

APPOINTMENT TO THE LITTLEPORT & DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 24th November 2022

Author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

[X109]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 Representation on Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That either Cllr Andrew Butcher (Little Downham Parish Council) or Cllr Howard Palmer (Witchford Parish Council) be appointed to the vacant position on the Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies were presented to the Finance & Assets Committee on 23rd June 2022. Several vacancies on three Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) were highlighted in that report: one each on the Littleport & Downham IDB and the Padnal & Waterden IDB, and three on the Cawdle Fen IDB. No nominations were received from District Councillors and therefore, in accordance with the previously-agreed process, all affected Parish Councils were invited to submit nominations for the vacant posts.

3.2 Two nominations have been received to date, both of which are for the Littleport & Downham IDB vacancy. This IDB covers land in five District Wards: Downham Villages, Ely North, Littleport, Stretham and Sutton.

3.3 The Council's representatives on the Littleport & Downham IDB (in addition to the vacancy) are: Cllr C Ambrose Smith, Cllr D Ambrose Smith, Cllr Dupré, Cllr Webber, and Parish Cllr Mark Taylor (Little Downham Parish Council).

3.4 Little Downham Parish Council has nominated Cllr Andrew Butcher and supplied the following supporting statement:

"I would like to be nominated for the position on the IDB because I offer a wealth of knowledge on the local drainage system, interact with the IDB already and advise my Parish Council on matters relating to the IDB and flooding and have their full support. I am passionate about protecting this area from flooding and work hard to engage with other agencies in a polite manner. I would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with the IDB."

- 3.5 Witchford Parish Council has nominated Cllr Howard Palmer and supplied the following supporting statement:

“I have been a Parish Councillor for over ten years including a term as Chairman and Vice Chair twice.

During this time, I have been and currently am Open Spaces Coordinator, looking after the Parish Council-maintained outside areas along with other voluntary help. These duties include environmental projects such as wildflower meadows, tree maintenance and planting of new trees, other duties include but are not limited to installing benches, litter picking, putting in new gates and trying with others to keep the village well maintained.

As parts of the Board’s catchment area lies below sea level and as a 4th generation farmer, I am fully aware of the challenges that the Board needs to address in regards to flood risks & climate change. I also believe that flooding is still the biggest risk to this area and its local economy.

The role of the Drainage Boards is more important than ever. I would be excited and honoured to play a larger part in this work should you decide that I am suitable for this position.”

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.

4.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 None

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Agenda Item 15, Finance & Assets Committee, 23 rd June 2022	Room 214 The Grange, Ely	Caroline Evans Senior Democratic Services Officer (01353) 616457 E-mail: caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk