

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 29th March 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)

* *In attendance*

The Chairman welcomed Mr M.T. Smith to his first Board meeting and also Mr P. Marsden (Vice-Chairman of Misterton Parish Council).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs P. Cornish, J. Lee, R. Mason, Cllrs D. Robinson and G. Wilson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to discuss two items: employee pensions, and the flap valve at Adlingfleet.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 280 to 288)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 26th January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 5:1, Page 281 - The Chief Executive reported that the trade-in value of the Energreen was more than the guaranteed buy back and further that there was no requirement to replace the machine at the moment as it had completed relatively few hours.

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6. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates outstanding at 16th March 2016 totalled £2,598.27; special levies had been paid in full.

A schedule of write-offs was presented in respect of five amounts totalling £62.06.

RESOLVED

That the rate collection be noted and a total of £62.06 be written off for the current year.

7. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report.

RESOLVED

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

8. PROPOSED NEW OFFICE AND DEPOT

The Chief Executive reported a price had been obtained from consultants to manage the whole project but this had come in £70,000 over budget (including a £15,000 contingency). Three independent quotations were therefore being sought to ensure best value for money and these would be reported to the Finance Committee for consideration.

9. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Engineering Manager presented the following report:

9:1 Pumping Stations

Cow Lane pumping station - pump number 1 had been repaired following issues with the impellor, motor and cables and would be reinstalled at the end of the week.

Kellfield Pumping Station - during the spring high tides it was noted that whilst the electric pump was in operation there was damage to the pipe within the flood bank. The station was due for refurbishment in 2016/17 but in the meantime the pump would be limited to operating during low tide periods until the necessary repairs could be undertaken.

Due to the prolonged rainfall on the 9th March the diesel engine at Kellfield had been run for two days.

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9:2 Winter Maintenance Works

Tree and Bushing Work was progressing well in the Idle and Ryton area where there was significant tree and hedge growth. The installation of additional culverts and gates had also been undertaken in this area to improve the Board's access.

Work had commenced on the Carr Ings Drain at Everton with initial clearance works and the identification of major slips.

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9:3 Plant and Equipment

Following the decision at the last Board meeting, Intermercato tree shears had been purchased and were already in use on the tree and bushing works.

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10. Compensation Payments

The Board's Policy allowed for the payment of compensation for permanent loss of use of land and crop loss should it be necessary to travel through standing crops. Officers continued to negotiate with landowners prior to works in order to minimise disruption but the policy allowed flexibility should this not be possible.

The Vice-Chairman emphasised that the operations department had the authority of the Board to go through standing crops where it was deemed necessary in the interest of efficiency. The Engineer stated that the works programme was due to be planned shortly and this would be taken into account.

The compensation rates had been updated in line with the Board's Policy and were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of compensation rates be approved.

11. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

11:1 Bewcarrs Pumping Station Upgrade

The Engineer reported on four of the five tenders invited for the civils work; the fifth had declined to tender. A full tender adjudication had been undertaken and as officers were satisfied that these met the Board's requirements, the tender submitted by Westmoreland Civil Engineering in the sum of £141,691 (budget £192,583) had been accepted by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman under delegated authority.

The approved budget for the rebuild of Bewcarrs Pumping Station was £657,241 including a contingency of £77,509.00. Officers gave an update on expenditure to date and a predicted outturn cost of £616,349.

Application for planning permission in respect of the palisade security fencing topped with anti-climb guards including access gates had been submitted to North Lincolnshire Council and a decision was expected by the 15th April 2016.

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11:2 Greenholme Pumping Station Refurbishment Scheme

The Project Appraisal Report (PAR) and grant application (100 year standard) had been submitted to the Environment Agency (EA) justifying the refurbishment of the

station to sustain the current standards of protection which gave properties a better than 1% risk of flooding; 25 properties and 732 hectares of land would benefit from the work giving the scheme a benefit cost ratio of 7.2. The grant application was approved by the EA and the money would be drawn down this year.

The total estimated cost of the scheme was £327,000 (including a £32,000 contingency sum) and the grant element requested was £96,000 or 29%.

The Engineer reported that the control panel was nearing the end of its life and the wiring, although safe to operate in its current role, was not sufficient to cope with an additional power source for the weedscreen cleaner. A price had therefore been obtained for a new control panel in the sum of £37,600. Based on the urgency of the work, it was agreed not to go out to tender but to accept the price submitted by Inter-Lec Ltd who had recently successfully bid for similar works.

RESOLVED

That a new control panel be installed at the station by Inter-Lec Ltd in the sum of £37,600.

11:3 Gringley Pumping Station - Structural Defects

The Engineer reported on the following three options for the structural repairs to Gringley Pumping Station:

Option 1 - Demolition of old hall and repair of new/old hall - £25,200

Option 2 - Complete demolition and erection of a new kiosk - £28,000

Option 3 - Move control panel to new hall and demolition of old hall - £25,000

Officers favoured Option 3 as this would house all the plant and equipment in one building improving access and giving additional space on the site.

RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with Option 3 to move the control panel to the new hall and demolish the old hall which was as the approved budget of £25,000.

11:4 Carr Dyke Improvement Scheme, Retford

The Board's Engineering Manager and Mr I. Davies of Bassetlaw District Council had visited the site to scope the required works to the Board maintained Carr Dyke. The Board's officers were drawing up the proposals and bill of quantities and Bassetlaw District Council would take the lead on applying for local levy funding.

Contact had been made with Severn Trent Water regarding the possibility of rerouting the outfall and to seek a contribution towards the scheme. Natural England had also been contacted regarding the Idle Valley Nature Reserve and was supportive of the scheme.

Officers were pleased with how the scheme was progressing; an example of successful partnership working with all authorities and landowners concerned.

The majority, if not all, of the work would be undertaken by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation. The owners of the industrial estate had already moved fencing to allow access to the watercourse and the Engineer reported that provision would be made to ensure access for future maintenance.

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12. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

12:1 River Idle Management Partnership

The Board's Chairman and officers continued to support the partnership's work and had undertaken further analysis on the Environment Agency's River Idle survey. The analysis demonstrated that the channel capacity envisaged when the West Stockwith Pumping Station was designed in the early 1970's was no longer available. It was thought that the lack of capacity impeding conveyance was due to a number of factors; varying bed levels and changes in channel profile, siltation, encroaching trees and the establishment of reed beds and other vegetation.

A presentation had been made at the River Idle Management Partnership on the 2nd March and received unanimous support. The Environment Agency was now developing a model for the River Idle and a meeting with key stakeholders and the modellers would be held shortly. Thereafter, bids for Local Levy funding would be made for the partners to develop and cost a program of works to deliver an agreed level of conveyance along the River Idle. The Board's officers continued to drive this work.

In 2014, the Board initially approved a budget of £2,000 to fund Officers' time in supporting this important work. At the start of the current financial year, £1,700 remained unspent and this had funded the Board's involvement this year to date. To continue the involvement through 2016/2017, a further budget of £1,350 would be required.

Members expressed frustration about the slow progress being made.

RESOLVED

That the Board continue to support this work and that £1,350 be allocated for Officers' time in supporting the Partnership (the cost to be met from the partnership scheme funds).

12:2 Floodplain Grazing Marsh Project for the Idle Valley

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency had submitted a phase one bid to the Floodplain Grassland Project which had an indicative budget of £15m from the Heritage Lottery Fund for 8-10 projects across England. The phase one bid was successful and work was underway to develop detailed proposals for submission by December 2016. The Board's Environmental Officer had been invited to join the Steering Group which would complement and reinforce the River Idle Management Partnership's work in securing effective functioning of the river, discussed above. This was supported by the Board.

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12:3 River Trent Critical Eels Passes Flood Risk Assessments

The Environment Agency had consulted with the Board for Phase 3 of this programme in 2014. The intention was to install a retarder on the gravity outfall at Waterton Clough, in the north of the Board's area.

The flood risk assessment showed that this proposal would cause the ingress of significant volumes of water to the Board's catchment and would effectively see a reduction in flood protection standards. Officers had therefore informed the Environment Agency that any proposal that increased flood risk was unacceptable to the Board and that Byelaw consent would be refused.

RESOLVED

That the Officer's actions be approved.

12:4 Impact of IDB Maintenance Operations on Agri-Environment Schemes

The Basic Payment Scheme included a requirement for agreement holders to provide Ecological Focus Areas. The Rural Payments Agency's rules for Ecological Focus Areas in 2016 included, "Ecological Focus Areas have to be sited on eligible land and eligibility is a year round qualification".

IDB activities including cutting and reforming may influence the amount of eligible land on a holding and further clarification was therefore being sought from the Rural Payments Agency by the Association of Drainage Authorities.

It was agreed that a note advising landowners would be included in the Board's newsletter.

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12:5 Barn Owl Nest Boxes

New Barn Owl nest box were being installed at the Board's Gringley and Scaftworth Pumping Stations.

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13. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive reported on two incidents across the Consortium since the last Board meeting; fortunately no major injuries were sustained.

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14. ISLE OF AXHOLME FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cllr R. Allcock reported that some very positive meetings had taken place with the Environment Agency. Work on the Strategy was progressing and a meeting of the delivery group would be held on 14th April. A £2.3m scheme for pumping station improvements was planned and a programme of refurbishment and replacement was being prepared for 2016 to 2021. Interim capital maintenance was underway on the Keadby terminal outfall to ensure the asset continued to operate over the next five years; this work started in March and should be completed in nine months.

Mr J. Coggon reported that modelling of the River Torne system was being undertaken. The new Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Chairman was investigating ways of funding and would support IDBs taking on more work on the main rivers.

The Chief Executive expressed concern that the Executive Board had not yet met; the Executive Board was responsible and accountable for the delivery of the Strategy. He stated that a meeting was essential to set the direction and timescale of the Delivery and Funding groups. Cllr J. Briggs stated that this way forward had already been agreed by the Board and queried why it had not progressed. The Chief Executive was asked to liaise with the Chairman of the Regional Flood Defence Committee regarding setting up a meeting of the Executive Board.

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15. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

15:1 Trent Branch Annual General Meeting

The Chief Executive reported that the Association of Drainage Authorities Trent Branch Annual General Meeting would be held at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15th June 2016, at Doncaster Knights Rugby Football Club, Armthorpe, Doncaster. The cost per delegate including lunch was £40. Members were asked to confirm their attendance.

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15:2 Activities

A list of key activities of ADA staff was circulated for information.

The Chief Executive had been invited to give a presentation on partnership working at Flood Ex which would be held at the Peterborough Showground on 18th and 19th May 2016. Members were encouraged to attend the event which was organised for the flood defence and the water level management (WLM) sector looking at flood defence, prevention, mitigation and drainage.

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16. STAFF PENSIONS

The Director of Finance reported that the Board currently offered pensions with the National Farmers' Union and Scottish Equitable neither of which offered an auto enrolment for new employees. He therefore suggested that the Board offer the NEST pension scheme set up by the government especially for auto enrolment.

RESOLVED

That the Board offer all new employees the Government NEST pension scheme, with an employers' contribution of 6%.

CHAIRMAN