

Minutes of the seventy sixth Meeting of The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held at Washingborough Village Hall on Tuesday 7th February 2012.

Present:

R. A. Fletcher Esq – Chairman
P Gilbert Esq – Vice Chairman
B. Applewhite
D C Armstrong Esq
G W Chambers Esq
S F Cobb Esq
R. Coupland Esq
J Crust Esq
R Cucksey Esq
T Gilbert Esq
G. Hewson Esq.
D. Jackson Esq.
B S Leggate Esq
S B Leggate Esq
J Mair Esq
L Maplethorpe Esq
N Maplethorpe Esq
S Maplethorpe Esq
C R Oxby Esq
N A Osborne Esq
Dr V Stanton
E H Tonge Esq
P. Vaughan Esq.

In attendance:

Outgoing Interim Chief Executive
Director of Operations
Senior Finance and Rating Officer
Finance and Rating Assistant

1662. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman requested that the June Board Meeting be held on 27th June 2012 at the JCB complex near Derby. Following the formal Meeting, members would be able to view the factory complex.

Its was RESOLVED that the Chairman's request be approved.

The Chairman updated members on the improvement in the health of C. J. Elkington, the former Chief Executive.

1663. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from R Hickling Esq, M. Harrison Esq, D Means Esq and A S Whitehead Esq.

The Chairman reported that the Chief Executive was unable to attend the Meeting due to a prior commitment before being appointed.

1664. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Members appointed by Lincoln City Council and North Kesteven District Council declared an interest in matters relating to their respective Councils.

C. R. Oxby, as a member of the Lincolnshire County Council, declared an interest in matters relating to the County Council.

1665. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 1st November 2011 were confirmed.

Matters Arising

1666. BRANSTON DELPH

The Director of Operations reported on emails received from the Environment Agency requesting more information regarding dates of the seepage events.

S. F. Cobb, Dr. V. Stanton and D Armstrong all expressed concern at the lack of progress.

It was agreed that the Director of Operations should arrange a site meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency as soon as possible and report to the next meeting.

1667. FIVE MILE LANE DEVELOPMENT (Minute 1647)

It was noted that the Engineer had produced a report which had been circulated with the agenda, and an updated report was circulated at the meeting. This matter was on the agenda to be fully discussed later in the meeting.

1668. MINUTES – JOINT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee Meetings held on 14th November 2011 and 12th December 2012 were confirmed and approved.

Matters Arising:

1669. Defra Visit 8th December 2011

Members thanked the Board's staff for arranging the visit to the three Lincoln based Boards. It was generally felt that the visit had been a success, and gave the Defra Staff an ideal opportunity to see the positive outcomes achieved by the three Boards' operations.

1670. Total Environment

Members noted that proposals were being revised following a Lincolnshire wide meeting including IDBs, the Environment Agency, and Lincolnshire County Council on 15th December 2011. The earliest possible start date would now be 1st April 2013.

1671. MINUTES –EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It was *RESOLVED* that the Minutes of a Meeting held on 24th January 2012 be accepted as a true record, with the addition of D. Jackson attending the Meeting. It was noted that the various recommendations would be discussed later in the Meeting.

Matters Arising

1672. Tenders For Replacement Of Wheeled Excavator and Replacement Flail Mower

It was *RESOLVED*, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to accept the tender from Terex Atlas for supply of an Atlas 140W and the tender from Grundy Agricultural for the supply of a Bomford B8181 with trade in.

1673. LAND DRAINAGE ACT 1991 SECTION 37(2)

It was *RESOLVED* that the drainage rates and special levies for 2012/13 be calculated on an annual value of £4,531,788.

1674. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Senior Finance and Rating Officer presented the estimates and explained variances between planned and projected expenditure in the current year and proposals for 2012/13.

It was proposed by G. Hewson, seconded by R. Coupland and *RESOLVED*:-

1. That the proportions of their expenditure to be raised by Drainage Rates on agricultural land and buildings and by Special Levies on the local billing authorities be 67.71% and 32.29% respectively.

2. To make the Drainage Rates and Special Levies as set out below under the official seal of the Board.

	<u>DRAINAGE RATES</u>	Sub.Dist.1	Sub.Dist.2
		<u>pence</u>	<u>pence</u>
New Works and Improvements		0.75	1.88
Precept to Environment Agency		1.05	2.63
Administration		1.26	3.15
Maintenance Works		<u>5.77</u>	<u>14.42</u>
		8.83	22.08
Less:			
Contributions from Environment Agency		0.13	0.32
Other Income		<u>0.30</u>	<u>0.76</u>
		0.43	1.08
Adjustment to Balances		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL RATE		<u>8.40</u>	<u>21.00</u>

Special Levies

Lincoln City Council	£119,114.69p
North Kesteven District Council	£ 97,359.15p

The Chairman and Chief Executive were authorised to seal the Rate.

1675. BRIDGE LIABILITY

The Board received a detailed report regarding the Board's potential liability for bridges and culverts within the drainage district. The report outlined the structures thought to be in the Board's ownership and the estimated cost of transferring liability to the Lincolnshire County Council. The methodology used by Lincolnshire County Council to calculate the liabilities at £405,000 was being verified and a further report would be prepared. The potential future implications of financing any future transfer of ownership were also outlined in the report, together with finding options.

It was Agreed that once the Board's Engineer had verified Lincolnshire County Council's calculations the matter be referred back to the Board for further discussion. The Chairman and the Chief Executive to convene a Special Meeting of the Board, if necessary.

1676. FIVE MILE LANE WASHINGBOROUGH DEVELOPMENT

The Board received an updated report prepared by the Board's Engineer, different from the paper sent out with the agenda only because the position is fast moving. The report highlighted the need for the contractor to install a dewatering system to position the oil interceptor. The report also noted that no significant progress had been made since 20th January 2012.

Members expressed further concern over the development and instructed the Engineer to continue to closely monitor the situation, whilst accepting that the Board had no contractor supervision powers and the Engineer was able to work in an advisory role only.

1677. DRAINAGE RATES

It was reported that 98% of the direct rates due had been collected to date.

1678. FINANCE REPORT

The Senior Finance Officer submitted the following report for the 9 months period 01.04.11 to 31.12.11

INCOME

	Previous Year	Total Budget	Upto 30/12/11	Projected Outturn	% to date
I001 Direct Levies	426,835	434,481	428,236	431,303	98%
I007 Interest Received	2,337	5,000	200	2,000	4%
I006 Rechargeable Work Income	7,236	8,000	1,350	5,000	17%
I008 Consents Rent & Sundry Income	350	15,000	22,500	37,000	150%
I009 Commutation Payments		0	0	0	0%
I010 Insurance Claims Income	1,700	0	0	0	0%
I011 Rates Costs Income	410	200	0	200	0%
I012 Highland Water - Drains	4,007	4,000	2,596	4,000	65%
I013 Highland Water - PS	7,330	5,000	3,261	5,000	65%
I014 Highland Water - Capital Works	0	0	0	0	0%
I015 Highland Water - Admin	1,814	1,200	798	1,200	66%
I020 Special Levy - NKDC	91,796	93,187	93,187	93,187	100%
I021 Special Levy - Lincoln CC	112,308	114,010	114,010	114,010	100%
Other Income	93,503	1,000	0	1,000	0%
	749,626	681,078	666,138	693,900	

Expenditure Summary

Joint Administration	87,744	86,640	36,854	83,622	42%
Admin/Establishment	10,408	10,550	5,410	8,082	51%
Miscellaneous Admin	608	1,825	470	675	25%
Drains Maintenance	272,338	264,585	235,608	278,164	89%
Pumping Stations	146,748	153,647	84,932	148,789	55%
Depot Expenditure	11,210	14,680	10,940	13,196	74%
Other Expenditure	90,402	92,600	84,708	91,000	91%
Contribution to Capital Outlay	18,971	56,000	29,403	38,793	53%
	638,429	680,527	488,325	662,321	

Bank Balances
as at 30/12/11

Co-op Bank £316,687.07

Santander Investment £153,042.72

£469,729.79

It was AGREED to reinvest one hundred and fifty thousand pounds of the Santander Investment, repayable on 4th March 2012, with the high street Bank offering the most favourable interest rate. The interest accrued would be transferred to the Board's revenue reserves.

1679. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Accounts for the period 1st October to 31st December 2011, which had been previously circulated, amounting to £263,473.47p was examined and approved.

1680. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Schedule was examined and the actions taken were confirmed.

1681. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

The Director of Operations referred to his report, which had been previously circulated. Matters referred to include the Planned Maintenance Programme, Plant Purchases and Replacements, Pumping Station Maintenance Work and the visit of the Defra team dealing with Drainage Board issues on 08.12.11

Members commented on the excellent condition of the Board's watercourses and asked the Director of Operations to thank the Board's operatives for their hard work during the past year.

----- Chairman ----- Date