

Minutes of the seventy second Meeting of The Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday 26th April 2011 at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

Present:

J C Smithson Esq ~ Chairman
P R Hoyes Esq ~ Vice Chairman
R Armstrong Esq
I M Clark Esq
Mrs J Clark
W S Crane Esq
I G Fleetwood Esq
A H Frith Esq
J R Garner Esq
R Hairsine Esq
Ms P Isaac
M G Leaning Esq
Mrs F M Martin MBE
Dr C Shaw
R J Weightman Esq

In attendance:

Chief Executive
Director of Operations
Mr I Russell, Area Inland Engineer, Environment Agency

1964. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Curtis, Mrs Davidson, Mr. Good, Mr D Hoyes, Mr. M^cCartney, Mr. Phillipson, Mr. Porter and Mr. Spilman.

1965. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 25th January 2011 were confirmed.

Matters Arising

1966. RAILWAY PATHS (Minute 1945)

It was reported that the dispute remained unresolved.

1967. HUNTERS LANE, TATTERSHALL (Minute 1946)

It was reported that contact had been made with the Board's solicitors by the developers solicitors.

1968. INTERNAL AUDIT (Minute 1953)

It was reported that Mr. Gowing had completed most of his work relating to the 2010/11 accounts and had identified a number of system improvements.

1969. TOTAL ENVIRONMENT (Minute 1958)

The Chief Executive reported that proposals to extend drainage districts to the watershed had met an enthusiastic response from the County Council who had adopted the principle to present to DEFRA for a pilot project for Lincolnshire.

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1970. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Standing Committee Meeting held on 15th April 2011 were confirmed.

Matters Arising

1971. REPLACEMENT OF GENERAL PURPOSE TRACTOR (Minute 2)

It was *RESOLVED* to purchase a CLAAS Arion CIS 40K tractor from Marsh at a price of £31,700 after trading in the Board's existing Massey Ferguson.

1972. FLAIL MOWER PURCHASE (Minute 3)

It was *RESOLVED* to purchase a M^cConnell flail mower from Chandlers Ltd in the sum of £31,500.

1973. CO-OPTION OF MEMBER (Minute 4)

It was *RESOLVED* to co-opt Mr. D. Straw of Scothern to fill the vacancy in the Langworth electoral district.

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1974. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr. I. Russell, the Agency's Area Inland Engineer.

Mr. Russell described the progress of a proposed flood alleviation scheme for Horncastle. He confirmed that the scheme would not attract funding under the current grant-in-aid regime but anticipated that the prospects may increase

following the introduction of a revised scheme proposed by DEFRA. He confirmed that resources acquired from the County Council and District Council when added to available Agency funding would enable a proposed scheme for Louth to commence and any funds left over would be directed towards Horncastle. He anticipated that the scheme may proceed as a Bain Valley storage scheme rather than the two storage area schemes originally envisaged and expressed the desire that the Agency be allowed to build a funding reserve for the Horncastle proposals. He confirmed that modelling of the proposals indicated that 280 properties were at risk in the Town from a 1 : 100 event.

Members raised a series of questions relating to timescales, the effect of inflation on costs and the Board's proposals for Ings Drain, Mr. Russell considered that the Board's proposals would adversely affect the likelihood of the scheme taking place.

Mr. Garner challenged Mr. Russell on maintenance following the site visit last Autumn. Mr. Russell agreed that a request for an improved standard of maintenance had been issued to the delivery team but had not been acted upon.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive write to Mr. J. Ulliyat, the Agency's Operations Engineer, to register the Board's disappointment.

Members sought clarification on de-maining and the effect upon the Board's precepts. Mr. Russell confirmed that the Agency were intending to be more transparent on the use of Board precepts.

1975. BOARD IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES

The Chief Executive reported that the schemes at Horncastle Grammar School culvert and Tattershall Marsh Lane culvert had both attracted grant-in-aid and, additionally, had been completed under budget.

He further reported that design work on the New Cut, Short Ferry, silt trap had been completed by the Engineer and Tenders would be sought for consideration at the next Meeting of the Board.

1976. FLOOD WARDEN SEMINAR

The Chief Executive reported that he had given a presentation at the seminar which had been well received by the Wardens.

1977. RIVER WITHAM CATCHMENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN (CFMP)

The Chief Executive reported that he had attended a meeting to discuss revisions to the CFMP the initial copy of which the Board had registered

objections. He had been disappointed at the lack of basic knowledge from the Environment Agency consultants who were charged with reviewing the plan. He was concerned that the flaws in the initial plan were not being properly addressed.

1978. BARDNEY PARISH COUNCIL OPEN DAY

The Chief Executive reported that the Board had participated in the open day and had received a number of favourable comments from residents.

1979. WOODHALL SPA COUNTRY SHOW

It was reported that the Board had been offered space at the event on 22nd May.

1980. DIRECTOR OF OPERATION'S REPORT

The Director of Operations referred to his report, which had been previously circulated, and responded to Members requests for further information on tractor and flail arms.

1981. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Accounts for the period 1st January to 31st March 2011 amounting to £384,620.15p (including a £200,000 investment) was examined and approved.

1982. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Schedule was examined and the actions taken were confirmed.

Following luncheon, the Members, accompanied by guests undertook a coach tour inspecting Brulon Mill Drain, Tattershall; Sykes Drain; Dogdyke Pumping Station and the recently purchased Massey Ferguson / Herder flail / ditching bucket combination.

----- Chairman

----- Date