse and the non-maintained watercourse west of the A11

### **Taylor Wimpey London Road Attleborough.**

The Deed of Consent is with Solicitors, but TW are stalling payment of the agreed commuted sum – IDB solicitors are taking action to complete the Consent and gain payment.

#### **B. Weir at Old Buckenham**

Mr Bingham set out the position in respect of a proposed restoration project for the pond. He has spoken to the Landowner who will agree to the project. The position in respect of grants was discussed. We will need to commission both an environmental and an ecological survey. Mr Beevor said the Board would not want any ongoing obligation or liability. After further discussion it was agreed to investigate grant funding and the cost of surveys.

#### **C. Development Charges**

It was agreed to retain the Board's charges as they are at present in line with Water Management Alliance charges. This will continue to be reviewed annually. This was proposed by T Beevor and seconded by N Doig and carried unanimously.

#### **D. Quidenham and Eccles Road Culvert**

Discussions had taken place with the Quidenham Estate agents (Strutt and Parker) in respect of the cause of the road flooding. After investigation, a small drainage pipe under the road was found and this was blocked. This was cleared, but this will potentially block again.

Costs for installing a new larger pipe are being investigated. However the question of ownership (and future maintenance liability) of any new pipe is critical, from experience elsewhere it is considered unlikely that the Highway Authority will accept responsibility for the pipe. It is estimated that it will cost £15,000 to replace the pipe and deal with the pond.

#### F Norfolk Water Management Partnership and CAMEO Partnership

Nothing has been heard from either of these groups so they will be removed from the agenda and only put back if anything further arises.

#### E. Maintenance of the River Thet

Work has been carried out on the Illington Stream, on the stream through Leys Farm, on Attleborough Stream, on the Thet through Swangey Lakes and removed a tree at Harling Mill. There is more work to carry out on the Thet at Snetterton and another tree to remove at Harling Mill. The Harling Mill work was covered by the PSCA and paid for by the Environment Agency. We will apply to them for this further tree to be paid by them. Mr Beevor reported that there were chubb in the stream near the Breckland Lodge roundabout showing how the works were improving water quality and the environment.

#### E. GIS Database

Mr Bingham explained that WMA had nearly finished their work and would be billing us shortly. They have amalgamated information from the RPA and some assessments would differ as a result. The Clerk will send out plans to each rate payer to ask for confirmation that they agree ownership and give 21 days for the rate payer to respond otherwise their agreement would be assumed. It was agreed there should be some flexibility if the rate payer was away at the time. The Clerk said he would start with Board members to see how it worked.

### **4. Conservation Issues**

All Drainage Board work has been done in accordance with the Policy Statement and carried out environmentally sensitively. Mr Bingham reported that there have been no issues in the last year. Mr Beevor said he had had a meeting with Natural England in respect of the Wilby Stream who were very keen to see the stream restored to its original route. They would be prepared to put in funding. Trying to find original plans had been difficult. This is an ongoing matter.

### **5. Board Member Reports**

- Mr Stammers reported no problems so far as he was aware. Very happy with the work done. There is some goat willow in the stream at Tuzzy Muzzy but this is not causing any blockages at the moment.

- Mr Southgate reported no problems other than the odd tree to remove.
- Mr Jolly reported no problems in his area.
- Mr Beevor said that there were no problems.
- Mr Doig reported that there were three trees down near Overa Cottages and he would send a pin to Simon O'Malley.
- Mr Askew said that it was mainly good but some work could be carried out at the Stacksford end.
- Mr Askew said that the stream near Old Buckenham Fen needs some work on it.
- It was agreed that everyone was very happy with the way Simon O'Malley was carrying out the work.

## **6. Election of Officers**

- a) It was proposed by Mr Askew and seconded by Mr Stammers that Mr Tim Jolly be Chairman, and this was carried unanimously.
- b) It was proposed by Mr Southgate and seconded by Mr Doig that Mr Tom Beevor be Vice Chairman and this was carried unanimously

## **7. Approval of the Payment of Accounts**

The Board members considered the payments made and income received over the last year and considered the position in respect of outstanding rates. After due consideration and discussion, it was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Stammers that the accounts be approved, and this was carried unanimously.

## **8. Write Offs of Rates Under £5**

It was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Doig that the accounts less than £5 be written off and this was carried unanimously.

## **9. Financial Position of the Board**

The Clerk reported the current financial position of the Board. The Board members had received details of the accounts to date and budgets for the coming year. There is a deficit predicted for the current year end, but this can come out of commuted sum reserves. The accounts are healthy at the present time and after discussion there were no further questions raised. It was agreed that extra maintenance could be carried out and would be funded from the commuted sum payments.

## **10. Wages and Salaries**

It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Stammers that both the Clerk and Engineer should receive 4% increase, and this was carried unanimously.

**11. Fixing of the Rate**

The financial position of the Board was discussed going forward and it was proposed by Mr Askew and seconded by Mr Doig that the rate for the coming year be fixed at 10 pence in the pound and this was carried unanimously

**12. Advertising of the Rate and Service of the Special Levy**

It was proposed by Mr Askew and seconded by Mr Beevor that the special levy be served on Breckland Council and it was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Stammers that the rate be advertised and both proposals were carried unanimously.

**13. Any Other Business**

(a) The next meeting was arranged for the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the AGM was arranged for the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026, to be held in the Conference Room at Breckland Lodge Attleborough.

(b) There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.10pm.