

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 26th January 2016 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

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

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

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)
* C.J. Manning (Environmental Officer)

* *In attendance*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. Barker, R. Chapman, J. Coggon, G. Wilson, Cllrs R. Allcock, D. Robinson and D. Rose.

It was noted that Cllr R. Allcock and Mr J. Coggon were attending a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting in Coventry to try and secure funding for the Isle of Axholme Strategy.

Regarding the estimates, Mr Allcock had asked the Chairman to make it clear that he believed the Board must strengthen its position for the future to be able to take on more main river maintenance to strengthen the drainage in the area.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Staffing matters, the Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch meeting and the purchase of a new tree grip attachment would be discussed under any other business.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 270 to 279)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 24th November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 10, Page 272 - Plant and Compensation Committee Minutes

In response to Mr G.R.J. Bramhill, the Chief Executive confirmed that the buy-back price on the Energreen would be available for consideration at the March Board meeting.

RECEIVED

5:2 Minute 13, Page 273 - Other Dates

It was reported that the date of the Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch annual general meeting had changed to 15th June 2016.

RECEIVED

6. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates outstanding at 13th January 2016 totalled £8,616.13; special levies had been paid in full. It was noted that £283 of the £1,500.29 outstanding from last year had been collected.

RECEIVED

7. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented a report which showed expenditure at 30th November 2015 of £136,425; £1,365 favourable to budget. The forecast for the year end was a deficit of £705,451 which included £577k of accruals in respect of capital works, was expected to be £34,501 favourable to budget.

Balances at 11th January 2016 totalled £1,566,579 but these now included the £350,000 loan received for the Crowle Scheme. Borrowing totalled £464,052.90.

The attached schedule of payments over £500 was circulated.

RESOLVED

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

8. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2016 TO 31ST MARCH 2017

The Director of Finance presented the attached report for consideration.

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.

Cllr J. Briggs stated that we had been fortunate in this area not to have suffered flooding but that the Board's future position and responsibilities must be considered to ensure our communities were protected. Members agreed that it was important to improve public

relations to ensure that the local community was aware of the works being undertaken by the Board.

Cllr Mrs H. Brand enquired whether the Board had a contingency plan for dealing with power shortages should they occur in the future. The Engineer confirmed that the Consortium owned several mobile pumps but there could be an issue should there be a power outage across the whole area as at a cost of £100,000 for a 12" pump it was not feasible to have a sufficient number to cover every pumping station. He expected that should power cuts become likely in the future the power companies would phase these over different areas.

The Vice-Chairman expressed concern about additional costs for non-specified items in the plant tender documents and stated that tenders must be properly prepared to ensure they included all items required so that a proper comparison could be undertaken. The Chief Executive would ensure that these were correctly prepared in the future and would also arrange for a review of all plant and equipment to be undertaken.

Mr P. Cornish stated that the Board must continually review cost savings, better ways of working and increasing productivity to strengthen its position in the future. The five-year plan had been prepared on an 'as is' basis and any savings would improve the Board's future position.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Briggs and seconded by Cllr Mrs J. Reed that the rate be increased by 2% for 2016/17.

RESOLVED unanimously

- (a) That the attached estimates of net expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2016 be approved in the total sum of £1,157,807.
- (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 2016 be as follows:
 - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £429,079,
 - (ii) by special levy on North Lincolnshire Council - £611,025,
 - (iii) by special levy on Bassetlaw District Council - £90,613,
 - (iv) by special levy on East Riding of Yorkshire Council - £7,683,
 - (v) by special levy on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council - £1,358, and
 - (vi) by deduction from balances - £18,048.
- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2016 on North Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £611,025.
- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2016 on Bassetlaw District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £90,613.
- (e) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2016 on East Riding of Yorkshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £7,683.

- (f) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2016 on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £1,358.
- (g) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (h) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2016 be made and sealed in the total sum of 13.25 pence in the pound.

9. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Engineering Manager presented the attached report for information.

The Vice-chairman queried why the weedcutting in the Idle and Ryton area had been undertaken so late in the year and whether it would be undertaken earlier next year. The Engineering Manager stated that the work very much depended on what crops were planted and although the Board had powers of entry they tried to work with farmers wherever possible to avoid damaging crops and paying compensation. It was agreed that there was a balance to be struck and Officers would review this before next year's cutting season.

Mr P. Bradwell reported that badgers had caused damage to the banks of the Fockerby Boundary Drain and also at Adlingfleet. The Engineering Manager was aware and would continue to monitor to ensure there was no restriction to the flows.

In response to the Chairman, the Environmental Officer reported that the low water levels in Slayers Lane Drain was due to quarrying which would be finished this month; the quarry owners were liaising with the Board's officers.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report be noted.
- (b) That a review of summer weedcutting works be undertaken in the Spring taking into account the timing of work in the various areas and the cost of compensation.

10. RELINQUISHMENT OF A SECTION OF THE BOARD MAINTAINED CAPSTICK DRAIN

Application had been made for the Board to relinquish approximately 150 metres of the upstream section of Capstick Drain (IOA244600) in the parish of Crowle and Ealand. This section of watercourse served only one landowner.

The Engineer reported that the applicant planned to cut a new open watercourse along the railway to take the water from his field and he confirmed that the proposal would not have a detrimental effect on others as the Board would continue to maintain the section downstream which served the adjacent landowners.

RESOLVED

That the Board relinquish control of 150 metres of the upstream section of Capstick Drain from national grid reference SE 77349 15162 to 77281 15048 in the parish of Crowle and Ealand.

11. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

11:1 Bewcarrs Pumping Station Upgrade (620614)

Tenders for the civil engineering were due back on 4th March 2016. To avoid a delay in awarding the contract Officers asked the Board to consider granting delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to award the contract within the approved budget of £149,500.

Officers confirmed that security for the station would include a 3m high palisade fence with rotating top and the installation of an alarm and CCTV. Discussions would also be held with the owners of the wind turbine site regarding the possibility of additional shared security.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be granted delegated authority to approve the most suitable cost-effective tender within the approved budget of £149,500.

11:2 Greenholme Pumping Station Refurbishment Scheme (620502)

At the September Board meeting, it was resolved to bring forward this scheme estimated to cost £387,000 if grant aid was available (the scheme was originally programmed for 2020/2021 in the six year FDGiA programme).

The Engineer reported that following requests to the Environment Agency (EA) for the use of Local Levy funds this year, an application had been made in December for £80,650 towards a total scheme cost of £312,119 including contingency. The EA had indicated that they would prefer this scheme to remain as a FDGiA funded scheme and stated that there were sufficient savings this year to fund the scheme if a Project Appraisal Report (PAR) was submitted and approved; this was currently being prepared by the Board's Officers.

An order had already been placed with Ovivo Limited for the provision of an automatic weedscreen cleaner as approved at the last meeting.

RECEIVED

11:3 Strategy 2025 Pumping Station Refurbishments (628410)

Officers reported that the first of the two submersible pumps at Gringley Pumping Station had been refurbished by Shoebridge Engineering Ltd and reinstalled in December 2015.

Due to the current saturated state of the catchment, refurbishment of the second pump had been put on hold until the end of winter. It was noted that this delay would incur additional costs for crantage and that the cost of the work may increase in line with inflation. These additional costs were estimated to be in the region of £1,100 but the project would remain comfortably within the approved budget.

RECEIVED

11:4 Stealgoose Drain Reforming (622402)

The Engineer reported that the Stealgoose Drain had been modelled as part of the Folly Drain Catchment Study (622401) to determine works required to provide the Board's minimum standard of protection of 1 in 10 years to agricultural land and 1 in 75 years to the village of Belton and surrounding land and included allowances for potential climate change impacts. It was noted that this area had suffered flooding in 2007. Photographs of the area were circulated and it was noted that there was considerable work to be undertaken on the Woodhouse Drain to improve access for maintenance purposes.

The attached Executive Summary was circulated for information.

The study had revealed that the following works were required:

- (a) Widening of the watercourse from its outfall into the Folly Drain to the M180 culvert.
- (b) Replacement of six culverts with larger diameter culverts.
- (c) Adoption and refurbishment of the currently private maintained watercourse from the Stealgoose Drain to the hamlet of Woodhouses.
- (d) Implementation of enhanced weed control on:
 - Stealgoose Drain -Belton village downstream for 700m.
 - Stealgoose Drain - Junction with Woodhouses Branch to the M180 culvert.
 - Woodhouses Branch Drain.

The estimated cost of the above work was £104,500, £56,382 of which was available in the current year's budget (620522 and 622402) and a further £48,118 which had been included in the 2016/17 estimates.

RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with the work detailed above to be phased over two years 2015/16 and 2016/17.

11:5 Gringley Pumping Station - Structural Defects

As reported at the last meeting, issues relating to structural defects at Gringley Pumping Station were being further investigated. The Engineer reported that three viable options had been identified and were being developed as detailed below; a fourth option to underpin the old building had already been eliminated on cost grounds.

Option 1 - Demolish the larger section of the building, build a new outer leaf wall and door in the remaining opening of the smaller section of the building and undertake appropriate repairs.

Option 2 - Demolish the entire building and erect a kiosk building over the panel and remaining apparatus as appropriate.

Option 3 - Demolish the entire building and relocate the panel into the existing new hall building.

A budget provision of £25,000 had been included in the estimates for 2016/2017 to carry out the necessary works.

RECEIVED

11:6 Carr Dyke Improvement Scheme, Retford

The Engineer reported that investigations into ways to alleviate the impacts and risk of flooding of land and property draining to the Carr Dyke in Retford continued. Surveys were complete and proposals were now being drawn up by the Engineering Manager in conjunction with officers from Bassetlaw District Council.

The investigations had identified two main surface water sewers maintained by Severn Trent Water and serving a substantial residential and industrial area, which outfall into the watercourse. A Partnership had been formed to promote and fund the project and this included Severn Trent Water, Bassetlaw District Council, Hallcroft Industrial Estate owners and the Board. It was hoped that the work may be eligible for local levy funding and the Board's officers would shortly be submitting an application to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee on behalf of the Partnership.

A provision of £50,000 in respect of the Board's potential contributions was included in the 2015/16 and 2016/2017 estimates.

Full details of the proposed scheme would be submitted to the Board for approval later in the year.

RECEIVED

12. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

12:1 Impact of IDB maintenance operations on Agri-Environment Schemes

The Engineer reported that the Agriculture (Cross compliance) Regulations 2009 (as amended) exempt a landowner from deductions in Basic Payment Scheme payments when failure was due to the actions of a Statutory Undertaker such as an IDB. This exemption was known to safeguard agreement holders' payments when failure of Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions was due to IDB activities. Clarification was being sought from the Rural Payments Agency on whether this also applied to Ecological Focus Areas.

Natural England had confirmed that the clause in Countryside Stewardship buffer strip options "*Do not use the buffer strip as an access route for vehicles or stock*" related to access associated with farming activity and that this did not prevent using the buffer strip for occasional necessary flood risk management works.

Natural England had further advised that for IDB desilting and reforming works, agreement holders should request a "*Minor and temporary adjustment to Agreement management*" for the duration of the works.

The Engineer confirmed that the Association of Drainage Authorities was preparing guidance and this would be put on the Board's website to assist landowners.

RECEIVED

12:2 Keadby Warping Drain - Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership

An application had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and a decision was expected in April 2016.

RECEIVED

Cllr J. Briggs left the meeting.

12:3 River Idle Management Partnership

The Environmental Officer gave the attached presentation which had been given to the Environment Agency/IDB Liaison Group in November 2015.

It was noted that Mr S. Tupper had been appointed by the Environment Agency to lead the project.

The Engineer stated that there was no clear gradient on the river, e.g. there were high points and places where the river had been deepened which were restricting the flow. This was causing just as much of a problem as the amount of silt. There was also excessive weedgrowth and trees and bushes which required proper maintenance.

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Partnership was working well, with a good relationship between the authorities concerned, and that it was now in a position to move forward again.

RECEIVED

13. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

13:1 Byelaw Applications

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

IOANN/LDC/2015/003 Removal of existing bridge and construction of a 6m long x 1200mm diameter access culvert on the Board maintained Black Drain (IOA520700) at national grid reference SE 81640 03028 in the parish of Owston Ferry.

RECEIVED

13:2 Section 23 Applications

The following Section 23 Consents had been issued under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

IOANN/LDC/2015/004 Eradication of private watercourse between national grid references SE 81896 03348 and SE 81951 03589 in the parish of Owston Ferry.

IOANN/LDC/2015/005 Eradication of private watercourse between national grid references SE 82020 03361 and SE 82036 03602 in the parish of Owston Ferry.

RECEIVED

13:3 Planning Applications

Observations had been made on two planning applications since the last Board meeting.

RECEIVED

14. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive reported on nine incidents across the Consortium since the last Board meeting; fortunately no major injuries were sustained. Details on the fractured pipe including costs would be presented to the Board once the investigation was complete.

The Chief Executive emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents and near misses.

RECEIVED

15. STAFFING

The Chief Executive reported on five vacancies across the Consortium (two in the Isle and three at Lindsey Marsh) which would be advertised over the next few months.

RESOLVED

16. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES TRENT BRANCH

The Chief Executive reported that the next meeting of the Branch would be held on 11th February 2016 at the Old Willow Works, Beckingham, commencing at 9.30 a.m.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, N. Arrand, P. Bradwell, K. Durdy, R. Mason, M. Wagstaff represent the Board at the meeting.

17. PURCHASE OF TREE GRIP CUTTER

The Board currently owned one Habbig tree grip cutter and the Engineering Manager stated that this was not sufficient to get through all the work. He had compared the cost of hiring (£400 per week) against the cost of purchasing a refurbished machine (£1,500). As the machine would be used for four weeks per year he asked the Board to consider purchasing a refurbished unit which had been identified for sale locally; this was a branded piece of ex-forestry equipment that had been fully refurbished.

RESOLVED

That the Engineering Manager view the refurbished unit and confirm that it was fit-for-purpose and safe and report to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman who had delegated authority to approve the purchase up to a cost of £1,500.

CHAIRMAN