

ISLE OF AXHOLME AND NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Westwoodside Village Hall, on Tuesday, 24th January 2012 at 2.00 p.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

- Mrs H. Brand
- * Mr G. Rickells

* *Present*

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

* *In attendance*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs T. Barker, J. Briggs, N. Culpin, D. Robinson and Mrs H. Brand.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr R. Allcock and Mrs L. Redfern - agenda item 13 (Planning Applications).
Mr S. White - agenda item 14 (Section 23 Consents).
Mr P.A. Cornish - agenda item 15 (Byelaw Applications).
Mr P. Bradwell - agenda item 16 (Capital Works report, Item 2).

3. NOTICE OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 28 to 39)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8th November 2011 be confirmed as a correct record subject to paragraph 1 being amended to read 'North Lincolnshire Council' instead of 'Lincolnshire County Council'.

Mr R. Mason arrived.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 17:1. Page 34 - Application to Culvert Private Watercourse Adjacent The Pines, Doncaster Road, Westwoodside

The Chief Executive and Engineering Manager had met the applicant on site to discuss the matter as agreed at the last Board meeting. The Chief Executive explained that there were some issues regarding surface water from the highway and other properties draining into this watercourse which needed to be resolved. He therefore recommended that no action be taken to reinstate the watercourse until further investigations had been undertaken.

RESOLVED

That no action be taken to reinstate the watercourse until further investigations had been undertaken by the Board's officers in consultation with North Lincolnshire Council.

6. FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 5th December 2011 and 17th January 2012.

It was noted that the Shadow Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board had agreed to join the Consortium from 1st April 2012, this would be for a fixed period of 12 months and would then be reviewed. The proposed new depot and offices would be discussed under the Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2012/13.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Finance Committee held on 5th December 2011 and 17th January 2012 and the resolutions made be approved.

7. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive presented the attached minutes of the Plant and Compensation Committee meeting held on 5th December 2011.

Mr R. Allcock was surprised that the Committee had decided not to recommend the purchase of a new wheeled excavator, particularly as the Board was undertaking more work with North Lincolnshire Council and, hopefully, the Environment Agency in the future. Mr Allcock had not been at the Committee meeting but stated that he would have voted for the purchase had he been able to attend. In view of the likelihood of additional work for other authorities, Mrs L. Redfern suggested that the Board re-consider the purchase of a wheeled excavator in six months.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Plant and Compensation Committee held on 5th December 2011 and the resolutions made be approved.
- (b) That the Committee reconsider the purchase of a new wheeled excavator during the current financial year should more work be forthcoming from the Environment Agency.

8. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The Director of Finance presented the attached schedule detailing payments made since the last Board meeting totalling £139,177.81.

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 16th January totalled £26,967.51 and was on target compared to the previous year. It was noted that a further £8,000 had been received since 16th January.

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10. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report showing cash balances and borrowings at 15th January 2012.

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11. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13

It was agreed to discuss this item at the end of the meeting.

12. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Works Supervisor presented the attached report for information.

The Works Supervisor referred to paragraph 2:2, stating that this was a good example of the kind of work being undertaken by the DLO during the winter other than the usual reforming works and any capital improvements.

Mr G.R.J. Bramhill suggested that a platform be constructed at Whitgift Sluice to assist the Board's employees when undertaking jetting works. The Director of Operations agreed that this would be included in the design and, if agreed, would possibly reduce the cost of jetting by a third party.

In response to Mr P. Bradwell, the Works Supervisor stated that the Board had access on one side of the Adlingfleet outfall but land on the other side was designated as an SSSI.

The Chairman suggested that officers contact the Environment Agency to enquire whether the Board's workforce could undertake the flushing of Adlingfleet outfall.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached report be noted.
- (b) That the Director of Operations investigate the possibility of constructing a platform to assist with jetting at Whitgift Sluice.
- (c) That the Director of Operations approach the Environment Agency to enquire whether the Board could undertake flushing of the outfall at Adlingfleet.

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

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14. SECTION 23 APPLICATIONS/CONSENTS

The Engineer reported the following consent that had been granted under officer's delegated authority since the last meeting:

S23007 - Infilling a section of private watercourse (formerly the Board maintained Misterton Middle Drain) between national grid references SK 73708 95098 and SK 73736 94623 at Gringley Carr.

All works would be carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's officers.

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15. BYELAW APPLICATIONS/CONTRAVENTIONS

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

B004_2011 - Erection of fence within nine metres of the Board maintained Fockerby Drain Branch at national grid reference SE 84470 20769, Garthorpe Road in the parish of Garthorpe.

B005_2011 - Placing of underground cable within nine metres of the Board maintained watercourse (IOA810300) at Slaynes Lane in the parish of Misson.

B006_2011 - Repairs to existing land drainage outfalls with new pipes into the Board maintained Eastoft Drain between national grid references SE 80781 17478 and SE 80410 16847 in the parish of Eastoft.

B007_2011 - Construction of farm access track within nine metres of the Board maintained Carr Road West Drain between national grid references SK 71809

93504 and SK 71859 93365 at Little Carr Farm, Carr Road West in the parish of Gringley.

B008_2011 - Increasing flow of surface water into the Board maintained Carr Road West Drain from development into a new pond with overspill at national grid reference SK71830 93440 at Little Carr Farm, Carr Road West in the parish of Gringley.

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16. CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

16:1 Telemetry System

Members considered the tenders detailed in Item 1 of the attached Capital Works report.

In response to Mr K. Durdy, the Engineer stated that the installation of a telemetry system was essential, particularly with the larger area covered by the new Board which stretched for some 40/50 miles across. The Engineer reminded members that the Board had a workforce of only six employees and during a flood event they could be providing cover 24 hours a day, which meant that only three employees would be at work at one time. A telemetry system would mean that the pumping stations could be monitored/controlled from one location and the men could be deployed where necessary.

RESOLVED

- (a) That officers view the telemetry systems on site and prepare a full report on both tenders for consideration at the next Board meeting.

16:2 Eastoft Boundary Drain Improvements

Mr P. Bradwell left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Members considered Item 2 of the attached Capital Works report.

In response to Mr P. Cornish, the Director of Technical Services stated that the work would not directly benefit the landowners and their fields drained into the Paupers system. The scheme would have a larger area benefit, giving added protection to properties in the area.

The Director of Technical Services explained that compensation rates set by the Board for maintenance works were not applicable in this instance as the watercourse had been widened by taking approximately one metre of land along the length of the watercourse.

RESOLVED

That the Board pay compensation for loss of land arising from the Eastoft Boundary Drain Improvements at the rate recommended by the land agent (£7,200 per acre).

Mr Bradwell returned to the meeting.

16:3 Haxey Village Scheme

Item 3 of the attached Capital Works report was noted.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Engineer presented the attached report. He stated that the new TomTom equipment would be monitored over the next 12 months and a report would then be presented to the Board, however, the units would make the collection and interrogation of data much easier.

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18. HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no matters to report.

19. RIVER TRENT CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ISLE OF AXHOLME STRATEGY

The Engineer reported that the Environment Agency (EA) was preparing to submit the Scheme to the National Large Project Review Group for consideration in March 2012 and would be looking for Council and IDB support. It was expected that the Scheme would be approved.

Mr R. Allcock stated that the EA was aware of the support from North Lincolnshire Council and the Board. The Engineer stated that a letter confirming this would be sent.

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20. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13

The Director of Finance presented the attached estimates for the financial year 2012/13.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the attached estimates of expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2012 be approved in the total sum of £1,192,591,
- (b) that the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings, special levies on the local charging authorities and estimates of the amount from balances, for the year commencing 1st April 2012 be as follows:
 - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £374,193,
 - (ii) by special levy on North Lincolnshire Council - £529,632,

- (iii) by special levy on Bassetlaw District Council - £77,678,
- (iv) by special levy on East Riding of Yorkshire Council - £6,669,
- (v) by special levy on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council - £1,179,
- (vi) by deduction from balances - £203,240,
- (c) that the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2012 on North Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £529,632,
- (d) that the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2012 on Bassetlaw District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £77,678,
- (e) that the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2012 on East Riding of Yorkshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £6,669,
- (f) that the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2012 on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £1,179,
- (g) that the statutory record of levies be made up, and
- (h) that the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2012 be made and sealed in the total sum of 11.50 pence in the pound.

21. PROPOSED NEW DEPOT AND OFFICES

Members considered the reports and minutes from the Finance Committee meetings in December and January. The Chief Executive presented the attached plan (Option E) which had been amended to increase the size of the building. The cost of the larger building would be in the region of £374,150.

Mr J. Coggon was in favour of Option E as this would cater for all future needs.

Mr D. Harrison enquired whether the Environment Agency (EA) was likely to move in the future as their presence on the site was one of the reasons the Board had decided to relocate there. The Chief Executive confirmed that the EA had no plans to move from Owston Ferry but stated that the Board's premises would be totally independent should this happen in the future. He further stated that during discussions with him the Planning Authority had indicated that they would look favourably on applications to turn the premises into, for example, small business units, should the Board decide to sell the property in the future.

Mr J. Lee enquired whether the new building would be built above the flood plain. This was already being considered by the officers, however, it may not be necessary as the workshop would be on the ground floor.

The Vice-Chairman enquired whether the additional cost for Option E could be financed through loan rather than from balances. He reminded members that the rent for the current offices at the Gables would very likely increase each year.

After discussion it was RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board proceed with the purchase of the site at Owston Ferry.
- (b) That planning permission be sought in respect of Option E (attached).
- (c) That costs be obtained for building of the new depot and offices.
- (d) That delegated authority be granted to the Finance Committee to agree disposal of the Board's assets.

CHAIRMAN