

Minutes of the seventy second Meeting of The Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held at Washingborough Village Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.

*Present:*

B S Leggate Esq ~ Chairman  
R Fletcher Esq ~ Vice Chairman  
B Applewhite Esq  
D C Armstrong Esq  
G W Chambers Esq  
S F Cobb Esq  
J Crust Esq  
R Cucksey Esq  
T Gilbert Esq  
P Gilbert Esq  
R Hansard Esq  
R Hickling Esq  
S B Leggate Esq  
J Mair Esq  
L Maplethorpe Esq  
N Maplethorpe Esq  
D R Means Esq  
N A Osborne Esq  
E H Tonge Esq  
A S Whitehead Esq

*In attendance:*

Chief Executive  
Director of Operations  
Senior Finance and Rating Officer  
Administration Assistant

**1592. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Oxby and Dr. Stanton.

**1593. RETIREMENT**

The Chairman announced that Cllr G W Chambers was not seeking re-election to North Kesteven District Council and, as such, was unlikely to be re-appointed to the Board. He thanked Cllr Chambers for his work on behalf of the Board and the Executive Committee.

**1594. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 were confirmed.

Matters Arising

**1595. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MAINTENANCE (Minute 1575)**

The Chief Executive reported that Mr. Brown of the Agency was unable to attend the Meeting but had forwarded maps to Board Fen representatives to ascertain which fields were suffering from waterlogging from seepage out of the Branston Delph. Whilst the maps had been forwarded in mid February, none had been returned. Consequently, he was unable to commission a level survey.

Insofar as retained levels within the Branston Delph were concerned, Mr. Brown had e-mailed the Board to confirm that the penstock at the confluence with Carr Dyke was due to be automated during the current financial year. It was proposed to set an upper limit of 2.0m ODN before closure of the penstock.

**1596. INTERNAL AUDIT (Minute 1583)**

It was reported that Mr. Gowing had made two visits to the Board's offices and was examining procedures together with accounting arrangements. He anticipated a formal report in June.

**1597. PUBLIC BODIES BILL (Minute 1587)**

The Chief Executive reported that Schedule 7 had been removed before the Bill had left the House of Lords, however, whilst the threat of abolition had been lifted, amendments to membership and financial considerations remained possible.

**1598. TOTAL ENVIRONMENT (Minute 1588)**

It was reported that the County Council, as Lead Flood Authority, appeared content to allow the Boards to continue administering their respective drainage districts, there were proposals to extend the system to Board catchment areas.

**1599. BACS PAYMENTS (Minute 1591)**

The Chief Executive reported that he had included BACS payment details on the notice and newsletter accompanying the rate demand in addition to the details on the demands.

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**Report of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

**1600. TRACTOR AND REAR MOUNTED FLAIL REPLACEMENT**

It was *RESOLVED* to accept the Tender of Marsh to supply a Claas Arion Tractor 630 CIS in the sum of £35,500 after trade in of the Board's M<sup>c</sup>Cormack 155 Tractor.

It was further *RESOLVED* to retain the existing Bomford Flail for one further season.

**1601. RENT REDUCTION**

It was *RESOLVED* to refuse the request of the Board's tenant to defray costs of reinstating the land following sludging deposits by not paying any rent in the current year.

**1602. CO-OPTION OF MEMBER**

It was *RESOLVED* to co-opt Mr. G.W. Chambers of Metheringham as Fen representative for the vacancy in the Nocton and Branston Fen electoral district.

**1603. METHERINGHAM FEN – LAND TRANSFER**

It was *RESOLVED* to accede to the request of Rbt Bowser Farms to transfer part of the Metheringham pump drain and obsolete outfalls which had been registered by the Board.

**1604. FIVE MILE LANE DEVELOPMENT**

The Chief Executive reported that Anglian Water had confirmed that they had no interest in the site. North Kesteven District Council had granted consent subject to a number of conditions and were encouraging the Board to oversee compliance with the conditions. The Environment Agency had confirmed that should pollution take place, the polluter would be deemed responsible rather than the organisation conveying the substance. In addition, the Agency would be pleased to offer design advice to combat any possible pollution.

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**1605. LEGISLATION**

It was reported that in addition to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Public Bodies Bill, a proposed Localism Bill and a new Water Bill may affect the Board's operations.

#### **1606. DRAINAGE RATES**

It was reported that 97.15% of direct drainage rates had been collected by the end of the 2010/11 financial year.

It was further reported that the demand notes for 2011/12 had been forwarded and £12,529 had already been collected.

It was *RESOLVED* to transfer the following areas to special levy following development:-

Digby	O.S. 2815 - 0.809 hectares
Digby	O.S. 1715 - 0.809 hectares
Sleaford	O.S. 3200 - 9.108 hectares
Sleaford	O.S. 0004 - 1.584 hectares

#### **1607. DIRECTOR OF OPERATION'S REPORT**

The Director of Operations referred to his report which had been previously circulated. Mr. Whitehead suggested painting identity marks on Board equipment to discourage theft. Mr. Armstrong requested that more detailed consideration of timing of weedcutting be exercised. The Director of Operations reminded Members of the scarcity of resources.

#### **1608. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS**

The Schedule of Accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 amounting to £155,245.37p was examined and approved.

#### **1609. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Schedule was examined and the actions taken were approved.

#### **1610. VISIT TO JCB FACTORY**

It was agreed to organise a visit to the JCB factory on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

#### **1611. ADDITIONAL MEETING**

It was *RESOLVED* to convene an additional Board Meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June to examine and approve the 2010/11 accounts.

----- Chairman

----- Date