

ISLE OF AXHOLME AND NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Thursday, 27th November 2018, at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

- * Messrs J. Coggon (Chairman)
- * P. Cornish (Vice-Chairman)
- * R. Adam
- * H. Barton
- * P. Bradwell
- * J.P. Bramhill
- * K. Durdy
- * J. Fretwell
- * M.A. Harris
- * R. Mason
- * M. Wagstaff
- * M.T. Smith

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

- * Cllr R. Allcock
- * Mr N. Arrand
- * Mr I. Bint
- * Cllr J. Briggs
- Mr E. Dinsdale
- * Mr M.D. Pilkington
- * Cllr Mrs J. Reed
- Cllr D. Robinson
- * Cllr D.J. Rose
- Mr G. Wilson
- One vacancy

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

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

* *Present*

- * Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- * N. Kemble (Engineer)
- * R.A. Brown (Operations Manager)
- * D.J. Sisson (Strategic Operations Director)
- * H. Rai (Nottinghamshire County Council)
- * Mesdames J.D. Watson (Operations Director)
- * N. Hind (Finance Manager)
- * S. Jacques (Nottinghamshire County Council)
- * *In attendance*

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be appointed Chairman pro tem.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr J. Briggs and seconded by Cllr R. Allcock that Mr J. Coggon be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr J. Coggon be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Cllr J. Briggs and seconded by Mr M.A. Harris that Mr P. Cornish be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr P. Cornish be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D. Robinson, Mr G. Wilson and Mrs S. Jacques.

Cllr J. Briggs introduced Mr I. Bint who was attending his first meeting, representing North Lincolnshire Council.

The Chairman thanked the retiring Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their commitment to the Board and particularly for their efforts in pushing forward the Isle of Axholme Strategy and the transfer of Snow Sewer Pumping Station.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Chief Executive reported on the recent election (see attached Statement of Members) and two vacancies in the Adlingfleet and Whitgift and West Axholme electoral districts.

Expressions of interest had been received from Mr J.P. Bramhill (for the Adlingfleet and Whitgift area) and Mr J. Fretwell (for the West Axholme area) and these were considered by the Board. The Chief Executive reported that, in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991, the vacancies could be filled by the election by the Board of a new member. It was noted that both candidates did meet the qualification for membership of the Board under the rules specified in the Land Drainage Act.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Mr J. Fretwell be appointed to fill the vacancy in the West Axholme electoral district.
- (b) That Mr J.P. Bramhill be appointed to fill the vacancy in the Adlingfleet and Whitgift electoral district.

8. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 397 to 407)

The following amendments were agreed:

Page 397, Attendance - Mr M.D. Pilkington was present.
Page 405, 13:3 - paragraph 2, amend 'silt' to 'salt'.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25th September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the above amendments.

9. MATTERS ARISING

None.

10. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the minutes of a meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 6th November 2018 and these were confirmed as a correct record by the Chairman and Mr R. Adam.

The Engineer gave an update on the new post of Modeller.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 6th November 2018 and the recommendations made be adopted by the Board.

11. MEETING DATES 2019

The Chief Executive suggested that the Board should meet bi-monthly during 2019 and that Committee meetings be held as and when required. The following dates were proposed:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
8th January 2019	9.30 a.m.	Plant and Compensation Committee
8th January 2019	11.00 a.m.	Finance Committee
29th January 2019	10.00 a.m.	Board (approval of estimates and rate setting)
26th March 2019	10.00 a.m.	Board
28th May 2019	10.00 a.m.	Board (approval of final accounts)
23rd July 2019	10.00 a.m.	Board
24th September 2019	10.00 a.m.	Board
26th November 2019	10.00 a.m.	Board (annual general meeting)

The following dates were also noted:

ADA Trent Branch - 14th February 2019
EA Flood and Coast Conference - 18th - 20th June 2019
ADA Trent Branch AGM - 6th June 2019
Lincolnshire Show - 19th and 20th June 2019
ADA Annual Conference - 13th November 2019

RESOLVED

That the Board meet bi-monthly during 2019 and that Committee meetings be held as and when required; the Terms of Reference for Committees being amended to reflect this.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the following members be appointed:

Standards Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllrs R. Allcock, J. Briggs, D.J. Rose, and Mrs J. Reed.

Plant and Compensation Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs R. Adam, P. Bradwell, R. Mason, M.D. Pilkington, Cllrs R. Allcock and Mrs H. Brand.

Finance Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs K. Durdy, M.A. Harris, M. Wagstaff, Cllrs R. Allcock, D.J. Rose and Mrs J.M. Sanger.

Consortium Committee - Chairman and Vice-Chairman with Cllr R. Allcock acting as substitute.

13. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

Drainage rates and special levies outstanding at 16th November 2018 totalled £70,561.32.

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14. FINANCE

The attached report was presented for consideration and considered in detail. Cllr J. Briggs stated that it was important for the Finance Manager to attend to explain the rationale behind the accounts to ensure that members understood the new system.

Mr M.A. Harris queried the amount spent with H. Mell and Son Services Ltd. The Operations Manager confirmed that this included various plant repairs as well as some work at the Derrythorpe depot and on schemes. Officers would review the annual spend and whether it was necessary to go out to tender for future work.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report and forecast for the year end be noted.
- (b) That Capital Schemes held as assets on the balance sheet in the sum of £803,010 be written off.
- (c) That a provision be made in the 2019/20 estimates for the valuation of the Board's pumping stations.
- (d) That borrowings and investments be noted.
- (e) That the payment schedule be approved.

15. OPERATIONS REPORT

15:1 Maintenance Works

The Operations Director gave an update on works undertaken by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation. The summer maintenance programme was nearing completion with 99% of flailing and 95% of weedcutting now completed. Any small amounts still outstanding would be left if the ground was too wet for the machines to travel on and Officers confirmed that this would not have a detrimental effect on the system.

A report had been received of a blocked culvert near Tindal Bank crossing and notice had therefore been served on the landowner to rectify this.

Officers gave an overview of asset status and reported on the following issues:

Intermittent fault with the Massey Ferguson and Herder flail which appeared to be a dry joint - this was being investigated by Mastenbroek.

Telemetry at Godnow caused by a power fluctuation.

Grate at Wiseton - to be fitted by Christmas.

Massey Ferguson tractor - no problems at the moment but continued to be monitored.

Mr R. Adam queried whether all staff were trained to operate all machines. The Operations Director reported that this was the aim but some of the new members of the workforce required further training. Currently there was only one wheeled excavator driver.

Rainfall and pump run hours were circulated for information.

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16. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

Officers presented the following updates:

16:1 Kelfield / Black Dyke / Southfield Pumped Catchments

Refurbishment of Kelfield Pumping Station was well underway with the removal of the old diesel pump, installation of the new fish friendly pump and installation of the new larger transformer already completed. The newly refurbished automatic weedscreen cleaner should be reinstalled and operational by early December. The electric pump was due to be refurbished in Spring 2019 together with painting of the sheet pile walls and this would be followed by the lining of the diesel discharge pipeline in summer 2019. New security fencing would also be erected around the site.

Some compensation payments remained outstanding in respect of improvement works on the Kelfield East Drain and Extension.

Work to reform and raise the banks of the Kelfield Catchwater Drain were now 98% complete and should be completed by January 2019.

Expenditure to date was £375,633 against an overall approved scheme budget of £490,000, however, Officers predicted out-turn costs of £526,691 giving a likely overspend of £36,691 which is partially made up of the following:

Pumping Station Refurbishment - excessive siltation in sump removed at a cost of £4,500 versus estimate £1,000, and removal of a sheet pile driven into the discharge pipeline at a cost of £4,500.

Syphon connection works - the tender price of £67,834 was greater than the estimate of £55,000, and additional work required to replace the headwall on the existing outfall and extend the syphonic pipe.

The overspend on drain works may be less than expected but could not be confirmed until the work was completed and compensation paid.

Further savings between now and the end of the scheme may reduce the total overall predicted out-turn cost. The above figures did not take into account the £20,000 allocated in the Southfield Scheme budget towards the Kelfield East Drain Improvements.

Officers proposed that, as the Kelfield, Blackdyke and Southfield catchments were seen as a grouping, instead of £20,000, £36,000 be allowed for in the Southfield scheme and its budget adjusted as proposed below.

RESOLVED

That the possible additional expenditure be noted and funded from the Southfield Pumping Station Refurbishment budget.

16:2 Southfield Pumping Station Refurbishment

The scoping report on pumping station options had been received from J A Services and an Outline Business Case was being prepared by Officers. A cost/benefit analysis of the various scenarios and the recommendation of the scheme that offers the best value would then be completed.

The following options with estimated cost were considered (these included a provision of £36,000 in respect of the Kelfield works (see above)):

<i>Option</i>	<i>Est. Cost</i>
(a) Refurbish three existing pumps	£303,978
(b) Replace three pumps like for like	£399,678
(c) Replace two pumps with larger and refurbish one	£387,578
(d) Replace two pumps with larger fish friendly and refurbish one	£459,078
(e) Replace three pumps with larger fish friendly pumps	£525,628

Option (c) was the preferred option. Work would be completed in the summer.

It was noted that reserved grant aid funding had been allowed for a total scheme cost of £475,000, £326,000 of which would be funded by the Board. The Board had originally estimated a total scheme cost of £401,421 and made a provision of £301,421 in the 2018/19 estimates.

RESOLVED

That the Board proceed with the replacement of two pumps with larger ones and refurbish pump number three at an estimated cost of £387,578.

16:3 Asset CCTV/Inspections/De-silting/Renewals

Mother Drain Culvert, Misterton

For some time now, concerns have been raised about a 675 metre section of the Board maintained Mother Drain (SSSI) culvert, an aging brick arch culvert 3m wide x 1.5m in height, located to the north of the village of Misterton.

The culvert had not been inspected for some years and required a specialist entry team to undertake a detailed asset condition inspection and assessment of silt depths. The impact of this culvert failing would be detrimental to 80 plus properties and nearly 130 hectares of agricultural land.

Mr M.A. Harris explained the history of this area and other issues in the surrounding area. Officers confirmed that these would be investigated once the state of the culvert had been ascertained. It was agreed that Officers would keep Cllr Mrs H. Brand up to date with works in the area.

RESOLVED

That quotations be sought for a condition inspection and assessment on the Mother Drain culvert, the cost to be funded from the 2018/2019 Asset Renewal budget.

Power Station Drain Culvert, Keadby

Construction of a new 840MW combined cycle gas turbine power station known as Keadby 2 was underway and included work over a section of the Board maintained culverted Power Station Drain which ran between existing storage tanks and the planned site for Keadby 2.

The developer would be undertaking a CCTV survey of the culvert to establish its condition and the location of any existing connections to ensure that they were not disturbed whilst the required service crossings were constructed. There would be no cost to the Board and Officers would ensure that all works were carried out to their specification.

A further report would be presented to the Board once the survey had been undertaken.

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16:4 Wiseton Pumping Station - Automatic Weedscreen Cleaner

Weedscreen bars were being manufactured and modifications to the weedscreen cleaner gripper unit and electrics were to be undertaken. All works would be completed before the end of December 2018.

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16:5 South Street Pumping Station

No further progress had been made on the modelling works.

16:6 Stealgoose Drain Reforming (IOA16025)

Work on the main drain was nearing completion save for a small section of tree removal and reforming which required working under overhead wires, this would be completed once the supply had been isolated by Northern Powergrid. There was also a section of culvert requiring replacement near to North Moor Farm. All works would be completed by February 2019.

Work to reform the Axholme Game Farm Branch was being progressed with completion also due by February 2019. Work on Woodhouse Branch would commence as soon as possible when difficulties with entry had been overcome.

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16:7 Strategy 2025 Pumping Station Refurbishments (IOA16003)

Refurbishment of pumps at Rushcarr, Derrythorpe, South Street and Scaftworth Pumping Stations were now complete. Kelfield pump refurbishment was being undertaken as part of the main pumping station refurbishment works.

Industrial Pumps had been awarded the tender for the refurbishment of the two pumps at Cow Lane Pumping Station. They attended site last year to remove the pumps but could not undertake the work due to the need for specialist divers required in the sump to release the pumps. Neither the contractor, nor the Board's officers were aware that this was a requirement at the time of tendering. It might be necessary to re-tender for this element of the works with a view to refurbishment works being carried out in spring 2019 when conditions were more favourable.

RESOLVED

That the tender document be reviewed to ascertain the contractor's responsibility and, if necessary, the Board re-tender for the lifting of the pumps.

16:8 Demolition Works at Southfield Pumping Station (IOA18001) and Gringley Pumping Station (IOA16004)

A single contract was being prepared for demolition of the old Southfield and Gringley Pumping Stations and tenders would then be sought.

Mr R. Adam suggested that Officers should try and find a home for the old engines and associated equipment and it was noted that the Operations Manager confirmed he was liaising with volunteers from local pumping station museums.

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17. SNOW SEWER DEMAINING AND ASSET TRANSFERS

The Chief Executive reported that the proposed handover date of January 2019 would not be met because the transfer agreement had yet to be agreed. The agreement had been prepared by the Environment Agency's legal team and was very biased towards the Environment Agency. Officers had asked for some amendments to the indemnity and liability clauses in the agreement and were awaiting a response.

Officers of the Board and the Environment Agency were keen to ensure that the transfer of the pumping station, drain and outfall progressed as speedily as possible. Once the agreement had been approved there would be an appeal period before the transfer was final.

18. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Officers reported on the following works being undertaken by the Board's direct labour organisation under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA):

Weedcutting and desilting of the South Level Engine Drain. This work was carried out while the Board's machine was in the vicinity completing its summer maintenance.

Work on the River Idle would commence next month with the removal of reed fringes from the right-hand bank from the confluence with the River Ryton.

The total estimated cost of works to be undertaken this year under the PSCA was £30,000.

Officers referred to the Whitgift Sluice outfall which was prone to blocking and required regular jetting and clearance. As the Board did not have the appropriate equipment to undertake this work an agreement had been reached with the EA for this to be included on their annual maintenance schedule and recharge the cost of the works (£400) to the Board.

Discussions were underway with the Environment Agency regarding the Board undertaking works on the Rivers Maun, Meden and Ryton and a programme with costing was to be submitted in December 2018.

The Environment Agency was concerned over the Boskerdyke Outfall which they had classified as a failing asset. The Board would be updated as information became available.

Officers reported that they would be meeting with representatives of the EA in early December to discuss the programme of works for 2019/20 this may include additional areas that would be of benefit to the Board's systems.

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19. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The attached report was presented for information.

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20. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Operations Director reported on one incident in the Board's area and gave an overview of incidents across the Consortium during the year.

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21. STAFFING

The Chief Executive reported that there was one vacancy in the direct labour organisation, this was being advertised and it was hoped that a suitable candidate would be found shortly. It was noted that the staffing structure at Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board had been reviewed and a succession plan put in place to ensure there was no loss of knowledge.

The Association of Drainage Authorities Lincolnshire Branch Pay and Conditions Committee had negotiated a 2.7% pay increase with the Union and members were asked whether they wished to adopt this for all employees.

RESOLVED

That a 2.7% pay increase be implemented for all staff with effect from 1st April 2019.

CHAIRMAN