

DONCASTER EAST INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 1st February 2019, at Armthorpe Community Centre.

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

2019.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs P. Cornish, C. Crowe and D. Ridge.

2019.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr N. Williams declared an interest in Agenda Item 2019.16 (planning application ref 18/01913/REMM)

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2019.3 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

2019.4 BOARD MINUTES - 30TH NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 30th November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

2019.5 MATTERS ARISING

None.

2019.6 WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the minutes of the January Committee meeting.

Mr M. Brooke expressed concern about money being spent on pumping stations before the hydraulic modelling had been completed as this may highlight changes to the systems. The Operations and Engineering Teams had discussed this and agreed that only minimal work would be undertaken to keep the stations operational. It was noted that the modelling project could take some time to complete.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Water Level Management Committee held on 11th January 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

2019.7 FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the minutes of the January Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

That the attached minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 11th January 2019 be confirmed and adopted.

2019.8 DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Chief Executive reported a balance of £1,951.94 outstanding at 18th January 2019. Special levies had been paid in full and 97.6% of drainage rates had been collected.

A total of £979.52 of the £1,485.93 brought forward at 31st March 2018 remained outstanding.

Fourteen Liabilities Orders had been granted at Doncaster Magistrates' Court of which 12 remained outstanding.

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2019.9 FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report which was considered in detail. She reported that a reconciliation paper would be included in the future in order for members to compare the Income and Expenditure with the Estimates.

In response to Mr N. Williams, the Finance Manager reported that depreciation had not previously been shown in the Income and Expenditure report or Estimates although it was included in the Final Accounts.

Regarding TUPE costs the Chairman stated that the Board had set a cap of £150,000 on this so the figure was within what was expected.

The Finance Manager confirmed that any changes in land from rating to special levy had been made before the Estimates were produced, this included the IPort Development. The Operations Manager confirmed that the sale of the former prison land had not yet been completed, he would keep the Rating Officer up to date with any proposed development, including land at Lindholme.

It was noted that application had been made for the Board to be registered for V.A.T. and a V.A.T. reclaim had also been made.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report detailing income and expenditure up to 31st December 2018, investments and borrowings, and the forecast for the year-end, be noted.
- (b) That the attached payment schedule be approved.

2019.10 ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2019 TO 31ST MARCH 2020

The Finance Manager presented the attached estimates of income and expenditure for 2019/20 which had been prepared following a review of current and historic years' costs. Adjustments had been made where necessary and inflation of 2.5% taken into account, 2.7% in respect of salaries.

Due to continued pressure on the Board's finances from necessary capital investment and other rising costs, an increase of 6.089% was recommended by Officers.

The net expenditure of £905,688 would result in a deficit of £92,602 which would be met from reserves. The Finance Manager confirmed that the Board did have sufficient reserves to meet this, however, the level of reserves would need to be monitored closely to ensure these stayed at a level sufficient to cater for any unforeseen costs such as flooding events.

The Estimates had been considered by the Water Level Management and Finance Committees and any recommended adjustments made. Details of these changes and an explanation of each budget heading can be seen in the attached Estimates.

The Vice-Chairman stated that it was unrealistic to increase the rate sufficiently to have a zero deficit so the Finance Committee had agreed to recommend a 6.089% increase. The Chairman stated that Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (DMBC) had been expecting a 3% increase but accepted that the additional increase was necessary to meet the additional expense incurred this year.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached estimates of expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2019 be approved in the sum of £905,688.
- (b) That the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings, and special levies on the local charging authorities for the year commencing 1st April 2019 be as follows:
 - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £83,939,
 - (ii) by special levy on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council - £704,755,
 - (iii) by special levy on North Lincolnshire Council - £13,634,
 - (iv) by special levy on Bassetlaw District Council - 10,758,
- (c) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2019 be made and sealed in the total sum of 5.14 pence in the pound.

2019.11 OPERATIONS REPORT

Officers presented the attached report for information. It was noted that all emergency electrical repair works at pumping stations had been completed, the total cost was in the region of £22,000; a report on this would be presented at a future meeting.

The Operations Director gave an update on issues with pump number 1 and the weedscreen at Low Ellers Pumping Station, and the panel at Seven Arches Pumping Station which was due to be replaced in the next financial year. The fault with pump number 1 at Balby Carr had been investigated and the Engineer reported that although the pump was approximately 40 years old, he could see no reason why a refurbishment should not be sufficient to rectify the problem with the shaft and spindle but he would be seeking a ten-year warranty for this work.

RESOLVED

That the attached report be noted and the Officers' actions approved.

2019.12 ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS

Strategic Hydraulic Modelling Project

Officers continued discussions with the Environment Agency (EA) and their contractors, Capita, regarding potential employment by Doncaster East Internal Drainage Board for Capita to carry out the works via the Environment Agency's Framework. The Engineer confirmed that the Engineering Team could oversee the work, keeping the optioneering under the Board's control to ensure the output was relevant to the pumping stations and rationalisation. It was noted that Tickhill and Potterick Carr were not included in this model.

Tenders were being sought from suitable companies for the surveying element of the work and these were due for return on the 25th February 2019 whereupon an adjudication would be undertaken.

A full report would be presented to the Board for consideration once further discussions had taken place with the EA and the contractors, and the tenders had been considered.

In response to Mr N. Williams, the Chief Executive reported that further discussion was required on the demaining of watercourses and he hoped to be able to report on this at the March Board meeting. The Chairman explained that there were six EA maintained watercourses in the Board's area, three of which had been offered for transfer by January 2017 but the Board had declined until details of how this would be funded were confirmed.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be granted delegated authority to award the surveying contract following tender adjudication.

2019.13 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Officers confirmed that all agreed Public Sector Cooperation Agreement work on Environment Agency's (EA) watercourses had been completed except for work to the River Torne upstream of Auckley Weir. This work was being undertaken by the Board's contractor and should be completed shortly. Feedback from landowners in the area had been very positive and a significant drop in water levels reported. Some issues had been

raised by the EA's conservation team regarding trees and bushes along the watercourse but these had been addressed.

Work on the Harworth Sewer was being costed and Officers hoped that this could be delivered in conjunction with the River Torne works. A collapsing culvert had also been identified and would be replaced as part of the scheme.

Officers had met with the EA to discuss work to be undertaken in 2019/20 and the Board had been asked to submit costs for maintenance of those watercourses that had received work in 2018/19. Mr G. Parker asked whether confirmation of this work could be obtained earlier next year from the EA so that it could be undertaken in tandem with work on the Board maintained watercourses.

The Vice-Chairman stated that recharge costs should include an element to cover administration and monitoring and it was agreed to consider this at a future meeting.

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2019.14 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

(a) South Thorne Pumping Station, Eel Exemption

Officers reported that the eel exemption for the above pumping station had been extended for five years until 31st December 2023 as the Environment Agency fisheries team considered it a high priority pumping station for eel passage. The current exemption, in line with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance, would be renewed until a capital scheme was planned.

When the Environment Agency's review of their implementation of the Eel Regulations was published, Officers recommended that all the Board's pumping stations be reviewed.

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(b) Developer Contributions for Habitat, Restoration and Biodiversity Offsetting - Consenting Activities (Section 23 and Byelaws)

Work was ongoing and the Association of Drainage Authorities' Policy and Finance Committee was reviewing charges for developers which had similar legislative consideration. Officers hoped that guidance would be produced this year to allow this work to be completed.

The Engineer reported that Officers were also investigating whether charges could be made for providing flood risk assessments to developers and if this was possible a scale of charges would be produced. The Association of Drainage Authorities was also reviewing this.

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2019.15 HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no issues to report.

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2019.16 DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

(a) Byelaw Applications

Officers reported that consent had been granted under delegated authority for the following:

DEIDB/LDC/2018/008 Installation of temporary dams within the Board maintained Snow Sewer Pump Drain at national grid reference SE 72971 98545 and Broomston Drain at national grid reference SE 72987 98513 at Idle Bank, Doncaster to facilitate an internal inspection of the culvert underneath the railway line and Park Drain Pumping Station.

DEIDB/LDC/2018/010 Installation of a temporary dam within the Board maintained Childer's Drain in connection with culvert renovation work underneath the railway line at national grid reference SE 59576 00692 at Potteric Carr, Doncaster.

DEIDB/LDC/2018/011 Removal of an existing field entrance/bridge and replacement with a 12 metre long culvert in the Board maintained West End Drain in the field located at the rear of Hedgegate, Mosscroft Lane at national grid reference SE 66703 08081 in the parish of Hatfield.

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(b) Section 23 Applications

Officers reported that consent had been granted for the following under delegated authority:

DEIDB/LDC/2018/009 Renovation including installation of a tight fit liner within the riparian culvert underneath the railway line at national grid reference SE 59576 00692 near Childer's Drain Bridge, Potteric Carr at Doncaster.

DEIDB/LDC/2019/001 Infilling of 293 metres of riparian watercourse between national grid references SE 64068 04210 to 63854 04010 at West Moor Park Development in the parish of Armthorpe.

DEIDB/LDC/2019/002 Installation of one 225mm and three 75mm diameter land drainage outfalls into the Board maintained Boating Dike Drain at national grid references SE 71942 11053, SE 71342 11081, SE 71308 11092 and SE 71271 11103 in the parish of Thorne.

DEIDB/LDC/2019/003 Brickwork repairs (brick arch No. 1) and de-silting works (brick arch No. 2) to the brick arch culverts (Haggs Hole) underneath the railway on the Board maintained Common Drain at national grid reference SE 63547 09770 in the parish of Stainforth.

DEIDB/LDC/2019/004 Removal of an existing bridge, construction of new concrete bank seats and the installation of a new steel bridge over the Board maintained Mother Drain (Cantley with Branton Foopath Number 8) at national grid reference SK 62280 99025 in the parish of Cantley.

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(c) Planning Applications

Officers reported on 47 planning applications which had been reviewed, objection had been raised to two of these (18/01476/MIN and PA/2018/1697) which were within nine metres of a Board maintained watercourse.

It was noted that construction of some 2,000 houses was planned in Harworth with a similar number to be erected in 2020-25 and members queried what provision was being made for the evacuation of surface water and sewerage. The Operations Manager confirmed that attenuation ponds and an infiltration system were being built and, although this was outside the Board's area, comments had been sent to the Council.

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2019.16A BYELAW APPLICATION - BALBY CARR

Application had been made for consent to reinforce an existing gas main within nine metres of the Board maintained Mother Drain at Balby Carr Bank in Doncaster (between national grid references SE 56965 01626 and 58310 00945) and to construct two service crossings through the banks of the watercourse.

The Mother Drain served the Balby Carr Bank industrial and commercial estates, the residential properties to the south east of Balby Road to Cross Bank, and took the storm overflow from the Yorkshire Water Woodfield Road site which served a wider catchment than the drain. The drain consisted of a mixture of open, concrete lined and culverted sections and had numerous service crossings spanning the drain. The first section of the Mother Drain was culverted and not adequately geolocated and Officers therefore recommended that a survey be undertaken to ascertain the exact line and level in relation to the proposed gas main route.

Discussions had been held with the applicants and Officers had stated that, should the Board agree to the proposal, the gas main must be located no closer than 1.5 metres from the bank top with a cover of 1.1 bedded such to be capable of withstanding the weight of heavy plant and equipment. Furthermore, Officers had emphasised that the Board would not accept any liability for damage to the pipe whilst undertaking watercourse maintenance.

It was noted that the only access the Board had to undertake maintenance of the watercourse was from the roadside.

Officers had refused consent to span the watercourse as this would severely hamper maintenance operations and also pose a health and safety risk to the Board's contractors when undertaking the work. The applicant had therefore been informed that any crossing would need to be 1.5 metres below the bed of the watercourse.

The Chief Executive stated that this could have a significant impact on the Board's operational activities and recommended that the Board should postpone making a decision on the application until all relevant information had been obtained and agreement had been reached with the applicants that they were prepared to comply with the Board's requirements and pay the cost of any such indemnities.

RESOLVED

That Officers liaise further with the applicants and bring back a proposal for consideration at the March Board meeting.

2019.17 RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD

As the Board hoped to reconstitute this year, reducing the number of members, the Chairman reported that Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council did not intend to fill the four vacancies for nominated members. He further reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Mr P. Wilkinson, leaving four vacancies for elected members. Members agreed that these vacancies should be left unfilled until the reconstitution.

Members considered options for the electoral districts and it was agreed that these should be as follows for the newly constituted Board with one member for each district:

- Thorne and Ealand
- Hatfield and Stainforth
- Hatfield Chase
- Armthorpe
- Hatfield Moor and Wroot
- Tickhill and Rossington
- Finningley and River Idle

RESOLVED

That the above electoral districts (as shown on the attached plan) be approved for the newly constituted Board.

2019.18 THORNE AND CROWLE MOORS SSSI - RESTORING THE HUMBERHEAD PEATLANDS LIFE PROJECT

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

2019.19 WHISTLEBLOWING COMPLAINT

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

2019.20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following dates were noted and members asked to inform the office if they wished to attend:

Floodex - 27th and 28th February 2019
ADA Trent Branch - 14th February 2019
ADA Governance Workshop for Members - 23rd March 2019

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CHAIRMAN