

# North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board Meeting Minutes Monday 11 January 2021, MS Teams virtual meeting 10:00-13:00

## 1 Welcome and introductions

## 2 Apologies

*J Nottage*

*Cllr L Croxton – GBC*

*Cllr J Wallace - GBC*

*All remaining members present.*

## 3 Items of interest declaration

*No items declared.*

## 4 Minutes of last meeting and actions arising

*PH updated on outstanding actions, overdue actions are related to COVID-19 and the inability to conduct site visits.*

*Minutes ratified, to be left for signing by GE.*

## 5 Elections 2020

*PH provided update on the Board elections.*

## 6 Election of Chair/Vice Chair

*Cllr Etheridge and Cllr Craske confirmed they would be happy to continue as Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr Buckwell nominated Cllr Etheridge; AB seconded.*

*Cllr Etheridge nominated Cllr Craske. AB seconded.*

## 7 Health and Safety

*JN advised there is still a significant sewerage leak at High Halstow which could be affecting decoy fleet. EA are investigating. **Action:** PH to contact EA officer to find out more.*

*All spoke about foul water drainage in relation to developments planned in High Halstow. HC advised we raise with Head of Planning and get head of the game. GE supported.*

***Action:** PH and GE to write a letter to MC Head of Planning to establish how this will be managed as part of Local Plan.*

*DL spoke about new set of access gates along the sea wall around Allhallows to Egypt Bay area as part of NE coastal path. The new design is wheelchair friendly and has meant that motorcyclists have been accessing the marsh and causing disturbance. BW spoke of the dangers of this which led to loss of life recently.*

**Action:** *PH to enquire with PRow Officer.*

## **8 Governance**

*PH advised that all Members need to read through the Governance documents which require review and confirm with PH within two weeks of any changes or comments.*

**Action:** *Members to review Governance documents.*

*BW enquired about the Natural England Assent and whether it needs updating. PH confirmed it is due for update in September 2021.*

**Action:** *PH to contact NE to arrange renewal of assent.*

*PH confirmed costs of the SLA. All agreed continuation of SLA at £25k for financial year 2021/22.*

## **9 Activity Report**

*CB asked about the HIF (Housing Infrastructure Fund) and whether there was opportunity to use some of this for drainage upgrades. PH advised that there is ongoing input to look at the scope of that on a strategic level, but that improvements are down to the developer. PH to keep members updated.*

*GE enquired about the use of attenuation ponds and the sustainability of using management companies for the ongoing maintenance. PH spoke about the challenging national context around this issue.*

*HC spoke about HIF funding in the context of foul water infrastructure improvement.*

**Action:** *PH to feedback on HIF opportunities following discussions.*

*The Board spoke about the LTC, PH presented the protective provisions proposed by LTC in relation to disallowing parts of the Land Drainage Act. GE requests that the consultation period for any works should be 21 working days. JN agreed with approach.*

*PH presented JBA quote for continuation of water level monitoring and advised that due to the value, under the financial Scheme of Delegation, it will be necessary to obtain an additional quote.*

*BW asked if it were sensible to have monitoring on isolated marshes and recommended that the one near Higham might be more beneficial if moved towards Shorne.*

*JN referred to the financial constraints but asked if we should be looking at some additional points at St Mary's Marshes and Allhallows, and wondered how much more that would be? JN advised it would also be good to get some data loggers on the outfalls to indicate how much water is leaving the system which would give more data to inform land management.*

**Action:** PH to obtain additional quote and include data loggers, and additional location and report back to the Board.

BW raised concerns regarding the proposed pumping into Timber Lake at the Bretts site, and the increase in volume of water. **Action:** PH to arrange catch up with BW to go through the Drainage Strategy.

#### **10 Water Resources South East presentation**

The Board thanked WRSE representative for their presentation.

#### **11 Finance**

GE proposed keeping the Penny Rate at 7.24. All agreed.

#### **12 Forward look and approval of meetings**

Next Board Meeting – June 2021 TBC – PH to set up

#### **14 ADA updates**

PH gave an overview of the ADA BAP guidance which has been published.

**Signed (Clerk):**

**Date: 07/06/21**



**Signed (Chairman):**

**Date: 07/06/21**

