

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 22nd January 2026 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 P Hall
 Mr D Stammers
 Mr R Batterbury (Quidenham Estate)

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence received from Mr A Southgate, Mr A Thornton (who also resigned from the Board), N Doig, T Beevor, S Askew and Mr I Walker. There were no Declarations of Interest except from D Stammers and T Jolly in respect of the Local Plan. It was agreed to ask the purchaser of Mr Thornton's farm to put a representative on the Board

2. Minutes of Meeting of the 29th May 2025

The minutes of the meeting of the 29th May 2025 having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman, proposed by D Stammers and seconded by P Hall and carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

A. Developments within the Board

Attleborough Southern Urban Expansion.

Mr Bingham reported that further information on drainage was awaited from the applicant. The LLFA (Norfolk County Council) and the IDB are liaising regards the drainage proposals.

Land off Hargham Road (Site 1) Attleborough – Lovells

Mr Bingham said a draft agreement was being circulated. For Site 2 (south of Hargham Rd) we are awaiting further information from Lovells. A Deed of Consent will be required.

Land off Carvers Lane Attleborough – Places for People.

Agreement in Principle has been agreed with National Highways for the grant of an Easement to the Board to maintain the watercourse within the highway boundary. However the Developer has, without consent, carried out major works to the ditch and has been told to re-instate the ditch before any progress can be made on a Deed of Consent. National Highways are aware of the position and pushing for us to enter into the Deed of Easement, which we will not do until the Developer has re-instated the ditch and provided an agreed drainage strategy for the site..

Land off Norwich Road Attleborough - Hill Group

The documentation has been agreed with Hill Group and we are waiting for the solicitors to complete the Deed of Consent for the first phase.

London Road Attleborough – Taylor Wimpey

They have not entered into a Deed of Consent and paid their SWDC. Now in the hands of lawyers to enforce action on completing the agreement.

B. Weir at Old Buckenham

Mr Bingham said the cost of surveys will be at least £15,000 and the works £100,000 plus. The Board unanimously agreed not to pursue this further.

C. Surface Water Development Charge

It was agreed to retain the Board's charge at the current level. This is in line with current Water Management Alliance charges (although they are using a more complex method to assess charges. To be reviewed annually. Proposed by T Jolly and seconded by P Hall and carried unanimously.

D. Maintenance of the River Thet

Work has been carried out on the R. Thet under the PSCA Agreement with the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency are keen to see that the works we carry out on their behalf take into account the requirements on conservation regulations. AB to discuss with S O'M procedure for meeting current working practice guidance. The Environment Agency is also concerned with employees remote working. Mr Bingham to prepare an appropriate Remote Worker policy for S O'M to follow.

D. GIS Database

Mr Bingham said this was now in place. The Clerk will now start to circulate plans, initially to Board members to check rate payers' holdings.

4. Conservation Issues

Covered under Maintenance of the Thet above.

5. Board Member Reports

- Mr Stammers reported that there were problems at Mr Lewins' and it was agreed Simon O'Malley would contact him and walk the watercourse to see the problems.
- Mr Southgate reported some work needs to be done downstream from Mr Walkers'.
- Mr Jolly reported no problems in his area.
- Mr Askew said that it was mainly good but some work could be carried out at the Stacksford end.

- Mr Batterbury said there were no problems through the Quidenham Estate.
- Mr Walker reported that the works done on the stream through his was lowering the water levels. Mr Bingham said there was work to do at Queens Road.

6. Election of Officers

- a) It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Stammers that Mr Tom Beevor be chairman, and this was carried unanimously.
- b) It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Hall that Mr Nick Doig 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 Hall 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 Jolly and seconded by Mr Hall 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 3.4% 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 Hall and seconded by Mr Jolly 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 Jolly and seconded by Mr Hall 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) Mr Bingham said that the Policy Statement is due for review in May. He will circulate a copy before the May meeting so any comments and/or amendments can be dealt with at the meeting.
- (b) The next AGM was arranged for the 28th January 2027, to be held in the Conference Room at Breckland Lodge Attleborough.
- (c) There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.05pm.