

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Beckingham Recreation Room on Tuesday, 28th November 2017 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
* Cllr Mrs J. Reed
Mr J. Smith
Cllr D. Robinson
* Cllr D.J. Rose
Mr G. Wilson
Three vacancies

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.A. Brown (Works Manager)
* Mesdames J.D. Watson (Operations Director)
* D. Proctor (Finance Officer)

* *In attendance*

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It was proposed by Mr J. Coggon and seconded by Mr G.R.J. Bramhill that Mr M.A. Harris be elected as Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr M.A. Harris be elected as Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

It was proposed by Mr K. Durdy and seconded by Cllr R. Allcock that Mr R. Adam be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr R. Adam be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

It is noted that Mr M. A. Harris and Mr R. Adam have confirmed their intention to stand down as Chairman and Vice-Chairman after this year and with this in mind, the Chairman made a suggestion of running a second Vice-Chairman for the coming year. The proposal from the Chairman was that Mr J. Coggon be put forward for this position. Cllr J. Briggs agreed this

would be an excellent idea. There were no other nominees and the proposal was seconded by Cllr R. Allcock who agreed Mr J. Coggon would make an excellent future Chairman.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr J. Coggon be elected as Second Vice-Chairman.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S. White and Cllr D. Robinson and Mr G. Wilson.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R. Allcock – item 17
Cllr J. Briggs - item 21
Mr R. Mason - item 21
Messrs K. Durdy and P. Cornish – As members of Doncaster East I.D.B.

6 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7 BOARD MINUTES (Pages 346 to 355)

Item 6:1 Referred to a collapsed culvert on Drain IOA811900

Also mentioned at this time, by Mr P. Bradwell was a bush causing an obstruction at Garthorpe Outfall which the Works Manager confirmed would be removed this winter.

Item 9 Operations Report stated that a steel wrist for the excavator was due to be purchased 'the following week' this should have read 'the following year'

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 26th September 2017, subject to the above amendments, be confirmed as a correct record.

8. MATTERS ARISING

None.

9. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Due to staff illness, unfortunately the minutes were not available in time for this meeting but will be circulated for the next meeting.

The Operations Director reported that at that meeting, it was resolved that during 2018/19 the Caterpillar excavator would need to be replaced and an additional weed basket purchased. Also some of the trimmers and chainsaws would need replacing and approval would be sought from members.

Mr R. Adam reported that replacement of the Caterpillar is essential as it was 15 years old and a good quality replacement machine should be sought, which may not necessarily be the cheapest, as poor service had been received in the past from CAT and JCB.

Mr R. Adam proposed and Cllr R. Allcock seconded that tenders be sought for the replacement excavator and weed basket.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Due to staff illness, unfortunately the minutes were not available in time for this meeting but will be circulated for the next meeting.

The Chief Executive reported that the committee had looked at the next year and the 10 year plans and the outcome was that the Board are still looking at a 2% increase on the rates to meet demands on the next 10 years. With de-maining etc, the Board need to remain in a strong financial position.

RECEIVED

Cllr Mrs J. Reed arrived.

11. MEETING DATES FOR 2018

The following dates for Board and Committee meetings in 2018 were presented:

11:1 Board and Committee Meetings

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Meeting</i>
23rd January 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board (approval of estimates and rate setting)
27th March 2018	10.00 a.m.	Finance Committee
2nd May 2018	2.00 p.m.	Consortium Committee
29th May 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board (approval of final accounts)
29th May 2018	12 noon	Standards Committee
24th July 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board
25th September 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board
3rd October 2018	2.00 p.m.	Consortium Committee
6th November 2018	9.30 a.m.	Plant and Compensation Committee (to consider estimates)
6th November 2018	11.00 a.m.	Finance Committee (to consider estimates)
27th November 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board (Annual General Meeting)

11:2 Other Dates

ADA Trent Branch - 22nd February 2018
EA Flood and Coast Conference - 20th to 22nd March 2018
ADA Trent Branch AGM - 7th June 2018
Lincolnshire Show - 20th and 21st June 2018
ADA Annual Conference - mid November 2018

The Chief Executive commented that the 27th March 2018 could become a Board Meeting date if desired.

RESOLVED

That the meeting dates for 2018 be set as detailed above.

12. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

Members were reminded that when appointing members to Committees, the proportion of representation should be split equally between nominated and elected members wherever possible (The number of members required for each Committee is shown in brackets).

12:1 Standards Committee (Membership six)

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Mr J. Coggon, Cllrs R. Allcock, J. Briggs and D.J. Rose be appointed to the Standards Committee (the Chairman would not attend hearings to enable him to hear an appeal if necessary).

12:2 Plant and Compensation Committee (Membership eight)

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs P. Bradwell, G.R.J. Bramhill, P. Cornish, R. Mason, S. White, Cllrs R. Allcock and Mrs H. Brand be appointed to the Plant and Compensation Committee.

12:3 Finance Committee (Membership eight)

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs J. Coggon, P. Cornish, K. Durdy, Cllrs R. Allcock, D.J. Rose and Mrs J.M. Sanger be appointed to the Finance Committee.

12:4 Consortium Committee

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board were appointed as representatives on the Consortium Committee with Cllr R. Allcock as substitute.

13. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Chief Executive reported on the Special Levy/rate collection to date; a total of 96.95%

RECEIVED

14. FINANCE

The Chief Executive introduced the temporary acting Finance Officer who had begun work on exploiting the Board's accounting system to test its capacity.

The financial statement was presented and the Finance Officer gave a detailed explanation of the Income/Expenditure for the period to date, itemized description of the major variances and reported that the Board are in a very favourable cash position. There had not been a lot of movement on the external borrowing position. The schedule of payments greater than £500 was presented. The Finance Officer advised the Board that she would be doing some re-profiling on the accounts prior to the year end.

The Finance Officer was thanked by the Board for her clear, concise explanation of the financial position

RESOLVED

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

15. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operations Director presented the attached report for information.

All assets recorded as fully operational.

Summer works are largely completed.

The Operations Director reported that the bonus scheme is helping to increase efficiency.

RECEIVED

16. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Board's Engineer presented the attached report.

16:2 Kelfield / Black Dyke / Southfield Catchments

Work is due to start within 2 weeks on Kelfield and the rest to be undertaken next year.

16:3 Pumping Stations – Replacement Doors

High Specification replacement security doors have been ordered for the pumping stations with one more order to be placed for Cow Lane.

16:4 Stealgoose Drain and Branches – Reforming

Work is due to recommence on Stealgoose. There is currently an issue to be resolved on the Woodhouse Branch but continued effort is being made to seek a resolution with this issue. Board support will be sought if necessary.

16:6 Local Levy Funding

The Board's Engineer provided an update on this item. After being made aware of an opportunity to submit applications for local levy funding, bids were prepared and submitted this week, to seek financial support for the following projects :-

- (a) Collapsed culvert at Ordsall
- (b) Refurbishment of Occupation Drain culvert at Haxey and,
- (c) Carr Dyke North Improvement Scheme at Retford.

Discussion took place around the cost implications of each project and should the bids be successful, these additional funds could be used to fill the gap between the cost of the works and the funds available.

Cllr R. Allcock explained the value of being able to tap into Local Levy but also to consider that a lot of other Drainage Boards and Local Authorities would be making similar applications.

The Engineer will give a progress update at the next meeting.

RECEIVED

17. BYELAW CONTRAVENTION – GYPSY LANE DRAIN AND PYCOCKS DRAIN, GUNTHORPE

The attached report was presented with the following updates.

- (a) The landowner has replanted the trees and bushes outside the 9m area.
- (b) The landowner has reduced the height of the fencing so as not to exceed 0.9m in height and now meets the byelaw requirement.
- (c) The landowner has appealed against the decision to enforce removal of the gabion baskets. He has offered the Board a Deed of Indemnity saying he would remove the gabion baskets within 7 days if requested to do so by the Board, to have this tied to his land registry. The landowner did not explain the purpose of this structure but said it had cost him a lot of money. He has been unsuccessful so far in his attempts to purchase adjoining land and therefore cannot demonstrate access in perpetuity from the opposite bank.

Cllr J. Briggs expressed a concern of setting a precedent, that the landowner had already spent a lot of money on it should not be a consideration.

Cllr Mrs J. Reed expressed concern of gaining access for drain maintenance through land belonging to a third party, even if this agreement could be reached, could cause administrative issues for the future.

RESOLVED

- (a) To approve the revised proposals for the removal of trees within the nine metre Byelaw zone and the reduction in height and repositioning of the boundary fencing.
- (b) To sustain refusal of consent for the gabion baskets to remain on the bank top of the Board's watercourse.

18. DRAINS AT LUDDINGTON

A presentation was made to the Board highlighting the issue of surface water flooding suffered by the housing estate in Luddington. There is a riparian drain in the vicinity which serves multiple landowners and the residential estate. The current state of this drain is overgrown and full of residents' shrub clippings and debris. It has been brought to the Board to show progression is being made to find a solution. There is also a nearby planning application from North Lincolnshire Council.

RESOLVED

That the Works Manager report back to the next meeting

19. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MATTERS - ISLE OF AXHOLME FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

19:1 Snow Sewer De-Maining

The attached report was presented and an update on the current situation provided. The Engineer explained in more detail about the Treasury Rules that apply where assets are transferred between Public Authorities. This states that assets must transfer at market value based on an independent valuation.

Different options were highlighted detailing the sites involved and their valuations. The pumping station building and land (£22,500), restricted use to Pumping Station only and no sporting rights (£7,000), 17 acres of pasture land (£68,000), 71 acres of Sporting rights with associated banks (£69,700), 90 acres of lower value banks and tree belt (£27,000).

Cllr R. Allcock commented that his opinion was that the positive response from the public on the de-maining of Snow Sewer was on the basis that the assets would be transferred to the Board without cost. Most people would have expected it to be transferred to the Board with a commuted sum and that all we would have been taking on was the maintenance

Cllr D.J. Rose asked if legal advice had been sought on getting around these costs. He also felt that having to pay for the transfer of assets would jeopardise the support of the community.

Cllr Mrs J. Reed suggested if perhaps the involvement of our local MP could make any progress on this matter.

Cllr J. Briggs recommended another meeting is critical to re-set our position as a Board. He queried what the position was if the Board do not take over the watercourse and stated that a business case should be produced to take over land ownership.

Cllr Mrs H. Brand stated that full information was not given at the informal consultation and needed to be discussed fully at the formal consultation.

Recommendation:-

- (a) To approve the formal consultation for January 2018
- (b) To seek early engagement of senior officers of the Environment Agency to discuss the way forward.

A recommendation was made by Cllr Mrs H. Brand that formal consultation should not take place until the money side had been clarified.

Cllr Mrs J. Reed recommended a small group to be formed to enable further discussion to take this to the next stage.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board seek clarification on financial issues prior to the public consultation.
- (b) That a group of members be appointed to enable further discussion.

- (c) That approval be given to seek early engagement of senior officers of the Environment Agency to discuss the way forward.

19:2 Benefits Apportionment and Keadby Assisted Outfall – Outline Business Case

The Isle of Axholme Strategy Overview was presented by the Engineer discussing water levels over the next 25 years and the affect it would have on the assets.

Approval had been given to the adopted procedures for the apportionment of benefits i.e. all the Board's assets had funding allocations. This has now been refined in preparation for the submission of the Outline Business Case for Keadby Terminal Outfall improvement in December.

The Engineer presented the Ongoing programme for the submission of The Keadby Terminal Assisted Outfall Business Case and requested the Board's continued support and confirmation of agreement to the submission.

The Boards Engineer also presented an update on other Capital Works in 2017/18: Pumping Station resilience works at Bull Hassocks, Candy Farm, Goodcop and West Stockwith.

RESOLVED

The Board offers their continued support of the Benefits Apportionment Methodology and fully support the submission of the Keadby Terminal Assisted Outfall Outline Business Case in December.

20. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

20:1 The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009

The Engineer discussed the attached report regarding The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 and was pleased to report there is now a much clearer view on how to go forward and a commitment to become clear and practical. The Board's Environmental Officer has been invited to join the National ADA/EA Eel Liaison Group and there will be a meeting again next week to take the next stage of the negotiations forward.

RECEIVED

20:2 River Idle Partnership and Environment Agency Work Programme

The Environment Agency will undertake maintenance works on sections 3 and 4 (Haxey Bridge to bridge at North Carr Farm and bridge at North Carr Farm to River Lane, Misson. Works will include working from a floating pontoon to remove overhanging branches and smaller self-set trees. It is hoped the works will commence in November 2017.

It was commented that a big improvement could be made to the Idle by very little work as trees have dropped across the river and not been attended to. Mr M. Wagstaff reported that the Environment Agency had looked at clearing the arches on each side of Bawtry bridge.

Mr M.A. Harris reiterated that the Idle is a main river and the work should be undertaken by the Environment Agency and although the Board were able to assist, it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency to undertake the work.

Mr R. Adam added that there are some of the Board's drains that flow into the Idle and won't flow because the Idle is too high and water backs up all the time. Mr M. Wagstaff confirmed that some of the drains back up faster than they can pump it out due to the river level being kept artificially too high.

RECEIVED

21. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

21:1 Byelaw Applications

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

Consent No	Applicant/Agent	Works Schedule
IOANN/LDC/ 2017/009	Morrison Utility Services 5th Floor Livingstone House Chadwick Street Leeds West Yorkshire LS10 1LJ	The Installation of a 90mm diameter watermain within the highway, over the top of the Board maintained Goodall Dyke at National Grid Reference SE 80570 - 15870 in the parish of Eastoft. The site is indicated on Drawing No. IOA17021_001.
IOANN/LDC/ 2017/010	Morrison Utility Services 5th Floor Livingstone House Chadwick Street Leeds West Yorkshire LS10 1LJ	The Installation of a 90mm diameter watermain within the highway, over the top of the Board maintained Constable Drain at National Grid Reference SE 80485 - 15235 in the parish of Eastoft. The site is indicated on Drawing No. IOA17021_001.

RECEIVED

21:2 Section 23 Applications

There have been no Section 23 applications dealt with since the last Board Meeting.

RECEIVED

21:3 Planning Applications

Officers reported on 16 planning applications that had been considered and advised upon since the last meeting. No objections had been made.

RECEIVED

22. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Operations Director gave a report that there is no new or amended legislation that will affect the Board.

There had been one Health and Safety incident and two near misses reported in the Consortium since the last Board meeting, two of these occurring at Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board and one at Trent Valley Board.

Employees are being encouraged to report all near misses as well as accidents to identify potential problem areas and to deal with hazards and reduce the risk of injury.

The Operations Director reported that the Board have changed insurers this year and they wanted to come and complete a Health & Safety inspection. They were very pleased with the processes already in place and therefore did not find it necessary to carry out the visit they had planned to the TVIDB. A few minor alterations were advised but they were satisfied the Board's Health and Safety processes were good.

RECEIVED

23. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)

The Chief Executive gave an overview of matters discussed at the recent ADA Conference which had been attended by Board members and officers. He reported that there had been a very candid interesting presentation by the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency Sir James Bevan and that there would be a transcript in the ADA Gazette.

Board members were also reminded that the Chairman Mr M.A. Harris would be standing down on the ADA Board in March and nominations would be sought for his successor.

RECEIVED

24. STAFFING

The Chief Executive gave an update on staffing matters. It was noted that Mr G. Sutton had been appointed as Foreman and interviews were to be held for two Land Drainage Operatives. The job evaluations were underway and would take into account recruitment and retention of staff as well as a review of the wage structure.

Mr R. Mason questioned that he was of the understanding that that was what the bonus was paid for. The Chief Executive explained that the bonus was an incentive to maintain productivity predominantly through the summer cutting season.

Mr P. Cornish suggested it would be worthwhile putting some of the work out to contractors with machines and drivers. The Chief Executive commented that the Board would be looking at that with Doncaster East I.D.B. which would give some insight. Contractors were used initially when the Boards were first amalgamated so the idea is not to be discounted, but a certain amount of permanent staff would be required to cover in the event of a flood situation. Contractors could potentially be considered for tree and bushing works.

RECEIVED

25. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr R. Allcock reported that the Owston Ferry Pump Preservation Society who have the Marshalls Pump in South Street Pumping Station were trying to get it operational and running on steam. Earlier this year, they managed to acquire a second-hand boiler which they have now got working and have been successful in operating the Marshalls Pump on steam. Cllr

R. Allock confirmed Mr J. Dawson from the Society remained in contact with the Board and that they have frequent open days at Owston Ferry.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN