

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Ealand Victory Hall on Tuesday, 27th January 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

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

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

\* Cllr R. Allcock  
\* Mr N. Arrand  
\* Cllr T. Barker  
\* Cllr J. Briggs  
\* Messrs R. Chapman  
\* Cllr W. Eckhardt  
\* Mr J. Lee  
\* Cllr D. Robinson  
\* Mr J. Smith  
\* Cllr Mrs L. Redfern  
\* Cllr Mrs J. Reed

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

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

\* *Present*

Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)  
D.J. Sisson (Engineer)  
R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)  
S. Thackray (Director of Finance)  
R.A. Brown (Engineering Manager)

\* *In attendance*

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mrs J. Reed to her first meeting of the Board. Cllr Mrs Reed had been nominated by North Lincolnshire Council and was also a member of the Isle of Axholme Flood Forum.

One member of the public was in attendance; Mr Garner.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs G.R.J. Bramhill, K. Durdy, S. White, Cllrs D. Robinson, Mrs L. Redfern and Mrs J.M. Sanger.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs R. Allcock and J. Briggs - agenda item 14.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 215 to 223)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 8:2, Page 216 - Sale of Drain Head House

The Chief Executive confirmed that the sale was well underway and contracts were ready to exchange.

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5:2 Minute 8:5, Page 217 - Low Burnham Water Retention Structure

The Engineer reported that maintenance work would be undertaken over the next one to two years in partnership with North Lincolnshire Council. Officers were aware of some land drainage proposals upstream but were liaising with the landowner and confirmed that these would not affect the flood standards of the reservoir.

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6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Consortium Committee meeting held on 9th December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the recommendations be adopted by the Board.

7. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates outstanding at 13th January 2015 totalled £14,999.36; 96.42% of rates and special levies had been collected.

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8. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report which showed expenditure to date of £984,442.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's financial position be noted.
- (b) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

9. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016

Members considered the attached report.

Concern was expressed regarding the forecast of balances for the next three years but this would be taken into account by the Board when considering future capital schemes.

After a vote it was unanimously RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached estimates of net expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2015 be approved in the total sum of £1,241,936.

- (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 2015 be as follows:
  - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £420,659,
  - (ii) by special levy on North Lincolnshire Council - £599,035,
  - (iii) by special levy on Bassetlaw District Council - £88,835,
  - (iv) by special levy on East Riding of Yorkshire Council - £7,533,
  - (v) by special levy on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council - £1,331, and
  - (vi) by deduction from balances - £124,543.
- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 on North Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £599,035.
- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 on Bassetlaw District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £88,835.
- (e) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 on East Riding of Yorkshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £7,533.
- (f) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £1,331.
- (g) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (h) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 be made and sealed in the total sum of 12.99 pence in the pound.

#### 10. PROPOSED DEPOT MOVE

The Chief Executive presented the attached report for consideration.

Officers had met with Scape (a local authority owned company which acted as a central purchasing body and a contracting authority which allowed them to procure frameworks for use by any public body). The Chief Executive emphasised that should the Board wish to relocate the depot and offices, the development would be undertaken on a fixed price budget; the project would be de-risked as far as practicable. The details of the development would also be discussed and agreed by the Finance Committee prior to work taking place.

Cllr Mrs H. Brand queried whether the Environment Agency (EA) intended to remain at the Owston Ferry site and also how easy it would be to sell the Board's site at Derrythorpe. Officers replied that, although it could not be guaranteed, the EA had no plans to relocate at the moment. The Board's Derrythorpe site had been valued at £60,000 and officers could not foresee any problems with the sale. The Chairman stated that relocating the offices and depot would improve efficiencies for the Board and hopefully relations with the EA at no additional cost.

After a vote it was unanimously RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with the purchase of the site at Owston Ferry, build a new office and depot and sell the existing depot site at a total fixed cost of £279,000 (less proceeds from the sale of Drain Head House and Derrythorpe depot).

## 11. OPERATIONS REPORT

The attached report was circulated for information.

The Director of Operations reported that all tree and bushing works would be completed by the end of March, prior to the nesting season. He stated that the Direct Labour Organisation had performed very well, undertaking all maintenance works within budget.

Officers reported that tenders had been received from four manufacturers for the supply of a new excavator. These had been adjudicated and a full-life cost for the machines calculated. The driver of the machine had also been consulted on the replacement. Officers recommended that the Board purchase a Volvo excavator at a cost of £129,450, less trade-in.

Mr J. Coggon queried the recommendation as this was not the cheapest machine and did not offer the highest warranty. The Director of Operations reported that the Volvo represented the best in terms of performance and experience showed that the Volvo excavators were more reliable requiring fewer repairs, resulting in less downtime. He also stated that the servicing and backup provided by Volvo was, in his experience, superior to other manufacturers/dealers. The machine was estimated to undertake some 800 hours per year but the Director of Finance stated that, should more work be forthcoming for the EA, this machine would be used and the hours may therefore increase. Mr P. Cornish suggested that officers negotiate with Volvo to see whether they would be prepared to increase the warranty to five years. Cllr W. Eckhardt recommended that the Board purchase the Volvo based on the officers' and the operator's recommendations as the difference in the cost was minimal.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report be noted.
- (b) That the Board purchase a Volvo EC220EL excavator at a net cost of £101,950 in 2015/16.

## 12. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

*Crowle Pumped Area*

### 12:1 Paupers Drain Improvements Downstream and Upstream Channel Works

Compensation had been settled with 18 of the 22 landowners affected by the works.

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### 12:2 Paupers Bridge No. 12 (next to Common Carrs Drain Outfall)

The Board's Direct Labour Organisation would shortly be starting reconstruction of the bridge.

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12:3 Bewcarrs Pumping Station

An exemption had been issued under the Eel Regulations 2009 by the Environment Agency for pumping stations within the Crowle Catchment (Paupers, Bewcarrs, Common Carrs and Godnow) until 2020; this would permit works at the stations to proceed as planned.

Further analysis was underway to ascertain the optimum pumping capacity for Bewcarrs Pumping Station before final designs were completed; a report would be presented to the March Board meeting.

The Engineer reassured Mr R.H. Brown that mobile pumps were available should they be required at Bewcarrs Pumping Station before the work was complete.

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12:4 Paupers Pumping Station

Tenders had been invited from four contractors for the supply and installation of automatic weed clearance equipment and from five contractors for the provision and installation of a new control panel at Paupers Pumping Station.

Preparation of tenders for the refurbishment of the pumping plant and any necessary civil or structural works was underway and a report would be presented to the March meeting.

Officers reported on the three tenders received for the weed clearance equipment. The Engineer recommended acceptance of the tender submitted by Ovivio in the sum of £83,575 which, although not the cheapest, offered the most economical whole life cost and was thought to be a better quality product. Although this was in excess of the budget provision of £78,750, the Engineer stated that the additional cost could be accommodated within the approved contingency allowance.

The Engineer reported that only one tender had been received for the provision and installation of a new control panel. The tender submitted was from Inter-lec Ltd in the sum of £54,800. In response to the Chairman, the Engineer stated that he was comfortable that the Board was complying with the Financial Regulations regarding tendering and that officers had done as much as possible to seek the required tenders. It was noted that the tender offered a possible reduction of £10,000 for re-using existing power supply cables to the pumps. Officers would investigate this and take advantage of any potential savings.

Work on all the contracts was due to be completed by autumn 2015.

It was proposed by Mr R. Mason and seconded by Mr R.H. Brown that the tenders be accepted as recommended by Officers.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the contract for the supply and installation of automatic weed clearance equipment be awarded to Ovivio in the sum of £83,575 (the difference to be funded from the contingency allowance).

- (b) That the contract for the provision and installation of a new control panel be awarded to Inter-lec Ltd in the sum of £54,800 (within the budget provision of £55,000).
- (c) That Officers investigate the potential reduction of £10,000 with the panel contractor for re-use of the existing pump power cables.

12:5 Common Carrs Pumping Station

In-depth hydraulic modelling had shown the current pump capacity to be sufficient to serve the official catchment, however, in light of problems experienced previously, officers concluded that extraneous water was entering the catchment and consequently causing the issues. This was being investigated and plans would be drawn up to address the issues.

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12:6 Godnow Pumping Station and North Soke Dyke (Environment Agency) Bank Raising

Application had been made to the Environment Agency for byelaw approval to raise the bank on the North Soke Dyke and to install an access track to the Board's Pumping Station.

The work would involve raising low parts of the North Soke Dyke bank between Godnow Road bridge westwards to the railway bridge, approximately 370m in length, raising by up to 300mm giving a minimum design crest level of +2.2m ODN. This work would protect the Godnow Road (Crowle) area from water overtopping the North Soke Dyke banks. The new track at the landward toe of the North Soke Dyke bank from Godnow Road bridge to Godnow Pumping Station (approximately 480 metres in length) would allow vehicular access to the Board's pumping station which was not possible at present.

Landowners affected by the bank raising and the proposed access track were being consulted to ascertain their views and their willingness to sell the land required for the track.

Provision had been made in the budget but detailed costs would be presented once tenders had been received and negotiations with landowners were concluded.

RESOLVED

That tenders be sought for the raising of the banks of the North Soke Dyke and that negotiations commence with landowners regarding the purchase of land for the access track; costs to be reported to the Board for approval once available.

12:7 Warpland Drain and Sewer Drain Improvements

The Board's Direct Labour Organisation was due to commence channel improvement works shortly; this work would be undertaken in conjunction with the reconstruction works on Bridge No. 12.

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Other Projects

12:8 Telemetry System

Controlstar had confirmed their plans to completing all outstanding issues by 16th January 2015 for formal handover to the Board. Potential CCTV improvements requested by the Operations Department were being evaluated in terms of costs and benefits and a report would be submitted to a future Board meeting for consideration.

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12:9 Pumping Station Emergency Repair Budget

One of the pumps at Southfield Pumping Station had developed a fault requiring further investigation. Officers expected repairs to be approximately £5,000 and this would be funded from the Emergency Pumping Plant Repairs budget.

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12:10 Kelfield and Blackdyke Pumped Catchments Study

Local levy funding of £30,000 had been reserved for 2015/16 for the design and preparation of a scheme to refurbish Kelfield Pumping Station and to sustain and, if appropriate, combine the Kelfield and Black Dyke catchments (see FDGiA/MTP report below).

Study works had re-commenced on modelling of the catchment system utilising the previously approved budget brought forward from previous years. It had, however, been difficult to ascertain the true capacity of the existing electric and diesel pumps and consequently non-intrusive flow measurement of each pump output was being arranged to enable all improvement and refurbishment options to be considered fully.

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12:11 Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) – Medium Term Plan

The draft indicative medium term plan covering the next six years had been published with the final plan due to be confirmed by the Environment Agency's Board shortly.

The current understanding of the timing and funding of the Board's FDGiA schemes was as follows:

IOA Schemes	Total cost £k	IDB £k contrib	IDB % contrib	Apportionment of costs £k FDGiA (LL) / IDB							
				13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Crowle Pumped Catchments	1611	903	56%	62 / 133	124 / 645	522/125					
Kelfield Pumped Catchments	446	346	78%			30(LL)/0	70/346				
South Street PS Refurb.	399	255	64%				11/14	133/241			
Greenholme PS Refurb.	387	287	66%							-/30	100/257
Heckdyke, Three Bridges, Four Bridges	250	185	74%							65/185	

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13. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The attached report was circulated for information.

Concern was expressed regarding the increased capacity that would be required within the channel should eel screens be erected at the Board's pumping stations as these would restrict the flow. It was hoped that a solution to this problem could be found as it was not cost effective or practical at the moment to erect the screens. The Chief Executive suggested that this matter should be taken up by the Association of Drainage Authorities with the Government before any large sums of money were spent. The Chairman agreed, stating that the installation of eel screens would in effect stop pumping.

The Engineer stressed that there were other ways in which eels could be accommodated and these would be put in place at newly built pumping stations e.g. fish friendly pumps and eel passes. It was noted that a recent survey had established that eels were present in the Paupers Drain but not elsewhere in the catchment.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report be noted.
- (b) That the attached Policy on Protecting Birds' Nests During the Annual Cutting Programme be approved and adopted by the Board.

14. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

14:1 Byelaw Applications

No byelaw applications had been dealt with since the last Board meeting.

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14:2 Section 23 Applications

There had been no applications for consent under Section 23 since the last Board meeting.

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14:3 Planning Applications

Officers had commented on four planning applications since the last Board meeting; no objections had been raised.

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15. RIVER TRENT CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ISLE OF AXHOLME STRATEGY

The Chief Executive reported at the recent Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch meeting the Environment Agency had been requested to prepare a plan to take forward the various Strategies. He stated that a lot of information had been collated and various Strategies prepared but there was still no plan to take these forward.

It was noted that the Humber Strategy was being re-written now that the results of the modelling of the last tidal surge were available. Members continued to stress that there must be a joined up approach to the Strategies and the means of funding continued to be discussed. Mr J. Coggon stated that local levy funding was invaluable to the Board, particularly because of the difficulties getting grant in aid in rural areas. Negotiations continued regarding the possibility of funding from the whole catchment rather than just the IDB area.

Mr R. Chapman stated that as Lead Local Flood Authority, North Lincolnshire Council had an obligation to publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy under the Flood and Water Management Act. A DRAFT document had been prepared in 2009 identifying a number of areas of potential flooding and the Council had worked closely with the Board to deliver schemes to alleviate these problems. Mr Chapman reported that the Council was now looking at refreshing this document, reviewing areas that were at risk from surface water flooding and would take into account other strategies that had been prepared since. The document would be circulated to partners for consultation prior to being signed off by the Council. He hoped that the document would be available in the Autumn and would give a presentation on this at the Board meeting.

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#### 16. HEALTH AND SAFETY

As part of the Boards' risk management system, all accidents, incidents and near misses continued to be reviewed across the Consortium to establish the root cause and, wherever possible, measures were introduced to prevent reoccurrence.

The Director of Operations reported on incidents across the Consortium over the last four months stating that, fortunately, no major injuries had been sustained. Adverse event and investigations forms had been completed and where necessary control measures had been implemented.

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#### 17. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA) TRENT BRANCH

The Engineer reported that a meeting of the ADA Trent Branch would be held on 24th February 2015 at Doncaster Knights Rugby Football Club. It was noted that the Chairman would be attending in his capacity as Chairman of the Branch and Mr R. Chapman would be representing North Lincolnshire Council.

RESOLVED

That the Vice-Chairman, Messrs P. Bradwell, J. Coggon, R. Mason, Cllrs R. Allcock, N. Arrand and Mrs J. Reed attend the ADA Trent Branch meeting.

CHAIRMAN