

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 24th January 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

* Messrs M.A. Harris (Chairman)
* R. Adam (Vice-Chairman)
* A. Barker
* P. Bradwell
* G.R.J. Bramhill
* J. Coggon
* P. Cornish
* K. Durdy
* R. Mason
* M. Wagstaff
* S. White
* M.T. Smith

* *Present*

* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
* R.A. Brown (Works Manager)
* Mrs J.D. Watson (Operations Director)
* *In attendance*

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

* Cllr R. Allcock
* Mr N. Arrand
* Cllr J. Briggs
* Mr R. Chapman
* Cllr Mrs J. Reed
* Mr J. Smith
* Cllr D. Robinson
* Cllr D.J. Rose
* Mr G. Wilson
Two vacancies

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

* Cllr Mrs H. Brand
* Cllr Mrs J.M. Sanger

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs G.R.J. Bramhill, R. Chapman, M. Wagstaff, Cllrs R. Allcock, J. Briggs, D. Rose, and Mrs J. Reed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 308 to 318)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 22nd November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

The Chief Executive referred to the Association of Drainage Authorities Gazette which contained an article detailing matters discussed at the recent Annual Conference; copies were available for members.

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6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive reported on a meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 8th December 2016. Details of this item and subsequent discussions are recorded on pink paper.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Consortium Committee meeting held on 8th December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and that the recommendations made be adopted by the Board.

7. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Officers presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that further investigations were required before a decision was made on whether to replace the Energreen with a similar machine or a tractor/flail unit to ensure that the equipment was fit for purpose as well as providing value for money. The Operations Director emphasised that the decision would be based on empirical evidence.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Plant and Compensation Committee meeting held on 18th January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and that the recommendations made be adopted by the Board.

8. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates outstanding at 24th January 2017 totalled £5,002.93; a collection rate of 98.84%.

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9. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented a report showing income and expenditure at 31st December 2016 which showed a net surplus of £396,399, and gave a detailed explanation of the major variances.

The forecast for the year end was for a net deficit of £838,140 (including capital accruals); this would be £37,823 favourable to budget. A review of capital schemes indicated that there would be significant savings on the Bewcarrs and Greenholme schemes at the year end, however, the method of funding these schemes would be confirmed when the five year plan was prepared in March 2017.

The Director of Finance reported that eight loans totalling £420,696.10 remained outstanding with the Public Works Loan Board.

The attached schedule of payments was circulated for approval.

RESOLVED

(a) That the Board's financial position be noted.

- (b) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

10. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1ST APRIL 2017 TO 31ST MARCH 2018

The Director of Finance presented the attached estimates of income and expenditure and recommended a rate increase of 2%. Provision had been made for annual maintenance of all Board maintained watercourses and asset renewal works which included the refurbishment of South Street Pumping Station. A 1% increase had been allowed for wages and salaries and 2% for general inflation on other costs. It was noted that the Bank of England had forecast that CPI could rise above 2% and, if this was the case, there would be a significant impact on the Board in fuel and electricity costs. If the proposed budget was approved, this would result in a deficit of £104k which would reduce balances to £354k at 31st March 2018.

Offices continued to seek ways of increasing efficiency and the five-year plan would be reviewed in detail at the March Board meeting.

The Chief Executive and Director of Finance had met with officers from Bassetlaw District Council and North Lincolnshire Council to explain the works planned for the next financial year and the likely rate increase.

In response to Mr P. Bradwell who queried what progress had been made on relocating the offices and depot, the Chief Executive reported that negotiations were still ongoing with the Environment Agency. The Vice-Chairman stated that consideration should be given to providing a covered area to store plant and equipment and Officers confirmed that this would be taken into account. If this was not possible before next winter, the Vice-Chairman asked Officers to obtain prices for renting storage space.

It was proposed by the Vice-Chairman and seconded by Cllr Mrs J. Sanger that the estimates be approved and the rate be increased to 13.51% for 2017/18.

RESOLVED unanimously

- (a) That the attached estimates of net expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2017 be approved in the total sum of £1,262,307.
- (b) That the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings, special levies on the local charging authorities and estimates of the amount from balances, for the year commencing 1st April 2017 be as follows:
- (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £437,498,
 - (ii) by special levy on North Lincolnshire Council - £623,015,
 - (iii) by special levy on Bassetlaw District Council - £92,391,
 - (iv) by special levy on East Riding of Yorkshire Council - £7,834,
 - (v) by special levy on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council - £1,385, and
 - (vi) by deduction from balances - £100,184.

- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2017 on North Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £623,015.
- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2017 on Bassetlaw District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £92,391.
- (e) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2017 on East Riding of Yorkshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £7,834.
- (f) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2017 on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £1,385.
- (g) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (h) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2017 be made and sealed in the total sum of 13.51 pence in the pound.

11. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operations Director reported that summer maintenance work was now complete. Overall the programme had come in at 69% of the budget although there may still be some small costs for debris runs etc. to ensure the systems were kept clear.

A fault had occurred with the weedscreen cleaner at Gringley Pumping Station but this had now been rectified. Faults with the pumps at Wiseton Pumping Station would be discussed under item 12:5.

Officers reported that the Volvo excavator had been broken into recently. Diesel had been taken and the fire extinguisher had been discharged causing damage in the cab. There followed a discussion on how best to protect the vehicles when left on site and officers agreed to investigate this further and report back.

The Operations Director reported that weedcutting and desilting work was ongoing on the Snow Sewer to improve conveyance in the channel and tree and bushing work had also commenced on the Steelgoose Drain to improve access for maintenance. The work was being undertaken under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement.

It was noted that training for the emergency relief staff had been postponed but would be undertaken before the end of February.

Rainfall figures up to the end of October were reported.

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12. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

12:1 Bewcarrs Pumping Station Upgrade

Officers reported that the automatic weedscreen cleaner had been installed and the station was operational. The telemetry system and a security camera were due to be fitted at the end of January and this would complete the automation and communications for the station. System testing under operational conditions was ongoing and the hydraulic performance was being monitored; a contingency sum had been retained to carry out any necessary alterations.

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12:2 Greenholme Pumping Station Refurbishment Scheme

The Engineer reported that quotations had been invited for replacement doors to the pump house to security rating 3 but apart from this, works are substantially complete. The predicted outturn cost was £226,000; a saving of £101,000 on the approved budget of £327,000 which included a contingency. After grant at 29.3% the net saving to the Board would be £72,000.

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12:3 Kelfield/Black Dyke Catchment Studies

Further modelling work of the Kelfield and Southfield systems had been undertaken and the conclusion was that the pumping capacity at Kelfield Pumping Station must be retained and that the Blackdyke system would be better drained by connecting to the Southfield system.

The Engineer explained that the implications of connecting the Blackdyke to the Southfield system were negligible with a maximum increase in water levels in the Southfield system of 8mm in a ten year event and by 3mm in a 100 year event. Water levels would be generally reduced in the Blackdyke catchment by 250mm in a ten year event and by 120mm in a 100 year event.

Officers were conducting an assessment on the following options to establish the best way to retain the pumping capacity at Kelfield:

- Refurbishment of diesel pump and automation
- Replacement of diesel pump with electric pump
- New station utilising gravity discharge pipework

Work was also underway to establish the best way to connect the Blackdyke to Southfields pumped system.

The Board would be kept informed of progress.

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12:4 Haxey Lane Drainage Improvement Scheme

The Engineer reported on the three tenders that had been received which varied in price from £19,132.67 to £49,684.00. It was noted that one contractor had declined to tender. All three tenders received had been adjudicated and were compliant. The approved budget for the Scheme was £47,926.

The contract had been awarded under delegated authority to the lowest tender, Westmoreland Civil Engineering, in the sum of £19,132.67.

In response to Mr P. Cornish, the Engineer explained that tenders could vary for several reasons; e.g. the amount of work on the contractor's books, their location etc. He confirmed that all tenders were on the Board's approved list, had been fully adjudicated and the prices compared to the estimate.

The Chairman referred to a section of watercourse under riparian control which required maintenance. The Engineer and Works Manager agreed to meet with the Chairman after the meeting to discuss this.

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12:5 Pumping Stations - Emergency Repairs

Officers reported that electrical issues had been identified with motors and generators for pumps 2, 3 and 4 at Wiseton Pumping Station; these had been caused by a leakage of grease from the top bearing on each motor onto the electrical slip ring preventing starting.

In order to retain adequate pumping capacity at the station, the repairs had been phased; work on pumps 3 and 4 was complete and work on pump 2 underway.

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12:6 Carr Dyke North Improvement Scheme, Retford

Application had been made to the Environment Agency for an environmental permit to construct a new outfall from the Board's Carr Dyke North into the River Idle. The period for determination could be up to two months but final planning and grant applications were underway to ensure everything was ready as soon as consent was granted. It was noted that because the site was a designated SSSI work must be undertaken prior to the nesting season.

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12:7 Stealgoose Drain and Branch Improvement Works

Reforming work had commenced the previous week. In response to Mr P. Bradwell, the Works Manager stated that wherever possible hedges would be left in situ but agreement had been reached with the landowner for replanting to mitigate the loss of any that had to be removed for access.

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13. ISLE OF AXHOLME FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

As reported at the last Board meeting, the three governance groups, the Executive Board, the Asset Management/Delivery Group and the Funding Strategy Group continued their cycle of regular meetings.

Recent work had concentrated on the apportionment of benefits to individual asset systems, the re-development of Keadby Pumping Station, preparations for the delivery of works in the first six years of the current Medium Term Plan for Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and discussions on potential early transfer of assets.

The Chairman, Cllr R. Alcock, Mr J. Coggon and the Chief Executive had also met with the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency, Sir J. Bevan, to discuss the challenges being encountered in delivery of the Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Strategy, particularly around Snow Sewer and Drain Head Pumping Station.

The Chief Executive reported that unfortunately, due to the recent tidal surge event, the last meeting had been cancelled but it was hoped that this would be rescheduled shortly.

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14. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

14:1 Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations

Consultation was currently underway on modification to the above Regulations. The current Regulations required the Board to assess whether proposed works were likely to have a significant effect on the environment and, if so, to produce an environmental statement. If the effect on the environment was considered insignificant, a notice to this effect must be published on site, on the website and in the local press 28 days before works start giving members of the public the opportunity to object; this time period was being extended to 30 days.

If an objection was received and could not be resolved the matter was referred to DEFRA for determination. Previously there was no time limit on this but following representations made by the Association of Drainage Authorities, a 90 day limit for determination had been set.

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14:2 Policy On Dealing With Badgers In Watercourses

The above Policy adopted by the Board in June 2013 had been revised by Officers to fully encompass the Class License. It was noted that this would not affect the Board's operations. A copy of the Policy would be presented to the Board in March.

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14:3 Humber Management Scheme/Humber Nature Partnership

The Board had been a partner in the Humber Management Scheme, now the Humber Nature Partnership since its inception but it was noted that annual fees would increase by 11% to £450. The Board's Environmental Officer had confirmed that he did not consider there was sufficient benefit in continuing as a partner, particularly taking into account the increase in fees.

RESOLVED

That the Board withdraw from the Humber Nature Partnership.

14:4 Humberhead Levels, Nature Improvement Area, Phase 2

For information, the Engineer reported that the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust had secured funds from the WREN Biodiversity Action Fund until March 2018 of up to £5,000 per landowner towards specific projects and applications were due back by the end of May.

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14:5 Keadby Warping Drain - Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership

The Engineer was pleased to report that £8,000 grant had been received for fencing of the bank adjacent to Keadby Warping Drain. Prices were being obtained for the fencing and the work would commence as soon as possible. Interest had been

expressed from several graziers in the area who were interested in renting the land. A further report would be presented in March.

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15. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

15:1 Byelaw Applications

The following Byelaw Consent had been issued under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

IOANN/LDC/2016/018 Installation of ten 100mm diameter land drainage outfalls into the Board maintained Moores Take Over Drain at national grid reference SE 81641 05248 in the parish of West Butterwick.

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15:2 Section 23 Applications

No consents had been issued since the last Board meeting.

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16. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Operations Director reported that the trial of the new incident reporting procedure was now half way through and would be reviewed at the next round of tool box talks across the Consortium. A quotation had been received to remove some low grade asbestos cement from two of the Board's pumping stations at a cost of £697 and the work would be undertaken as soon as possible.

It was noted that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) had launched a new Health and Work Strategy which outlined three priority areas, occupational stress, musculoskeletal disorders and occupational lung disease. The HSE would be engaging with employers and employees regarding the strategy and the Operations Director would track the progress on this and report any areas of concern and/or actions applicable to the Board.

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17. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES TRENT BRANCH

The Chief Executive reported that a meeting of the Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch, hosted by the Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board, would be held on Thursday, 23rd February 2017 at Grange Park Golf Club, Messingham.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs P. Bradwell, P. Cornish and K. Durdy represent the Board at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN