

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 24th March 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*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J. Lee, M. Wagstaff, Cllrs J. Briggs, Mrs L. Redfern and Mrs J. Reed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R. Allcock declared an interest in agenda item 7 as a member of the Owston Ferry Pumping Engine Preservation Society and 14 as a member of the North Lincolnshire Council Planning Committee.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to consider rates to be written-off under agenda item 6 and to consider a byelaw application to install six culverts under agenda item 9.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 224 to 232)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27th January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record subject to it being noted that the vote taken on minute 10 was not unanimous as Mr R. Mason had abstained from voting.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 5:1, Page 225 - Sale of Drain Head House

The Chief Executive reported that, as agreed by the Board, Drain Head house was sold on 5th March 2015 for £63,000. Less costs of £906 plus rent due of £325.48, a sum of

£62,419.48 was payable to the Board; this would be used to offset part of the cost of the new depot.

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5:2 Minute 5:2, Page 225 - Low Burnham Water Retention Structure

The Engineer reported that a very productive meeting had been held with officers from North Lincolnshire Council which had covered several issues in the Isle of Axholme area and a full report would be presented to a future Board meeting for consideration.

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5:3 Minute 10, Page 226 - Proposed Depot Move

The Chief Executive confirmed that the purchase of the site at Owston Ferry from the Environment Agency was underway at an agreed price of £15,000 and planning of the new build was scheduled to commence in November 2015. The final plans were being prepared and would be presented to the Plant and Compensation Committee for approval before planning permission was submitted.

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5:4 Minute 11, Page 227 - Operations Report

An order had been placed for the Volvo EC220EL excavator for delivery in May/June in time for the 2015 weedcutting season and the Director of Operations confirmed that the old machine would not be sold until the new machine had been delivered.

5:5 Minute 17, Page 232 - Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Trent Branch

The ADA Trent Branch meeting was held on 24th February 2015. Dr J. Venables attended together with the new ADA Chief Executive (Mr I. Thompson) and Technical Manager (Mr I. Moodie). The Engineer presented an update on the meeting and the items discussed which had included subscriptions, amendments to the IDB1 forms, compliance with the Eel Regulations, the Somerset Levels flooding and minor changes to the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement. Concern had been expressed about the formation of a new body, namely the Somerset Rivers Authority. This was being established to oversee flood protection measures in Somerset. The necessity to set up yet another authority which require additional funding when the role could be undertaken using a partnership approach was questionable.

A presentation had been given on the changing role of the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) and Unitary Authorities in the planning process, e.g. from 6th April they would become statutory consultees on surface water matters and sustainable urban drainage systems(SUDS); it was hoped that this would provide a better service to the planning authorities who would assume responsibility for ensuring that SUDS were managed and working effectively into the future. In response to Cllr R. Allcock, the Engineer confirmed that the Environment Agency (EA) would continue to comment on tidal river flooding issues. Mr R. Chapman confirmed that North Lincolnshire Council's Highways Drainage Team had taken over the consultation role and the EA was continuing to support them during the handover to ensure a smooth transition.

The Chief Executive reported that on 25th February 2015 Messrs I. Thompson had met with the Chairmen of the Isle of Axholme and Trent Valley Boards and the Vice-Chairman of Lindsey Marsh. There had been a free flowing exchange of views on the

future of the industry and the possible directions in which it might travel and the major concerns held by the Consortium Boards were highlighted. The Chief Executive stated that the meeting had been very successful and a sound relationship established with the new ADA team early in their tenure.

The Chief Executive and Engineer had also met with Mrs E. Truss, Secretary of State for the Environment, at a recent meeting with the EA and other internal drainage board (IDB) officers, where they had been invited to speak on main river maintenance, particularly the River Steeping in the Lindsey Marsh area. Officers had stressed the importance of forward planning in respect of maintenance works and how this would be funded, particularly if more work was to be undertaken by IDBs. It was also highlighted that if any main rivers were handed over to IDBs in the future, these should either be brought up to the required standard prior to handover or funds should be made available for the IDBs to do this work. Regarding implementation of the Eel Regulations, it was hoped that the Government would take a pragmatic approach to this in the future. Further discussions had included the restrictions on maintenance works prior to 16th July by environmental legislation. Maintenance of the Rivers Steeping, Greet and Idle would be brought up with the new parliamentary candidates.

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## 6. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

### 6:1 Rate Collection

The Director of Finance reported that drainage rates outstanding at 3rd March 2015 totalled £1,727.43; 99.59% of rates and special levies had been collected.

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### 6:2 Write-offs

The Director of Finance presented a schedule of nine amounts totalling £225.51 which it was proposed to write-off for the current year and one of £1.63 for the previous year. These were either uneconomical to collect or it had not been possible to locate the owner/occupier of the land in question.

RESOLVED

That amounts totalling £227.14 be written-off for the periods 2013/14 and 2014/15.

## 7. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report which showed expenditure to date of £1,058,643. The forecast for the year end assumed that all capital works would be undertaken within the year, if this was not achieved, the money would be accrued to enable them to be completed in 2015/16.

Electricity costs for February were higher than expected but it was not envisaged that this would adversely affect the overall budget. The Director of Operations queried why the electricity costs were high when the rainfall had been so low. The Director of Finance stated that estimated bills had been sent prior to this but the meter readings were now been collected monthly and would be sent through to the electricity companies to ensure up to date accurate bills were received.

It was noted that additional loans would be undertaken in the new financial year in respect of the Crowle scheme.

RESOLVED

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

8. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations gave an update on the winter maintenance programme and construction works.

Regarding the reforming works at Welham, it was noted that bushing works had been undertaken and the invert under the road was now clear into the canal and landowners in the area were pleased with the work now that there was increased capacity in the watercourse and the bank was built up where it had overtopped previously.

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9. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

9:1 Crowle Pumped Area

9:1:1 Paupers Drain Improvements Downstream and Upstream Channel Works

One compensation claim remained outstanding.

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9:1:2 Paupers Bridge No. 12 (next to Common Carrs Drain Outfall)

The Board's Direct Labour Organisation had started reconstruction of the bridge.

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9:1:3 Paupers Pumping Station

Ovivio had been awarded the contract for the provision of the new automatic weedscreen cleaner and final drawings had been approved and passed to the manufacturer. Some construction works would be required to accommodate the new weedscreen cleaner.

Inter-Lec Limited had been awarded the contract for the control panel and work was well underway. Officers were pleased to report that a saving of £10,000 would be made for the reuse of existing power supply cables giving an amended contract value of £44,800.

Four companies had been invited to tender for the refurbishment of the pumping plant and pipework although two had declined to tender. Officers assured members that the work would be sequenced and there would be adequate cover to deal with the water whilst the work was being undertaken.

Options for the potential installation of solar panels to reduce energy costs, identified in the FDGiA Project Appraisal, were being investigated.

RESOLVED

That the tender for the refurbishment of pumping plant and pipework be awarded to Shoebridge Engineering Ltd in the sum of £61,822.

9:1:4 Bewcarrs Pumping Station

Following receipt of an Eel Regulation exemption for the site in January 2015, the Crowle Catchment computer model had been updated to reflect the channel works undertaken to date including the current works on the Warping and Sewer Drains. The model had then been used to look at the following options for improvement at Bewcarrs Pumping Station:

- 1 No pumping at Bewcarrs - current as built system (used as a base line for comparison only)
- 2 1 small pump (560 l/s) capacity
- 3 2 small pumps (2 x 560 l/s) capacity
- 4 1 small pump (560 l/s) and 1 large pump (1080 l/s) capacity

In addition, the following options have been considered for providing a power source at the station:

- A Fully automatic mains electric station
- B Automatic generator driven station
- C Semi-automatic diesel driven pump station

Details of costs for each combination of pump capacity and power source are tabulated below:

Option Combinations	Capital Cost (£K)	30 year Present Day Value running costs (£K)	Total Present Day Value (£K)
1	50*	0	50
2A	391	45	436
2B	526	66	592
2C	561	74	635
3A	274	115	389
3B	399	161	560
3C	434	190	624
4A	208	229	437
4B	333	276	609
4C	368	306	674

*\*allowance for a small pump, possibly wind driven, to top up water in the Warping Drain for environmental reasons, not required for other options.*

The Engineer reported that Option 3A, involving the installation of 2 x 0.56 cumecs (m<sup>3</sup>/sec) fish friendly electro submersible pumps powered by a mains electrical supply at a capital cost of £274,000 and with estimated running costs of £115,000 had the

lowest whole life costs of the options that achieved full flood protection objectives. This option complied with the details given in the grant application and was fully justified within the overall scheme which has a cost/benefit ratio of 10:1.

The approved budget for the Bewcarrs Pumping Station was £657,000 and the scheme would receive 47% FDGiA. If approved, the works would be completed within 12 months.

RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with the scheme for Bewcarrs Pumping Station as detailed in Option 3A above.

9:1:5 Godnow Pumping Station and North Soke Dyke (Environment Agency) Bank Raising

Byelaw consent had been received from the Environment Agency for the potential bank raising works and the installation of an access track.

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9:1:6 Warpland Drain and Sewer Drain Improvements

Works were currently being undertaken by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation.

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9:2 Telemetry System

Officers reported that the telemetry system was functioning well. Some refinements were required and these would be undertaken throughout the year under warranty.

The installation of CCTV had been evaluated in terms of costs and benefits. Although previously focussed on security it was envisaged that cameras could also be used operationally to view water levels and weed build up. The Director of Operations stated that cameras already installed at some stations were particularly useful during flood events for monitoring staff on site and as a visual aid to the telemetry.

The cost of installing appropriate CCTV cameras at the Board's 18 pumping stations was estimated at £13,890. Officers calculated that annual savings in operational costs would be in the region of £1,117 per annum, giving a 25 year saving of £27,925, in addition to other intangible benefits such as more efficient use of manpower in emergency situations.

In response to the Vice-Chairman, officers confirmed that they would ensure that any new cameras purchased would be of a high enough quality to give a clear view of the water levels etc.

RESOLVED

That additional CCTV cameras be installed at pumping stations at an estimated cost of £13,890 funded from the pumping stations' operational budget with any additional costs charged directly to the individual pumping stations.

9:3 Bank Repairs - Medley Drain, Belshaw Lane, Belton

Concerns had been raised by property owners along Belshaw Lane at Belton relating to bank instability on a section of the Medley Drain, particularly with regard to the stability of the fences which had been erected some time ago. The Engineer confirmed that access to the watercourse was restricted and maintenance works had therefore been undertaken from the field side of the watercourse only which meant that the opposite bank had become very steep. Officers had monitored the situation over a period of time and recommended that selective toe piling and limited batter re-profiling be undertaken at an estimated cost of £20,000 by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation. Officers had spoken to the landowner on the opposite side and he would be prepared to grant the Board access for the works after harvest.

In response to Mr R. Mason, the Director of Operations confirmed that the bank top had started to erode over the last ten years and this was not uncommon when maintenance was continually undertaken from one bank. He further reported that the existing minimum bed width was very narrow and this had added to the far bank being undermined. The reprofiling would increase the bed width to one metre. The Engineer reassured the Chairman that the line of the fence had not been moved. He explained that the dyke had been cut after most of the fences had been erected and at that time it was possible to walk on the top of the bank between the fences and the watercourse.

RESOLVED

That the Board's Direct Labour Organisation undertake reprofiling of a section of the bank and the installation of timber toe piling at a cost of £20,000 to be funded from the 2014/2015 Emergency Drain Repair Budget (£10,000) and from the 2014/2015 Access Improvement Budget (£10,000).

9:4 Proposed Wind Turbine Development at Twin Rivers

Application had been made to install six culverts in private watercourse as shown on the attached plan in the parish of Twin Rivers; these would be dealt with under delegated authority. Application had also been made to culvert a 58 metre section of the Board maintained Railway Drain and to construct an access track within nine metres but no closer than six metres of the bank top of the same watercourse, also in the parish of Twin Rivers. These works were in connection with the proposed erection of 13 wind turbines.

The Board's officers had met with the developers of the site to discuss the application and had specified a pipe diameter of 1,050mm for the Railway Drain (an increase on existing culvert sizes). Redundant culverts and crossings would be reviewed by officers and removed where appropriate as part of the proposal.

The Engineer reported that water voles were present across the site and a condition of the planning permission was that habitat enhancement was undertaken on some adjacent riparian watercourses. The removal of water voles from the proposed culverted section of the Board maintained Railway Drain would be undertaken under licence from Natural England, the receptor site being a riparian watercourse on the edge of the Board's district.

Cllr R. Allcock abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

That consent be granted to culvert a 58 metre long section of the Board maintained Railway Drain (national grid reference SE 79433 18596) in the parish of Twin Rivers and to construct an access track within nine metres but no closer than six metres of the same watercourse.

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Engineer reported that the potential cost of complying with the Eel Regulations was raised at the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Conference in November 2014 and more recently the ADA Technical and Environment Committee. Subsequent to the meeting, the media had taken an interest with coverage in papers and on television. The cost of complying with legislation if new pumping stations or substantive works were required throughout the Consortium would be substantial.

A meeting between ADA, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and senior Environment Agency (EA) staff was held on the 10th March 2015. ADA representatives had expressed the concerns of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) over the potential cost of screening pumping stations, the inconsistency of delivery across EA regions and IDBs' willingness to work in partnership and achieve targeted delivery. ADA's points were well received and DEFRA and the EA were considering the points made. It was agreed that a pragmatic approach was required and that compliance to the Regulations must not be a drain on government resources and must not be funded from flood protection money. Changes to the implementation policies were anticipated.

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

The Chief Executive had requested a single Plan spanning all Strategies. Once this was available costs could be obtained and methods of funding investigated. The Board's officers would be involved in these discussions as well as those involving Keadby Pumping Station.

Cllr R. Allcock had attended a meeting of the Isle of Axholme Strategy Group and reported that Black and Veatch had been requested to undertake a study on the 28,000 properties that were affected and ways in which a different pumping regime could work at Keadby if the pumping station was not replaced. This study and cost/benefit analysis had been requested by the Treasury. Cllr R. Allcock stated that they were aiming for a 1 in 100 year standard of protection. The issue of partnership funding had also been discussed at the meeting and the possibility of contributions for the water coming into the system from industries in Doncaster. Cllr R. Allcock confirmed that all the Strategies were now being looked at together with data from the last tidal surge.

The Vice-Chairman understood that the result of the survey on the River Idle would be available shortly and stated that the Board must have sight of this and comment. The study also included several other main rivers such as the Torne and South Engine Drain. Mr K. Durdy stated that there were some 4,000 properties evacuating water into the Idle via the water authority. The Vice-Chairman agreed and stated that the whole catchment must be taken into account to contribute towards the work. The Chairman stated that the new rail terminal would also drain into this catchment as would other new development and industrial areas.

The Chief Executive reported that there was a mechanism for the Environment Agency to apply an upland drainage charge for contributions towards works. He also understood that there was extra relief being offered in the 2015 budget for donations towards flood relief schemes.

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12. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Director of Operations/Health and Safety Advisor reported on minor health and safety incidents across the Consortium since the last Board meeting. No major injuries were reported.

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13. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Chief Executive reported that the term of office for elected members to the Board's nine electoral districts expired on 31st October 2015. Registers of Electors would be prepared and advertised in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulations 1938 and the Land Drainage (Election of Internal Drainage Boards) (Amendment) Regulations 1977.

In accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991 the Chief Executive would take the role of Returning Officer and his Personal Assistant would act as Deputy Returning Officer.

RESOLVED

That the date of election be set for Tuesday 27th October 2015.

CHAIRMAN