

ISLE OF AXHOLME AND NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Westwoodside Village Hall, on Tuesday, 25th September 2012 at 9.00 a.m.

Elected Members

- * Messrs M.A. Harris (Chairman)
- * R. Adam (Vice-Chairman)
- * P. Bradwell
- * G.R.J. Bramhill
- R.H. Brown
- J. Coggon
- * P. Cornish
- * K. Durdy
- * R. Mason
- * C.W. Moore
- * G.T. Wagstaff
- * S. White

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

- * Messrs R. Allcock
- * N. Arrand
- * T. Barker
- J. Briggs
- * N. Culpin
- W. Eckhardt
- * D. Harrison
- * J. Lee
- D. Robinson
- J. Smith

Mrs L. Redfern

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

- * Mesdames H. Brand
- * J.M. Sanger

* *Present*

- * Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- * D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- M. Mitchell (Director of Technical Services)
- * R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- * M.D. Pilkington (Works Supervisor)
- * S. Thackray (Director of Finance)

* *In attendance*

The Chairman welcomed Mr N. Culpin to his first Board meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J. Briggs, R.H. Brown, J. Coggon, W. Eckhardt, D. Robinson and Mrs L. Redfern.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr R. Allcock declared an interest as a member of North Lincolnshire Council Planning Committee.

3. NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 60 to 67)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 26th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

Minute 1, Page 60 - Mr T. Barker's name being added.
Minute 21, Page 67 - 2012 being amended to 2013.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the Plant and Compensation Committee meeting held on 13th September 2012.

(a) Minute 7 - Water Level Management

The Chief Executive confirmed that notes would be made of the meetings with the Environment Agency (EA). It was noted that North Soke Dyke was being addressed by the Crowle Flood Forum.

Mr R. Mason was concerned about where the funding would come from if the Board took over maintenance of some of the main rivers. Mr T. Barker enquired whether, if the Board took over the maintenance of a main river, its Byelaws would apply. Both these issues would be considered but the Chief Executive stated that the Flood and Water Management Act allowed IDBs to work for another authority and the first step would be to work in partnership with the EA to maintain main rivers that affected the Board's system.

The Chairman expressed concern about the amount of main rivers within the Board's district which were in desperate need of maintenance. He stated that the longer this was delayed, the more work would be required to get these watercourses back to the required standard. Although he recognised the importance of environmental considerations, the Chairman stated that the Board's priority must be to protect people and property from flooding. He stated that pressure must be put on the EA to ensure that the main rivers were desilted. Mr R. Allcock stated that North Lincolnshire Council was of the same opinion and was also putting pressure on the EA to undertake maintenance works. Mr Allcock used the example of the Crowle flooding where the water could not get to the pumping station as the watercourse had not been cleaned out downstream. Mr Allcock suggested that the Board undertake a small amount of maintenance on critical watercourses prior to July to ensure adequate protection was provided from flooding.

(b) Minute 5:11 - Pipe Under the A161

In response to Mr G.R.J. Bramhill, the Engineer reported that as the pipe had been in for so long the Board was deemed to have given consent. He did however state that an agreement was now in place with the landowner to keep the drain clear so that water could get through and negotiations were ongoing. The Board's officers inspected every month.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Plant and Compensation Committee held on 13th September 2012 and the resolutions made be approved.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 13th September 2012.

(a) Minute 5:2 - Partnership Working

The Vice-Chairman suggested that the Board's Officers meet with other parish councils within the Board's district. Mrs H. Brand reported that there was a liaison group for all the parish councils within the Bassetlaw area. Mr Allcock agreed with the idea in principle but stated that there were a lot of parish councils and no conglomerate group for those this side of the Trent. The Chief Executive agreed to investigate ways of reaching all the parish councils and report back to a future meeting.

(b) Minute 9:1 - DEFRA

The Chief Executive reported that responses to DEFRA were due back in November 2012. He stated that the questionnaires would be circulated to members for comment. These would then be collated and a response sent on behalf of the Board.

(c) Minute 10 - Board Members' Training

The Vice-Chairman stated that it was essential that all Board members were fully aware of when to declare an interest and the implications of not doing so.

(d) Minute 12 - Corporate Identity

The Chairman stressed the importance of educating the public about the Board and the website was an ideal way of doing this.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 13th September 2012 and the resolutions made be approved.

8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Director of Finance presented the attached schedule detailing payments made since the last Board meeting totalling £251,022.30.

The Vice-Chairman queried the cost of (PPY004199) for fuel sampling. The Chief Executive reported that the Energreen machine had not been working correctly and an inspection highlighted that bacteria was present in the fuel tank. All fuel tanks had then been checked and, where the bacteria was found to be present, the tanks had been cleaned. The Vice-Chairman reported that products could be purchased to add to fuel tanks but they must be cleaned first. The Director of Operations confirmed that this was being investigated and measures would be introduced to reduce the likelihood of this occurring again.

RESOLVED

That the attached Schedule be approved.

9. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Chief Executive reported that drainage rates and special levies outstanding at 19th September totalled £406,276.57 (approximately 41% of the amount demanded for the whole year).

The Director of Finance reported that arrears totalling £575.46 had been brought forward from the former Everton IDB. He stated that the land had changed ownership and bills had been issued to the new owner but it was unlikely that the arrears would be collected from the previous owner/occupier.

RESOLVED

That arrears outstanding from the former Everton IDB be written off in respect of assessment numbers 10010210 (£75.53), 10010300 (£466.46) and 10010650 (£33.47).

10. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report. Regarding the repair costs to the Energreen, the Director of Operations reported that the machine had been set to cut too low resulting in stones being thrown up and breaking the windows in the machine; this had since been rectified. The Director of Operations stated that this had been addressed, particularly as it was necessary for a certain length to be left for environmental reasons.

RESOLVED

That the Board's financial position be noted.

11. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Works Supervisor presented the attached report for information.

Regarding 1:9:4, the Director of Operations reported that Interlec (the Board's electrical contractor) had enquired whether the Board would be interested in renting the brick building on the Wiseton Pumping Station site. A proposal to demolish the disused timber office on the site was put forward, however, this was queried by the Vice-Chairman and it was agreed that a site familiarisation visit be undertaken before a decision was reached.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report be noted.
- (b) That a site visit be arranged to view the buildings at Wiseton Pumping Station and a report be presented to the next Board meeting for consideration.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Four planning applications had been received since the last meeting and appropriate observations had been made by officers under delegated authority. No objections had been raised.

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13. SECTION 23 APPLICATIONS/CONSENTS

There had been no applications for Section 23 consent since the last Board meeting.

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14. BYELAW APPLICATIONS/CONTRAVENTIONS

14:1 The Engineer reported the following consents that had been issued by officers under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

IANNB017_2012 - Erection of stock fence no higher than 1.20 metres along a 260 metre section of the right bank of Ingham Drain one metre from the bank top of the watercourse between national grid references SE 76795 04531 SE 76653 04735 in the parish of Epworth.

IANNB018_2012 - Erection of a fence along the line of a 50 metre section of the Board's culverted Blackdykes Drain at the Old Coach House, North Street between national grid references SE 81294 00172 and SE 81340 00153 in the parish of Owston Ferry.

IANNB020_2012 - Installation of a culvert in the Board maintained Keadby Boundary Drain at national grid reference SE 81185 12454 in the parish of Keadby.

IANNB021_2012 - Construction of a surface water outfall and discharge of surface water from adjoining development through a 100mm diameter pipe into the Board maintained North and South Cross Moors Road Drain at national grid reference SE 80225 12335 at Ealand Farm, Outgate, in the parish of Ealand.

IANNB022_2012 - Replacement of an existing culvert on the Board maintained Bagsby Road Drain at national grid reference SE 81602 01894 in the parish of Owston Ferry.

Mr J.C. Lee stated that the culvert in Bagsby Road Drain looked too high. The Engineer was aware of this and the Board's surveyor was due to check the levels within the week and the applicant would remove and reinstall the culvert if necessary. It was noted that this application had been submitted after the culvert had been installed. Mr Lee further stated that the culvert looked smaller than the one that was in previously. The Engineer stated that he would ensure the replacement culvert was of sufficient capacity to cater for the flows.

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14:2 Installation of Flap Valve on Drain Numbers IOA800600 and IOA800500, Hayton

The Engineer reported that application had been made to install a flap valve at the junction of drains IOA800600 and IOA800500 at national grid reference SK 72301 86900 at Long Road in the parish of Hayton. The applicant hoped that this would reduce the likelihood of flooding of adjacent fields. The Engineer reported that the primary cause of the flooding in that area was excessive weedgrowth but the watercourses also took overflow from the Chesterfield Canal.

The Engineer stated that there was no practical reason to refuse consent for the flap valve, however, a study of the system would be required before consent was granted.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board agree in principle to the installation of a flap valve by the landowners but no contribution to the costs be made.
- (b) That the Board's officers investigate the impact of all overflows from the Chesterfield Canal into the Board's system and their likely impact on the system serving the lands affected.
- (c) That full surveys be undertaken on the whole system and a management plan be drawn up to ensure that early season weedgrowth would not adversely impact on conveyance.

14:3 Byelaw Application - Keadby Windfarm

The Engineer reported that application had been made for the construction of 50 permanent access culverts of varying lengths in Board maintained and private watercourses (as shown on the attached plan) in connection with Keadby windfarm. It was noted that this application was a complete variation from that previously consented. The Engineer reported that the applicant would have to ensure mitigation for any loss of habitat (a total of 1,700 metres) and also loss of storage capacity (seven cubic metres).

Applications for 50 temporary crossings of Board maintained and private watercourses and for up to 100 new land drainage outfalls had also been received and was being dealt with under delegated authority.

Mr T. Barker enquired whether there was adequate provision to take the additional runoff from the wind turbine concrete bases. He asked for reassurance that this development would not exacerbate the problems at Crowle, i.e. larger culverts meant faster flows. The Engineer reported that the water would run-off into the Paupers system but the amount would be minimal and had been factored in.

RESOLVED

That consent be granted for the construction of 50 permanent access culverts of varying lengths in Board maintained and private watercourses (as shown on the attached plan) in connection with Keadby windfarm subject to all works being carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's Engineer.

15. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

15:1 Health and Safety Works at Whitgift Sluice

The Engineer reported that both FDGiA and Flood Defence Byelaw Approval had been received. Although the works were originally planned to be undertaken by the Board's DLO, due to the heavy workload, these would now be contracted out and the relevant tender documentation was, therefore, being prepared.

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15:2 Althorpe and Wiseton Pump Refurbishment

The Engineer reported that refurbishment of the pumps at Althorpe and Wiseton Pumping Stations had been combined into a single contract. The following tenders were presented to the Board:

| <i>Company</i> | <i>Althorpe</i> | <i>Wiseton</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Shoebridge Engineering | £6,880.00 | £11,760.00 | £18,640.00 |
| Xylem | £9,480.00 | £10,728.00 | £20,208.00 |
| Perry Pumps | £8,425.00 | £17,065.00 | £25,490.00 |
| Harrowquip | £8,818.00 | - | - |

The Engineer stated that the tenders had been adjudicated taking account of any likely additional works and the tender submitted by Shoebridge Engineering had been the most cost effective. He confirmed that Shoebridge Engineering had recently carried out work for the Board elsewhere and officers were satisfied with their work.

In response to the Vice-Chairman, the Engineer stated that when going out to tender, a price was requested for the standard work but also for any additional work that may be required based on problems that had been encountered in the past, eg sometimes additional problems were found when the pumps were lifted.

It was noted that 45% DFGiA had been confirmed for the work at Althorpe Pumping Station and tender for both stations was within the overall approved budget of £42,400.

The contract was awarded to Shoebridge Engineering under delegated authority and work began in early September with the removal of one pump from Althorpe and two pumps from Wiseton.

The Engineer stated that there was no requirement to install eel passes at either pumping station.

RESOLVED

That the Officers actions be approved.

15:3 Telemetry

The Engineer reported that installation of all major components at pumping stations would proceed in November. Installation at Kelfield Pumping Station was already underway so that the installation method could be approved and tested. Installation at 14 of the 18 pumping stations would be completed during the current financial year with the remaining four being completed in 2013/14.

The works had been budget for as follows:

| | | |
|---------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 2011/12 | £75,000.00 | <i>Carried over at year end</i> |
| 2012/13 | £52,000.00 | |
| 2013/14 | £41,660.00 | |

Mr R. Mason enquired where the water level monitor would be located at Paupers Pumping Station (this was discussed at the last meeting of the Plant and Compensation Committee). The Engineer confirmed that this would be discussed later.

RECEIVED

15:4 Heavy Rainfall in June/July 2012

The Engineer reported that the major issue during the July event was caused by significant rainfall on 5th and 6th July which fell on an already saturated catchment with up to 70mm being reported in places. This impact was further compounded because of the time of year i.e. summer maintenance works had not yet commenced and there was a large amount of weedgrowth in the watercourses due to the warm wet spring. The situation in Crowle had been exacerbated by the fact that Godnow Pumping Station had been switched off at the request of the Environment Agency (EA) to prevent the North Soak Drain overtopping, resulting in the flow being reversed into the Old River Drain. Although the EA had two pumps operating at Keadby, the water could not get through due to the heavy weedgrowth.

Pre-emptive measures were taken by the Board ahead of the forecast heavy rainfall when Paupers Pumping Station had been set to operate at winter levels. The Board also commenced weedcutting in Paupers Drain and the Old River Drain in an attempt to lower the water levels.

The main urban area affected was the town of Crowle where 25 tankers were dispatched by Anglian Water to evacuate the water. Problems were also experienced in East Butterwick and discussions were already underway with North Lincolnshire Council to come up with a scheme to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Flooding of 80 acres of agricultural land in the Clayworth area had also occurred during the second spell of heavy rain.

Problems had been experienced at Common Carrs Pumping Station where the water was being held up by the wall but this had since been rectified and further work would be done to protect the electrics.

The Engineer presented an overview of those systems that were considered higher risk and would benefit from maintenance to clear the centre channel earlier in the year to enable the flow of water.

It was agreed that regular meetings with Partners were essential to ensure that the above problems were addressed and that the Board should continue to press the EA to ensure that the main rivers were desilted.

The Engineer stated that officers had already commenced investigations into the problems experienced during the recent event and once completed recommendations would be presented to the Board for consideration. Mr T. Barker thanked the Board and its employees for their assistance on behalf of the residents of Crowle.

The Chairman stated that a lot of work had been undertaken by the Board since 2007 to reduce flooding. Mr P. Cornish expressed concern about the impact of environmental restrictions, i.e. no weedcutting until mid July. The Engineer stated that he was categorising all watercourses and coming up with evidence to support weed removal from the centre of the channel earlier. This would double the cost of the Board's maintenance budget as the watercourses would require cutting twice if they were done earlier. This work would have to be fully justified as such action could result in the full weight of environmental legislation being brought to bear upon the Board.

RECEIVED

16. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

16:1 Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership/Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

The Engineer reported that the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership provided the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Local Records Centre and Local Wildlife Sites scheme. The Board currently paid £250 per annum via a Service Level Agreement to be a member of the partnership and to access these services.

DEFRA in the Natural Environment White Paper in July 2012 announced plans for Local Nature Partnerships that would be required to make links between 'action for nature' and wider economic and community priorities. Development funding had been provided for this and the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership was in the process of changing to a Local Nature Partnership.

The Engineer reported that this change was essential to ensure funding for any new areas of work.

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16:2 Barn Owls Nest Boxes

Monitoring of the Board's owl boxes in June 2012 showed another good year with 14 Barn Owl chicks ringed. Kestrels and Stock Doves had also been observed using the nest boxes.

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17. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Chief Executive reported that the Finance Committee had approved additional expenditure during the current financial year to ensure employees were trained to the appropriate standard.

The Director of Operations stated that an inspection had been undertaken of Heckdyke and South Street Pumping Stations to assess whether the walls were of sufficient height to deter the public as there was a quite a drop the other side. He confirmed that the walls were of sufficient height to meet the HSE guidelines, however, signs would also be erected to warn of the steep drop the other side.

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18. ISLE OF AXHOLME FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Strategy had been challenged by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and a paper was submitted by the Environment Agency (EA) in response. The Strategy was due to be submitted to the Local Projects Review Group at the beginning of October and a decision was anticipated by the end of that month.

Mr R.A. Allcock thought that when the Board signed up to a level of 1 in 100 year protection to be achieved through a partnership approach to delivery and funding of the Strategy, that matters were largely concluded and that the Strategy would be implemented. He hoped that notwithstanding these supplementary questions raised by DEFRA, the Strategy would be approved as intended.

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19. DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS STUDY OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

This item had already been dealt with under Minute 7.

20. ELECTION

Members were reminded that nomination papers were due back on Friday 28th September 2012.

The Chairman reported that Mr C.W. Moore would not be standing for re-election and had sent in a letter of resignation from the Board. Members joined the Chairman in thanking Mr Moore for his service to the Board and wished him well for the future.

Mr Moore responded by saying how he had enjoyed his time as a member of the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board and previously as Chairman of West Butterwick Internal Drainage Board. He stated, however, that due to family commitments, he would no longer be able to give up the time he deemed necessary to serve on the Board. Mr Moore wished the Board well for the future and stated that he would not discount standing for election in the future should circumstances allow.

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CHAIRMAN