

Minutes of the seventy fourth Meeting of the Witham First District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday 2nd August 2011 at Washingborough Village Hall.

Present:

B S Leggate Esq ~ Chairman
R Fletcher Esq ~ Vice Chairman
B Applewhite Esq
S F Cobb Esq
R Coupland Esq
J Crust Esq
R Cucksey Esq
T Gilbert Esq
P Gilbert Esq
M D Harrison Esq
G Hewson Esq
D Jackson Esq
J Mair Esq
L Maplethorpe Esq
N Maplethorpe Esq
J F Money Esq
N A Osborne Esq
C R Oxby Esq
Dr V Stanton
E H Tonge Esq
P Vaughan Esq
A S Whitehead Esq

In attendance:

Chief Executive
Director of Operations
Administration Assistant

1617. WELCOME

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Cllr. J. Money, who was attending his first meeting following his appointment by North Kesteven District Council.

1618. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Chambers, Mr. Hickling, Mr. S. Leggate, Mr. S Maplethorpe and Mr. Means.

1619. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 3rd May 2011, were confirmed.

Matters Arising

1620. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MAINTENANCE (Minute 1595)

i) Branston Delph

The Chief Executive reported that Mr. Brown of the Agency was still awaiting the maps relating to Branston Delph seepage to be returned from the affected land occupiers. Mr. Cobb retorted that the maps had been forwarded to the Agency. The Chief Executive agreed to seek clarification.

ii) Old River Slea

The Chief Executive reported that he had received complaints from adjoining landowners relating to the lack of maintenance by the Agency on the Old River Slea. He had visited the watercourse, accompanied by the relevant Board Fen representative and the Director of Operations. There had been no recent maintenance and the channel had considerable weedgrowth across a large proportion of the channel. He had written to the Agency and had received a response confirming that the watercourse was low priority, had not been maintained for three years but would be inspected in September of this year.

It was *AGREED* to await the results of the Agency's next inspection.

1621. PUBLIC BODIES BILL (Minute 1597)

The Chief Executive reported that the Bill had progressed into the House of Commons and was to commence the committee stage in September. The concerns relating to Board Membership and financial matters had not been addressed.

The Chairman had received a letter from the relevant Minister, Richard Benyon. The Chief Executive read the contents to the Meeting.

1622. RENT REDUCTION (Minute 1601)

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had contacted the tenant to relay the Boards decision but had not received the rent to date. He agreed to serve Notice to Quit on the tenant if he did not discharge the account in the near future.

1623. METHERINGHAM FEN – LAND TRANSFER (Minute 1603)

It was reported that there had been no further contact from Rbt Bowser Farms following the Board's solicitors request for confirmation of payment of legal fees.

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1624. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Joint Administration Committee Meeting held on 6th June 2011 were confirmed.

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

1625. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 28th June 2011 were confirmed.

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

Report of the Executive Committee

1626. CAMPBELL CONSTRUCTION (Five Mile Lane) COMMUTATION (2)

It was reported that there had been no further contact from the company. The Chief Executive had drafted a letter to seek the Ministers approval.

1627. TIMBERLAND PUMP STATION ELECTRIC CONTROL PANEL RENEWAL (3)

It was *RESOLVED* to accept the Tender of InterLec in the sum of £31,220 to replace the panel.

1628. TIMBERLAND DIESEL PUMP (5)

It was *RESOLVED* to accept the offer of voluntary assistance subject to appropriate insurance arrangements.

1629. CAMPBELL CONSTRUCTION (2)

At this point, Mr. Cobb returned to the earlier discussion and commented that he considered that the Board had let down ratepayers and should have had no dealings with the developer, effectively allowing him to do as he wished. However, he considered that potential pollution issues must be dealt with by the Board's Officers before the developer be allowed to continue. The Chief Executive confirmed that the potential pollution issue had been dealt with at previous meetings of the Board which Mr. Cobb had had input.

1630. BRANSTON DELPH (6)

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had copied the e-mail from Mr. Brown of the Environment Agency relating to the proposed operation of the penstock at the confluence with Carr Dyke to Mr. Cobb.

Mr. Cobb reported that the fen farmers had claimed that they had forwarded the field maps to Mr. Brown detailing fields affected by high water table emanating from seepage from the Delph.

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the agreement with the Agency for payment for flows pumped by the Branston Fen pump.

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1631. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Chief Executive referred to the report, which had been previously circulated and highlighted the findings of the Auditor confirming his personal satisfaction with the auditors findings.

It was agreed that the Internal Auditor was providing an effective audit of the Board's accounts and systems.

1632. MRS C. M^cCARTNEY – Board Membership

The Chairman read a letter of appreciation from Mrs M^cCartney who had not been re-appointed by Lincoln City Council.

1633. NORTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL – Board Membership

The Chief Executive confirmed receipt of a letter from the Council confirming appointed members for the forthcoming year.

1634. DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations circulated his report and presented a powerpoint show highlighting the main issues.

1635. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Accounts for the period 1st April to 30th June 2011 amounting to £156,577.48p was examined and approved.

1636. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Schedule was examined and the actions taken were approved.

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