

North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board Meeting Minutes 17 June 2019, Gravesham Borough Council Civic Offices 13:00-16:00

1 Attendees:

Cllr Gary Etheridge (Chair), Medway Council

Priscilla Haselhurst, Clerk, Medway Council
Dan Atkinson, Flood Risk Officer, Medway Council

Cllr Harold Craske, Gravesham BC
Cllr Jenny Wallace, Gravesham BC
Cllr Chris Buckwell, Medway Council

Mark Stephens, Environment Agency

Alex Bates – Elected Member
Julian Nash – Elected Member (RSPB)
John Nottage – Elected Member
Ben Wright – Elected Member

2 Apologies:

Cllr Lee Croxton, Gravesham Borough Council
Cllr Hazel Browne, Medway Council
David Long, Elected Member

3 Welcome and Introductions

PH advised of the local elections which took place in May 2019. As a result, of that and other departures, Cllrs McDonald, Franklin, Hills, and Theobald are no longer members of the Board. PH and the Board expressed thanks for their input since the Boards inception in 2016. PH has arranged thank you cards to be sent to outgoing Cllrs.

PH welcomed the new Board Members, Cllr Jenny Wallace and Cllr Chris Buckwell. Two other Cllrs have also joined the Board (Cllrs Croxton and Browne) but were unable to attend this meeting. PH to contact them separately to arrange one to one meetings.

PH advised that Cllr Etheridge is the current Chair for the Board. The Standing Orders require that re-elections be held at the first meeting following election of Elected Members. Therefore this should have been undertaken at the meeting in January 2018.

PH proposed Agenda Item 3b – Election of Chair and Vice Chair taking into account this and the changes to Board membership following the local elections. The next local elections for Elected Members are due in November 2020.

The Board unanimously voted for Cllr Etheridge as Chair and Cllr Harold Craske as Vice Chair. These appointments will be in place until the first meeting after the next election (January 2021).

4 Item of interest declaration

No outstanding matters

5 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising 28 January 2019

Meeting minutes reviewed and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

6 Welcome to the Board

DA outlined the work of the North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board explaining the history, background, purpose, and work to date.

7 Governance

New members to submit Register of Interests form ahead of next meeting.

No comments received for annual review of documents. PH proposed that the next review be undertaken by email for existing governance documents to save on printing.

The Statement of Internal Control and Financial Risk Assessment were approved. Cllr Harold Craske proposed and Cllr Jenny Wallace seconded.

JNa asked about the Risk Register. PH advised that there is not one at the moment although all individual activities of the Board are subject to Risk Assessment (i.e. maintenance). PH to create Risk Register relating to all activities of the Board.

8 Activity Report

JNa advised that he had observed increasing bird populations including redshank by using control structures to move and raise water, and also seen an increase in the number of water voles.

JNo asked where pumping takes place. JNa advised Denton Cut. BW reported a shortage of water on the marshes. AB advised some of the ditch maintenance he has undertaken has helped to hold more water.

BW asked about Allhallows Sluice and whether it was possible to replace with a like for like structure. PH advised that it would not be cost beneficial to do so and that there may be other options which would offer more benefit.

GE asked if there was any scope for community groups to get involved with any IDB (maintenance) activities. PH advised that there might be complicated insurance issues with this. JNo advised that there would be a need to provide facilities which could incur additional costs.

9 Finance update

Members noted the outcome of the Internal Audit and unanimously agreed to sign off the accounts in principle to allow the current accounts to be published in time of the Public Notice. PH advised that a full Internal Audit would be pursued to ensure that accounts are managed appropriately and that any improvements that can be made are actioned.

10 Environment Agency update

MS presented the Precept Report previously agreed for 2018/19, no further information was available at this time for planned works for 2019/20. EA to confirm for Board agreement.

11 Forward look

12 AOB

Signed (Clerk):

Date: 13/01/2020



Signed (Chairman):

Date: 13/01/2020

