

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 29th November 2019, at Armthorpe Community Centre.

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|---|-------------------------------|
| * Mr M. Brooke | * Mrs R. Chapman |
| * Mr P.A.M. Cornish | * Mr C. Crowe |
| Mr J.K. Durdy | * Mr L. Garrett |
| * Mr R. Durdy | Mr P. Hagan |
| * Mr P. Horne (Vice-Chairman) | * Mr J. Hoare |
| * Mr G.C. Parker | * Mr C. McGuinness (Chairman) |
| * Mr W.G.S. Platt | Mr M. Oldknow |
| * Mr N.V. Williams | Mr D. Ridge |
| | * Mrs S. Wilkinson |
| * <i>Present</i> | |
| * Mr A. McGill (Chief Executive) | |
| * Mr N. Kemble (Engineer) | |
| Mr A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager) | |
| * Mr R. Brown (Operations Manager) | |
| * Mrs N. Hind (Finance Manager) | |
| * <i>In attendance</i> | |

2019.83 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem.

2019.84 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mrs S. Wilkinson and seconded by Mrs R. Chapman that Mr C. McGuinness be elected Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr C. McGuinness be elected Chairman of the Board.

2019.85 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr C. McGuinness and seconded by Mrs S. Wilkinson that Mr P. Horne be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr P. Horne be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

2019.86 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J.K. Durdy, M. Oldknow and D. Ridge.

2019.87 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2019.88 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

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2019.89 BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27th September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

2019.90 MATTERS ARISING

Minutes 2019.68 - Matters Arising

The Engineer confirmed that there had been some queries regarding the health and safety report which he would follow up before the next Board meeting.

Officers reported that the Rating Officer was reviewing the definitive maps to ensure that all land was identified on the rating system. Any queries relating to particular areas would be highlighted to the Board once the review was complete.

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Minute 2019.74 - Proposed Residential Development near Sandals Grange Pumping Station

The Operations Manager would be making representations to the planning authority and Officers were in the process of calculating the commuted sum to be charged to the developer. Members would be kept updated.

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Minute 2019.82 (d) - Huxterwell Pumping Station

The Operations Manager reported that costs for the station would be split 81% IPort, 8% Highways England and 11% Coal Authority and a final meeting would be held on Tuesday to confirm the proposal. In response to members, he confirmed that the pumps would cope as long as the control structure remained operational and also that improvements were due to be undertaken on the watercourse. The Chief Executive explained that when the control structure had failed during the recent heavy rainfall event, the developer had put in a mobile pump and drained water straight into the River Torne which eased the flow to the pumping station. The Operations Manager confirmed that there was no additional flow from south of the development as this drained the other way. It was noted that the refurbishment schedule for this station had been amended with one pump to be refurbished each year and a spare pump available. The first pump was scheduled for refurbishment in the next financial year once the agreement with Verdian was signed.

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2019.91 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committees held on 1st November 2019 were presented.

The Chief Executive reported that the Association of Drainage Authorities Policy and Finance Committee was preparing a schedule of charges in respect of development advice offered by internal drainage boards and the Board's Officers were also discussing this with the Environment Agency who had just undertaken a similar review. Mr L. Garrett reported that Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council did charge developers a fee for

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advice and supported a similar arrangement for the Board. The Chief Executive suggested that an initial fee could be charged for basic advice with a scale of charges for any necessary additional work. Details would be presented to a future meeting for consideration.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the meeting of the Committees held on 1st November 2019 be adopted by the Board.

2019.92 ELECTION OF MEMBERS/RECONSTITUTION

The election of members to represent the agricultural drainage ratepayers, to come into force on 1st November 2019, had been held in accordance with the statutory rules. The following members had submitted valid nomination papers and were elected to hold office until 31st October 2022:

Hatfield Chase - Messrs P.A.M. Cornish and M. Brooke.

Finningley - Mr N.V. Williams.

Ashfield and West Moor - Messrs W.G.S. Platt and G.C. Parker.

Potterick Carr - Mr R. Durdy.

Tickhill - Mr J.K. Durdy.

Following the election, one expression of interest had been received and this was considered by members. Members discussed whether to fill the remaining vacancies bearing in mind that the Reconstitution process was already underway. Officers agreed to check with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency as to whether this was acceptable. It was noted that the above names had been submitted to DEFRA to serve on the newly constituted board.

RESOLVED

That, subject to there being no objection from DEFRA and the EA, the Board continue to operate with the above seven elected members until the Reconstitution.

2019.93 MEETING DATES 2020

(a) Board Meetings

It was suggested that five Board meetings be held next year. Mr P.A.M. Cornish queried whether this was sufficient if no Committee meetings were held.

RESOLVED

That Board meetings be held at 2.00 p.m. on 31st January, 27th March, 19th June, 25th September and 27th November 2020.

That an environmental briefing be given to the Board every six months (to include reports from Potteric Carr Nature Reserve).

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(b) Other Dates

A Local Choices meeting would be held the first week in December and Officers would be attending to represent the Board. The Chairman would be attending a meeting to discuss abstraction issues on the River Idle.

The following dates were noted:

ADA Trent Branch - 13th February (possibly followed by the EA/IDB Liaison Meeting)

Floodex UK - 26th and 27th February

ADA Trent Branch AGM - 4th June

Lincolnshire Show - 24th and 25th June

ADA Annual Conference - 11th November

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2019.94 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

That the Committees be disbanded with all matters being brought to the Board for consideration.

2019.95 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Senior Operations Manager was currently undertaking his Nebosh National General Certificate health and safety training. There were no health and safety issues to report.

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2019.96 DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Finance Manager reported a balance of £2,004.40 outstanding at 12th November 2019 and an overall collection rate of 99.80%.

The process of identifying and tracing land owners/occupiers was ongoing with some already having been traced and billed.

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2019.97 FINANCE

(a) Management Accounts for the Period Ending 30th September 2019

The Finance Manager presented the attached Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheet for the period up to 30th September which showed a negative variance of £61,911.49.

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(b) Cash Reserves and Investments at 31st October 2019

The Finance Manager reported on £995,817.34 which was currently invested in three instant access accounts at 0% interest. In response to a query from the Vice-Chairman as to why the Board had a separate Rating Account, the Finance Manager confirmed that this was no longer required but could not be closed as the VAT refunds were being paid into this account.

Ten loans totalling £546,221.85 remained outstanding.

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(c) Payments Over £500

The attached schedule was circulated for approval and it was noted that the payment to Wilkin Chapman would be refunded from the Thorne Moors account.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of payments over £500 made since the last Board meeting be approved.

(d) Draft Estimates 2020/21

The attached DRAFT estimates for 2020/21 which had been considered by the Finance Committee on the 1st November 2019 were presented. These had been prepared based on a 16% increase which was the amount required to achieve a balanced budget and would increase the rate from 5.14 pence to 5.962 pence. The estimates would be considered in detail at the January Board meeting together with the five-year plan.

The Finance Manager reported average net operating costs of £1,004,586 for the year and highlighted that cash balances at 31st March 2021 were estimated to be in the region of £378,393.

The Chairman was concerned that any increase in the rate above 5% would not be acceptable to the councils as most local authorities were having their budgets slashed and, although the increase was not huge in terms of cash, it was the percentage increase they would be looking at. Mr L. Garrett understood the need to increase the rate bearing in mind the recent flooding but emphasised that he would need to discuss this with the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Finance Team. Mr G.C. Parker stated that a lot of landowners had suffered from flooding this year and last and suggested that the Board should explore other funding streams.

Members agreed that keeping the rate low over previous years had resulted in the Board carrying a risk and with the amount of borrowing and the reduced balances, it would be very difficult to undertake the major works now required at the pumping stations. The Finance Manager estimated a £92,000 deficit this year and a further £89,000 next year if the rate was set at a 5% increase. Mr N.V. Williams emphasised that if the Board continued to run a deficit budget it would not be able to operate.

The Chief Executive confirmed that capital works were being reviewed and once the five-year plan had been updated the Board would have a clearer picture of the financial position going forward; the plan would also include the risk factor should

funding not be available to undertake the necessary work as it was essential that all authorities were aware of this. He stated that alternative funding sources and income streams would be explored and suggested that partnership working could be a way forward with other authorities contributing directly towards schemes which benefitted their area to help to keep the rate lower.

Mr C. Crowe confirmed that the Coal Authority was aware of the work required and would be allocating more funding for next year.

Mr L. Garrett emphasised the importance of starting discussions with the council as soon as possible and Officers agreed to liaise with him regarding a meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the financial position be noted.
- (b) That the Estimates and Five-Year Plan be circulated to members prior to the January Board meeting.
- (c) That Officers arrange to meet with special levy payers prior to this to discuss the rate increase for next year.

2019.98 OPERATIONS REPORT

(a) Heavy Rainfall Event

Officers reported on the recent heavy rainfall event stating that pumping stations had been running continuously over the last month. The following issues were highlighted:

- (i) Balby Carr Pump One (recently refurbished) overheating and tripping out - contractor investigating. Pump 2 shaft housing and gland rotated and coiled up grease lines - isolated and awaiting inspection.
- (ii) Huxterwell 1 in 100 year event. Flow control structure on countryside lakes failed allowing too much water down the channel flooding access to the pumping station, and loaded raised embankments of link road and M18. Highways notified to check highway not affected.
- (iii) Kilham Farm Up to 1m of flood water entered station. Pumps continued to run but domestic circuit power sockets damaged.
- (iv) Torne Bridge Up to 1m of flood water entered the station. One pump continued to run but faults with other pump not related to the flooding. Damage to domestic circuit power sockets.
- (v) Westmoor Ultra-sonics flooded requiring pumps to be run manually until level monitors resumed working. Issues downstream within channel and at Environment Agency's (EA) Waterton Hall Pumping Station. Several slips due to sandy soil. Mr G.C. Parker thanked all involved in this incident, stating that the communication between landowners, the Board and the council was excellent.
- (vi) Cuckoo Lane Much of catchment under water with comparatively little getting to station despite over pumping efforts. Widespread flooding of land and two properties in Stainforth. Scheme to commence shortly to cut new channel,

work to be completed within 35 days. Council to finance work until funds available from Coal Authority. Ground conditions very poor in this area but Officers confirmed angle of channel would be sufficient to avoid bank slips.

- (vii) High Level South One pump failed - contractor attending to repair.
- (viii) High Levels North Moisture in seal, now fixed.
- (ix) Medge Hall Water levels in catchment exceptionally high and land underwater. No internal flooding of property although water surrounding some. One 8" pump deployed to pump water into North Soak and two additional 6" pumps on loan from Environment Agency. Station unable to operate for six days due to North Soak overtopping into catchment. Some properties affected. Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB operatives operated mobile pumps.
- (x) South Thorne Bank, Cadmans, Franklins and EA Bull Hassocks and Tunnel Pitts River Torne between Greenholme and Tunnel Pitts overtopped onto land south of River Torne. Levels in South Level Engine Drain triggered stop levels for Bull Hassocks pumps which were operated manually to keep station running. Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire WLMB operatives manned Bull Hassocks overnight to keep water moving for both Boards as no EA staff available.
- (xi) Tickhill Inaccessible for several days due to flooding around station and across access track. When water levels receded, the station pumped the sump and drain dry due to damage to the high and low level stops, a temporary repair has been made and station is operating.
- (xii) Elm Hirst Thermal overload tripping on pump two but operational following reset. Slips to be repaired.
- (xiii) Low Ellers Issue with greaser on pump one.
- (xiv) Top Boating Dyke Price awaited to repair slips, continual problem so piling required.

The Operations Manager stated that the Board's operatives had worked extremely hard day and night during the heavy rainfall event.

The Chief Executive highlighted that only having one full-time and one part-time employee was a risk, particularly during events such as this when cover was required around the clock. He also stated that one of the strengths was that members were willing to assist during such an event. Mr L. Garrett stressed the importance of good communication between the local authority, internal drainage board and EA to ensure issues could be responded to quickly and he highlighted the need for local knowledge. He agreed that the limited resources across all organisations may have been an issue had the event gone on for much longer. Members were particularly concerned about the lack of manpower available from the EA to man their own stations. It was agreed to confirm contact details with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council so that they knew who to contact in an emergency.

The Council would be investigating the flooding and how organisations had responded and Officers and members were asked to provide any information which may be useful. Mr P.A.M. Cornish expressed concern about the lack of joined up

thinking, in particular the use of mobile pumps in isolation, and people not considering the impact this may have on others. Mr L. Garrett confirmed a pumping strategy needed to be agreed in such circumstances to consider the effect across the whole area and to ensure that pumps were used to best effect. The Chairman confirmed that there needed to be a total catchment approach which would restrict any action unless all parties agreed.

RESOLVED

That a letter of thanks and gift voucher be sent to the Board's operatives in recognition of their hard work and dedication during the recent heavy rainfall event.

(b) Bank Slips

Officers reported that the higher water levels in many watercourses had resulted in an increased number of bank slips throughout the area. These were being inspected and recorded with emergency repairs being undertaken where necessary. Prices would be obtained for any toe piling prior to work being undertaken but the cost of this would be offset by savings made from not having to return to undertake future repairs.

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(c) Crook-O-Moor Drain, Crowle

A recent site visit had highlighted that this watercourse required desilting and, as summer maintenance had not yet been undertaken on this watercourse, Officers suggested that desilting be carried out instead. This would mean a small increase in cost on the watercourses within this catchment.

RESOLVED

That desilting be undertaken on the Crook-O-Moor Drain at Crowle.

(d) Summer Maintenance Works

Contractors were progressing with the summer maintenance programme which had been delayed due to the wet weather but it was hoped to have all work completed in early December.

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(e) Plant

The 4x4 vehicle and trailer approved for purchase at the last Board meeting had been delivered.

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2019.99 ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The attached report was circulated for information.

The Engineer highlighted that over the next seven or eight years the Board had ten pumping stations in its ownership that were due for refurbishment, an estimated cost to the Board of £300,000 per annum. As part of the review of the five and ten year plans, he

would be reviewing all these stations, assessing the risk and prioritising the work. Mr M. Brooke pointed out that some of these stations only served a small area of land, pumping some 200/300 acres. He stated that the catchment modelling must also be taken into account.

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(a) Telemetry

The Engineer reported that a DRAFT specification had been prepared for the provision of a new telemetry system for the Board and the Consortium and tenders would be sent out before Christmas.

Officers continued to liaise with other internal drainage boards regarding how to address issues in the short-term and a further meeting was due to be held with them the following week.

The Engineer reported that Ancholme IDB had offered to host the telemetry for the next ten months for 85% of the previous fee, however, as the previous agreement had also included hardware and software, he felt that this was excessive. A letter had been sent enquiring whether Ancholme would be prepared to offer the same terms as offered to the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board and a response was awaited.

In response to members, Officers confirmed that there were five high-risk stations and as agreed previously, all stations would be prioritised according to risk and measures would be put in place to ensure that these could continue to be monitored. Members stressed the urgency of this and stated that measures must be put in place as soon as possible to mitigate any risk.

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2019.100 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Engineer presented the attached report for information.

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2019.101 DELEGATED MATTERS

The Operations Manager reported on the following applications that had been dealt with under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

(a) Byelaw Applications

DEIDB/LDC/2019/022 Raising of land levels adjacent to the Board maintained Little Mother Drain for a distance of 85 metres between national grid references 459732 397421 and 459737 397334 in the parish of Wadworth.

DEIDB/LDC/2019/024 Modification of outfall from Long Pond to include an automatic penstock and pump arrangement discharging to the Board maintained Little Mother Drain at national grid reference 459745 397385 in the parish of Wadworth.

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(b) Section 23 Applications

DEIDB/LDC/2019/021 Installation of 12 metre long, 1,200 mm diameter culvert within a riparian watercourse at Long Pond between national grid references 459727 397423 and 459711 397411 in the parish of Rossington.

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(c) Planning Applications

No objections had been made to any planning applications since the last Board meeting. Applications continued to be monitored although the call on resources during the recent wet weather had put this behind.

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2019.102 ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)

The Chief Executive gave an overview on the ADA Conference held on 13th November 2019.

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2019.103 THORNE AND CROWLE MOORS SSSI - RESTORING THE HUMBERHEAD
PEATLANDS LIFE PROJECT

Due to the confidential nature of the matter, details are recorded on Pink Paper.

2019.104 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Council Tax and Special Levy

Mrs S. Wilkinson enquired whether IDBs could be excluded from the council tax to avoid a referendum. The Chief Executive would investigate how to go about breaking out the special levy from the council tax.

CHAIRMAN