**The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission**

**Minutes of Commissioners Meeting**

**7.30pm - 1st May 2025**

**Abercairny Stables. Abercairny Estate**

1. **Present:** G Buckingham (GB), K Emptage (KE), H Grierson (HG), J Guest (JG), A Mackenzie Smith (AMS), Mrs A Moray Parker (AMP), Mrs E Roberts (ER)

**In Attendance:** Hazel and Ian Roy (Clerks)

**Apologies**: J England

**Appointment of Chairman:** It was unanimously agreed that HG be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**: The minutes of the meeting of Commissioners held on 28th November 2024, copies of which had been posted on the website, were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
2. **Condition of the Pow**: JG had walked and inspected The Pow on 24th April 2025, and he had produced a report for the Commissioners which was circulated to all Commissioners in advance along with a series of photographs relevant to the inspection. JG had gone through the detail of it at the meeting of Heritors held immediately before this meeting at which all attending Commissioners were present,

A quotation received from Ian Ralston costing all work recommended by JG had also been circulated in advance. This included some catch up on work which could not be completed last year. The draft budget amounted to a cost of £32,000 and is attached to the minute.

There was discussion and it was unanimously agreed: -

1. That this budget was approved.
2. That Ian Ralston be asked to ensure that all work covered by it is completed during 2025.
3. That an emergency repair fund be established in the sum of £20,000 and allocated from reserves accumulated and carried forward from prior year surpluses. This is a reserve for contingencies and in particular at the moment the cost of revetting, which is unpredictable. Its use between meetings of Commissioners should be approved by Commissioners by email circulation.
4. **Financial Position**: The Clerks summarised the current financial position in the following terms as of 30th April 2025:

Funds in bank account - £52,383

Debtors Awaiting Collection - £25,920

VAT Due to HMRC - £5,760

The Clerks had submitted a detailed report in advance of the meeting highlighting that: -

1. All assessments were issued on 1st April and alterations because of notifications being given of changes of ownership are being dealt with as they arise.
2. In terms of the debtors awaiting collection on 1st April 2025, figure noted above, includes three debtors dating back to past years which have become entrenched. A full report was given to the Commissioners on each and the Clerks were given full latitude to refer each of them onward for collection through the Commission’s Solicitors reiterating the comments made at the earlier Heritor’s meeting namely: -
3. that assessments are a statutory assessment issued under an Act of Parliament and therefore these must be paid without exception.
4. where legal action must be taken to collect debtors, this comes at a cost which inevitably has a knock-on impact on what all other Heritors are required to pay.
5. every Heritor is given the opportunity to attend the twice a year Heritors meeting to make representations If they feel that any aspect of the work on the Pow requires attention.
6. Responsibility for land at Tuckethill was clarified by JG allowing the Clerks to invoice for the assessments in that area.
7. **Any Other Business:**

There was further discussion over emails received from Heritors concerning Beaver Control and the Clerks agreed to respond to these noting for the benefit of these Heritors that provision of this work was included in the 2025 Budget and noting that removal of Beavers was strictly controlled by legislation within certain relevant dates.

JG raised the importance of securing from Savills and depositing with another land surveyor Shape Files held by Savills covering the length and profile of the Pow. The Clerk’s undertook to chase Savills on this matter and keep JG informed.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**: The next meeting of Heritors is set for Thursday 13th November 2025 at Abercairny Stables, Abercairny Estate at 7:00 PM

The meeting closed at 8.20pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair, to JG for all his work with the Inspection and Report and to AMP for her hospitality.