

# TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 30th November 2017, at Winthorpe Community Centre.

## Elected Members

\* Messrs W.J. Staunton (Chairman)  
\* J. Miller (Vice-Chairman)  
\* R. Warburton (Vice-Chairman)  
A. Arden  
T.H. Farr  
N.J. Greenhalgh  
\* R.J. Jackson  
\* D. Loates  
\* J. Pask  
\* R.N.J.S. Price  
\* S.E. Richardson  
Mrs J. Love

## \* Present

### Staff

\* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)  
\* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)  
\* C. Manning (Environmental Officer)  
\* T. Sharp (Civils Project Manager)  
\* M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)  
\* Mesdames J.D. Watson (Operations Director)  
D. Proctor (Finance Officer)

## \* In attendance

## Nominated Members

### Bassetlaw District Council

Cllrs K.H. Isard  
Mrs S. Fielding  
D. Pidwell

### Newark and Sherwood District Council

\* Cllrs D.R. Payne  
\* I. Walker  
\* B. Wells  
\* Mrs S. Michael

### Rushcliffe Borough Council

\* Cllrs R. Hetherington  
\* J. Thurman  
\* Mrs C. Jeffreys  
N. Lawrence

### Gedling/Melton Borough Councils

\* Mr J. Evens

### West Lindsey/North Kesteven District Councils

\* Cllr Mrs P. Whittaker (NKDC)

## Invited Representatives of Partner Organisations

\* Miss S. Jaques (Nottinghamshire County Council)  
\* Messrs J. Bowler (Bassetlaw District Council)  
I. Davies (Bassetlaw District Council)  
Mrs J. Bradley (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust)

The Chairman welcomed two new Board Officer's, Ms D. Proctor, Interim Finance Officer and Mr T. Sharp, Civils Project Manager.

## 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

The Chief Executive was appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

The Chairman commented that he has been the subject of an article in the Farmers Weekly and it would appear that he was solely responsible for the Board's water management. He commented that he had no input into the editorial content and would like to thank the whole team for their efforts in running the Board.

## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr J. Miller and seconded by Cllr I. Walker that Mr W.J. Staunton be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Mr W.J. Staunton be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

## 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN

The following nominations were made for Vice-Chairmen:

Mr J. Miller - proposed by Cllr Mrs S. Michael and seconded by Cllr I. Walker.

Mr R. Warburton - proposed by Cllr D.R. Payne and seconded by Mr D. Loates.

RESOLVED unanimously

That Messrs J. Miller and R. Warburton be elected as Vice-Chairmen of the Board for the ensuing year.

*Mr R.N.J.S. Price arrived.*

#### 4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. Arden, T. H. Farr, N. J. Greenhalgh, Davies, Mrs J. Bradley, Mrs J. love, Cllrs K.H. Isard, D. Pidwell, N. Lawrence, B. Wells and Mrs S. Fielding.

Cllr D.R Payne made his apologies for an early departure.

The Chairman commented that Mr T. Farr would be late.

#### 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

RECEIVED

#### 6. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

#### 7. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 306 to 311)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 28th September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 8. MATTERS ARISING

The Chief Executive confirmed that Nottinghamshire County Council Pension Fund had been contacted in respect of an administrator attending the Board's Plant and Finance Committee. However, due to limited resources they had to declined and requested that any questions to them be made in writing.

RECEIVED

#### 9. FINANCE AND PLANT COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chief Executive gave an overview of the meeting held on 9th November 2017; minutes would be presented to the January Board meeting.

The Operation's Director presented two slides to the Board in respect of the plans for next year's plant purchases/disposals and asked that these be approved by the Board. She confirmed that tenders would be presented to the Board at the January Meeting in respect of all proposed purchases so that orders could be placed before April 2018 to ensure an earlier delivery. Tenders were being sought for an excavator and tractor. As an alternative, tenders

would also be sought for a Twiga (or similar) machine as this may give more flexibility. The Operations Director confirmed that a review of the fleet would be undertaken before any purchases to ensure that the Board had the most suitable equipment to undertake the work.

*Cllr Mrs C. Jeffreys arrived.*

The Operation's Director confirmed that the Case excavator which was due to be traded in next year was currently not operational and the estimated cost of repair was £6,000. An offer of £21,000 had been received for the machine in its current state. The Board agreed that it was not cost effective to undertake the repairs and to offer the excavator for sale by tender.

The Committee had reviewed the estimates of income and expenditure in detail and agreed to recommend a rate increase of 2% for 2018/19. The Chief Executive emphasised that the current ten year plan showed balances reducing to 15% by the end of the term; further cost saving measures were being investigated.

In response to Mr R. Warburton, the Operation's Director confirmed that the land drainage operative vacancy had been advertised and the new employee was due to start on the 8th January 2018 and would initially be employed on tree and bushing work. Officers confirmed that the plant fleet would be fully operational before the summer maintenance season.

RECEIVED

#### 10. MEETING DATES 2018

The Chairman explained that at the Finance and Plant committee it had been suggested that the Board return to four meetings a year. An extra meeting could be called should there be any major issues to discuss. The following dates were proposed:

##### Board and Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Meeting
25th January 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board
29th March 2018	10.00 a.m.	Finance and Plant Committee
2nd March 2018	2.00 p.m.	Consortium Committee
31st March 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board
5th July 2018	10.00 a.m.	Standards Committee
27th September 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board
3rd October 2018	2.00p.m.	Consortium Committee
8th November 2018	10.00 a.m.	Finance and Plant Committee
29th November 2018	10.00 a.m.	Board Annual General Meeting

##### Other Dates

ADA Trent Branch - 22nd February 2018  
EA Flood and Coast Conference - 20th to 22nd March 2018  
ADA Trent Branch AGM - 7th June 2018  
Lincolnshire Show - 20th and 21st June 2018  
ADA Annual Conference - mid November 2018

RESOLVED

That meeting dates be approved as above.

## 11. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

Members were reminded that the Terms of Reference recommend that the proportion of representation should be split equally between nominated and elected members wherever possible.

Cllr Mrs S. Michael proposed that Cllr B. Wells be replaced by Cllr I. Walker on the Standards Committee.

Mr D. Loates suggested that Mrs J. Love be appointed to the Conservation Action Group because of her knowledge of the area connected with the Kingston Brook Management Plan.

### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Chairman, Messrs T.H. Farr, N.J. Greenhalgh, R.J. Jackson, Cllrs R. Hetherington and I. Walker be appointed to the Standards Committee (the Chairman would not attend hearings to enable him to hear an appeal if necessary).
- (b) That the Chairman and Vice-chairmen of the Board, Messrs R.N.J.S. Price, S.E. Richardson, Cllrs K.H. Isard, D.R. Payne and Mrs S. Michael continue as members of the Finance Committee.
- (c) That the Chairman and Mr J. Miller be appointed to the Consortium Committee with Mr R. Warburton as alternate.
- (d) That Messrs. T.H. Farr, J. Miller, N.J. Greenhalgh and Cllr Mrs C. Jeffreys be appointed to the Conservation Advisory Group.

## 12. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Rating Officer reported that Drainage rates and special levies collected to date totalled 74.81%. Twenty five Liability Orders had been sent to the courts for signing and the hearing date had been set for 14th December 2017. Of the previous year's outstanding balance, £879.05 has been collected.

### RECEIVED

## 13. FINANCE

The Finance Officer presented the attached report for the period ended 31st October 2017 and explained that she had started to reprofile the format of the accounts to add clarity and ensure transparency. Reforecasting of the budget would be undertaken in the next month to give an accurate picture of the year end; this would also allow any changes to be made to remain within the budget.

Officers confirmed that the drain maintenance expenditure had been reviewed and was within budget.

### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's financial position be noted.
- (b) That the attached payment schedule be approved.

## 14. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operation's Director presented the attached report. Summer maintenance would be finished within the next couple of weeks.

There were currently five outstanding issues at Pumping Stations which were being investigated by specialist companies. A report on Torksey would be presented later in the meeting.

Environment Agency (EA) work continued and included enhanced maintenance on the River Greet.

In response to Mr J. Miller, the Operations Manager reported that he had been liaising with Network Rail regarding the proposed culverting of a section of the Marlock Drain to ensure that the proposals complied with the Board's policies. Once the new design had been approved by the Board's officers, consent would be issued.

RECEIVED

#### 15. BYELAW APPLICATION – FERRY DRAIN

The Engineer asked the Board to approve the application in principle, to divert the Board maintained Ferry Drain subject to the developer agreeing to a commuted sum payment in respect of the additional maintenance burden.

Officers presented a detailed report on the developer's plans for the area which included the construction of some 800 properties and the creation of leisure areas, a wetland area and attenuation ponds.

The Chairman asked the Board to consider granting the Engineer approval to negotiate with the developers.

After considerable discussion it was RESOLVED

That the Board agree in principal to the proposed diversion and additional maintenance and that the Engineer be granted delegated authority to negotiate the details and the terms.

#### 16. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Engineer presented the attached report for information.

The Engineer introduced the Board's new Civils and Project Manager, Mr T. Sharp. Mr Sharp presented a report on the proposals for Torksey Pumping Station and the four options currently being considered. Tenders would be sought for the civils work elements of the project and a full report on the options and costs would be presented to the Board in January.

As well as the pump refurbishment/replacement, improvements would include repairs to the building, improvements to the compound and parking area, high security fencing, an automatic weed screen cleaner and a tilting weir. In response to Mr S.E. Richardson, Mr Sharp confirmed that the tilting weir could be adjusted remotely giving greater control and he reassured him that the levels required for irrigation would be taken into account. If approved in January, work should be completed by October 2018. Mr Sharp reported that £707,000 had been allowed in the estimates for the work and this included a 20% contingency. Once the tenders were returned, a more accurate assessment of the cost would be made. The highest risk was considered to be compliance with the Eel Regulations.

The Environmental Officer presented the commissioned report on the Kingston Brook catchment area which highlighted that annual maintenance was essential. There was still concern over the Sheepwash Brook but this was outside the Board's control. The report confirmed that although the area was largely agricultural, flooding in East Leake was of concern and stressed the importance of maintaining vegetation management in the area. The Environmental Officer highlighted some areas of concern which included the Kingston Brook weir and fencing which had been erected restricting access; these were being addressed. The Board welcomed the opportunity to become involved in a project to enhance Meadow Park in East Leake and to work with the community and Friends of Meadow Park to come up with a solution which would benefit both the drainage of the area and the environment. Cllr R. Hetherington confirmed that the Parish Council was considering the creation of a flood storage area at East Leake to improve the situation. He highlighted other concerns in the area including water discharge from the quarry and the size of the bridges which were restricting the flow. The Board's Engineer commented that the next step was to work in a partnership and look to develop a maintenance plan for Kingston Brook. Miss S. Jaques commented that Nottinghamshire County Council could assist and was keen to be involved. He suggested that a partnership approach was the way forward for the Sheepwash Brook.

Details of the discussion regarding the Egmanton Village Flood Relief Scheme are recorded on pink paper.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board work in partnership with the community to develop a Management Plan for the Kingston Brook Area.
- (b) That the attached report be noted.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Environmental Officer presented the attached report.

Mr J. Miller commented on the recent development of Beckingham Pumping Station and how encouraging it was to see the RSPB's success on the site.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Conservation Advisory Group held on the 25th October 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

18. DELEGATED MATTERS – PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

18:1 Byelaw Applications

The following consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

TVIDB/LDC/2017/021 Installation of an additional irrigation pipe over the Board Maintained Drinsey Nook Drain in the parish of Thorney at national grid reference SK87090 73719.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/022 Replacement of existing bridge on the Board maintained Upton Drain at national grid reference SK75694 75820 in the parish of East Drayton.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/023 Construction of an outfall on the Board maintained Newlands Drain at national grid reference SK71341 34058 in the parishes of Colston Bassett and Langar cum Barnstone.

RECEIVED

18:2 Section 23 Applications

No Section 23 consents had been issued under delegated authority since the last meeting.

No applications had been received on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

RECEIVED

18:3 Planning Applications

The Engineer reported on 118 planning applications that had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments made.

RECEIVED

19. HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

The Operations Director reported on three incidents that had occurred across the Consortium since the last Board meeting but stated that, fortunately, there had been no injuries.

A review of all incidents and near misses for the last year had been undertaken by Officers and the details were reported.

The Operations Director reported that the Consortium had recently changed insurance companies and as a result one of their inspectors had been sent to carry out a health and safety audit. The audit had been undertaken in the Isle of Axholme area and included site visits and a review of the Consortium's health and safety procedures. Feedback from this had been very positive.

In response to Mr J. Miller the Operations Director confirmed that all employees received annual refresher training for working near power lines. It was noted that cables were not always shown on the plans provided by the power companies. The Operations Manager was discussing with Western Power the possibility of relocating a cable which had been located midway up the bank and was unmarked; in the meantime the cable had been marked to ensure it was easily visible.

RECEIVED

20. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)

20:1 Trent Branch

The Chief Executive confirmed that the annual liaison meeting between ADA and the Environment Agency had taken place. The key points were:

- (a) The impact on communities and individuals following an event. With post traumatic stress being the highest and then apprehension about being flooded again. The importance of communication with ratepayers was highlighted.

(b) A Good Guide for Board Members was being produced by ADA.

20:2 Annual Conference

The ADA Annual Conference was held on 16th November 2017; the Chairman, Messrs T.H. Farr and J. Miller attended to represent the Board together with Officers.

The Chief Executive gave an overview of matters discussed. Guest speakers had included Mrs T. Coffey MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment, at the Department for Food and Rural Affairs), Sir J. Bevan (Chief Executive of the Environment Agency), Councillor D. Antrobus, (Lead Member for Planning and Sustainable Development at Salford City Council) and Lord Deben (Chairman of the Committee on Climate Change). Mrs T. Coffey was very supportive of the transfer of assets (although there was still some concern regarding how this would be funded) and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board had been used as a good example of working under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement. Sir J. Bevan spoke about his visit to the Isle of Axholme area and the Snow Sewer demaining and was very supportive of internal drainage boards.

A presentation had been made to Mr H. Cater who stood down as Chairman after ten years' service. The new Chairman was Mr R. Caudwell.

RECEIVED

21. STAFFING

The Chief Executive updated the Board and confirmed that the job evaluation for all the Consortium Board's was underway. A draft report had been prepared but there were still some issues to be addressed. He was aware of the effect on staff morale and would be liaising with the workforce.

RECEIVED

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr R. Warburton raised the question of a new bridge which was to be constructed on the Catchwater Drain and asked the Operations Manager if he had any timescales. The Operations Manager confirmed that consent had been issued for the bridge but he did not know the timescales for construction.

The Engineer hoped to present a report on the Lowdham Scheme to the January Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN