

# Rea Internal Drainage Board

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SURVEYOR & CLERK

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORY HALL, YOCKLETON on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7:30pm

### Present:

D Dale (Chairman)  
A Bebb  
A Jones  
J Morris  
B Roberts  
G Evans  
N Manning  
(Board Members)  
RLR Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

1. **Apologies for absence:** P Jetson
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters arising from Minutes:** -

The Clerk clarified the work needed to the Hanwood watercourse and the culvert beneath the A488. He reported he was waiting to hear from the Shropshire Council Surveyor to see when this could be jettied.

### 4. Maintenance Report

The Surveyor reported that David Bishop had been working that day and that again on 13<sup>th</sup> February to complete the top end of the Asterley Brook and section of Dale – Park Farm. It would not be possible to do the whole of this length as some of the ground was in new seeds. David Bishop would be sending in his account shortly for payment prior to the end of the year. It was suggested that Noatmoor watercourse be inspected by the Surveyor and Chairman.

The Chairman invited Board members to suggest watercourses which may need cleaning. The 2015/16 season cleaning would be discussed in more detail at the April meeting.

## **5. Financial Report**

The current balances were £24,816.71.  
Receipts since last meeting £536.36  
Payments since last meeting £522.60  
All as per the cash book  
Current arrears were £299.93

Some 7 ratepayers would be written to with a reminder for them to pay as soon as possible. The Board would not be collecting debts in person.

## **6. Budget for 2015/16**

The Clerk presented a budget based on an unchanged rate in the £ at 10.62p which would produce an overall income of £10,103.12. An alternative budget based on 0.5p increase to 11.12p in the £ was also discussed. This would produce an additional £475.46 income. The Board's balances were notably strong and current inflation very low, and local authorities were seeking not to increase council tax. On a motion proposed by A Bebb and seconded by N Manning, the Board approved the rate remain unchanged for the forthcoming year at 10.62p in the £. The Special Levy on Shropshire Council would therefore be £514.00.

The Board considered that our approximate 2 year income equivalent as a reserve was appropriate for a Board of this size. One major incident could easily use the Board's reserves.

## **7. Correspondence**

- a) ADA are organising a meeting for IDB Clerk's in Peterborough on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.
- b) ADA are organizing a meeting for all local authority appointed IDB members on the 19<sup>th</sup> March at Peterborough.
- c) ADA – January 2015 Newsletter – sustainable drainage system – active provision of advice to local planning authorities in relation to water drainage management. New consultation announced. This suggests that all lead local flood authorities become statutory consultees on all planning applications – at the moment this has omitted IDB's but in their areas, they are the responsible drainage authority. ADA is hopeful that this will be changed to include IDB's.
- d) Government response to National Audit Office report – report into strategic flood risk management.
- e) Government announces £2.3bn to be spent over the next 6 years in new flood defences – Severn and Wye area have £6m funding for 2015/16.
- f) ADA Newstream – December 2014 – River basin management plans consultation closes 30/04/15.

- g) ADA requesting evidence from IDB's to support their case for asking for a derogation against new time limits for hedge cutting. Clerk has submitted a letter of support. The proposal to change the earliest hedge cutting date to 1<sup>st</sup> September would seriously affect our ability to undertake all our work at the best time as the window for opportunity for work, particularly arable areas is now so short.
- h) Letter from Dan Rogerson MP to all IDB Chairman dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015. This highlights IDB's need to be fully accountable and have proper governance and it is important that Members Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Register of Member's Interests are up to date and regularly reviewed. He also stressed the importance for IDB's to have access to environmental and other specialist expertise. ADA have produced a best practice guide on accessing environmental and other specialist expertise. The Clerk reported that we would contact Shropshire Wildlife Trust for such assistance in the first place.

**8. Any Other Business**

- (i) Date of next meeting:- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7:30pm in the Victory Hall, Yockleton.
- (ii) Presentation to past Surveyor. It was proposed that this would be held in the lighter nights, possibly at The Lowfield, Marton or Four Crosses, Bicton. Former Board chairmen would also be invited.
- (iii) Board members raised the issue of a number of new houses having been built on the either in or just on the edge of the Board area. The Clerk would need to identify whether or not they lie within the Board area and if so, amend the Special Levy calculation. Any property which converts from agricultural to residential is removed from paying agricultural rates but added to the area on which the Special Levy is paid.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm.

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