

# LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Wellington House, Manby, on Wednesday, 25th March 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*

Members passed on their best wishes to Cllr T.J. Knowles who was unwell.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J.L. Dodsworth, Cllrs T. Aldridge, S. Dennis and T.J. Knowles.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr P.W. Pridgeon, Cllr Mrs J.P. Bradley and the Vice-Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 9.

Mr G. Billings declared an interest in agenda item 18.

## 3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## 4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1129 to 1142)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 30th January 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### 5:1 Page 1129 - District Council Elections

It was noted at the last Board meeting that the Chairman of the Board would not be standing at the East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) election in May. The Vice-Chairman would also not be standing but would wish to be considered should an elected member vacancy arise.

The Chief Executive had spoken to officers at ELDC who had confirmed that council members would cease to stand four days after the election and it was not ELDC policy to nominate non-council members to outside bodies. Members were concerned that the impact of this on the Board was significant as the ELDC meeting to nominate members to outside bodies was not planned until June. ELDC had been informed of this and of the date of the next Board meeting, 17th June 2015. A new Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board would be elected at the June Board meeting and Cllr H. Marfleet would be in attendance for the formal handover.

The Chief Executive stated that should any clarification on matters be required by officers during the period from the election until the Board meeting in June 2015 the Chairmen of the Staffing and Resources and the Plant Committee would be consulted and if necessary an extraordinary Board meeting called.

Mr W. Cooper suggested that consideration could be given to the appointment of two Vice-Chairmen (one elected and one nominated) to avoid a similar problem occurring at a future election. The Chief Executive agreed to seek clarification on the position and review the Board's Standing Orders.

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5:2 Minute 21:1, Page 1141 - Appointment of Surveyor

It was noted that the deadline for applications had been extended to 27th March 2015.

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5:3 Minute 21:2, Page 1141 - Appointment of Rating Officer/Accounts Assistant

The above post had been advertised and interviews held at the beginning of March. The Chief Executive stated that the quality of candidates was exceptionally high and the post had been offered to Mrs L. Parker who was due to start work with the Boards towards the end of April 2015.

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5:4 Minute 18, Page 1139 - Partnership Working

The Chief Executive reported that, unfortunately, work on the River Steeping had been delayed until at least October this year as further modelling results from the Environment Agency (EA) had led them to a point where they were not satisfied all the planned work was required and funding may not therefore be available. Although works had been undertaken by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation to clear access in preparation for the works, this had now been halted. The Board was not prepared to allocate further resources until confirmation was received from the EA that they were satisfied that the scheme would go ahead. Further meetings were being held with the EA.

The Chief Executive reported that he had recently met with Mrs L. Truss, the Secretary of State for EFRA, and Mrs V. Atkins, the parliamentary candidate for Louth and Horncastle. This had been a very useful meeting and several points were raised such as the importance of main river maintenance, funding, and the impact of the Eel Regulations.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive write to the new Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Chairman on his appointment in July 2015 and to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the new M.P. following the May general election.

6. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

6:1 Rate Collection

A total of £699.19 remained outstanding in respect of drainage rates at 16th March 2015; 99.90% had been collected.

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6:2 Valuation List Amendments

A schedule detailing amendments to the Valuation List was circulated for information.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of valuation list amendments be noted.

7. FINANCE

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

Regarding investment of balances, Mr P.W. Pridgeon was pleased to see higher interest rates being investigated but had reservations about investing large sums of money in one account and recommended that the Board continue with the limits set in the existing Financial Regulations. The Director of Finance would continue to seek the best interest rates.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's financial position be noted.
- (b) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.
- (c) That investments continue to be made in line with the Board's Financial Regulations.

8. COMPENSATION

8:1 Claims Paid

Officers reported on 33 compensation claims totalling £6,812.37 which had been paid in accordance with the Board's approved rates since the last Board meeting.

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8:2     Compensation Rates

It was agreed that the rates of compensation paid for 2015/16 should be calculated in accordance with the Board's Compensation Policy and that this matter should be considered further under any other business once the figures were available.

9. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations presented the attached report. He stated that although the reforming programme had been delayed by additional slip repairs, it should be completed on target because of the good weather.

The Vice-Chairman, Mr P.W. Pridgeon and Cllr Mrs J.P. Bradley declared an interest as landowners in the Anderby catchment.

Maps had previously been circulated and areas where flooding had occurred last year had been highlighted. These had now been reviewed and the following changes would be made to hopefully alleviate similar problems in the future:

Anderby Catchment - strategic watercourses in this area were already maintained annually and provision made to undertake an early or second cut if necessary. An additional 20km of watercourse would be added to this list.

Trusthorpe - an additional four watercourses (a total of 13km) in this area would in the future be monitored, along with those watercourses designated as strategic.

Willoughby - some work was underway in the low lying area of land and discussions were ongoing with the landowners to see what could be done jointly to improve the drainage in that area.

A provision of £100,000 had been made in the budget to undertake monitoring and early or second cuts if required. Officers reported that investigations to find a suitable environmentally safe chemical to deal with submergent weed were ongoing but it was not envisaged that results would be available before 2017.

Officers confirmed that the regular monitoring of weedgrowth in strategic watercourses was undertaken from March up to the weedcutting taking place. The monitoring was done by the Works Supervisor, Foreman and Pump Attendant but the Board also relied on members and landowners to let officers know if they were concerned about excessive weedgrowth in a particular area. Weedcutting could then be prioritised depending on the condition and the area protected.

**RESOLVED**

That the weedgrowth in an additional 33km of watercourse in the Anderby and Trusthorpe Catchments be monitored annually prior to the weedcutting season and that provision be made to undertake early or second cuts if required.

10. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

10:1 CCTV Surveys 2015/16

Detailed inspection and cleansing (if required) would be undertaken of the following Board maintained culverted watercourses in 2015/16 at an estimated cost of £85,000:

<i>ID</i>	<i>Drain Name</i>
D210600	Everetts Drain
D225400	Hogsthorpe Relief Channel
D225401	Hogsthorpe Relief Channel Branch
D225600	Ancaster Avenue Relief Channel
D225601	Ancaster Avenue Relief Channel Branch
D230001	Anderby Gravity Outfall Connection
D234000	Hargate Drain
D240700	Sandilands Connection Drain
D241100	Crabtree Lane Drain
D241102	Crabtree Lane Branch No. 2
D241201	Willeys Drain West
D251800	Old Sutton Main Drain
D254500	Mill Rundle Drain
D254501	Mill Rundle Drain Branch
D254600	Minshalls Sewer
D250200	Holme Fen Drain
D254700	Tothby Lane Drain
D255700	Miami Beach Diversion Drain*
D255702	Miami Beach Diversion Drain Branch No. 2
D256100	Old Mill Rundle Drain
D257301	Town Lane Drain Branch*

\* Carried over from 2014/2015.

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10:2 Wildshed Lane Scheme Phase 2 - Wildshed Lane, Burgh Le Marsh

Notices of entry had been served on landowners and the Board's Direct Labour Organisation commenced bushing works on the section of watercourse to be improved. As part of a small residential development scheme, the developer also proposed to culvert the roadside section of watercourse to a specification agreed by the Board.

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10:3 Strategy 2025 - 2014/15 Programme of Works

The project was on schedule and under budget.

The remaining work (mains cable replacement at Biergate East and West Pumping Stations) originally scheduled to be undertaken by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation in March had been delayed because emergency slip repairs were required at Trusthorpe and Anderby. The work would now be undertaken in May/June 2015.

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10:4 Porters Sluice Pumping Station

The Engineer reported that he had met with the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss the ongoing issues at Porters Sluice. The current contractor had been pulled off the site to undertake work elsewhere and was not expected to return until June. The Board's concerns over the timescale and quality of work so far had been raised with the EA's Regional Manager who had assured officers that all outstanding issues would be addressed and agreed to investigate the feasibility of completing the works using a different framework contractor or for handing back the pumping station to the Board for completion of the outstanding works; both these options would be fully funded by the EA.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board agree to extend the deadline for the completion of work at Porters Sluice Pumping Station to 31st June 2015.
- (b) That the Board's Officers request a schedule of the works to ensure they are completed for official handover to the Board on 1st July 2015.

10:5 Reforming Works

An update was presented on the reforming works programme to date (as attached).

*Hasthorpe Lane Drain Branch*

The Engineer reported that shortly before the Board proposed to undertake the works on Hasthorpe Lane Drain Branch, the landowner had carried out the works at his own expense using a contractor. The Board's officers had inspected the watercourse and confirmed that flows were reinstated to a satisfactory standard. Adoption of the watercourse by the Board was, therefore, no longer required. The landowner had been reminded of his future riparian duties to undertake periodic maintenance to the watercourse.

Officers were pleased to report that the overall reforming programme for 2014/2015 was expected to be within budget.

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11. PURCHASE OF LAND

The Engineer presented a report on the proposed purchase of land details of which are recorded on pink paper.

RESOLVED

That further investigations be carried out by officers as detailed in the pink paper and that a sub-committee be set up with delegated authority to make a decision on behalf of the Board; members of the sub-committee to be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, Messrs G. Billings, T.H. Heys, G. Crust, P.W. Pridgeon and D.R. Tagg.

12. BYELAW CONTRAVENTION - SEACROFT RAILWAY DRAIN, SKEGNESS (Minute 5:4, Page 1130)

The Engineer reported that despite repeated e-mail correspondence requesting dates for the removal of the soil none have been forthcoming. As the matter had now been on-going for a number of months officers would be issuing a formal notice for the soil to be removed within a period of 28 days. If no action was then forthcoming officers would arrange for the soil to be removed and the costs to be recharged to the developer. Officers reported that the soil may need removing to either a receptor site or a licenced waste disposal site but this would be confirmed once the relevant tests had been undertaken for contaminants. The necessary waste exemption notices would then be obtained.

RESOLVED

That the officers' actions be approved and that enforcement action be undertaken should the byelaw contravention not be rectified within the time period specified.

13. LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP - UPDATE

The Engineer presented the attached report for information.

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14. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Engineer reported that potential cost of complying with the Eel Regulations was raised at the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Conference in November 2014 and more recently the ADA Technical and Environment Committee. Subsequent to the meeting, the media had taken an interest with coverage in papers and television. The cost of complying with legislation if new pumping stations or substantive works were required throughout the Consortium would be substantial.

A meeting between ADA, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and senior Environment Agency (EA) staff was held on the 10th March 2015. ADA representatives had expressed the concerns of Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) over the potential cost of screening pumping stations, the inconsistency of delivery across EA regions and IDBs' willingness to work in partnership and achieve targeted delivery. ADA's points were well received and DEFRA and the EA were considering the points made. The Engineer stated that the Secretary of State for EFRA was fully aware of the impact of the Regulations and would be seeking a pragmatic approach. Changes to the implementation policies were anticipated.

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15. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Director of Operations/Health and Safety Advisor reported on minor health and safety incidents across the Consortium since the last Board meeting; no major injuries were reported.

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**16. ALTERATIONS TO WELLINGTON HOUSE**

Following the recommendation made by the Staffing and Resources Committee (approved by the Board in November 2014) a contract had been signed with Scape (a local authority owned company acting as a central purchasing body and contracting authority to procure frameworks for use by public bodies) for the proposed alterations to Wellington House.

The Chief Executive reported that he had attended a meeting with the contractor who would be undertaking the renovation and/or extension of Wellington House and various options had been discussed. Design and costings would be presented to the June Board meeting for consideration so that work could commence in September 2015.

Members were asked to consider granting delegated authority to the Staffing and Resources Committee to approve plans within the budget provision should a decision be required between the June and September Board meetings. This was not agreed.

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**17. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES**

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting was held on 26th February 2015. Dr J. Venables attended together with the new ADA Chief Executive (Mr I. Thompson) and Technical Manager (Mr I. Moodie). The Chief Executive reported on matters discussed. The A.G.M. would be held on 30th April 2015.

On 25th February 2015 an informal meeting had been held with Messrs I. Thompson and I. Moodie, the Chairmen of the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board and the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and the Vice-Chairman of Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board, the Chief Executive and Engineer. The Chief Executive reported that there had been a free flowing exchange of views on the future of the industry and the possible directions in which it might travel and the major concerns held by the Consortium Boards were highlighted. The meeting was very successful and a sound relationship had been established with the new ADA team early in their tenure.

Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson had recently attended the Local Authority Seminar organised by ADA for the benefit of local authority representatives. She gave a brief account of issues raised and stated that the seminar had been very informative. The Chief Executive suggested that future seminars could be organised after elections to give new members an opportunity to attend.

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**18. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE**

**18:1 Byelaw Applications**

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

B001-2015 Retrospective consent for the demolition of an existing brick garage and the erection of a new concrete sectional garage within eight metres of the Board maintained Mill Dyke Drain at national grid reference TF 45322 90848, 1 Mill Lane in the parish of Saltfleetby.

B003-2015 Removal of existing overhead electricity cables and provision of a new underground electricity cable within eight metres of the Board maintained Relief Channel Soke Dyke North and within the Board's Thorpe Culvert Pumping Station compound at national grid reference TF 47150 60462 in the parish of Thorpe St Peter.

B004-2015 Removal of an overhead electricity cable and associated poles within eight metres of the Board maintained Trusthorpe Pumping Drain at national grid reference TF 51080 83964 in the parishes of Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea.

B006-2015 Replacement electricity pole on the right bank of the Board maintained Ingoldmells South Branch Drain at national grid reference TF 54641 67640 in the parish of Addlethorpe.

B007-2015 Replacement electricity pole and stay wires on the left bank of the Board maintained Middlemarsh Sewage Works Drain at national grid reference TF 53837 63409 in the parish of Burgh Le Marsh.

B008-2015 Removal of an existing overhead electricity cable crossing and pole and the installation of a new overhead crossing, H Pole and stay wires affecting the Board maintained The North Drain at national grid reference TF 54158 63200 in the parishes of Burgh Le Marsh and Skegness.

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18:2 Section 23 Applications

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

LMDB/LDC/2015/001 Installation of a culvert beneath the railway line immediately north of O.S. field number 6680 at national grid reference TF 49417 58968 in the parish of Wainfleet All Saints.

LMDB/LDC/2015/003 Eradication of approximately 570 linear metres of private watercourse at national grid references TF 40055 97175 to TF 39859 96979 and TF 39939 96880 to TF 39913 96704 in the parish of Grainthorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2015/004 Installation of 335 linear metres of 300mm diameter culvert within a watercourse at national grid reference TF 43810 87346, Carlton Grange in the parish of Great Carlton.

LMDB/LDC/2015/006 Installation of a six linear metre access culvert within a private watercourse at national grid reference TF 49726 67204 at Middlegate Lane in the parish of Orby.

LMDB/LDC/2015/007 Eradication of approximately 1,100 linear metres of private watercourse at national grid reference TF TF 51813 63846 at land off Middlemarsh Road and Billgate Lane in the parish of Burgh Le Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2015/009 Installation of 21 linear metres of culvert within a watercourse at national grid reference TF 44043 88048 at Carlton Grange within the parish of Great Carlton.

LMDB/LDC/2015/010 Installation of 22 linear metres of culvert within a watercourse at national grid reference TF 44498 87627 at Carlton Grange within the parish of Great Carlton.

LMDB/LDC/2015/011 Installation of 47 linear metres of culvert within a watercourse at national grid reference TF 44018 87273 at Carlton Grange within the parish of Great Carlton.

The Engineer further reported that the following Section 23 consents had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority since the last Board meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2015/002 Culverting of a private watercourse along Station Road at national grid reference TF 36635 - 84391 in the parish of Legbourne.

LMDB/LDC/2015/005 Installation of a culvert within a private watercourse at national grid reference TF TF 50093 65246 off Orby Road in the parish of Burgh Le Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2015/006 Removal of an existing 150mm diameter culvert and the installation of 18 linear metres of culvert in a private watercourse at national grid reference TF 34432 92085 along Westfield Road in the parish of Yarburgh.

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18:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on 45 planning applications since the last Board meeting. Objections had been raised to the following:

M004/02455/15 Erection of house, garage and garden store at Alvingham - proposed garage within eight metres of the Board maintained Westfield Drain.

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19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19:1 Compensation Rates

The Director of Operations reported on the figures calculated according to the Board's policy. After some discussion it was agreed that the Board should continue with its existing policy and that a schedule of amended rates should be prepared and circulated to members (this was done subsequent to the meeting and is attached).

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19:2 Culverting of Watercourse at North Somercotes

It was reported by Cllr R.J. Palmer that A1031 past the Methodist Chapel at North Somercotes had started to subside and that the watercourse alongside ideally required culverting.

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CHAIRMAN