

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held at 14:00 on Thursday 9 June 2022
at Godmersham & Crundale Village Hall Canterbury Road CT4 7DR and via Zoom

PRESENT

Mr G R Steed (Chairman), Cllr D Crow-Brown (Deputy Vice Chairman), Mr D M Botting, Mr P S Dunn, Mr D J Fuller, Mr P N Howard, Cllr P D Jull, Ms A G Lynch, Cllr M Sole, Cllr G B Sparks, Mr M P Wilkinson and Mrs G Wyant.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Dowling – via Zoom due to Covid (Clerk & Engineer), Mr J Dilnot (Engineering Assistant), Mr J Williamson (Technical Assistant) and Ms A Eastwood (Finance & Rating Officer).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Dr D Price (Technical Advisor, Environment Agency) and Mr A Eden (Asset Performance Officer, Environment Agency).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M J Burgess (Vice Chairman), Cllr A Buchanan, Cllr M D Conolly, Ms N H Dyas, Cllr N Ovenden, Cllr D O Smith, Mr P Williams and Mr L Woollorton. Further apologies were received from Ms D Thompson (Incident Response Team Leader, EA) and Mr D Godden (Rhino Plant Hire).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr P Howard declared an interest on planning application 21/02146/AS.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Thursday 10 February 2022 were received. It was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Cllr Jull and resolved that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

PRESENTATION BY SOUTHERN WATER

The Clerk & Engineer stated that Mr Buxton (Southern Water) has agreed to give an update on Southern Water's progress at the February 2023 Board meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Azolla Project – Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP)

The Clerk & Engineer reported that KSCP will update the Board on the progress of this project at the August Board meeting.

Ref: W5 – Planning Applications

Dover District Council

Planning application 19/01178 – Construction of access road and two dyke crossings on land south of Ash Road, Sandwich (part retrospective).

The Technical Assistant reported that this planning application has been approved with an informative reminding the applicant of the need for other consents. Discussions have continued and although some information has been provided, further details are still awaited. **Action: Technical Assistant to pursue information and process consents.**

Ref: W1-8 – Flooding in Deal

The Clerk & Engineer reported that he met with Southern Water and the Environment Agency and walked the Mathews Close Dyke and upper reach of the South Wall Sewer and the EA has agreed to a second weed cut for the South Wall Sewer, to be carried out under the PSCA in coordination with Mathews Close Dyke. **Action: Engineering Assistant to arrange for first cut in July and second in late September or early October, depending on re-growth.**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES AND WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 MAY 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance, General Purposes & Works Committee held on Monday 24 January 2022 were received. It was proposed by Cllr Crow-Brown, seconded by Cllr Sole and resolved that these minutes be received.

**Report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2022
to the FGP&W Committee**

FINANCE

BALANCES ON DEPOSIT

The Finance & Rating Officer reported that £100,000 has been replaced with Lloyds for another 12 months at a rate of 0.5%.

Ref: F1-2a Final Internal Audit Inspection of the 2021-22 Accounts

It was reported that the Board's Internal Auditor, Mr David Griffiths, carried out his inspection of the Board's 2021-22 accounts and accounting records on 17 May 2022 and a copy of his report was included in the FGP&W meeting minutes. The report was discussed and there being no comments or concerns raised it was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Mr Wilkinson and resolved that Final Internal Audit Report for the 2021-22 Accounts and Accounting Records be received and approved.

Ref: F1-2b Review of the Internal Control and Internal Audit Arrangements 2021-22

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jull, Mr Wilkinson and Mr Dunn for completing their inspection of the Board's accounts and accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2022 which was completed on 17 May via Zoom with the Internal Auditor's assistance.

The Clerk & Engineer reported that he is working on a 5-year maintenance programme for the structures to help inform discussions regarding the Board's Reserves. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to produce a 5-year plan for the renewal/maintenance of structures.**

The Clerk & Engineer reported that the planned meeting at the Old Thrustbore with MTS to discuss required actions and to ascertain budget costs has been postponed until 17 June. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to update at next meeting.**

The Clerk & Engineer reported that he is continuing to make enquiries regarding the purchase of a suitable mobile pump. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to update at next meeting.**

There being no further comments it was proposed by Cllr Jull, seconded by Cllr Sole and resolved that the Internal Audit Review Team's Report on the Board's 2021-22 Accounts and Accounting Records be received and approved

Ref: F1-5a Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-22
Annual Internal Auditor Report 2021-22 – AGAR

A copy of the completed pages 3, 4 and 5 of the AGAR 2021-22 were provided. The Internal Auditor completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-22 (page 3 of the AGAR) and he was able to tick "Yes" to confirm that in all significant respects, the control objectives were achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the authority.

It was proposed by Cllr Crow-Brown, seconded by Cllr Sparks and resolved that the Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-22 (page 3 of the AGAR) be received and approved.

Ref: F1-5b Accounts for Financial Year Ended 31 March 2022

A copy of the Board's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 was made available to all Members prior to the meeting. The Chairman ran through these and there being no queries or comments raised it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Crow-Brown and resolved that the accounts be received and approved. All Members were in favour and the Accounts were then signed by the Chairman, Cllr Crow-Brown and Cllr Sparks.

Ref: F1-5c Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – SECTION 1
Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 (AGS)

Section 1 of the AGAR (page 4) requires the Board to carry out a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control. This requirement was accomplished by the Final Internal Audit carried out by Mr Griffiths which enabled him to complete page 3 of the AGAR (Annual Internal Audit Report 2021-22) and the review of the Internal Control and Internal Audit Arrangements by Cllr Jull, Mr Wilkinson and Mr Dunn, both carried out on 17 May 2022. This section (page 4 of the AGAR) was completed by the Clerk & Engineer of the Board.

The Members considered the Annual Governance Statement and it was proposed by Ms Lynch, seconded by Cllr Sole and resolved that the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 be received and approved. All Members were in favour and the Chairman proceeded to sign this document.

Ref: F1-5d Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)
– SECTION 2 (Accounting Statements 2021-22)

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021-22 (page 5 of the AGAR) was prepared, signed and dated by the Finance & Rating Officer – Responsible Financial Officer – and it was subsequently checked and cross referenced with the accounts by the Internal Auditor.

The Members considered the Accounting Statements, and it was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Ms Lynch and resolved that Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2021-22 be received and approved. All Members were in favour and the Chairman proceeded to sign this document.

Ref: F1-5e Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Return Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2022

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers, receipts and other documents relating to those records to be made available for inspection by any person interested, during a period of **30 working days** set by the Board. These dates need to be announced by publishing them on the Board's website and on the Board's outdoor noticeboard. It is proposed that the dates for the period of exercise of public rights be set as follows:

- Commencing on Monday 13 June 2022
- And ending on Friday 22 July 2022

It was proposed by Cllr Crow-Brown, seconded by Cllr Sparks and resolved that the above dates be set for the exercise of public rights.

Ref: F1-6 Financial Risk Assessment

The Financial Risk Assessment was revised and a copy provided for comment and review. It was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Cllr Crow-Brown and resolved that the Financial Risk Assessment be received and approved.

Ref: F6-1 Environment Agency Precept Report 2021-22

The Environment Agency's Precept Report 2021-22 confirming final allocations for 2021-22 and proposed allocations for 2022-23 was presented and the Clerk & Engineer confirmed that the proposed allocations are in line with what has been agreed to date, but this year's allocations are still open for discussion, and suggestions for the unallocated £10k would be welcomed. There were no suggestions for allocation at this time. It was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Ms Lynch and resolved that the Environment Agency's Precept Report 2021-22 be received and approved.

Ref: F7-4 Tax Treatment of Red Diesel

The Clerk & Engineer reported that he has assessed the IDB watercourses for agricultural benefit with the Technical Assistant and all the watercourses that are cut mechanically provide benefit to agriculture, with the possible exception of IDB27 Waterbrook Dyke. This will be investigated further but it is likely that this watercourse will need to be cut using white diesel.

The Clerk & Engineer further reported that he and the Engineering Assistant still need to discuss practicalities and potential cost increases with Mr Godden (Rhino Plant). **Action: Clerk & Engineer, Engineering Assistant and Mr Godden to progress.**

ADMINISTRATION

Ref: A2-2.1 Scheme of Delegation

The Board's current Scheme of Delegation was produced in June 2016 and it has been updated in consultation with the FGP&W Committee. The Members reviewed the minor changes, and it was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Mr Fuller and resolved that the updated Scheme of

Delegation be received and approved and that it be reviewed again in 5 years, or sooner if necessary.

Ref: W15 Adoption/Unadoption of Watercourses – RSPB Minnis Farm

The Chairman reported that the Clerk & Engineer presented the submitted RSPB Plans at the FGP&W Committee meeting and the full details are in the FGP&W Minutes. In order to allow them to continue their works RSPB have proposed that the Board:

UN-ADOPT the following (to be returned to riparian responsibility):

IDB270 Worth Minnis Sewer (1,631m)

IDB270 Track Stop

IDB270 Stephens Concrete Stop

IDB270 Stephens Timber Stop

ADOPT the following (to be operated and maintained by the IDB):

~IDB314 Worth Minnis Drain (1,610m)

 IDB281 Worth Minnis Stop

~IDB314 Redundant private stop

The Clerk & Engineer reported that in addition to the above, a redundant IDB stop (IDB281 Great Wood Stop) will need to be brought back into a serviceable condition. He further reported that he, the Technical Assistant and the Water Level Controller met with RSPB to go through the works completed and although there are some issues which need to be addressed prior to any adoption/un-adoption, these are minor and should hopefully be resolved later this year.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Crow-Brown and resolved that the Board confirms its agreement in principle to the above adoptions and un-adoptions. All Members were in favour.

The Chairman asked if there will be an opportunity for the Board to visit this site again when all the works are completed. The Clerk & Engineer replied that he hoped this would be welcomed and stated that he would enquire with the RSPB. **Action: Clerk & Engineer & Technical Assistant to progress.**

Ref: W15/Enf Enforcement issues & updates

The Technical Assistant updated the following:

Ordinary Watercourse at Chitty Lane, Chislet

Application for Consent was received but insufficient information was submitted, and subsequent contact attempts have not been successful. The Board agreed to pursue this matter and to issue formal notices if necessary.

Ordinary Watercourses at White Mill Wake and Aqua Park, Ash Road, Sandwich

The Technical Assistant and the Clerk & Engineer met the landowners on site and advised them of the issues which need addressing. The landowner is keen to continue with the works and has applied for consent as requested. The landowner was also advised that the site will be assessed for SWDC.

Ordinary Watercourse feeding into IDB116 Walmers Hill Stream

Despite agreeing to clear the site upon our visit and on subsequent phone calls, no works have been carried out. The Board acknowledged the difficulties on this site but agreed to pursue this matter and to issue formal notices if necessary.

IDB170 South Poulders Main Stream and IDB191 Woodnesborough Road Dyke at Sandwich Leisure Park

Further meetings have taken place and progress now appears to have been made. The Board thanked the Technical Assistant for pursuing this long-running issue and agreed to pursue this matter further and to issue formal notices if necessary.

IDB218 Minster Station Lead Dyke

Upstream water levels were lowered by the landowner as planned, but regrettably without informing us. Unfortunately, upstream abstractions were not possible when at the same level as the Minster Stream, although there is still a question about the impact of the small-bore culvert. Upstream water levels have therefore been raised again and the applicant plans to renew the culvert with a 600mm diameter culvert with upstream penstock, and to also reduce the height of the crossing to create a spillway. The work is scheduled for October, but a consent has yet to be processed.

IDB309 Shelvingford Stream

These unconsented works were discussed at length at the FGP&W Committee meeting and full details are in the meeting minutes. This area is in Flood Zone 3 (high flood risk) and the pub and nearby properties downstream have flooded in the past. As the landowner is unwilling to discuss the matter with us, the Board needs to make a decision on what course of action it wishes to take.

The Clerk & Engineer stated that we always try to work with landowners to agree a reasonable outcome for all concerned, but as they are unwilling to cooperate, we need the Board's agreement to pursue Court action, which will incur cost. The Technical Assistant stated that the best outcome for both parties would be for the bund to be moved back to allow us to deposit spoil, whilst working from the highway. The Chairman stated that this situation is regretful but stated that the Land Drainage Act and IDB Byelaws are in place for a reason and cannot be ignored. Following general discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by the Chairman and agreed by all that this matter must be pursued, with action taken through the Courts if necessary. **Action: Clerk & Engineer and Technical Assistant to progress all of the above and provide update at the next meeting.**

Report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2022

Ref: W4/WSR Rainfall & River Flow Data

It was reported that after a very wet Christmas period, January was very dry with rainfall amounts across the Stour catchment ranging from 15.1mm at Sholden to 25.2mm at Barham and averaging 19.3mm (28% of the Long-Term Average). February's recorded rainfall ranged from 38.6mm at Sevenscore to 59.5mm at Canterbury and averaged 50.7mm (110% of the LTA). March returned to relatively dry conditions, ranging from 20.0mm at Broadstairs to 37.4mm at Bybrook, and averaging 29.7mm (54% of the LTA). April was even dryer with 7.4mm at Broadstairs to 13.8mm at Barham, averaging 10.7mm (just 21% of the LTA).

River flows across the southeast are reported to range from notably low to normal. Average flows in the River Stour throughout April were 60% of the LTA for this time of year. With no recharge,

groundwater levels were in decline everywhere, ending the month below-normal to normal. Soil conditions are very dry and Soil Moisture Deficits are reportedly more than double the LTA for this time of year. All reservoir levels decreased throughout April but ended the month within the normal range. Bewl reservoir was reported to be at 87% capacity at the end of April.

The Environment Agency has provided the following Irrigation Prospects Summary:

Generally, there is a water resource risk in the water level marsh supported areas through to those catchments where the flow is more rainfall dominated, with an increased likelihood of constraints being applied towards the end of summer in groundwater catchments as a result of below normal winter rainfall. Within rainfall sensitive catchments such as; the Medway, Mole, Rother and Upper Stour, it is expected Hands off Flow (HoF) conditions for agriculture abstractors will be reached in early summer and remain in place throughout the summer as typically experienced. Additional HoF conditions are likely to be progressively triggered through the summer with continuing dry weather. Supported marsh water level dependant areas will benefit from the retained waters but they can likely expect HoF constraints to apply in late summer in the Stour and Rother Marshes, with increasing pressure on water resources expected during peak irrigation periods. Groundwater abstractions with antecedent rainfall constraints will be proportionally constrained due to the subdued winter recharge season, but other groundwater abstractions are not expected to see constraints applied this summer. As a result irrigation prospects for the summer are 'MODERATE' across the area.

Ref: W4-1 Environment Agency (EA) Review of Abstraction Charges

It was reported that the EA has increased its abstraction licence charges, due to it not fully recovering costs for the water resources service it needs to provide. The current scheme of abstraction charges has been in place since 1993.

The current application charge has two tiers:

- 1) a lower application charge (£135);
- 2) a higher application charge (£1,500).

For the majority of those who pay the lower application charge, the cost of the work the Agency does around the application is mainly recovered through the annual charge. The proposed annual charge framework is based on cost recovery for the water resource management activities the EA carry out to protect the environment and the rights of those who have an abstraction licence.

The proposed annual charge is made up of 2 parts:

- a base charge that covers the costs for activities the EA carry out for all licence holders;
- additional charge factors for those licence holders where the Agency has to do extra work.

The new charging regime will be fairer, ensuring high-volume users pay more, whilst also bringing in an additional £25 million each year to help cover the costs of its water resources work. Businesses, including water companies and farmers must hold a licence to abstract more than 20 cubic metres of water a day from a river, stream, canal or groundwater, and pay charges for this from 1 April 2022.

Ref: W7 IDB Programme of Works (Including works carried out under PSCA)

Weed Cutting

The Engineering Assistant reported that this year's weed cutting programme is scheduled to commence in mid-July as usual. Joint IDB-EA land entry notices have been issued to all

landowners/occupiers. Details of works to be carried out on behalf of the Environment Agency and DDC under PSCAs are to be reviewed but are likely to remain broadly the same as in recent years.

De-silting

The Engineering Assistant reported that the 2021-22 de-silting programme, after some minor alterations, totalled 19,584m. This included work on Court Lodge Dyke (IDB12), Willowbed Dyke (IDB13), Waterbrook Dyke (IDB27), Air Ministry Dyke (IDB32), Newnham Main Stream (IDB53), Old Park Dyke (IDB54), Hatfields Dyke (IDB81), Wickham Valley Feed Dyke (IDB82), Upper Dambridge Stream (IDB107), Wingham Well Lead Dyke (IDB108), Ringleton Dyke (IDB112), Redrow Lead Dyke (IDB127), Grays Lead Dyke (IDB130), Shuart Lead Dyke (IDB142), Gosshall Main Stream (IDB171), Grip Sewer (IDB177), Gosshall Lead Dyke (IDB186), Rubery Drove Dyke (IDB193), Goldstone Lead Dyke (IDB205), Potts Farm Drove Lead Dyke (IDB211), Minster Valley Wall Dyke (IDB216) and Fry Dyke (IDB271). Pumping Station Dyke (IDB2) was re-assessed and de-silting was not required.

The 2022-23 de-silting programme is as previously reported (19,271m) and will be checked and confirmed over the summer.

Tree & Shrub Maintenance

The Engineering Assistant reported that a substantial amount of work was carried out over the winter, with works completed on the following watercourses: Court Lodge Dyke (IDB12), Willowbed Dyke (IDB13), Waterbrook Dyke (IDB27), Air Ministry Dyke (IDB32), Old Park Dyke (IDB54), Hatfields Dyke (IDB81), Wingham Well Lead Dyke (IDB108), Ringleton Dyke (IDB112), Gosshall Main Stream (IDB171), Gosshall Lead Dyke (IDB186), Rubery Drove Dyke (IDB193), Minster Valley Wall Dyke (IDB216) and Sparrows Bridge (IDB303).

A substantial amount of work was also completed on behalf of the EA under the PSCA, on the Sarre Penn, Wingham River, Whitewater Dyke and Ruckinge Dyke.

This year's programme will be developed over the summer, initially focussed on watercourses to be de-silted but also based on information received from Rhino staff.

Structures Maintenance

It was reported that minor repairs and improvements have been carried out on the following IDB structures: Reculver Feed (IDB133), Stourmouth Feed (IDB200), Brook Lane Stop (IDB223), Minster Siphon (IDB310) and Saltwater Screen (IDB310).

New stopboards, with beaver protection strips, have been fitted to Monkton Stop (IDB50), Preston & Deerson Stop (IDB52), Lope Stop (IDB88), Hulmes Outfall (IDB90), NSW Stop (IDB114), Chalkwall Stop (IDB115), Walmers Hill Stop (IDB116), Hogwell Siphon (IDB133), Colemans Stop (IDB169), Gosshall Stop (IDB171), Chandlers Stop (IDB210), Minster Station Stop (IDB218), Sheriffs Court Stop (IDB220) and Richborough Siphon (IDB311).

Obstruction Clearance

Routine inspections continue to be carried out and obstructions cleared as necessary, particularly in the Ashford area.

Water Level Control

It was reported that water levels have been raised to normal summer levels. Efforts have continued to maintain a healthy flow through the Delf Stream, but some upstream flooding problems have been experienced.

Cooper Street Pumping Station has now been repaired and is up and running again.

One of the pumps at Stourmouth Pumping Station has been removed for refurbishment.

One of the pumps at Worth Minnis Pumping Station has broken down and is awaiting repair.

The discharge flap at Sarre pumping station is currently being renewed.

Ref: A4-3 Biodiversity

The Clerk & Engineer reported the following updates, against each of the BAP main headings, which were provided by Mr Martin Thomas of KSCP:

1. Surveying:

Produced a list of watercourses to be re-surveyed this year, which currently includes: IDBs 24, 26, 29, 31, 86, 88, 127, 129, 169, 202, 207, 212 & 268.

2. Management Prescriptions:

Transferred all files relating to 2021 watercourse surveys to watercourse summary sheets. Compiled list of wildlife records from last year's BAP surveys. Currently setting-up iRecord 'Activity' – a dedicated area for species records from IDB watercourse surveys and other sightings. Further information on this will be shared in due course.

3. Enhancement Projects:

Working on a possible enhancement project at Long Reaches (IDB30), including applying for Farming in Protected Landscapes funding and research.

4. Engagement with Landowners and External Organisations:

Engaged with Thanet District Council Climate Change Officer over tree planting project on Minster/Monkton Marshes. Further information is to be sought and shared with local landowners.

5. Communication and training:

Site meetings will take place with all site staff over the summer to advise on biodiversity.

Ref: W7G – Environment Agency Works – Update provided by Dr Price

- Mile Penstock project is being dealt with the Water Resources Team who are carrying out an options appraisal this year with a bid to carry out the work next year.
- Cooper Street PS works are 99% completed with just a few snags to sort.
- The search for the funding for the repairs to the Boiling Spot Stop is still ongoing.
- Desilting of the South Stream alongside the Pinnock Wall at Hacklinge – no update yet.
- Lower Stour bathymetry survey results are now back but the raw data needs to be analysed to be able to draw headline information. Dr Price reported that the next survey will be carried out in November and he will try to get this survey done for the next few years so that reliable conclusions can be drawn.
- Brewery Sluice – aiming to fit the new trash screen during autumn 2022.
- Brewery Sluice – new outfall flap to be installed summer 2022.
- Stonar Cut – the seal has been installed correctly and no further work is required.
- Sarre PS – replacement discharge flap has been installed but still a few snags to sort out.
- Repairs on the Worth Minnis pump

- Black Sluice – new pump for the eel pass to be installed in the autumn
- Reculver – control panel to be replaced
- Hacklinge Pump 1 – work should start in the autumn 2022
- Works to be done on the Brooksend Outfall and the Northern Sea Wall in the autumn 2022
- Stourmouth Pump 1 done and to be tested for a week and Pump 2 is also to be removed shortly and works carried out
- Minster – problems replacing the pump with an eel friendly one so temporary measures are still needed this winter

Work delivered January to March 2022:

- Ashford Reservoirs – completed first cut of the season, we will stay on top of this throughout the year.
- Sandwich Temporary Tidal Defence – completed first full cut of the season, next full cut end of the year. The spillways are kept short and will be cut every few weeks depending on grass growth.
- Reculver Pumping Station – Masonry repairs, footpath and fence repairs and new wildflower garden.
- Westbere Access Track – track ruts repaired.
- Piling at Yules Arch Hackling – will be completed soon.
- Fallen trees and debris removal – continuous work.
- Annual maintenance programme – we have three excavators, one tractor flail and two Aebi mowers – start 4th July in the Wantsum and 15th July in Hacklinge.
- Hand Weed Cut – start 5th July in the River Dour then onto the Little Stour.
- New Weed Boat – starts 15th July in Ashford.
- Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPMs) on our Meica assets.
- Minor repairs and improvements at pumping stations
- Desilting of the Wantsum
- Tree pioneering, including the Wantsum
- Ashford reservoirs maintenance
- Sandwich storage areas maintenance

It should be noted that the above list may be subject to change during the year, depending on staff resource, contractor availability, incident response activities, flood risk priorities and budget position. The projects listed may not all be completed in 22/23, a number of the more complex repairs are likely to extend into 23/24.

A desilting programme will be produced in the summer, to inform the work for this autumn and beyond. This will use the results of the silt surveys completed by the field team so far, as well as upcoming surveys over the next few months.

Mr Martin Cowell has been promoted to Specialist Team Member, replacing Mr Russell Blackman. We also have a new Team Member – Alec Lindsey.

The Clerk & Engineer thanked the EA for the pioneering and desilting of the River Wantsum, which should help to reduce the risk of a repeat of the flooding experienced at Nethergong last winter.

The Clerk & Engineer reported that Ms D Thompson has arranged a training day, on 28 June from 11am to 2pm at Plucks Gutter Depot, and has extended an invitation to Board Members and Staff and asked anyone wishing to attend to advise him. The new weed boat will be on site. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to email all Members and reply to EA asap.**

Ref: W5 Planning Applications

Ashford Borough Council

15/01671/CONL/AS Former Powergen site, Victoria Road, Ashford, Kent – *Discharge of conditions in relation to plot 2 only, re-discharge of conditions 52 (SUDs) & 53 (SUDs Maintenance & Management).*

Although we were not formally consulted on this application, we raised an objection and echoed the concerns raised by KCC as LLFA over the proposed discharge rates that differed from those agreed during pre-application discussions. Although this condition has now been discharged, there will be knock-on implications for the remaining plots and the discharge rates that will be permitted.

21/01164/AS-Land East of Eurogate Business Park, Thompson Road, Kennington, Kent – *Proposed development of a Class B8 Storage Facility along with proposed new bridge.*

We have previously commented on this application and have approved a Land Drainage Consent for the installation of a vehicular crossing over the Bockhanger Dyke (IDB19). We have received a consultation on a slightly revised planning application and Flood Risk Assessment and have provided the following comments: *“We have reviewed the recently submitted Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), which confirms that there is a ‘low’ risk from flooding to the site and its future users. We therefore continue to have no objection to the principle of the intended use of the site as a self-storage facility. We can also confirm that the applicant has sought, and obtained, our formal Land Drainage Consent for the vehicular crossing over the Bockhanger Dyke that bisects the site. We note that the applicant’s FRA recommends that the site should be served by a formal surface water management scheme, a change from the original intent to leave the site unpaved and informally drained. Should your Authority be minded to follow this recommendation and ask for details of surface water management by way of Condition, we would request that we are consulted on any future submission, and that an informative is attached to the Decision Notice to remind the applicant that any further works in, over, under or within 8m of the watercourse will require our formal written Consent. It should be also noted that if a formal drainage system is constructed with associated outfalls, the applicant should contact us to discuss the requirement for a Surface Water Development Contribution fee, which would be payable prior to the issue of our Land Drainage Consent for the outfalls. Please see <https://rsidb.org.uk/consents-byelaws/> for further information. We also note that it is intended for self-storage units and the bin store to be located within 8m of the watercourse. We would recommend that these are located further away from the watercourse, if possible. The applicant should contact us to discuss their location and configuration if they cannot be relocated. As stated above, any works within 8m will require our formal permission.”*

21/02146/AS Land at Eureka Business Park, Trinity Road, Boughton Aluph, Kent
Outline planning application to consider access for the development of up to 375 dwellings, up to 34,869m² commercial floorspace (comprising 31,269m² of class E(g)(i) and E(g)(ii) and 3,600m² of flexible Class E floorspace), open space, and associated infrastructure with all other matters reserved for future consideration. Note this is an EIA application accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Although this site lies outside of the district, we have raised concerns with the potential increase of rate/volume that surface water may be directed to it. If permission is granted, we will request an appropriate SWDC from the developer to enable us to accommodate these additional flows.

“Although this site lies outside of our IDB Drainage District, the surface water discharged from the site will flow towards and into our district. The applicant will need Land Drainage Consent from Kent County Council for any works that have the potential to affect flow in any ditch or watercourse on the site, and we would look to work with them and your Authority to apply our Byelaw 3, specifically with regard to seeking a Surface Water Development Contribution for any increase in rates/volumes of discharge that may be directed into our District.

Byelaw 3 states: “Control of Introduction of Water and Increase in Flow or Volume of Water - No person shall as a result of development (within the meaning of section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended (“the 1990 Act”)) (whether or not such development is authorised by the 1990 Act or any regulation or order whatsoever or none of them) for any purpose by means of any channel, siphon, pipeline or sluice or by any other means whatsoever introduce any water into any watercourse in the District so as to directly or indirectly increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District (without the previous consent of the Board).”

Any such contribution will be a one-off payment and will serve to facilitate the management of the increased flows resulting from the development into our District. Please refer to our website for further information on the SWDC, our policies and byelaws: <https://rsidb.org.uk/consents-byelaws/> We would encourage the applicant to seek to minimise any increase in the post-development rate and volume of surface water discharge.”

22/00051/AS Land northeast of Conningbrook Avenue and Conningbrook Lakes, Blackwall Road, Wye, Kent

Full planning application for change of use of agricultural land to create an engineered wetland including associated engineering works and access. This application is for Environmental Impact Assessment development and is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

We have raised no objection to this application, but the infilling of a ditch on the site will require Land Drainage Consent. We have asked for no net-loss of habitat, and the applicant has suggested that the additional surrounding embankments will provide more benefit than that lost. The Environment Agency is seeking more information on the impacts to the floodplain and the ability to convey high-flows.

Canterbury City Council

CA/20/01188 Hoplands Farm Island Road Hersden Canterbury Kent CT3 4HQ - *Application for approval of reserved matters for Phases 4 and 5 and part of Phase 3 relating to access, landscaping, scale, layout and appearance for the erection of 74 dwellings.*

Although we were not formally consulted on this previously reported application, because it lies outside of our District, the plans submitted show that there is an intention to dispose of the surface water generated by the development towards our District. The proposal therefore has the potential to affect IDB interests (downstream flood risk in particular). We asked that efforts be made to replicate ‘greenfield’ surface water discharge conditions, with regard given to drainage routes, flow rates and discharge volumes. Disposal of water via infiltration should be used wherever conditions permit, with all surface water managed as close to source as possible.

KCC as LLFA are now satisfied with the proposals having received a revised drainage plan.

CA/22/00036 Broad Oak Farm, Sweechgate, Broad Oak, Sturry – Details submitted pursuant to condition 29 (Construction Environment Management Plan) of planning permission CA//18/00868.

We were consulted on the Construction Management Plan submitted to discharge a condition on the above referenced site. Although the site sits outside of our Drainage District, we have asked that the LPA work with us to secure a SWDC should the implementation of the wider development's Surface Water Management Scheme result in an increase in the rate/volume of runoff entering our District.

Dover District Council

CON/19/00955/C & D Dog & Duck Leisure Park, Plucks Gutter, Stourmouth – Discharge of Surface Water Management condition.

We have confirmed that we have no objection in principle of the discharge of this Condition but have reminded the LPA and applicant of the need for Land Drainage Consent and the associated payment of the SWDC fee. A draft application has been submitted.

CON/20/01447/H Land at North Poulders, Ash Road, Sandwich (Aquapark/waterskiing facility) – Condition 12 - Drainage verification report.

We have been having ongoing discussions with the LPA and applicant about the development of this site and the requirement for Land Drainage and other relevant permits that may be required from other regulatory bodies. We had agreed with the LPA that we would agree to the discharge of certain other Conditions as we were in the process of dealing with various issues under our Land Drainage Consenting regime. Unfortunately, the applicant then proceeded to carry out various aspects of his approved development without first obtaining our permission. We are therefore objecting to the discharge of the condition related to the drainage verification report until sufficient information has been submitted to us in accompaniment to a LDC application for us to be satisfied that the local flood risk to the area hasn't been exacerbated and that the water levels will be appropriately and legally managed.

Maidstone Borough Council (MBC)

Lenham Heath Future Development – Heathlands Garden Community

We have attended a public engagement event to discuss the potential impact from up to 17,000 new homes on the Stour Catchment with Homes England. We have also requested that MBC consult us and keep us informed of progress of proposals in this area. Homes England have also suggested that they would like a separate meeting with us to discuss our concerns and requirements. **Action: Technical Assistant to progress.**

Thanet District Council (TDC)

We have received no new planning consultations from TDC, other than for minor development that is either outside of our area, or where there are no foreseeable consequences as far as our land drainage and flood risk management interests are concerned.

Ref: W15 Applications for Consent

21-ST-04

Location: Blind Lane, The Forstal, Mersham:

Proposed:

- **Realignment of the watercourse to the western boundary of the site**
- **Install a 600mm culvert to the southern entrance of the site with mammal run**
- **Install a new surface water outfall to the realigned watercourse**

This application has been approved in consultation with local Members. We have received the requested £5,498.15 SWDC. The works are required to facilitate the residential development approved for the site and the associated drainage and access infrastructure.

22-ST-01

Location: RSPB Willow Farm, Sandwich

Proposed: The installation of 5 x solar powered water pumps to assist in the control of the level and flow of water within the site known as Willow Farm.

This application has been approved in consultation with local Members. We have ensured that our maintenance requirements have not been affected. The pumps are required to help maintain water levels on the site. The Environment Agency is aware and is dealing with the relevant abstraction licence with the RSPB.

ADMINISTRATION

Ref: A3-6 Health & Safety

A number of on-line training sessions were carried out, including Manual Handling, Fire Safety, Fire Extinguishers, First Aid at Work, Health & Safety Awareness, Confined Space Entry & GDPR. It is hoped that in-person training sessions can be arranged again from this year.

Ref: A8-1 Association of Drainage Authorities - Events

28th September 2022 – ADA Annual General Meeting – To be held online, separately from the ADA Conference.

9th November 2022 – ADA Annual Conference – To be a hybrid meeting with the in-person element likely to be in Peterborough.

July 2023 – ADA Flood & Water Live – Agreement in principle has been reached with Dyson Farms to hold a joint demonstration event in the first week of July 2023 based around their Carrington headquarters and the drainage channels there maintained and managed by Witham 4th District IDB. Further details to come.

Ref: A8-1.1 ADA South East Branch

As previously reported, at the last ADA SE Branch meeting, held online on 14 September 2021, the current Chairman, Mr Larry Cooke, stated that he wished to stand down at the next meeting and the position of Vice Chairman is also vacant.

ADA SE Branch meetings are a good opportunity for ADA to provide updates on key matters and for local IDBs and other RMA's to raise and discuss common issues. Previously, only one meeting per year has been held and the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman are needed to chair these meetings.

The Clerk & Engineer stated that although he emailed all Members with regards to the vacancies on the ADA SE Branch, he has still not received any response. **Action: Clerk & Engineer to progress and all Members consider volunteering/nominating.**

Ref: F1-5 External Audit

PKF Littlejohn LLP has completed its report on IDBs for 2020-21, in which one IDB failed for a second successive year to submit an AGAR by the required deadline, causing a Public Interest Report to be issued. There were also 7 qualified opinions issued to IDBs and 1 issued to the Environment Agency, mainly for incorrect or late approvals/reporting and failure to post notices and minutes on their websites.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

11 August 2022

The Chairman