

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 24th June 2014 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  
\* Cllrs T. Barker  
\* J. Briggs  
\* Messrs R. Chapman  
\* N. Culpin  
\* Cllr W. Eckhardt  
\* Mr J. Lee  
\* Cllr D. Robinson  
\* Mr J. Smith  
\* Cllr Mrs L. Redfern

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*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs N. Arrand, A. Barker, P. Cornish, M. Wagstaff, and Cllr W. Eckhardt.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R. Allcock - agenda items 9 and 13.  
Cllr Mrs L. Redfern - agenda items 10, 11 and 13.  
Cllr D. Robinson - agenda items 10, 11 and 13.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr P. Bradwell - Keadby wind farm (to be discussed under agenda item 8).

4. BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED

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

*Mr R. Mason arrived.*

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 19:1, Page 190 - Appointment of Engineering Manager

The Chairman introduced the new Engineering Manager, Mr R.A. Brown and welcomed him to the meeting. Mr Brown would be working for the three Consortium Boards but would be based at the Epworth office and would undertake the duties of Works Supervisor for the Isle of Axholme as well as planning and byelaw investigations.

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5:2 Minute 20, Page 191 - Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Trent Branch

Those members that attended reported that this had been a very useful meeting with good discussion and presentations particularly from the National Farmers' Union and also from the Environment Agency on the reorganisation. The Chairman stated that next year's meeting would be in the Newark area and may include a short tour.

The Engineer understood that attendance at the event had been restricted due to finance and the Branch was keen to ensure that this did not put people off attending and would take this into account next year.

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6. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates and special levies outstanding at 29th May 2014 totalled £755,846.80; this included £5,433.40 brought forward from 2013/14 (it was noted that a further £73,000 had been collected since that date).

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7. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report for consideration. Members considered and agreed the Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's cash balances and borrowings be noted.
- (b) That the attached Final Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 be approved.
- (c) That the attached Internal Auditor's report be noted and the Action Plan be implemented.
- (d) That the attached Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (e) That the attached payment schedule detailing payments over £500 made since the last meeting be approved.
- (f) That Mr D. Gowing be appointed to conduct the internal audit during 2014/15.

8. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations reported the following:

8:1 Pumping Stations

All pumping stations were operating satisfactorily. Regular monitoring of Whitgift Sluice and Adlingfleet Outfall continued and both were operating efficiently.

Bewcarrs Pumping Station had been broken into recently and the engine stolen. The police had been informed and an insurance claim submitted. For the short term, emergency pumping equipment was available and various options were being considered for the long term as part of the redevelopment of the pumping station; this would include the construction of a secure compound around the station.

8:2 Winter Maintenance Works

Works on Railway Drain at Althorpe and Fockerby Drain had been completed within budget. Health and safety access improvements on Mother Drain weir and works at Parklands, West Butterwick were nearing completion and would be within the budget provision.

Improvement works on the upstream section of Paupers Drain continued and were expected to be completed by mid July despite delays caused by the weather.

Bad ground conditions had resulted in work on Meadows Lane West Drain being postponed until Winter 2014.

8:3 Summer Maintenance Works

The summer maintenance programme was due to commence mid-July, however, some work had already been undertaken to remove excessive weedgrowth from the centre of the channel in some watercourses that protected urban areas.

8:4 Plant and Equipment

The new flail head had been fitted to the Energreen ready for the summer maintenance.

8:5 Staffing

A new employee had been appointed following the recent resignation of a member of the Board's Direct Labour Organisation. The new employee was very experienced, having worked for a land drainage contractor in the past, and had the necessary training to start work straight away.

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9. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

9:1 Crowle Pumped Area

9:1:1 Paupers Drain Improvements (pumping station to A161 road bridge - downstream works)

This work was approximately 60% complete.

Officers expected that the works would be over budget by an estimated £60,200. The additional expenditure included works in excess of £41,000 which had arisen following

damage caused by the tidal surge in December 2013; this element of the works should be 100% recoverable by Flood Defence Grant in Aid tidal surge recovery funds.

Assuming that the tidal surge costs were recovered, the current net variance of £19,200 would be funded from the contingency of £32,500 apportioned to this part of the overall Crowle scheme.

Other issues which may impact on final costs were reported as follows:

- Clay sub-soils in spoil to be spread (reported to the last Board meeting)
- Potential impact of rising land values
- Extent of any significant slips that may/will require stabilisation

Some allowance had been made in the above variance for these issues.

The benefits of lower water levels in the system had already been noticed. Some piling works were expected and regular inspections were being undertaken to monitor any slippage of the banks.

It was agreed to prepare a press release for the local newspaper and possibly a site visit for members and other interested parties at a later date.

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9:1:2 Paupers Drain Improvements (A161 road bridge to Wrays urban inlet - upstream works)

This works was approximately 70% complete.

Officers expected an over expenditure on the works estimated at £51,100. This included the replacement of the bridge at the junction with Common Carrs Drain for which a virement of £24,000 had already been approved by the Board from the unused budget from the Eastoft Bridge replacement. A further £2,500 had been transferred from the access improvement budget for an access culvert requested by the Board's Operations Department.

A contingency of £14,000 had been allowed for this part of the overall Crowle scheme which would leave a shortfall of £9,600.

RESOLVED

That the estimated additional expenditure on the Paupers Drain Improvements be noted.

9:1:3 Bewcarrs Pumping Station

Consultation was being undertaken with pump manufacturers to optimise a design prior to inviting tenders.

The Engineer reported on the refurbishment of Warming Drain Outfall sluice and the modification of the sluice for eel passage. The Environment Agency had previously identified the sluice for closure but had been informed that it was still required by the Board. Works estimated to cost £150,000 had been identified by the Environment Agency as being required on the sluice for which there was no budget provision.

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9:1:4 Keadby Warping Drain

Channel works were completed and a saving of £5,000 on this element of the works was expected.

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9:1:5 Godnow Pumping Station

Quotations were awaited for the catchment splitter wall and chamber raising works at the station and work was expected to commence by the end of July.

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9:1:6 Common Carrs Pumping Station

Following mechanical and electrical investigations into the pumping plant configuration, a need for further catchment modelling had been identified and would commence in July.

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9:2 Haxey – Flooding

Flooding of garden areas from a private ditch behind the houses on the east side of Haxey Lane had recently been reported to the Board via North Lincolnshire Council and the local Member of Parliament.

An improved outfall had previously been proposed for the ditch as part of the Haxey Village Improvement Scheme but this had not been installed as it relied on the provision of an improved outfall under the road which, due to conflicts with other services, could not be provided by traditional cut and fill methods.

Recent investigations confirmed that five gardens on the east side of Haxey Lane had flooded but there had fortunately been no flooding of properties. Residents were, however, concerned that flooding of their properties could occur in more extreme events.

Officers had reviewed previous proposals and further investigations were ongoing with North Lincolnshire Council. Options being investigated included improvements to existing Board maintained and private watercourses and the installation of approximately 220 metres of new culvert and 60 metres of new channel or culvert. Should the scheme be approved, Officers recommended that the new system be adopted by the Board. Mr R. Chapman reported that although North Lincolnshire Council had no funds available at present for the scheme, ways of funding would be sought once the investigations were complete and the final scheme agreed.

It was expected that the work would cost in the region of £68,000; this included £30,000 for directional drilling of a 450mm diameter pipe under Haxey Lane to avoid services.

It was noted that there was £48,000 remaining in the Haxey Improvement Scheme budget which had originally been allocated for works at the High Street telephone exchange to provide an improved outfall for drainage systems north of the site.

RESOLVED

That the above be noted and a further report be presented for consideration once investigations were complete.

9:3 Telemetry System

Installation works were on schedule and on budget. Installation at the final three sites were underway and expected to be completed by September. Calibration, monitoring, testing and training would take place over the next three months and the system would be fully operational by January 2015.

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10. PROPOSED DEPOT MOVE

The Chief Executive reported that visits had been made to six potential sites within the Board's area and the following three had been identified as possibilities for a new depot and offices:

- (a) Owston Ferry (Environment Agency site) - £15,000.
- (b) North Carr Farm site at Graizelound - £75,000.
- (c) Yealand Flats near Epworth (1.5 acres) - £15,000.

Option (b) had since been ruled out on the grounds of cost and access issues. Detailed costs for making sites (a) and (c) viable to conduct the Board's operations were still being calculated, e.g. a greenfield site would add in the region of £25,000/£30,000 to the cost.

A full report would be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

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11. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

11:1 River Idle Management Partnership - de-silting

The Board undertook to evaluate the work and likely costs required to de-silt the River Idle and the attached paper had been produced to provide background and evidence to support applications for the next stage of the pilot. The Chairman of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee had approached the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for funds towards a new survey and the preparation of tender documents.

Should funds be forthcoming, the Board had been asked to consider providing office space at the Epworth office for a Project Manager to be employed by the Partnership.

The Engineer confirmed that there was room in the Epworth offices to accommodate the Project Manager and there would be no cost to the Board.

The Chairman stated that this initiative could be rolled out for other main rivers but the critical issue of funding still needed to be addressed.

RESOLVED

That, should funding be received for the project, the Board provide office space at Epworth for use by the Project Manager.

11:2 Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership - Position Statements

The Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership had developed visions for priority work streams and was in the process of agreeing negotiation positions. The Board's endorsement had been requested for two of these:

The vision for the "Farming with Nature" work stream was "thriving nature in a productive farmed landscape".

The vision for the "Planning with Nature" work stream was "Planning processes across Greater Lincolnshire make the most of opportunities for nature".

RESOLVED

That the Board endorse the Position Statements above.

11:3 River Idle Management Partnership - Action Plan

The Engineer reported that the Action Plan had now been published and was available at [www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/images/uploads/Draft\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/images/uploads/Draft_Action_Plan.pdf)

The Action Plan had been developed with stakeholder input and included sections on farming, nature, community, industrial and urban, and water management. It was noted that the Action Plan was very much a working document, within which environmental enhancement projects would be developed.

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11:4 Water Voles - Class Licensing

The original guidance on IDB's operational activity prepared by the Association of Drainage Authorities and Natural England was being updated and a class licence would be prepared by Natural England to enable IDBs' long standing and environmentally sympathetic practises to continue. Some minor adjustments to the Board's current mitigation operations would be necessary to ensure compliance with regulations, e.g. mitigation mowing for channel reforming and improvement works would now commence earlier (between 15th February and 14th April each year) and, as at present, a short sward would be maintained until works commenced.

RESOLVED

That the change in working practises be noted.

11:5 Board's Plan for Implementing the Eel Regulations 2009

National agreement had now been received on the documentation and survey system required to assess each pumping station and the Engineer confirmed that a study of each of the Board's pumping stations would now commence. Funding for the studies had been received and an application for Flood Defence Grant in Aid would be made for any necessary works which would be undertaken as part of the scheduled refurbishment of the stations.

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11:6 Epworth Turbary and Haxey Turbary SSSI Water Level Management Plans (WLMP)

The Epworth Turbary WLMP had been prepared and was awaiting the approval of the stakeholders. An allocation of 100% FDGiA funding for works in 2017/18 had been included in the Board's Medium Term Plan.

The designation of Haxey Turbary had recently been reviewed and it was likely to be reclassified as woodland in place of the current relict bog classification. Unless the Board intended to change the water management in the adjacent catchments, a WLMP would no longer be required.

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11:7 Mother Drain SSSI Management Plan

Mother Drain had been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for the habitat of "standing open water and canals", notable for dragonflies, damselflies and water beetles and the Board was required to seek consent from Natural England's for works on this watercourse. The Engineer confirmed that consent had now been received for the following works to be carried out as detailed in the Management Plan for the next five years.

- (a) Water level to be maintained at current levels, via the sluice installed in 2011.
- (b) No work to take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September annually.
- (c) No more than 50% of the in channel aquatic plants to be cut each year (October to November) when required, to ensure a meandering length.

The consent would allow current working practises to continue, however, additional work or work outside these periods would require individual consent.

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12. RISK REGISTER

The Risk Register was presented and considered by the Board.

RESOLVED

That the attached Risk Register be approved.

13. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

13:1 Byelaw Applications

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

IANNB008-2014 Removal of existing access, construction of new access and erection of fencing within nine metres of the Board maintained drain number IOA801300 off Smeath Lane at national grid reference SK 71512 83524 in the parish of Hayton.

IANNB009-2014 Construction of one inlet pipe and one outlet pipe on the left bank of the Board maintained Dawson Dyke at national grid references SK 70735 87538 and SK 70746 87575 in the parish of Lound.

IANNB010-2014 Construction of open fronted cattle shed and manure storage base within nine metres but no closer than six metres of the Board maintained Constable Drain and the installation of a surface water outfall at national grid reference SE 80064 15571 in the parish of Eastoft.

IANNB011-2014 Construction of a replacement 225mm diameter surface water outfall on the left bank of the Board maintained Carr Dyke Drain at national grid reference SK 70522 81842 in the parish of Retford.

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13:2 Section 23 Applications

The Engineer reported that consent had been issued under delegated authority for the eradication of approximately 1,200 linear metres of private watercourse at national grid references SE 78051 14724, SE 78276 15089, SE 78378 14854 and SE 78440 14658 in the parishes of Crowle and Ealand.

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13:3 Planning Applications

Officers had been consulted on 11 planning applications since the last Board meeting and appropriate observations had been made.

Objection had been raised to planning application number PA/2013/1205 for the formation of wildlife ponds and associated landscaped boundary embankments together with construction of machinery/tractor store as the proposed embankment would be situated within nine metres of the Board maintained Railway Drain. Following discussions with the applicant the application had been amended to leave a nine metre wide access strip alongside the watercourse and the Board's objection had been withdrawn.

Mr R. Mason raised a query regarding the erection of a cattle shed within nine metres of a Board maintained watercourses. The Engineer agreed to investigate and report back.

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

There was nothing further to report since the last meeting.

15. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive was pleased to report that there were no issues to report.

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16. COMMUNICATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Chief Executive reported that the Lincolnshire Branch of the Association of Drainage Authorities attendance at the Lincolnshire Show had been worthwhile with some 3,000 visitors to the stand over the two days. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs, the Right Hon. Owen Patterson, had visited on the Wednesday and met with the Board's Chief Executive, Mr N. Osborne (Chairman of the Branch), Mr D. Hickman (Lincolnshire County Council) and Mr I. Russell (Environment Agency). They had explained how the excellent partnership arrangement in place in Lincolnshire had enabled many schemes to be undertaken and emphasised the importance of maintaining the existing systems and ensuring that funding was available to do so.

Project summaries detailing work planned by the Board for the next financial year were circulated for information and future use by Board members.

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CHAIRMAN