

TITLE: Internal Drainage Boards Update

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 January 2024

Author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Report No: Y122

Contact Officer: Jane Webb, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Jane.webb@eastcambs.gov.uk, The Grange, Ely

1.0 ISSUES

1.1. To appoint a representative to the vacant position on Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1. That the appointment of former Councillor David Chaplin to the Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board be approved.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1. Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are public bodies that manage water levels in areas where there is a special need for drainage. They reduce flood risk to people and property, and they manage water level for agricultural and environmental needs. IDBs are funded by a combination of drainage rates levied on the owners of farmland, and special levies on District and Unitary Councils. The number of District Council representatives is determined by the IDBs in relation to the percentage of the Board's income that is paid by the Council.

3.2. The previously agreed process for appointing ECDC representatives to Internal Drainage Boards is:

1. Nominations should be invited from the Members of Council
2. If vacancies cannot all be filled from within the District Council, then:
 - a. former District Councillors who are willing to continue in their IDB role could be nominated as a layperson; and
 - b. the relevant Parish Council(s) should be invited to submit nominations.
3. If there are more nominations than vacancies, then consideration should be given to the candidates' prior knowledge and experience of both the geographical area and the issues relevant to IDBs. In all cases, the final decision on each appointment rests with the Finance & Assets Committee.

3.3. At the Finance & Assets Committee meeting on 3rd July 2023 Council Members were appointed to the Outside Bodies within the committee's remit, including the IDBs. Several IDB vacancies remained and therefore, in accordance with the previously agreed process, Officers were instructed both to invite former District Councillors to continue in their roles and to request nominations from all affected Parish Councils.

- 3.4. At the Finance & Assets Committee meeting on 28th September 2023, it was reported that no nominations had been received to date for the vacancy on Waterbeach Level IDB. In the absence of any nominations, David Chaplin had been contacted to see if he would like to be considered to continue in the position he has held since 2015. Any other responses received after publication of this paper will be reported orally at the meeting. This IDB covers land in two District Wards: Stretham, Soham South.
- 3.5. A response was received from David Chaplin on the 18th December 2023 confirming that he would like to be considered to continue in his position on Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board which he has held since 2015.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

Uncontested IDB

- 4.1. Former councillor David Chaplin accepted the invitation to remain on the Waterbeach Level on 18th December 2023.

Summary of IDB appointments

- 4.2. The current situation and the recommended actions regarding IDB appointments are summarised in the table below. Should any District Councillors seek to be appointed to any of the vacancies, then the appointment process (section 3.2) requires them to be appointed in preference to any individuals listed in the table.

Internal Drainage Board (total no. of representatives required)	Appointments made at 3rd July/28th September 2023 Finance & Assets Committee meeting	Vacancies
Burnt Fen (2)	Derrick Beckett	1 vacancy
Cawdle Fen (7)	Cllrs Colbert, Holtzmann, Shepherd, and C Whelan Rupert Moss-Eccardt, and Rebecca Denness	1 vacancy
Haddenham Level (2)	Cllr Wilson and Steve Cheetham	All vacancies filled
Littleport & Downham (6)	Cllrs Ambrose Smith, Dupré, Goodearl, and Miller Andrew Butcher and Mark Taylor	All vacancies filled
Middle Fen & Mere (5)	Cllrs Bovingdon, Goldsack, Horgan and Vellacott Alec Jones	All vacancies filled

Internal Drainage Board (total no. of representatives required)	Appointments made at 3rd July/28th September 2023 Finance & Assets Committee meeting	Vacancies
Padnal & Waterden (7)	Cllr A Whelan Lis Every and Clive Webber	4 vacancies remain
Swaffham (4)	Cllrs Brown, Edwards, Sharp and Trapp	All vacancies filled
Waterbeach Level (1)	Former councillor David Chaplin has since accepted the Council's invitation to be re-appointed	If accepted, all vacancies filled

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.
- 5.3. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required

6.0 APPENDICES

None.

Background Documents:

[Finance & Assets Committee, 3 July 2023](#), Agenda Item 10, Representatives on Outside Bodies report Y19 and Minute 16

[Finance & Assets Committee 28.09.23](#), Agenda Item 9, Outside Bodies Update report Y51 and Minute 33

[Representatives on Outside Bodies Booklet 2023/24](#)