

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Wellington House, Manby, on Friday, 30th January 2015, at 9.00 a.m.

* Messrs	G. Billings	* Cllrs	H. Marfleet (Chairman)
	W. Cooper	*	E.P. Mossop (Vice-Chairman)
*	G. Crust	*	T. Aldridge
*	J.L. Dodsworth	*	Mrs J.P. Bradley
*	T.H. Heys		S. Dennis
*	J.M. Mowbray	*	A.J. Howard
*	R.H. Needham	*	T.J. Knowles
*	P.W. Pridgeon		R.J. Palmer
*	D.R. Tagg	*	W. Parkinson
*	R.A.D. Unsworth	*	Mrs L. Stephenson
			Mrs P.F. Watson

* *Present*

* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)

* *In attendance*

The Chairman reported that he would not be standing for re-election to East Lindsey District Council in May and the Board would, therefore, need to elect a new Chairman in June. It was noted that the proposed dates for the tour and plant inspection had been swapped around to enable any newly elected councillors to attend the tour.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W. Cooper and Cllrs S. Dennis and R.J. Palmer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr J.M. Mowbray - agenda item 13.
Cllr A.J. Howard - agenda item 14.
Cllr T.J. Knowles - agenda item 16.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1116 to 1128)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 26th November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 8:1, Page 1117 - Summer Maintenance Works

The Engineer stated that the report on localised flooding would be presented to the March Board meeting for consideration.

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5:2 Minute 17:2, Page 1123 - Wildshed Lane Scheme Phase 1

Anglian Water had stated that a decision on whether to contribute towards the works would not be made until the next financial year.

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5:3 Minute 17:9, Page 1125 - Flood Investigations

Results were still awaited on the investigation into the use of chemicals for weed control.

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5:4 Minute 21:5, Page 1128 - Byelaw Contravention, Seacroft Railway Drain

The Engineer reported that the weather had delayed removal of the soil heap. He had asked the developer to confirm the date by which the soil heap would be removed, and stated that if the work was not completed by that date the Board would undertake the removal and recharge the cost of this to the developer.

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6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Vice-Chairman reported that the view of the Committee was that all Boards were pleased with the Consortium arrangements and keen to develop the relationship between the three boards. Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that it was essential that all Boards were represented by two members at these meetings.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 9th December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and approved by the Board.

7. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £159,278.97 remained outstanding in respect of drainage rates at 12th January 2015; 95.30% had been collected (slightly higher than the same time last year).

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8. FINANCE

The Director of Finance presented the attached report on income and expenditure which included a schedule of payments over £500.

The Director of Finance confirmed that the Board was getting the best available interest rates. He stated that there was a limit of £500,000 on the Monmouth Building Society account but some money had been moved to the Santander account to take advantage of the higher rate.

Cllr Mrs L. Stephenson arrived. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Stephenson to her first meeting and introduced her to members.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon suggested that the Board consider borrowing now for future schemes (e.g. pumping station replacement/refurbishment) as interest rates were very low at the moment. The Chief Executive suggested that this should be considered by the Board at a meeting in the new financial year together with ways of building up the balances to pay for future schemes. The Director of Finance stated that should the Board wish to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board it must be against a specific project and investigations and design would therefore be required before an application could be made. He further stated that the Bank of England was predicting that interest rates would remain low over the next few years.

RESOLVED

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

9. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016

The Director of Finance presented the attached report and estimates of income and expenditure for 2015/16 for consideration. He explained that the proposed rate would enable a small amount to be added to balances in respect of future major works.

The Director of Operations presented details of tenders received for the new tractor (£81,500), flail (£51,000), Land Rover (£14,050) and tree cutter (£9,800); all these included trade-in. Officers reported that a discount of £1,200 had been obtained on the new Land Rover through the National Farmers' Union and a three year unlimited mileage warranty had also been negotiated with an option to renew after this time.

Replacement of the Liebherr 924 excavator had originally been delayed to allow replacement of the Massey Ferguson tractor for health and safety reasons. The Plant Committee, however, had asked officers to obtain tenders and investigate finance options for a new excavator to see whether it would be possible to continue with the purchase as planned as the existing machine would have completed above the recommended hours for replacement. The Director of Operations reported on the tenders received. He stated that there had been some issues with stability and hydraulic power on the existing long reach machine and, taking this into account, four tenders for machines above 30 tonnes were considered suitable. Officers recommended that the Board purchase a Cat 329E at a cost of £221,500 less trade-in of £42,000 for the existing machine. This machine had the cheapest whole life cost and cost per hour of the four machines and included a three year/3,000 hour warranty. The Director of Finance reported that there was an allowance in the 2015/16 estimates for a like-for-like replacement, however, the difference could be partly funded from savings made on other plant purchases. It was agreed that the Board should purchase the Cat 329E excavator.

In response to Mr R.A.D. Unsworth, Officers confirmed that the efficiency of new plant and equipment would be taken into account when the incentive scheme was reviewed.

The Director of Operations reported that should the Board get the go ahead to proceed with maintenance on the Steeping River, a dragline would be hired as the work would require a 42 tonne machine with 23 metre reach.

Mr G. Crust proposed that a rate rise of 2% be approved in order to add to the balances; this would ensure that the Board had sufficient balances to fund future planned schemes and to deal with any unforeseen flood events. He also stated that it was essential that work was undertaken on the Steeping River.

Mr D.R. Tagg expressed concern about the employers' pension contribution rate and stated that the Board had considered pulling out of the scheme if the contribution increased above 22%; it would be 32.5% in 2015/16. The Director of Finance reported that this had been investigated and stated that the Board could close the scheme to new employees and offer an alternative, however, if there were no new employees contributing, the deficit contribution payments would increase. He further reported that one Lincolnshire board had closed the scheme to new employees and this was one of the reasons that the scheme had been de-pooled. The cost of early retirements etcetera taken from the scheme before strain charges were introduced were also a factor in the high rate as were the low gilt rates. The deficit was calculated to be recovered over a 20 year period.

Cllr A.J. Howard proposed that the Board increase the rate by 1.99%.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon proposed a rate of 1%, stating that it was morally indefensible to increase the rate by 2% when staff were only receiving a 1% pay rise, councils were in financial trouble and farming was not very prosperous. He reported that fuel costs had dropped dramatically, the Board's plant fleet was in good order and electricity costs were expected to drop. He further reported that the Board currently held £2.2m in balances and with only two months left in the current financial year it was unlikely that these would be reduced significantly. Mr Pridgeon felt that a 1% increase would enable the Board to undertake all the necessary work.

The Chairman agreed that the present level of balances was rather high but stated that, bearing in mind that the restriction on rate increases was likely to continue, the Board must ensure there was adequate provision to be able to undertake the major pumping station works due over the next few years and also the refurbishment of the Boards' offices at Wellington House.

The Chief Executive suggested that the Board consider bringing forward investigations into the major works required at the pumping stations so that there was a clearer picture of the cost and adequate provision could be made. The Engineer stated that work would be required at Theddlethorpe and Saltfleet Pumping Stations in two years' time and a considerable investment would be required in years four and five of the plan. Further large projects were due in ten to 15 years. The Chief Executive asked members to bear in mind that although the Environment Agency (EA) had secured funding this year and next, there was no guarantee that this would continue in the future and the Board must be in a position to undertake additional work if required.

Mr Pridgeon understood these concerns but suggested that further savings could be made in the budget to limit the rate increase.

The Director of Finance reported that any money raised for a specific project and not yet spent would be accrued against that project and shown separately from balances.

Mr D.R. Tagg stated that the Board must have sufficient balances to be able to undertake all necessary work, including for example the River Steeping. The Engineer reported that heavy rainfall over the Christmas period had caused problems at Firsby due to the lack of maintenance on the Wold Drain which was classed by the EA as a low priority system. He stated that although the EA had confirmed that maintenance would continue next year, this may not include low priority watercourses. The Board's Officers continued to liaise with the EA to establish the long term position but it may still be necessary for the Board to undertake work on those main rivers upon which the Board's systems relied.

In response to the Chairman, the Engineer stated that there may also be additional works required in order to comply with the Eel Regulations.

The Vice-Chairman stated that he would not like to see a deficit budget which 1% would be and that the Board would be able to defend an increase of 1.5% or 2%. He did, however, agree that there were areas within the budget in which further savings could be made. Considering the deficit budget, Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that he would support a break-even rise.

Cllr T. Aldridge supported the Vice-Chairman, stating that there was no guarantee that fuel costs would not rise and the Board needed to ensure that it had sufficient funds to carry out future works particularly in light of the uncertainty with regard to the EA maintenance. Mr R.H. Needham also agreed, stating that the Board must have adequate resources to carry out its primary role, land drainage.

Mr J.L. Dodsworth stated that the situation at Firsby and Steeping had been very bad over the Christmas period and the Board must have sufficient resources to deal with this.

Mr D.R. Tagg requested that the Board consider holding an additional meeting next year to discuss the estimates in detail. This would be considered at the annual general meeting when meeting dates were set.

Mr D.R. Tagg seconded Mr G. Crust's proposal that the Board increase the rate by 2%.

Mr Howard withdrew his proposal of a 1.99% increase.

There was no seconder for Mr P.W. Pridgeon's proposal of an increase of 1%.

A vote was taken on the proposal to increase the rate by 2%. Mr P.W. Pridgeon voted against the proposal.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached estimates of expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2015 be approved in the total sum of £3,445,293.
- (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 2015 be as follows:
 - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £862,351,
 - (ii) by special levy on East Lindsey District Council - £2,602,834,
 - (iii) by special levy on North East Lincolnshire Council - £7,519,
 - (iv) by addition to balances - £27,411.
- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 on East Lindsey District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £2,602,834.

- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 on North East Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £7,519.
- (e) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (f) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2015 be made and sealed in the total sum of 14.24 pence in the pound.

10. COMPENSATION CLAIMS

Officers reported on 11 compensation claims totalling £1,301.35 which had been paid in accordance with the Board's approved rates since the last Board meeting.

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11. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations presented the attached report. It was noted that there had been an increased number of bank slips following the heavy rainfall over Christmas and the repair of these may delay completion of the reforming programme.

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12. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Engineer presented the following updates:

12:1 CCTV Surveys 2014/2015

CCTV and jetting works within the 2014/15 programme had been concluded. All works had been completed save for two lengths of pipeline (detailed below) which would be carried over with the remaining budget to this year's programme of work (2015/2016).

D255700 Miami Beach Diversion Drain, 381m and
D264400 Town Lane Drain (u/s of brick arch), 459m

RECEIVED

12:2 Wildshed Lane Scheme Phases 1 and 2 - Wainfleet Road and Wildshed Lane, Burgh Le Marsh

J.E. Spence and Son Limited had completed all the piping works on Wainfleet Road (Phase 1 of the scheme). Some modification works to an electricity crossing culvert downstream were still required and would be carried out after harvest 2015 with the budget being carried over.

Notices of Entry were being prepared for Phase 2 of the works (the improvement of the riparian watercourse from Jockhedge Drain to Wildshed Lane). This work would be carried out by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation commencing in February 2015. A contribution towards the work had been agreed with the landowner.

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12:3 Strategy 2025 – 2014/15 Programme of Works

The project had been substantially completed on schedule and within budget. The remaining works (mains cable replacement) at Biergate East and West Pumping Stations were planned for March 2015.

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12:4 Porters Sluice Pumping Station

Agreement between the Environment Agency and the Contractors had resulted in a firm commitment from all parties for the Board to formally receive handover of the station in April 2015.

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12:5 Yarburgh Fen

Agreement had been reached with all the land owners and the contractor for the work to be delayed until after harvest. The contractor had confirmed that work would commence the first week of September 2015.

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12:6 Reforming Works

The attached table detailing the current year's Reforming Works Programme was circulated. One new project (Lowgate Sewer) had been added to the programme due to serious bank slips on a roadway section; reforming on Withern Highland Drain would be delayed to enable this work to be undertaken.

Officers expected works to be completed within budget.

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12:7 Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) – Medium Term Plan

The DRAFT indicative medium term plan covering the next six years had been published and the final plan was due to be confirmed by the Environment Agency's Board in February 2015. The Environment Agency had discussed further modifications to the draft programme to bring forward some schemes to front load the financing of the six year period.

The current understanding of the timing and funding of the Board's FDGiA schemes was as follows:

Scheme	Total cost £k	IDB £k contrib	IDB % contrib	PF Score	Funding FDGiA / IDB					
					15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Howdales PS Refurbishment	146	50	34%	133%		96/50				
Boygriff PS Refurbishment	397	100	25%	135%			297/100			
Theddlethorpe PS Refurbishment	537	152	28%	105%				385/152		
Saltfleet PS Replacement	2115	1,100	52%	111%				1015/0	0/1100	

Key to figures in table – FDGiA &/or Local Levy Grant / Board's Contribution.

13. BYELAW CONTRAVENTION - ANDERBY CREEK SEWER - BEACHSIDE CARAVAN PARK

It had come to the attention of the Board's Officers that alterations to the layout of the above caravan park had taken place resulting in static caravans and verandas being sited over a culverted section of the Board maintained Anderby Creek Sewer. East Lindsey District Council's Planning Department had confirmed that the works would not have required planning permission.

The Board's Officers had contacted the tenants of the caravan site who had apologised for relocating the static caravans above the pipe and had taken steps to remove other undesirable structures close to the watercourse and culvert. The tenants, however, had requested that the static caravans and verandas be allowed to remain on the understanding that they would be removed once the site was redesigned or should the Board require access.

Investigations had revealed that the pipe was in a satisfactory condition and any maintenance required in the short and medium term could be undertaken from nearby access chambers. In order to protect the Board's access to the culvert in the longer term the tenants were willing to enter into an agreement with the Board to provide access to the culvert should the caravans be allowed to remain until such a time as the caravan site was redeveloped.

The Chief Executive enquired when redevelopment of the site was planned and when the Board was likely to require access. The Engineer reported that there were no plans to survey the culvert within the next ten years but access would be required should there be any problems in the meantime. Cllr Mrs J. Bradley stated that the Board should specify a timescale rather than agree to leave until the site was redeveloped.

The Engineer reported that there were some issues on the open section of watercourse which the land owner had already rectified and he did seem willing to co-operate with the Board. Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson emphasised that it was important that the owners of the caravans were aware of the Byelaw breach and the timescale for their removal should this be agreed by the Board and they must also be made aware that should the caravans have to be removed for access they would not be put back. Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that the landowner must also be aware that no additional caravans should be sited within eight metres of the culvert.

The Chief Executive stated that officers would discuss the timescale for development of the site with the landowner but recommended that a limit of three to five years be put on any agreement by the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Board enter into an Agreement with the caravan park owners allowing the caravans to remain over the culverted section of the Board maintained Anderby Creek Sewer until such time as the site was redesigned or for a period of up to five years, whichever was sooner, subject to:

- (a) The owners of the caravans being made aware of the breach and terms of the Agreement,
- (b) the caravan owners agreeing to their immediate removal should the Board require access to the culvert, and noting that should the caravans be removed they would not be put back, and

- (c) no further caravans being sited within eight metres of the culvert or any Board maintained watercourse.

14. TRUSTHORPE VILLAGE HALL - TRUSTHORPE MIDDLE DRAIN CULVERT

Representatives of Trusthorpe Village Hall Committee had contacted the Board's Officers regarding the possibility of erecting an extension (1.6 metre x 7.1 metre) and a disabled access ramp within eight metres of the Board maintained Trusthorpe Middle Drain culvert. The village hall was in close proximity to the culvert (approximately four metres from the pipe at the south west corner and approximately 1.5 metres at the north west corner) and it was assumed that it had either originally been constructed next to an open dyke which was later piped or that the dyke had been piped to facilitate the construction of the Village Hall. Pending further investigations to verify the exact position of the culvert, it was expected that the proposed brick extension would encroach within approximately one metre of the culvert and the disabled access ramp would be sited over the line of the culvert. The Village Hall Committee had confirmed that the ramp could be constructed from sectional timber to allow it to be easily and quickly removed if necessary in the future.

The Board's Policy required the new development to be sited 3.5 metres from the culvert, however, the Engineer stated that recent investigations had confirmed that the culvert was in good condition and the Board had good access over the remainder of the car park. He further reported that in all likelihood, if the pipe required replacement in the future this would be undertaken as a diversion through the car park away from the Village Hall and proposed extension.

Mr G. Crust expressed concern at allowing any development within one metre of a culvert. Cllr A.J. Howard explained that the improvement works to the village hall were required in order to bring the building up to standard and this was the only location suitable for a disabled access.

In response to Mr P.W. Pridgeon, the Engineer confirmed that it would be relatively simple to re-route the culvert in the future should this become necessary. He reported that consideration may be given to diverting the water in this area which was possible as it could flow in both directions.

RESOLVED

That consent be granted to the Trusthorpe Village Hall Committee for the erection of an extension and removable disabled access ramp within eight metres of the Board maintained Trusthorpe Middle Drain culvert subject to:

- (a) All works being carried out to the specification and satisfaction of the Board's Engineer, and
- (b) the Trusthorpe Village Hall Committee entering into a legal agreement with the Board to indemnify the Board against any future claims; all costs to be borne by the applicant.

15. ALLEGED SETTLEMENT ISSUES, WAINFLEET COMMON DRAIN - APPEAL OF DECISION

An appeal had been made by the applicant against the decision made by the Board at the last meeting not to contribute towards culverting a 30 metre section of the Board maintained Wainfleet Common Drain.

The Board's Engineer had visited the site and met with the applicant and was able to confirm that the property was built on a raft foundation with piles and there was no evidence of any subsidence. There was, however, some movement in the garden patio and wall and the applicant had stated that two sales had been lost because of the proximity of the watercourse.

The Engineer reiterated that there would be no benefit to the Board in culverting this section of watercourse. He stated that the applicant had offered to contribute towards the work and suggested that the balance could be paid when the property was sold.

RESOLVED

That the Board undertake culverting of a 30 metre section of the Board maintained Wainfleet Common Drain at a cost of £10,094 subject to the applicant agreeing to pay £3,000 towards the cost immediately with the balance to be paid when the property was sold or within a period of five years whichever was sooner, and a charge being put on the property to this effect with all legal costs to be paid by the applicant

16. PLANNING APPLICATION N063/01787/14

Cllr T.J. Knowles declared an interest as a member of the Planning Committee.

The Board's Officers had made an objection to the above Planning Application as the position of the proposed wind turbine had the potential to interfere with the Board's radio telemetry signals. An independent report commissioned by the developer had confirmed that interference to radio signals to and from Boothby, Burgh Le Marsh and Gibraltar Point Pumping Stations was likely.

Following further discussions with the developer the Board's Officers had calculated the cost of making the necessary alterations to the Board's telemetry system to mitigate the positioning of the turbine. The Engineer reported that the most feasible option would be to divert the signals from the affected stations via Ingoldmells Pumping Station. In order to achieve this, a new Broadband connection would be required together with the installation of additional hardware and software. The cost of this work and the future Broadband line rental was estimated to be in the region of £11,751. The developer had agreed to pay for the necessary work should the Board agree and remove its objection to the planning application.

There was some concern that the estimated figure may not be sufficient to cover the future running costs and the Engineer agreed to review this to ensure that it sufficiently covered the up-front capital cost of the work as well as the whole life running costs. Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson queried whether the system would be trialled before the turbine was erected. The Engineer stated that this was proven technology and there was no reason why this would not be successful.

The Chief Executive enquired whether there were any other applications that may affect the Board's telemetry signals and stated that the Board must ensure its systems were protected for the future. The Engineer confirmed that on other applications it had been

possible to relocate the turbines to ensure the telemetry was not affected but that the system would work equally as well through a broadband connection.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Engineer re-calculate the capital cost of installing a new connection as well as the whole life running costs.
- (b) That the Board's current objection to the planning application be removed on the understanding that the above fee be paid to the Board and the necessary alterations be made to the Board's telemetry system to ensure continuity of communications, prior to construction of the wind turbine.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The attached report was presented for information. The Engineer stated that the attached Policy merely formalised procedures that were already in place.

RESOLVED

That the attached report be noted and the Policy for Protecting Birds' Nests During the Annual Cutting Season be adopted by the Board.

18. PARTNERSHIP WORKING - ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

The Chief Executive reported that Mr E. Poll would be taking over as Chairman of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in July 2015.

Regarding work on the River Steeping, the Chief Executive confirmed that funding was in place from the EA and the Board and £50,000 had also been committed by East Lindsey District Council. The Director of Operations reported that although the EA had planned to start work, this had been delayed as the machine was not available. It was hoped that the ancillary works would start within the next couple of weeks with desilting from Wheel Bridge to the A52 road bridge to commence shortly after, as it would not be possible to continue with the desilting after the end of March due to fish spawning. Work would continue after March on widening the bank top to enable desilting to continue later in the year.

Members were pleased to note the progress made on the River Steeping.

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19. HEALTH AND SAFETY

As part of the Boards' risk management system, all accidents, incidents and near misses continued to be reviewed across the Consortium to establish the root cause and, wherever possible, measures were introduced to prevent reoccurrence.

The Director of Operations reported on incidents across the Consortium over the last four months stating that, fortunately, no major injuries had been sustained. Adverse event and investigations forms had been completed and where necessary control measures had been implemented.

In response to the Vice-Chairman, the Chief Executive reported that the Board did have some liability for the safety of the volunteers at museums, e.g. to ensure the building etc was in good order etc, and confirmed that the necessary insurances were also in place.

Mr G. Crust was a member of the Quinceys Pumping Station Preservation Society and stated that they were very conscious of health and safety and also appreciative of the assistance given by the Board.

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20. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

20:1 Byelaw Applications

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

B098-2014 Installation of a 900mm diameter foul drainage pipe beneath the Board maintained Water Town Drain, Water Tower New Cut Drain and South Drain at national grid references TF 55828 64906, TF 55833 65446 and TF 55824 65458 in the parish of Skegness.

B101-2014 Reforming of the right bank of the Board maintained Water Tower New Cut Drain within O.S. field number 6800 between national grid references TF 55573 64880 and TF 55680 65256 in the parish of Skegness.

B104-2014 Alterations to the existing overhead electricity supply within eight metres of the Board maintained Steeping River Soke Dyke South and Relief Channel Soke Dyke North at national grid reference TF 47244 60367 in the parish of Wainfleet All Saints.

B107-2014 Removal of an existing garage and timber sheds and construction of a new garage within eight metres but no closer than four metres of the Board maintained Old Sutton Main Drain Branch at national grid reference TF 51898 81952 in the parish of Sutton-on-Sea.

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20:2 Section 23 Applications

The Engineer reported that the following Section 23 consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2014/022 Temporary works that may impede flows during installation of a 900mm diameter foul drainage pipe beneath a riparian watercourse at national grid reference TF 55823 65254 in the parish of Skegness.

LMDB/LDC/2014/023 Installation of approximately 150 linear metres of culvert within a private watercourse at national grid reference TF 55712 69315 at Mill Hill Caravan Site in the parish of Ingoldmells.

LMDB/LDC/2014/024 Eradication of approximately 165 linear metres of private watercourse between national grid references TF 39048 96022 and TF 38907 96105 in the parish of Grainthorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2014/025 Installation of a 12.1mm thick structural culvert lining within an existing 900mm diameter culvert (LCC Reference 49/16/05) at national grid reference TF 41063 96512 in the parish of North Somercotes.

The Engineer further reported that there had been no Section 23 consents dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority since the last Board meeting.

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20:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on 38 planning applications since the last Board meeting. Objections had been raised to the following:

N063/01762/14 Re-consultation on wind turbine at Great Carlton (see item 16 above).

N110/02228/14 Erection of double garage within eight metres of the Board maintained Old Sutton Main Drain culvert at Sutton-on-Sea. Objection since withdrawn (see 20:1 above).

N145/02360/14 Erection of garage within eight metres of the Board maintained culverted Mill Dyke at Saltfleetby (discussions ongoing with applicant).

N180/02116/14 Extension to bungalow at Theddlethorpe within eight metres of the Board maintained Scarsbridge Sewer West (applicant advised to contact the Board).

S023/01092/14 Solar Farm at Skegness - part of proposed development within eight metres of the Board maintained Wedlands Drain (applicants advised to contact the Board).

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21. STAFFING

21:1 Surveyor

Officers reported that the vacancy for surveyor had been advertised but it may be necessary to extend the deadline.

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21:2 Apprentice Accounts Assistant

The current postholder had given notice that he would be leaving the Board's employment in March 2015. Similarly, the Trent Valley IDB Rating Officer would be retiring at the end of February 2015.

Officers had, therefore, reviewed the staffing arrangements to see whether these two posts could be combined. The Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board had already considered this and had recommended that their rating officer was not replaced and that the Rating function be outsourced to Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board under the existing Consortium arrangement.

The Chief Executive, therefore, suggested that Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board advertise for a suitably qualified person based at Manby to undertake rating and accounting support. The successful candidate would undertake the Trent Valley rating function, provide accounting and administration support for the Consortium

and would also be available to cover for the Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board Rating Officer should the need arise.

The cost of the post would be split between the Consortium partners on an actual time spent basis. It was not anticipated that there would be an increase in expenditure above that already allocated for the Apprentice Accounts Assistant and there would be an attendant increase in resilience across LMDB and the Consortium Boards.

If the post was agreed, in the short term it would be necessary to utilise the Board room and Board meetings would therefore be held at a different location.

RESOLVED

That the Board advertise for a Rating Officer/Accounts Assistant to provide the rating function for the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and accounting and administration support for the Consortium.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22:1 Membership

Members expressed their thanks to Cllr M. Preen for his contribution as a member of the Board; Cllr Preen had recently resigned.

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22:2 Land adjacent to Trusthorpe Pumping Station

It was noted that the land adjacent to Trusthorpe Pumping Station was again up for sale; the Board had considered purchasing this in 2009. Officers agreed to investigate further and report back to the next meeting.

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22:3 Vehicle Fleet

In response to Mr G. Billings, the Director of Operations confirmed that a report on the Board's vehicle fleet (in particular the Bipper vans) would be submitted to the next meeting of the Staffing and Resources Committee.

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CHAIRMAN