

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board  
held on Thursday 4 February 2010  
at 2.30pm in the Board's Offices at  
34 Gordon Road, Canterbury

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PRESENT

M J G Tapp Esq (Chairman), A D Linfoot, O.B.E. (Vice Chairman), Messrs Councillor T Austin, Councillor A Bruce, Councillor M D Conolly, Mr I R Cooling, Mr P S Dunn, Mr P E Dyas, Mr P Howard, Councillor C J (Kit) Smith, Mr J F E Smith and Councillor J Woodford.

IN ATTENDANCE

Miss Verity Kirstein (Asset Systems Management Team (Kent & East Sussex Area), Environment Agency, Mr Paul Marshall, Incident Response Team Leader (Lower Stour Area), Environment Agency, Mr John Davis (IDB Contracts Manager, Rhino Plant Hire), Mr Peter Dowling (Engineer to the Board) and Mr Derek Lewis (Clerk of the Board).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

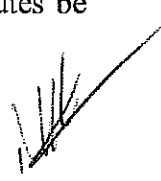
Apologies for absence were received from Mr D M Botting, Mr G F Ellis, Councillor Mrs M Martin, Councillor B T Naughton, Mr I G Steed, Mr S W Twyman and Mr M P Wilkinson.

WELCOMING

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Howard, an Ashford Borough Council appointee, to his first Board meeting. The Chairman also welcomed Miss Verity Kirstein and Mr Paul Marshall, of the Environment Agency, and Mr John Davis, the Rhino Plant Hire IDB Contracts Manager to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2009

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Thursday 12 November 2009 were received. It was proposed by Mr A D Linfoot, seconded by Mr I R Cooling and resolved that minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.



MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTESEnvironment Agency – Replacement/Refurbishment of the Mile and Goshall Pumping Stations.

The Engineer thanked Mr Paul Marshall for previously reporting that the refurbishment of the Mile Pumping Station will be completed and fully up and running by 8 May 2010. The Engineer asked Mr Marshall if he could clarify the situation in respect of the Goshall Pumping Station. Mr Marshall stated that the Environment Agency's latest plan was to refurbish the Mile Pumping Station this year and the Goshall Pumping Station next year. Mr Marshall however stated that in order to avoid the risk of the refurbishment works affecting this year's summer feeding operations, the Mile Pumping Station refurbishment works have been delayed and will now be completed in conjunction with the Goshall Pumping Station refurbishment works in 2010/2011. Mr Marshall however confirmed that the existing pumps at Mile and Goshall would be serviced and be fully operational by 8 May 2010.

Repairs to the Grove Wall at Stodmarsh

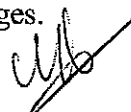
Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) asked the Environment Agency Officers if any progress and agreement had been made in respect of the repairs to the Grove Wall at Stodmarsh. Miss Verity Kirstein reported that a meeting with Mr Dave Rogers (Natural England's Kent Senior Reserves Manager) still needed to be arranged and the Environment Agency's Asset Inspectors still needed to visit and inspect the site. Councillor Austin asked Miss Kirstein to keep the Board advised of the discussions in respect of this site.

Private Structures on the Little Stour

Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) asked Miss Kirstein if she had managed to look into this matter. Miss Kirstein stated that she had looked into this matter and found that the Environment Agency had not issued consent for the structures and their initial assessment was that flood risk is unlikely to be significantly increased as a result and therefore immediate enforcement action was not considered necessary. Councillor Austin expressed his continued concern over this matter and asked the Environment Agency to continue to monitor the situation. The Vice Chairman considered that in a situation such as this, legal liability would need to be established should flooding occur. Mr I R Cooling (Ashford Borough Council) asked Miss Kirstein what were the structures. Miss Kirstein stated that one of the structures was an ornamental type structure and the other was a footbridge that replaced an old plank type footbridge. Mr Cooling considered that the key issue was that of legal liability if flooding occurs, as previously stated by the Vice Chairman.

Pegwell Bay to Kingsdown Coastal Defence Strategy

Mr P E Dyas considered that the Environment Agency was taking the cheap way out as far as this strategy was concerned. Mr Dyas considered that the Tidal Barrier Option, although the most costly option, would have given the Sandwich area far better flood risk protection. Mr Dyas questioned the viability of a scheme which would rely upon the construction of a spillway and the provision of a tidal storage area at Broad Salts. Mr Dyas considered that this scheme would not relieve pressure in the lower reaches of the river and reduce the risk of flooding to Sandwich to the same extent as the Tidal Barrier option. Miss Kirstein confirmed that the Environment Agency Board had now approved the scheme to construct a tidal relief area outside Sandwich at Broad Salts which would help to reduce the river level in Sandwich during major tidal surges.



Miss Kirstein also advised that the scheme would also include the strengthening and raising of some of the existing flood walls and embankments along the river and the building of a new flood wall at Sandwich Quay. Miss Kirstein also advised the Board that she had received the Clerk's letter requesting that the Board be given a short presentation on the scheme at a forthcoming Board meeting and had made arrangements with the Environment Agency's Project Team for a short presentation to be made at the Board meeting on Thursday 27 May 2010.

Ref: A.8-1.6

Payment of an Honorarium to the ADA Chairman

Mr I R Cooling (Ashford Borough Council) stated that according to the ADA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 10 November 2009, the increase in IDB Membership Subscriptions and the £17,500 Annual Honorarium for the ADA Chairman were both approved unanimously by the ADA Executive Committee. Mr P E Dyas, the Board's representative on the ADA Executive Committee, stated that the minutes were incorrect and that the ADA Chairman's Honorarium was approved by a majority decision of 14 to 6. Mr Dyas further stated that the honorarium figure of £17,500 per annum had not been made clear prior to the vote being taken. Mr Dyas stated that he had also asked Jean Venables, the Chief Executive of ADA for the minutes to be corrected. Mr Cooling asked Mr Dyas if the ADA Chairman Honorarium item was an agenda item. Mr Dyas stated that it was not an agenda item but was initially raised by the ADA Chairman, Henry Cator. Mr Dyas further reported that after raising the item, Henry Cator left the meeting and the discussion was then taken over by the ADA Executive Committee Vice Chairman, Anthony Morby. Mr Cooling considered that the proper meeting procedure had not been followed and questioned the validity of this decision both procedurally and ethically. The Vice Chairman stated that he had concern over the lack of transparency in respect of this matter. Mr Dyas stated that he had very strong feelings on this matter as he did not think it was appropriate to pay an honorarium of this size in the present financial climate where council ratepayers and agricultural ratepayers had to experience cuts in services and increased charges. Mr Dyas suggested that the Board should write a strongly worded letter to ADA to express its displeasure over this decision. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) stated that the payment of this honorarium at this time was wholly inappropriate and supported Mr Dyas's suggestion that a letter should be forwarded to ADA to express the Board's displeasure. It was therefore proposed by Mr I R Cooling, seconded by Mr A D Linfoot and resolved that the Board should send a strongly worded letter to ADA in respect of the ADA Executive Committee's decision to approve a payment of an honorarium of £17,500 per annum to the ADA Chairman, Henry Cator.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE, GENERAL PURPOSES AND WORKS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance, General Purposes and Works Committee held on Monday 18 January 2010 were received. It was proposed by Mr P E Dyas, seconded by Mr A D Linfoot and resolved that the minutes be received.



MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTESRef: W.5/RMP                      Draft Reculver Masterplan

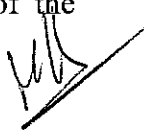
The Engineer reported that all the Board's suggested amendments to Project Plan 14 (West Wantsum Wetlands) had been accepted by Canterbury City Council. The Engineer further reported that some errors had been included in the amended draft but that he had brought these errors to the attention of the Project Manager so that they can be corrected. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) asked the Engineer what were the errors. The Engineer stated that some of the Project Manager's instructions to their consultants to delete/amend text and diagrams had still been unintentionally included in the revised Project Plan 14.

Ref: W.8/4-2                      Hacklinge Marshes Pumping Station Access Road Gate

The Chairman stated that the security of the Hacklinge Marshes Pumping Station Access Gate still remains a concern for some of the local landowners. The Chairman therefore asked Mr Paul Marshall if there was any possibility of securing the access gate by the fitting of a padlock. Mr Marshall stated that if he fitted a padlock to the access gate he would have to issue a large number of access keys to landowners, residents and the local angling clubs. Mr Marshall stated that padlocks cost £27 each and they are quite flimsy and fairly easily forcibly removed. Councillor A Bruce (Thanet District Council) stated that Thanet District Council has also experienced problems in some areas and has found that by fitting a hood over the lock this has deterred vandals and unauthorised access. Mr I R Cooling (Ashford Borough Council) suggested that a Chubb combination type padlock may be worth considering as it would be much easier to advise authorised users of the combination rather than issuing a large number of keys. Councillor C J (Kit) Smith (Dover District Council) suggested that it might be useful to monitor the situation for another month. Mr Marshall agreed to monitor the situation for another month.

ENGINEER'S MAINTENANCE WORKS ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

The Engineer reported that he had prepared his Engineering Estimates for 2010/2011 from the contract rates and built-up estimates from previous cost analysis for items not specifically included in the main contracts. The Engineer stated that a copy of the breakdown of the estimated costs for each type of activity is detailed below:



Summary of Estimates

| Activity               | 2009/2010       | 2009/2010                | 2010/2011       | 2011/2012       | 2012/2013       | 2013/2014       |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                        | Estimate<br>£   | Revised<br>Estimate<br>£ | Estimate<br>£   | Estimate<br>£   | Estimate<br>£   | Estimate<br>£   |
| Water Level Control    | 69,725          | 69,725                   | 69,725          | 69,725          | 73,211          | 73,211          |
| Vegetation Management  | 112,500         | 112,000                  | 112,000         | 112,000         | 117,600         | 117,600         |
| De-silting             | 23,600          | 24,150                   | 23,375          | 23,435          | 23,780          | 23,405          |
| Spoil Spreading        | 6,530           | 6,260                    | 6,675           | 6,500           | 6,825           | 6,825           |
| Tree/Shrub Maintenance | 6,060           | 6,060                    | 6,000           | 6,000           | 6,180           | 6,365           |
| Obstruction Clearance  | 2,700           | 2,700                    | 2,700           | 2,700           | 2,835           | 2,835           |
| Structure Maintenance  | 27,000          | 24,500                   | 20,000          | 20,000          | 20,000          | 20,000          |
| Biodiversity           | 10,000          | 9,875                    | 10,000          | 10,000          | 10,000          | 10,000          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>     | <b>£258,115</b> | <b>£255,270</b>          | <b>£250,475</b> | <b>£250,360</b> | <b>£260,431</b> | <b>£260,241</b> |

The Chairman reported that the Finance, General Purposes and Works Committee discussed the Engineer's Maintenance Works Estimates for 2010/2011 in detail and approved the Engineer's prioritized maintenance works programme for 2010/2011.

#### CLERK'S COMBINED FINANCE ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

The Chairman reported that the Clerk has included the Engineer's estimates in his combined Finance Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2011. The Chairman reported that the Clerk expects the 2009/2010 financial year-end totals to come to approximately £532,603, £5,355 less than the estimated net expenditure total for 2009/2010 and this underspend is likely to increase the balance held in reserve to approximately £102,375. Full details of the estimated expenditure and income and estimated net expenditure are detailed in the attached papers along with projected provisional figures for the following 3 years.

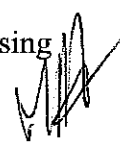
The Chairman further reported that the Environment Agency has advised the Board that the 2010/2011 Precept will be £129,047 which reflects a zero % increase on the 2009/2010 Precept. The Chairman explained that EA Precepts are calculated using RPI as at September each year, however as RPI had a negative figure of 1.3%, the Environment Agency had reached agreement with the Association of Drainage Authorities that there should be a zero % increase in 2010/2011. The Chairman further reported that the Clerk also advised the Finance Committee that, because of the current financial climate and very low bank interest rates, the total amount of income the Board was likely to receive from its investments during 2009/2010 would probably be £2,000 less than predicted..

The Chairman stated that the Clerk produced 5 options for the Board's consideration and has also provided comparison tables for Drainage Rates and Special Levies to help the Board to consider a preferred option. The Chairman stated that the Finance Committee had considered the Clerk's combined finance estimates in detail and after taking all matters into consideration have recommended Option 1 to the Board.

Mr I R Cooling (Ashford Borough Council) considered that the expenditure/expenses on the Board's Flat should be shown in a separate account and not included in the Office Expenses Account. The Clerk stated that he would make the necessary amendments. Councillor C J (Kit) Smith (Dover District Council) welcomed the proposed reduction in the Special Levies to the councils. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) also welcomed the reduction in the Special Levies and congratulated the Clerk and Engineer for managing to achieve some good efficiency savings.

It was proposed by Councillor T Austin, seconded by Councillor C J (Kit) Smith and resolved that:

- a) A total sum of £525,938 be raised.
- b) A Drainage Rate of 12.836p in the £ be made for the year ending 31 March 2011 raising £59,957 from Drainage Ratepayers.



c) Special Levies be made on Local Billing Authorities for the year ending 31 March 2011 as follows:

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Ashford Borough Council     | £228,051        |
| Canterbury City Council     | 115,470         |
| Dover District Council      | 58,947          |
| Shepway District Council    | 466             |
| Thanet District Council     | <u>63,047</u>   |
| Total Special Levies Income | <u>£465,981</u> |

d) The Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to sign and seal the Rates and Special Levies on behalf of the Board.

e) The Clerk be instructed to advertise the Rates and Special Levies in the local press.

#### REPORT OF ENGINEER FOR THE PERIOD 10 OCTOBER 2009 TO 31 DECEMBER 2009

##### River Flows & Groundwater Levels

The Engineer reported that the recorded flows in the Great Stour, as a percentage of the Long Term Average, were 54% in September, 53% in October and 140% in November. The Engineer also reported that groundwater levels across the Southern Region are reported to be within normal ranges. Reservoir storage across the region had reduced to approximately 20% below LTA during October but levels have now returned close to LTA as a result of the high levels of rainfall in November and December. The exceptionally high rainfall during November and December has also dramatically reduced soil moisture deficits, resulting in more rapid run-off. Councillor M D Conolly (Dover District Council) asked if the heavy snow had caused any problems. The Engineer stated that the heavy snow had not caused any problems to the Board's watercourses. Mr Paul Marshall reported that the melt from the snow and the increased rainfall during December had caused the Aldington and Hothfield Flood Defence Barriers to impound. Mr Marshall also advised the Board that the Stonar Cut had been 'run' on several occasions by Environment Agency Staff, most notably at midnight on New Year's Eve.

##### Environment Agency Works

The Chairman stated that he was interested to hear that the Environment Agency has fitted power correction units to Hacklinge and West Stourmouth Pumping Stations in order to reduce power usage without reducing operational effectiveness. The Chairman asked Mr Marshall how the system worked. Mr Marshall stated that he was not exactly sure how the system worked but that he would get hold of a copy of the technical details and pass them on to the Board's Engineer.

##### Seaton Weir Removal/Replacement

The Chairman reported that he and the Engineer attended a site meeting at Seaton Weir on 8 January 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss future possible options for the weir. Also present at the meeting were representatives from the Environment Agency, the Little Stour

& Nailbourne River Management Group, local residents and Mr Julian Brazier, MP. The Engineer reported that as a result of the site meeting Mr Tom Reid, the Environment Agency's Fisheries and Biodiversity Team Technical Specialist, has agreed to write a summary report document detailing the various problems, benefits and possible options for the weir site. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) stated that he was also in attendance at the site meeting and noted that there was unanimity amongst the local residents that the weir should remain. The Engineer considered that as a result of the extent of local opposition to the prospect of removing of the weir, the Environment Agency would now probably look to re-investigate all the options prior to making a final decision. Councillor Austin stated that local residents would have very serious concerns over any proposal to remove the weir. Miss Verity Kirstein stated that the Environment Agency always took a balanced view and was mindful of local opinions.

#### South East River Basin Management Plan

The Chairman asked the Engineer if he was now able to provide the Members with a short summary of the contents of the South East River Basin Management Plan. The Engineer stated that the Plan, including annexes runs to approximately 1800 pages, and is quite heavy going. The Engineer stated that main document is now essentially a summary document of approximately 60 pages and copies of this document could be issued to Members if required. The Engineer asked Members to let him know if they wished to receive a copy.

#### South East Water – Water Resources Management Plan

The Engineer reported that the inquiry in connection with South East Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan will now to be held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Gatwick on 11 May 2010 at 10:00 am. The inquiry is expected to last 10-12 days.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### **Ashford Borough Council**

**06/00518/AS**

Former Oil Depot, Bramble Lane, Wye.

Residential development comprising 57 dwellings together with site engineering works, habitat creation, non-build meadow, play areas, landscaping, gardens, garages and road works.

The Engineer reported that this planning application was approved in July 2007, with a planning requirement to enlarge an existing culvert downstream of the development on Network Rail owned land in order to improve the drainage system and help resolve an existing local flooding issue. The developer's consultants are now making a case to leave the existing culvert in place on the grounds that a larger pipe is not needed hydraulically. A larger culvert pipe, as originally agreed, would however provide slightly more storage and be less prone to blockage and would therefore be preferred. The final decision in respect of this will be made by ABC planning officers. Mr I R Cooling (Ashford Borough Council) stated that there was no material change to the original planning application and that the original decision and conditions should stand.

**Canterbury City Council**

**CA/09/01555** Broad Oak Farm, Broad Oak, Canterbury.  
Erection of polytunnels.

The Engineer reported that this application is for the erection of 3.75 ha of polytunnels on a 6.2 ha site, which is outside of the Board's district but eventually drains to the River Stour. The proposals include 25m separator margins from residential boundaries and 10m margins around all field edges. Plastic sheeting is to be removed in October and replaced again in March when planting commences. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) stated that these applications for polytunnels were very contentious. Councillor M D Conolly (Dover District Council) stated that there are an increasing number of these types of applications and that at a recent meeting of the Kent Committee for Natural Beauty concern was expressed over the visual impact of polytunnels. The Engineer stated that as well as visual impact there was concern over increased run-off rates, especially from polytunnels sited on hillsides.

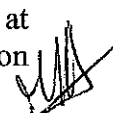
**CA/09/01655** Shalmsford Farm, Shalmsford Street, Chartham.  
Reserved matters for residential development, comprising 23 dwellings with garaging and parking, conversion of oast to two dwellings, along with access & landscaping.

The Engineer reported that outline planning consent was issued for the redevelopment of Shalmsford Street Farm in November 2006 (ref CA/95/00699). A full drainage plan is still to be provided for the 2.7 ha site, but is believed that proposals will involve discharging surface water to the Shalmsford Street (Pickleden) Dyke (IDB31) at a restricted rate of 7l/sec/ha. The applicant has been advised of the Board's Byelaws and of the need for the Board's formal consent for any works within 8m of this watercourse. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) considered that this was a low level site with a high rate of run-off.

**Dover District Council**

**DOV/09/00780** Land at Goretop Lane, Worth, Sandwich.  
Proposed change of use from agricultural to nature reserve.

The Engineer reported that this proposal has been made by RSPB and relates to land owned by RSPB and land currently under negotiation. Proposals include ditch restoration work, culvert replacement, alterations to water level management by the operation of existing structures and the installation of new dams/sluices. This work will require EA/IDB consent. No alterations to water levels within EA or IDB maintained watercourses are proposed at this stage, although it is thought that this may be pursued at a later stage by RSPB. Detailed proposals, and their potential effects on local flood risk, are still to be established.



Planning Matters - General

Councillor C J (Kit) Smith (Dover District Council) reported that he had recently attended a KCC Planning Committee Meeting and had raised the subject of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and was surprised over the apparent lack of awareness of SUDS and the importance of their inclusion in all developments.

REPORT OF CLERKBalances at Bank

The Chairman reported that the Vice Chairman had confirmed the balances that were held in the Board's bank accounts on 31 December 2009 with the bank statements. Details were as follows:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
|  | £                 |
| Current Account                          | 6,081.22          |
| Treasury Reserve Account (on Investment) | 270,000.00        |
| Reserve Account                          | <u>3,827.16</u>   |
|  | <u>279,908.38</u> |

Drainage Rate Income

The Chairman reported that the total drainage rate income outstanding on 31 December 2009 amounted to £162.36. The Chairman complemented the Clerk in achieving an extremely low outstanding amount.

Administration

Ref: A.8-1.8

ADA Vision Statement for IDBs in England and Wales

The Chairman drew the Members' attention to the ADA Vision Statement for IDBs in England and Wales which the Clerk had included with the meeting papers. The Chairman stated that the Vision has been developed by the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) on behalf of the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) community in England and Wales.

Ref: A.9-1.F

Flat 34A Gordon Road – Refurbishment of Bathroom

The Clerk reported that the refurbishment of the Flat's bathroom was now complete. The Clerk further reported that the final cost of the works amounted to £2,943.00, £193.00 more than previously reported. The Clerk stated that the additional cost was due to additional unplanned ceramic tiling requirements.

### BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (BAP)

The Chairman reported that the Board's BAP Sub-Committee, Mr Jon Shelton (KSCP Project Manager), the Clerk and the Engineer have worked extremely hard in order to produce an extremely comprehensive Biodiversity Action Plan for the Board's approval. The Vice Chairman stated that all Internal Drainage Boards have a requirement to have a BAP in place by 1 April 2010 and that the Board seems to be well ahead of most IDBs and other operating authorities. The Chairman stated that the draft BAP was issued for a consultation period of 28 days and the Board received 15 responses that were considered by the BAP Sub-Committee prior to this meeting. The Chairman further stated that a copy of the BAP was also passed to all Board Members with their meeting papers to enable them to comment or raise questions on any particular point. The Chairman therefore invited comments from the Members.

Councillor A Bruce (Thanet District Council) stated that in his opinion there is a fundamental flaw in these types of documents which tend to concentrate on key/priority species. Councillor Bruce considered that the ostracod, a small freshwater or marine crustacean which has a bivalve carapace that covers its entire body, would give a far better indication of biodiversity than some of the chosen species. Councillor Bruce also considered that the Mitten Crabs (*Eriocheir sinensis*) could also be a very serious future problem. Councillor Bruce stated that he had also noted a few minor errors in the document and would advise the Clerk of these prior to publication. The Chairman considered that a few errors are to be expected in a 130 page document. Mr Paul Marshall asked if the Board's BAP was linked to the Environment Agency's BAP. The Clerk stated that as far as he was aware the Environment Agency has no specific BAP but has a range of Species Action Plans that contribute towards UK National BAP targets. The Engineer stated that the Board's BAP is specific to the Stour Catchment and is to be used to inform IDB activities. Copies of the draft BAP were therefore issued to the Environment Agency's Area Manager for Kent and East Sussex and to the Stour Catchment Fisheries, Recreation and Biodiversity Technical Officer (Miss Rachael Hunter) and received a response from Miss Hunter containing some suggested amendments.

Mr P Howard (Ashford Borough Council) reported that it has been confirmed that the Lenham to Ashford section of the Great Stour is the dirtiest section of the river and that the principle cause of the pollution comes from the Lenham Sewage Treatment Works. The Chairman stated that the Great Stour was classed as 'Main River' and therefore under the control of the Environment Agency who no doubt will be aware of this pollution problem and will have put in place measures to improve the future water quality in this section of the Great Stour. Councillor T Austin (Canterbury City Council) stated that as far as he was aware, water voles were doing very well in East Kent and questioned the reasoning behind the continued BAP expenditure on water voles. The Chairman stated that water voles were comparatively rare in England and Wales but that in East Kent, and in particular the Ash Levels area of the Board's Drainage District, the water vole population was very good and the area is generally considered to be one of the National strongholds for the species.

There being no further queries/comments, it was proposed by Mr A D Linfoot, seconded by Councillor A Bruce and resolved that the Board's Biodiversity Action Plan be approved and issued.



ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice Chairman stated that he and some of the other Members were given an opportunity to visit the Bybrook Sewage Treatment Works on Monday 1 February 2010 in order to view the new extended works and improved treatment facilities. The Vice Chairman stated that he found the visit most interesting and asked for thanks to be passed to all those involved in making arrangements for the visit. The Vice Chairman considered that a letter of thanks should be sent to Southern Water in order to thank them for the visit. Councillor Conolly and Mr P Howard, who both attended the visit, agreed with this course of action. Mr Howard stated that during the visit he learned that the Pellet Plant, where the pellets are made, cost £15M. Mr Howard stated that the pellets help reduce the odour of the treated sludge cake.

MEETING CLOSED

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed and thanked the Members and Officers for their attendance.

27 May 2010



The Chairman

THE RIVER STOUR (KENT) INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

## References:

- A. The Local Government (Finance) Act 1988
- B. The Land Drainage Act 1991
- C. The Internal Drainage Boards (Finance) Regulations 1991

In accordance with the Internal Drainage Boards (Finance) Regulations 1991, the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board resolved that the amounts to be raised by way of Drainage Rates on Agricultural Hereditaments and by Special Levies on Local Billing Authorities for the Financial Year commencing 1 April 2010 are as follows:


|   |                 |          |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| By Drainage Rates on Agricultural Hereditaments | £ 59,957        | (11.40%) |
| By Special Levies on Local Billing Authorities  | <u>£465,981</u> | (88.60%) |
|   | <u>£525,938</u> |          |


The Board further resolved to make a Drainage Rate of 12.836 New Pence in the £ for the Financial Year commencing 1 April 2010 and that the Special Levies, payable by the Local Billing Authorities, should be as follows:

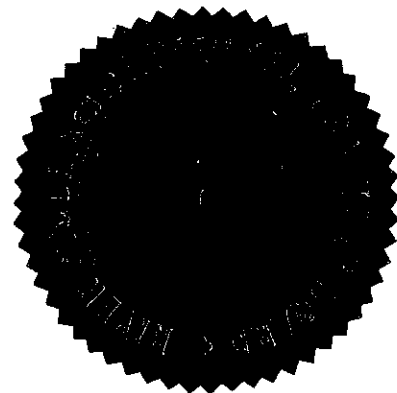
|                          |                 |
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| Canterbury City Council  | 115,470         |
| Dover District Council   | 58,947          |
| Shepway District Council | 466             |
| Thanet District Council  | <u>63,047</u>   |
|                          | <u>£465,981</u> |

Given under the seal of the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2010.

THE SEAL OF THE RIVER STOUR (KENT)  
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD was hereunto  
affixed in the presence of:

.....  
  
.....  
Chairman

.....  
  
.....  
Clerk of the Board



34 Gordon Road  
Canterbury  
Kent CT1 3PW  
(01227 462377)