

Minutes of the seventy fifth Meeting of The Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday, 31st January 2012 at Fiskerton Village Hall.

Present:

J C Smithson Esq ~ Chairman
P R Hoyes Esq ~ Vice Chairman
R Armstrong Esq
I M Clark Esq
R Coupland Esq
W S Crane Esq
R Curtis Esq
C J Darcel Esq
J R Garner Esq
W H Grey Esq
P Harness Esq
G Hewson Esq
D C Hoyes Esq MBE
D B Jackson Esq
Mrs F M Martin MBE
Mrs L J Marfleet
Mrs I Parrott
P Phillipson Esq
M I Thomas Esq
N E Ward Esq
R J Weightman Esq

In attendance:

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

2037. The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and requested that everyone stand for a moments silence in memory of Mr John Porter who passed away in December last year and had served the Board for 52 years.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jane Froggatt to her first meeting as the new Chief Executive and Clerk to the Board, as well as Mrs L-J Marfleet who is representing East Lindsey District Council.

2038. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Vaughan, Mr Good, Mr Boyle Mr Fleetwood and Mr Hairsine.

2039. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chief Executive explained that this would now be a standing item on the agenda at the request of the Internal Auditor.

2040. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 25th October 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

2041. Investment with Natwest Bank (Finance Report)

It was reported the investment bond of £200,000 was due to mature on 13th February 2012. The Chief Executive advised members of the current options with Natwest offering the most competitive rate.

It was *Resolved* to re-invest the principle sum of £200,000 for a further period of 12 months with interest accrued to date to be moved to the Board's revenue reserves.

2042. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee held on Wednesday 26th October 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2043. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee held on Monday 14th November 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2044. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee held on Monday 12th December 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2045. FINANCE REPORT

The Chief Executive gave an overview of the Finance Report, prepared by the Senior Finance Officer, as set out below.

Rate Collection

Previous Years' Arrears	3613.7
Drainage Rate 11/12	<u>141769.47</u>
	<u>145383.17</u>

Payments	141450.67	97.30%	Up 1.40% on Last Year
Refund	-1318.08		
Value Increase	-1781.39		
New Assessment	-60.48		
Value Decrease	1841.87		
Irrecoverables / WO	88.14		
Drainage Rate Adjustment	<u>5.69</u>		
	<u>140226.42</u>		

O/s Bal 5156.75

		Previous Year	Total Budget	Upto 30/12/11	Projected outturn	% to date
<u>INCOME</u>						
I001	Direct Levies	141,756	141,783	141,451	141,783	99%
I007	Interest Received	914	2,000	500	1,500	33%
I006	Rechargeable Work Income	24,464	10,000	3,400	10,000	34%
I008	Consents Rent & Sundry Income	9,906	10,000	6,500	8,000	81%
I009	Commutation Payments	20,445	0	0	0	0%
I010	Insurance Claims Income	1,881	0	0	1,500	0%
I011	Rates Costs Income	466	0	0	280	0%
I012	Highland Water - Drains	74,605	45,000	35,000	45,000	77%
I013	Highland Water - PS	39,765	40,000	30,000	40,000	75%
I014	Highland Water - Capital Works	0	0	0	0	0%
I015	Highland Water - Admin	18,298	14,000	14,000	14,000	100%
I020	Special Levy - Lincoln City Council	219,308	219,208	219,208	219,208	100%
I021	Special Levy - ELDC	246,977	246,677	246,677	246,677	100%
I022	Special Levy - WLDC	161,364	161,332	161,332	161,332	100%
	Other Income	78,144	12,000	6,000	12,000	
		<u>1,038,293</u>	<u>902,000</u>	<u>864,068</u>	<u>901,280</u>	

to the Board's workforce as the outcome of the latest pay negotiations from April 2012.

It was *RESOLVED* that Drainage Rates and Special Levies for year ending 31st March 2013 be determined as set out hereunder:-

The period for which the Rate is made shall be the year ending 31st of March 2013.

The amount in the Rate in the £ shall be 8.3p

The Rate is made for the under mentioned purposes in respect of which expenditure is to be defrayed out of the proceeds of the rate, and the estimated amount of the Rate in respect of each such purpose is:-

	<u>pence</u>
a) New Works & Improvement Works	0.64
b) Contributions to the Environment Agency	1.08
c) Administration and other expenses	1.05
d) Maintenance Works	<u>6.88</u>
	9.65
Less:	
Contributions from Environment Agency	1.02
Other Income	<u>0.35</u>
Adjustment to balances	<u>0.02</u>
	<u>8.30</u>

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, special levies were issued on

(a) East Lindsey District Council	in the sum of £259,482.40p
(b) Lincoln City Council	in the sum of £230,412.57p
(c) West Lindsey District Council	in the sum of £169,534.72p

of the total of Board's expenses required for the aforesaid period, £148,962 (18.4%) was raised from the proceeds of drainage rates and £659,430 (81.6%) was raised by special levy as detailed above.

The Chairman and Chief Executive sealed the rate.

The Chief Executive thanked the outgoing Interim Chief Executive and the Senior Finance Officer for the work they had put into the rates estimates.

2048. PLANT, VEHICLE, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME.

The Director of Operations referred to the programme and the proposed purchases for 2012/13.

The Director of Operations advised that the Fuel Bowser was an essential item which had to be purchased due to Health and Safety Issues relating to the current Bowser. The new Bowser will be fully regulatory compliant and confirmed that the old bowser can be used for waste oil storage.

It was *Resolved* to accept the programme for 2012/13 without amendment.

2049. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

Mr Harness declared an interest in Bush Tyres due to family connections.

The Chief Executive gave an overview of accounts and answered members' questions relating to the accounts.

Mrs Martin requested that items which include a recharge to other Boards within the Joint Administration be highlighted so that the Board can have a true view of the Board's expenditure. This will be shown in future reports.

2050. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Schedule was examined and the actions taken were approved.

2051. HORNCastle FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Mrs Martin declared an interest due to her position as Chair of the Flood Working Group.

The Chief Executive presented a briefing note on the Horncastle scheme and the outcome of a partners' meeting called by the Environment Agency on 11th January 2012. The Chairman opened the discussion and invited comment from members.

Mrs Martin spoke in support of the scheme as well as the outcomes of the Meeting which the Board's officers attended with the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Horncastle Town Council and (in respect of Louth) Louth Town Council and Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board. The Horncastle scheme would now focus on flood alleviation in relation to the river Bain, given the improved flood resilience, rather than the River Waring.

Mr Garner highlighted the continuing issues that surround Horncastle and Mr D.C. Hoyes echoed the sentiment of Mrs Martin.

Concern was raised that if the Board precept was ring fenced by the E.A. solely for the Horncastle works, it could mean that other maintenance works within the district would be affected. The Chief Executive confirmed that this issue had been discussed with officers of the E.A. and that written assurance had been provided that this was not intended.

It was *Resolved* that the Board supports in principle the Environment Agency's ring fencing of the Board's EA Precept to a total of £300,000 (current EA precept 2011/12 is £105,154) to provide a contribution to the Horncastle Scheme. Chief Executive to confirm in writing to the E.A.

2052. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS.

The Director of Operations referred to his report, which had been previously circulated. Matters referred to included the planned Maintenance Programme, Plant Purchases, Short Ferry pumping station and the visit of the Defra team dealing with Drainage Board issues on 08.12.11

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