

## WITHAM THIRD DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

**Minutes of the eighty ninth meeting of Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Minting Village Hall, Lincolnshire, LN9 5RX at 10.30am.**

*Present:*

Mr. P. R. Hoyes           **(Chairman)**  
Mr. M. I. Thomas       **(Vice Chairman)**  
Mr. R. Armstrong  
Mr. J. Boyall  
Mr. .I M. Clark  
Mr. W. S. Crane  
Cllr. I. Fleetwood  
Mr. J. R. Garner  
Mr. R. Hairsine  
Cllr. P.M. Harness  
Cllr. G. Hewson  
Mrs. J. Holland  
Cllr. D. C. Hoyes MBE  
Cllr .M. G. Leaning  
Mr. C. Mason  
Mr. I. Parker  
Cllr. P. Vaughan  
Mr. R. J. Weightman

*In attendance:*

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Jane Froggatt    | Chief Executive                   |
| Mr. Martin Shilling   | Director of Operations            |
| Mr. Garry Winterton   | Consents and Enforcements Officer |
| Miss Samantha Ireland | GIS and Environmental Officer     |
| Mrs. Anna Wilson      | Finance and Rating Officer.       |

### **2331 Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. R. M. Avison, Cllr. S. M. Avison, Cllr. B. Bilton, Cllr. W. H. Gray, Cllr. D. Jackson, Cllr. Mrs. F. M. Martin MBE, Cllr. P Phillipson, Mr. J. C. Smithson, Mr. D.J. Straw and Mr. P.A. Spilman.

### **2332 Declarations of Interest.**

Declarations of interest were received from members nominated by City of Lincoln, East Lindsey District and West Lindsey District Councils in matters relating to their respective Councils.

### **2333 Chairman's Announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed members and officers to the meeting, particularly Garry Winterton and Samantha Ireland who would later be making presentations.

Members were then briefed on a visit the previous Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April to the group of 3 Boards by 11 representatives of Somerset Flood Risk Management Authorities, following which they spent a day on 24<sup>th</sup> April with partner bodies in Lincolnshire. The visit included representatives from the EA, Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Mendip District Council, Parrett IDB and Axe Brue IDB. The purpose of the visit was that, in the wake of the significant floods in Somerset, the Government has provided circa £1.9 million for them to establish a Somerset Rivers Board (SRB). They are looking therefore at different models of partnership working and we highlighted some of the ways in which we work in partnership without the establishment of a separate legal entity, a new precepting authority with all the additional costs that details. Examples of partnership included:

- what we do in Lincolnshire under the 'virtual partnership' of the Flood Risk Management and Drainage partnership (the EA, ADA, LCC, Lincolnshire IDBs, the 7 District Councils, Natural England etc).
- the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement and works we have done for the EA, but how PSCAs are a model for partnership working.
- the Memorandum of Understanding under which the IDBs provide the consents & enforcements service for LCC (as the LLFA), in our extended rainfall catchments.
- a site visit to Bardney to see a voluntary partnership scheme, led in that case by Witham Third DIDB, funded jointly by the Board at £10k, LCC at £10k, WLDC at £8k and Bardney Parish Council at £2k. This was a recently completed scheme providing at least 11 residential properties with a 5-fold improved level of flood protection to properties with a history of internal flooding.

The Chairman then advised the Board that, with some District Council Elections pending on 07<sup>th</sup> May, Cllr. Peter Phillipson had last week stood down from the Board with immediate effect and he would not be standing for re-election to ELDC. Cllr. Mick Harness was attending his last Board meeting, as he too would not be standing for re-election to ELDC having served for 35 years. Cllr. Malcolm Leaning was also attending his last Board meeting, as after 34 years' service with WLDC he was not standing for re-election.

The Chairman thanked all Council nominated representatives on the Board for their service, particularly Cllrs. Mick Harness and Malcolm Leaning. He wished those seeking re-election well and stated he hoped to see them nominated once again to membership of the Board, knowledge of flood protection and drainage and continuity of input being important.

### **2334 Minutes of the Board meeting held on 27.01.15.**

The minutes of the Board's meeting held on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015 were proposed, seconded and APPROVED as an accurate record.

#### *MATTERS ARISING:*

##### **2334.1 Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme (minute 2311 refers).**

It was confirmed that the planning application had been submitted by VBA to ELDC for the Horncastle FAS. Given required consultations, it was anticipated the application would be determined by the end of June.

Mr. Ian Clark stated that he had nothing to report on progress between the EA and landowners on flood easement agreements. He felt the process had not been well handled

by the EA, but he reported that Gavin Holloway at the EA had gone abroad for a month and Fisher German had now been appointed by the EA to lead negotiations on their behalf.

All present felt that it was key to resolve the flood easement agreements soon. It was noted that, following discussion of this subject at the Standing Committee, the Chief Executive had emailed Robert Caudwell, RFCC Chairman, to set out the continuing concerns. The next meeting of the Horncastle Project Board was on 15.05.15.

#### 2334.2 Highland Water (minute 2312.2 refers).

It was confirmed that as part of the 2014/15 accounts closure process, the actual Highland Water claim for the year would be finalised (reconciling this to the estimated claim submitted for the year).

#### 2334.3 Telephones (minute 2312.3 refers).

Following problems with the O<sup>2</sup> network coverage on the new mobile phones (in the 24 months contract, from November 2014), various networks and handsets had been assessed throughout the group of IDBs' districts. It was confirmed that, arising from this, the Board's mobile phones had transferred from O<sup>2</sup> to Vodafone as the network provider (UW remaining on O<sup>2</sup> as the network provider and W1st changing to EE).

#### 2334.4 Motor Vehicles Allowances Policy (minute 2318 refers).

It was reported that the 3 IDBs had approved the revised Motor Vehicles Allowances Policy and the proposed implementation arrangements, which varied for each Board due to historical differences.

In practice this meant that all 3 Boards' Operatives were now on White Book Craftsman B grade, this having been brought into line w.e.f. 01<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Through Capita, the Boards were out to invitation to tender for provision of commercial fleet vehicles and the results of this should be known shortly.

Finally, as far as Witham House based staff are concerned, the revised reduced mileage reimbursement rates of 45 pence per mile for Essential vehicle users and 65 pence per mile for Casual users had been implemented from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

### **2335 Minutes of the Standing Committee on 14.04.15.**

The minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were APPROVED as an accurate record and the recommendations to the Board were NOTED.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

##### 2335.1 Summer Inspection 2015.

It was noted that it was intended this year to host 2 Summer Inspections across the 3 Boards as follows:

- A joint inspection between Witham Third, Witham First and Upper Witham, hosted by the 3 Chairmen, showcasing recent developments/improvement schemes in the 3 drainage districts.
- A summer inspection, again between the 3 Boards, out of the 3 drainage districts (potentially visiting Yorkshire).

### **2336 Indicative Financial Outturn report to 31.03.15.**

A report by the Finance Manager had been circulated with the agenda which provided the indicative 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 outturn position, prior to completion of the 2014/15 Annual Accounts. The final (unaudited) accounts and IDB Annual Return would come to the Board's 16.06.15 meeting, after internal audit and prior to submission to Grant Thornton, External Auditors.

The report indicated that the bulk of work was now complete to close the 2014/15 accounts. A small number of invoices relating to the period to 31.03.15 were outstanding, Highland water claims had yet to be finalised and the set of Joint Administration charges and recharges between the 3 Boards had yet to be finalised. Information from the Pension Fund Actuary was due to be received in early May, enabling the FRS17 pension calculations to be completed.

However, based on the work to date, it was anticipated that the Board would have a healthy surplus outturn as at 31.03.15 of at least £90k, possibly more as Witham Third hosts much of the joint administration costs yet to be recharged. The key factors in this financial forecast were detailed as:

- additional income of £30k on rechargeable works undertaken in 2014/15.
- the Board's Engineer having been recharged to the 3 Boards since 01.11.14 (not 2 Boards).
- the £30k Bardney Flood Alleviation Scheme achieving the full £20k partnership funding (£10k LCC, £8k WLDC and £2k Bardney PC).
- pump lifts totalling £17k.
- fewer hours of pumps operating, hence £45k actual expenditure on electricity compared to the £65k budget.

On drainage rates income, it was confirmed that as at 31.03.15 the outstanding income for 2014/15 was £1,710.55. It was also confirmed that the drainage rates invoices for 2015/16 had been printed, packed and were despatched to account holders on 09.04.15. Pleasingly, account holders appeared to be using the card payments system and a verbal update was given that as at 24.04.15 the Board had received £27,713.04 in payments on 2015/16 accounts.

Bank balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 were as follows:

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| NatWest                   | £ 90,061.87        |
| Nationwide Instant Access | £301,150.68        |
| Nationwide 30 day Notice  | £502,013.70        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>£893,226.25</b> |

Interest had been achieved of £3,164.38 from October 2014 to March 2015 from the Nationwide Accounts.

Members received and NOTED the indicative financial outturn position of a surplus of at least circa. £90k as at 31.03.15, the end of 2014/15 drainage rates income position and the bank balances as at 31.03.15.

### **2337 Statement of Expenditure, 01.01.15 to 31.03.15.**

The Statement of Expenditure incurred for the 3 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 had been circulated with the agenda.

Expenditure items of note included:

- £3,301.00 (excl. VAT), ADA subscription 2015.
- £2,577.00 (excl. VAT), Inter Lec Ltd for repairs to Stainfield PS actuator.
- £415.00 (excl. VAT), Inter Lec Ltd for repairs to Duckpool control system and Kirkstead heater.
- £3,252.00 (excl. VAT), Inter Lec Ltd to replace telemetry units at Woodhall PS, Kirkstead PS and Marsh Lane PS.
- £21,311.40 (excl. VAT) to J.E. Spence & Son Ltd for part of Bardney Abbey Road FAS (of which £15,983.55 was rechargeable).
- £3,910.00 (excl. VAT) to J.E. Spence & Son Ltd for part of Bardney Abbey Road FAS (of which £2,932.50 was rechargeable).
- £385.00 (excl. VAT) to Morton Boats for 11 replacement life jackets.
- £211.00 (excl. VAT) to Wildlife Conservation Partnership for 2 Barn Owl boxes.

Members NOTED the report and that expenditure totalled £274,197.06 (or £251,541.39 net of £22,655.67 VAT) for the 3 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and of this £23,692.76 was rechargeable expenditure.

### **2338 Drainage Rates write-offs.**

A report requesting write off of drainage rates, a matter reserved to the Board, had been circulated with the agenda. It explained that throughout 2014 and 2015 many Land Registry searches had been carried out on parcels of land marked as 'query' within the DRS Rates system. The result was to trace new owners of much of this land, who were liable for drainage rates. However, applying the Land Drainage Act 1991 limitation on past rates to claiming 'current year plus one' meant that there were some historical drainage rates income and costs which the Board was unable to claim and which the Board was therefore requested to write off as follows:

| <b><u>Account</u></b> | <b><u>From</u></b> | <b><u>To</u></b> | <b><u>Details</u></b>  | <b><u>Rates</u></b><br>£ | <b><u>Costs</u></b><br>£ |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 768                   | 01/04/2012         | 31/03/2015       | Land transferred to 'Unregistered Land' as unknown owner and not registered at Land Registry. Costs only to remove.  | 0.00                     | 110.00                   |
| 821                   | 01/04/2005         | 31/03/2014       | This land has now been developed so has been transferred to the Special Levy account. Unfortunately, we are unable to collect the arrears on the account as there is no known forwarding address of the previous occupier. | 38.73                    | 0.00                     |
| 964                   | 01/04/2009         | 30/09/2010       | A Land Registry search has found the current owner for this land. Unfortunately we do not have a forwarding address for the previous occupier.   | 152.17                   | 40.00                    |
| 1381                  | 01/04/2014         | 31/03/2015       | Court costs only to be written off now that the new owner of this land has been found and billed in full.  | 0.00                     | 80.00                    |

|              |            |            |  |                      |                      |
|--------------|------------|------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1424         | 01/04/2006 | 31/03/2014 | Land registry search found correct owner for this land. However, can only use the 1+1 rule for backdating arrears. This account is what had been used as a 'Holding' Account where all oddities have been placed, awaiting investigation. All the land in this account has now been allocated and the correct ratepayers billed in full. | 273.43               | 0.00                 |
| 1433         | 01/04/2013 | 31/03/2014 | Court costs only to be written off now that this land has been transferred to the Special Levy account as it is now developed.   | 0.00                 | 70.00                |
| <b>Total</b> |            |            |  | <b><u>464.33</u></b> | <b><u>300.00</u></b> |

Members APPROVED the write-off of drainage rates income to the value of £464.30 and £300.00 costs.

### **2339 Chief Executive's Report.**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated with the agenda and was presented.

On the ADA White Book Pay Award for 2015/16, members were reminded that up to a 2% pay award was in effect included in the 2015/16 Estimates (a 1% assumed pay uplift and a further 1% pay contingency). It was noted that there was as yet no agreed pay settlement. Management side of the Lincolnshire ADA Branch Pay Committee had rejected in December a 3% staff side pay claim and offered 1% in line with the national cap on Public Bodies' pay awards announced by the Chancellor in March 2014. This 1% offer had been subject to a ballot and was recently rejected by staff side, discussion was therefore on-going to reach a pay settlement.

Members NOTED the report and AGREED that wage/salary scales should remain on the ADA Lincolnshire White Book 2014/15 scales, pending resolution of an agreed pay deal for 2015/16, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to implement the 2015/16 uplift (backdating it to 01<sup>st</sup> April 2015) as and when recommended by the ADA Lincolnshire Branch, providing this uplift is in the 1% to 2% range as included in the budget.

### **2340 Plant Programme 2015/16 – New wheeled excavator.**

On 27.01.15 the Board had approved the plant programme for 2015/16, which included a pre-tender estimate of £115,000 for a wheeled excavator purchase. Invitations to tender had been sent out to five companies, with a closing date for quotations of 27.03.15, which gave the option of responding with a fixed 3 piece boom arrangement (providing a reach of between 9 and 10 metres from the centre of the slew ring to the bucket tip) or a telescopic boom arrangement (with a minimum reach of 10 metres and a maximum reach of 12 metres from the centre of the slew ring to the bucket rip, by use of an extendable dipper section).

The Board's Standing Committee had discussed on 14.04.15 the results of the procurement process, 4 of the 5 companies having responded. Of the 4 companies, Volvo and TDL (distributors for Atlas) had closely met the specification.

On price, Volvo's option of a ER160E wheeled excavator with a tele dipper was £144,950 (excl. VAT) and the fixed dipper wheeled excavator was £127,450 (excl. VAT), with a reduction of £3,400 on each option if a service contract was taken. There was a further

reduction to the Board of £2,500 if 2 excavators were purchased (Upper Witham IDB being at a similar stage in the procurement process for a wheeled excavator).

By comparison, the TDL supplied Atlas 150W machine was offered at £129,150 (excl. VAT) for the wheeled excavator with detachable extension and an overall reach of 12.1 metres. The telescopic 3 piece dipper arm version was offered at £131,110 (excl. VAT) and offers an overall reach range of 10.4 to 11.9 metres. In both cases, Atlas recommended the Board upgrades from 600mm tyres to Nokian 700/45 – 22.5 tyres at a cost of £2,035.00 (excl. VAT).

Of the two suitable tenders submitted, Volvo was on this occasion more expensive and had a shorter reach than the Atlas option.

It was noted that, whilst Atlas appeared to be the preferred provider on this occasion, there were some points of clarification or queries at the Standing Committee meeting on 14.04.15, as follows:

- The nature of the extending parts in the dipper, wear characteristics, maintenance requirements, operation of, restrictions of use etc.
- Who will manufacture the telescopic dipper arm? Will it be of similar type to that provided by JCB on the Upper Witham's Board's JS160?
- What would be the additional weight of the machine as delivered compared to the brochure weight of 16000kg (if round numbers, +500kg, +750kg?).
- Given the above, the ground bearing pressure of the 150W compared to the 140W assuming we go for the 700/45 – 22.5 tyres offered as an alternative to the 600 Super singles.
- Clarification of the delivery periods – is this dependent upon 2no. 150W's being unsold on the production line?
- The Warranty offered is 12 months compared to the 2 years specified.
- Would the extended warranty offered, at the additional price, cover all aspects of the machine, including the telescopic dipper (it being a non-standard fixture)?
- There is also the question of balance and stability on the river bank; the 140W displays all the characteristics that the Board requires and we would like to be assured that this degree of stability will not be lost by the use of the 150W/telescopic dipper arrangement.

A meeting was arranged with representatives of TDL and Atlas, the Chief Executive, Director of Operations, Works Supervisor and both UW's and W3rd's Chairmen for Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> April to go through these queries (the Board's Standing Committee having delegated authority for such and, depending on the outcome, an order to be placed to hopefully ensure delivery prior to start of the weed cutting season).

In summary, the outstanding queries were resolved to the satisfaction of all present on 17.04.15 (e.g. Ulrich will manufacture the dipper arm, as available now on tracked excavators). Whilst the manufacturer's warranty offered was 12 months, TDL agreed on 17.04.15 to stand the £1,572.00 (excluding VAT) cost of the additional Platinum insurance policy for 2 years/4,000 hours to give adequate warranty.

An order was therefore placed for an Atlas wheeled 150W Excavator with telescopic dipper in the sum of £131,110.00 (excluding VAT) plus £2,035.00 (excluding VAT) for the Nokian 700/45-22.5 tyres, i.e. a total order value of £133,145.00 (excluding VAT) and including the manufacturer's 12 months warranty. In addition, Platinum Warranty insurance cover costs of £1,572.00 would be met by TDL/Atlas for 24 months warranty.

Members noted the procurement process, the reasons for TDL (Atlas) being awarded the contract for provision of a 150W wheeled excavator with telescopic dipper at a total cost of £133,145.00 (excluding VAT), noted that this was £18,145 above pre-tender estimate and AGREED to ratify the decision.

### **2341 Director of Operations' Report.**

The Director of Operations' Report for the four months to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 had been circulated with the agenda. This was presented, together with a verbal update.

- **Planned Winter Maintenance Programme 2014/15.**

The planned winter maintenance programme was completed during this period. The last substantial piece of work was the North Delph. Here the weed cutting of the channel bed was completed in combination with the planned bushing work. This reduced machine movement and travel along the bank sides, in areas of known poor ground conditions.

| Watercourse                      | Length<br>m   | Length miles     | % Completed |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Linwood Drain                    | 1050 m        | 0.6 miles        | 100         |
| Buslingthorpe Beck               | 1900 m        | 1.2 miles        | 100         |
| Sambre Beck                      | 1040 m        | 0.6 miles        | 0           |
| Minting & Gautby Beck            | 1200 m        | 0.7 miles        | 100         |
| Tattershall Thorpe / Kirby Drain | 545 m         | 0.3 miles        | 100%        |
| <b>Totals</b>                    | <b>5735 m</b> | <b>3.4 miles</b> | <b>82%</b>  |

The planned programme of channel re-forming and slip repairs had continued through the period. A number of gates were installed to improve vehicular access to the maintained system.

- **Rechargeable Work**

Work had been completed on behalf of the Environment Agency under the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement. It involved the removal of bushes and other vegetation from the raised embankment of the River Witham between Stamp End and Greetwell Pumping Station.

This was another example where co-operation between the EA and the Board provided efficiencies for both parties. The Board incorporated this work into its own winter works in the vicinity and so no machine moves were required, the Agency completed vital maintenance work protecting the adjacent residential and agricultural areas with the need for little bureaucracy.

- **Workforce**

A member of the workforce remains on long-term sick leave. He has indicated he is unlikely to return and be able to undertake the full range of duties expected or required.

Johnny Wilson retired from the Board's workforce on 10<sup>th</sup> April. The Chairman attended to present Johnny with cards and gifts to mark his retirement after almost 25 years with the Board. Interviews will be held on 06<sup>th</sup> May to recruit suitable replacements.

Members received and NOTED the report and presentation.



## **2342 Consents & Enforcements.**

The Chairman welcomed Garry Winterton, Consents & Enforcements Officer, to the meeting. A report summarising cases, both within the drainage district and in the extended catchment, had been circulated with the agenda. This was presented together with a presentation of some of the enforcement cases dealt with over the last year.

Cllr. Malcolm Leaning queried TE-849-2014-ENF, an enforcement case in the Board's extended catchment at Lodge Lane, Nettleham, where the road has flooded. It appears that the culvert is blocked, under the entrance to AWS's pumping station. Garry Winterton provided an update and it appears that British Gas have inadvertently cut the culvert, so LCC Highways are chasing this.

Members received and NOTED the report.

## **2343 Report on Planning Applications, 29.12.14 to 09.04.15.**

The Engineer's schedule of planning applications considered in the period 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014 to 09<sup>th</sup> April 2015, including a summary of comments submitted to the Local Planning Authority concerned, had been circulated with the agenda.

In relation to applications to ELDC, comments were submitted on the following:

| <u>Location</u>   | <u>Applicant</u>      | <u>Details</u>   |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Land West of Brackenbury Close, Horncastle  | The Brackenbury Trust | Outline for up to 75 dwellings                                     |
| <i>This site was the subject of a MAG meeting yesterday at your offices. The primary concern with flood risk in Horncastle beyond the River Bain flood plain is overland flow. This site extends the developed area of the town to higher ground and residents' concern is the possibility of additional surface water from impermeable areas impacting on their own properties below. The proposed attenuated direct discharge to the River Bain addresses this issue comprehensively in that it provides a diversion for the surface water around those lower properties. It is suggested a swale be incorporated into the stormwater drainage system along the low boundary of the site because the catchwater function would be clearly visible and readily understood and appreciated.</i> |                       |  |
| Tesco Supermarket, Watermill Road, Horncastle   | Tesco Stores Ltd      | Rear extension   |
| <i>The proposed works require the raising of ground levels, which would adversely affect the flood plain without the provision of compensatory flood storage. It is stated in the Summary Statement of Flood Risk Assessment there would be a net additional 19m<sup>3</sup> of storage provided by ground lowering elsewhere in the curtilage specifically for this purpose. The Board's access to the Ings Drain system to the west of the site should be maintained at all times during the construction of these works.</i>   |                       |  |
| 1 Hamerton Lane, Horncastle   | Mrs J Perkins         | 11no. dwellings on the site of existing buildings to be demolished |
| <i>The specialist report on flood risk and drainage referred to at section 6.3 of the Design &amp; Access Statement &amp; Heritage &amp; Justification Statement could not be found. It is of concern that surface water drainage appears to be intended as a direct discharge to main sewer. Those in the centre of Horncastle are generally overloaded. It has become established that significant developments provide an improvement to flood risk. Although the risk to the proposed properties may be low, there do not appear to be any measures to ameliorate the problem in the town. It is recommended that the drainage report be found and uploaded /circulated. Approval be withheld until the drainage/flood risk issues have been considered by the agencies</i>                 |                       |  |

|   |                        |  |
|---|------------------------|--|
| <i>at a MAG meeting (imminent procedural changes notwithstanding).</i>  |                        |  |
| 86 High Street, Coningsby   | Mrs A Sivill           | Bungalow on the site of outbuildings to be demolished              |
| <i>The soakaway(s) should be designed in accordance with sections 3.26 to 3.30 of part H of the Building Regulations.</i>   |                        |  |
| 1 The Park, Coningsby   | Mr P Costello          | Extension to double garage   |
| <i>It is recommended the existing soakaway be appraised relative to the requirements of BRE 365 or similar method (refer to sections 3.26 to 3.30 of part H of the Building Regulations) and enlarged accordingly if required.</i>  |                        |  |
| Seven Oaks, 63 Stixwould Road, Woodhall Spa   | Abpi Trust 2011        | Conversion of dwelling to 3no. apartments and games room to garage |
| <i>Works or planting within 9m of the adjacent Board maintained watercourse (Swinesyke / Reeds Beck) require prior consent from the Board.</i>  |                        |  |
| Land off Alexandra Road, Woodhall Spa   | Waterloo Housing Group | 31no. dwellings  |
| <i>I refer to the decision notice for this application dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Lindum Group who are working for the applicant consider is required again. Downstream of the pond there is a new culvert crossing Green Lane outfalling directly into the Board maintained system. Land Drainage consent will be issued for the new outfall from the development and the larger replacement culvert referred to above.</i> |                        |  |
| Foxwood, 15 Forest Pines Lane, Woodhall Spa   | Mr B Young             | Extension to dwelling  |
| <i>The additional roof area is great enough such that specific drainage measures should be taken. For soakaways, they should be designed in accordance with sections 3.26 to 3.29 of part H of the Building Regulations.</i>  |                        |  |
| 20 Park Lane, Coningsby   | Costello & Tokelove    | 2no. dwellings on site of bungalow to be demolished                |
| <i>The soakaways proposed for the drainage of roof run-off should be designed in accordance with sections 3.26 to 3.30 of part H of the Building Regulations.</i>   |                        |  |

In relation to applications to WLDC, comments were submitted on the following:

| <u>Location</u>   | <u>Applicant</u>                          | <u>Details</u>              |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Land off Dunholme Road, Scothern  | Messrs R Day, C Day, C Meace, R Woodhouse | Outline for 33no. dwellings |
| <i>It is noted on the site layout there is a strip left on the southern boundary adjacent Scothern Beck. This is good, provided it is intended, or at least may serve, as an access for maintenance plant. A minor correction to the Flood Risk Assessment: section 2.2 – the roadside ditch to the east of the site is not maintained by the Board. Scothern Beck is an adopted watercourse, but the upstream limit is about 40 metres downstream of the site.</i> |   |                             |
| <u>Location</u>   | <u>Applicant</u>                          | <u>Details</u>              |
| 34 St Edwards Drive, Sudbrooke  | Mr L Schofield                            | Extension to dwelling       |

*Contrary to what is stated on the drawing, to drain to existing soakaway(s), the applicant is advised, particularly in view of the age of the existing soakaway(s), to provide additional capacity for the proposed extension, which should be designed in accordance with sections 3.26 to 3.29 of part H of the Building Regulations.*

There were no relevant applications to either LCC or to City of Lincoln Council during the period concerned.

Members NOTED the comments submitted to ELDC and to WLDC.

#### **2344 Response from the Environment Agency to the Board on Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme.**

When Andrew Barron of the EA had attended the Board's meeting on 27.01.15 to present the detail of the Horncastle FAS, two queries about the reservoir structure had been raised on which he undertook to provide written responses. A reply to each question had been received on 13.03.15 as follows:

- **What would happen if the outlet structure became blocked?**

The proposed outlet structure design includes for a series of two trash screens. There is one course screen to prevent large debris (tress etc.) from getting to the outlet and another finer screen with an automated cleaner, which will remove smaller weed type debris. This will significantly reduce the risk of blockage. However, if the reservoir outlet became blocked, there is a 'scour-valve' provided which would allow water to be drained so that the retained water level can be lowered at a minimum rate of 1 metre every 24 hours. This is a reservoir safety requirement.

- **Can the control structure be closed in an emergency?**

The new control structure cannot be closed in an emergency to reduce flows below its design flow of 7.1m<sup>3</sup>/s. However, in normal operation the control structure would be reducing flood flows downstream of the embankment rather than having the flood flows which have occurred in the past.

This control of flow should therefore significantly reduce the chance of catastrophic occurrences such as bank failure due to over topping.

Stop logs are included in the design, however, the safety and implications of deploying these would obviously need careful consideration and could therefore not be guaranteed. As we are entering into a legal agreement with landowners regarding operation of the flood storage area we need to be very careful not to vary from its agreed mode of operation.

Members NOTED these responses, raising no further concerns or queries.

#### **2345 Public Sector Co-operation Agreement – Proposed works programme for 2015/16.**

Following the Board signing the PSCA in November 2013, works had been undertaken for the EA in 2013/14 and again in 2014/15. The Chief Executive and Director of Operations met with EA Officers on 13.02.15 to understand what works the EA may require for 2015/16. The Board had been asked to undertake work on additional drains (e.g. Thunker Drain in Horncastle) and an increased breadth of duties (e.g. regular channel obstruction runs and regular grass cutting).

Channel maintenance works is planned as follows:

| Watercourse                          | Work Type   | Estimated Cost |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Welton Beck u/s A46                  | Weed control by chemical and by hand and monthly obstruction runs   | £13,707        |
| Snakeholme & Tilehouse Beck          | Grass cutting and weed control by machine and hand                  | £8,230         |
| Duckpool Catchwater u/s Campney Lane | Grass cutting and weed control by machine                           | £15,708        |
| Thunker Drain                        | Grass cutting and weed control by hand and monthly obstruction runs | £10,280        |
|                                      | <b>Estimated Total</b>  | <b>£47,925</b> |

The majority of the work requested will be undertaken by the Board's workforce utilising its own plant and Operatives. The cutting of grass to the channel sides and the sides of the raised embankments will be completed using tractor mounted flails and the cutting of weed from the channel bed using excavator mounted weed baskets. The cutting of the embankment crests will be completed using the 'paddock' flail.

Where work is specified to be completed by hand, this will be sub-contracted to Steven Allen of Fenton, near Newark. Mr Allen is an experienced contractor who has undertaken hand work on behalf of Upper Witham IDB for many years.

The timing of the work will be such that the weed control work will be programmed to coincide with Board's programme or to be undertaken towards the end of the season in October/November. The grass cutting will be undertaken regularly throughout the season, thus making the work relatively light in nature.

The obstruction runs on Welton Beck and Thunker Drain in Horncastle may be completed by the Board's workforce in April, June, November and January, with July and September's inspections completed by S Allen.

The financial estimates submitted cover the Board's costs and allow for the use of sub-contractors, planning, supervision and administration, as well as an element of workforce overtime during the summer months.

It was emphasized that the Board is willing to take on this additional maintenance work for the EA, to ensure an improvement in the standard of maintenance to EA main rivers. However, the Board's priority remains work on its scheduled watercourses.

Members received and NOTED the detail of planned PSCA works in 2015/16.

#### **2346 Presentation of "The Wonderful Witham" Film.**

The Board watched a short film, "The Wonderful Witham", produced by Lincolnshire Rivers Trust. The intent of the film was to highlight the challenges facing the River Witham along its length, from source to outfall at the Haven into the Wash, and for partners to collectively address these.

The examples of the challenges included:

- Water quality.
- Invasive species (e.g. American Signal Crayfish) threat to native species.

- The level of silt (reducing water depth).
- Reduced fish stock and reasons for this.
- Aquatic weed growth and restrictions on chemical spraying.

### **2347 Environmental Issues.**

Samantha Ireland, GIS and Environment Officer, gave a presentation which covered:

- An Environmental awareness seminar was held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March at Doddington Hall, predominately for members of all 3 Boards. The Chairman of ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Environment Committee attended the session (Peter Lundgren).
- Presentations had been given by Samantha Ireland, Martin Shilling, Barney Parker (Ashfield Farmed Environment Services), Amy Bouic (Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership), Fiona McKenna (Lincolnshire Rivers Trust) and David Hutchinson (Environment Agency).
- The key areas identified for further improvements were:
  - Improving reporting of environmental work.
  - Identifying key areas for projects, for example:
    - Wildflower meadow planting with schools at Meadow Lane, North Hykeham (UW).
    - Identifying locations to trial maintenance regimes for example cutting alternate sides on alternate years (all 3 Boards).
    - Looking for opportunities to work with landowners on joint initiatives (all 3 Boards).
  - Better promoting environmental projects and initiatives.
  - Understanding the financial and operational implications of Eel Passability studies.
- At the end of the seminar, ADA's Branch Chairman and Environment Committee Chairman (and Secretary) met with the Chief Executive who agreed that the 3 Boards would act as a 'test bed' for taking forward best practice initiatives which the Environment Committee wishes to promote. This would be on the understanding that the 3 Boards' prime responsibility is drainage and flood protection and that the projects identified must not compromise this. To this end, an initial meeting between Peter Lundgren, Chairman of ADA's Environment Committee, Nicholas Watts the Vice Chairman and representatives of our 3 Boards is being convened.
- The three key areas of interest from the Environment Committee for joint work with the 3 Boards were stated as:
  - the flailing of bankside vegetation.
  - flailing of marginal vegetation.
  - the management of summer and winter water levels.

Finally, the work of ADA Lincolnshire Branch's Environment Committee was outlined, Samantha being the Secretary to the Committee.

An invitation was extended to members to attend future meetings, which were detailed as:

| <u>Date</u>                      | <u>Venue</u>   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2015     | South Holland Internal Drainage Board  |
| • 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 | Banovallum House, Horncastle, Lincs (followed by a pub meal + some bat detection in Boston). |

- 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 t.b.c., Lincoln.
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board.

Members received and NOTED the presentation.

**2348 Any Other Business.**

There were no further items of business.

**2349 Date, Time and Place of the Board's Next Meeting.**

The Board's next meeting was confirmed for **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015** at **10am** (not the usual 10.30am) in **Minting Village Hall**, Bricken Field Lane, Minting, LN9 5RX.

.....Chairman.....Date

W3rd BM 28.04.15