

Minutes of a meeting of the Woodwalton Drainage Commissioners held on Thursday 14th May 2015 at the Admiral Wells, Station Road, Holme at 11.00am.

Present J R Papworth (Chairman), J S Papworth, S Papworth, J Rule, M Broughton, M F Newman, K Carver (Wildlife Trust), H Bailey (Great Fen Restoration Officer) R Wright (Clerk), Mrs M A Wright.

Apologies for Absence G Bellwood (Natural England)

124/15

a) Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED –that J R Papworth be appointed as Chairman to the Commissioners.

J R Papworth duly completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

b) Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED – that S D Papworth be appointed as Vice-Chairman to the Commissioners.

S D Papworth duly completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

c) Appointment of Auditors

RESOLVED – that Ivan Cooper an Ex Finance Officer with Fenland District council be appointed the Commissioners internal auditor for 2014/2015 following the death of Mr G Whitfield.

d) Huntingdonshire District Council re-appointed Mr M F Newman for year ending 31st July 2015.

125/15 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2014 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.)

126/15 Matters Arising

a) Old Pump House – Further to minute 113/14(a) – The Chairman reported that the situation had not changed since last year and no works had been undertaken. J S Papworth enquired whether the old outlet should be sealed as water could still back into the district. RESOLVED – That the Chairman investigates the matter.

b) Badgers – Further to minute 113/14(b) The Chairman reported that Badgers were still present.

127/15 Maintenance of Channels

a) The Chairman reported that no flail mowing or drainworks were undertaken in 2014/2015 due to the breakdown of the pumping plant.

b) The Commissioners considered works for 2015/2016.

RESOLVED that sections 1-2-3-4-5-14-15-16 would be undertaken.

Sections 3-8-9-10-11-12-13 would be undertaken in 2016/2017.

128/15 Pumping Station

a) Breakdown – The Chairman reported upon the breakdown of pumping plant that in total cost £30,807.50.

Messrs Shoebridge were approached as the pump was not pumping water, and the motor amps were extremely low.

Upon inspection, it was decided that to source the fault the best cause of action would be to lift the pump and return it to Shoebridge's workshop. This was implemented and the pump was removed and transported back on Tuesday 16 December.

Once in there works, the pump was systematically stripped and all parts inspected.

The impeller dome cap was missing from the impeller nose, and the nylock impeller retaining nut was also missing.

With the nut missing, the impeller had dropped and fouled on the intake guides, and over a period of time had gradually deformed downwards the impeller leading edge, enabling the drive key to escape and finally losing drive.

Damage has also been sustained to the pump casing.

They conclude that the above damage has been caused by the impeller striking a solid object which would have dislodged and removed the fiberglass nose cone, leaving the impeller retaining nut exposed to corrosion and turbulence, this has then been destroyed resulting in the impeller dropping.

They proposed the following:

To manufacture a replacement bronze impeller, a new fiberglass impeller nose cone, weld deposit on the pump shaft bottom end, machine, keyway and re-thread, set up and machine parallel the pump casing, assemble the pump using all new nuts and bolts, return to site and install. The estimated cost £11,956.00 The Chairman arranged for two irrigation pumps to be installed to keep water levels down. It was then necessary to hire a bigger pump at a cost of £647.35 per week.

The Chairman and Clerk met with the Insurers loss adjustor and it was felt that a claim of £24,000 might be achievable.

The Clerk summarised the total cost of £30,307.50 and had spoken to the Loss Adjuster who had indicated that settlement would be in full less the excess of £250. The amount to be paid would be £30,557.50. The Chairman thanked J Rule his workers, S D Papworth and the Clerk for their assistance.

b) A J Speechley and Son – had installed a 3 phase distribution board and 3 phase + single phase outlets in station at a price of £1,157.24.

c) B Gowler manufactured a new weed screen at a cost of £1,516.32

d) Vulcan Inspection Services – were unable to inspect main pump but control panel was in order.

e) The Chairman reported that the total pump hours were 20,472.

129/15 General Matters

a) Planning - The Clerk reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with no planning applications but were reviewing the Woodwalton Nature Reserve Water management Plan with OHES.

b) Risk Management

The Clerk reported upon the risk management assessment and a review of the systems of internal control and that a review of the Board's insurance cover was agreed

In accordance with Defra/ADA the Commissioners looked at the Standing Orders, and Financial Regulations, and all other existing policies and procedures. It was agreed to leave SO as previous but to amend the Financial regulation to cover payments via the internet.

c) DEFRA

Amalgamations – Clerk reported that no further developments have been made

d) ADA – The Clerk reported that any correspondence was circulated to members and to date no comments were evident

e) Banking – The Clerk reported that the bank balance as at 31st March 2015 stood at £7,086.50.

f) BAP Report – The report for 2014/2015 had been circulated and adopted. A copy of the actions is attached.

130/15 Payments –

The Commissioners considered and approved payments of £46,070.01- vouchers 1 – 27.

131/15 Annual Accounts 2014/2015

a) The Clerk reported upon income and expenditure for 2014/2015 and presented the Annual Accounts and Statement of Governance for year ending 31st March 2015. RESOLVED – that the Clerk and Chairman sign sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return.

b)The Clerk reported that the audit of the 2014/2015 accounts has been advertised and accounts are available for inspection from 8 May to 5 June 2015. The internal auditor had completed his audit and had no specific issues to raise.

132/15 Estimates of Income and Expenditure

The Commissioners considered and approved estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2015/2016 in the sum of Gross £14,800, net £14,785

The payment of the Clerk's fee for 2014/2015 was £2,550. The Commissioners approved the Clerk's fee for 2015/2016 at £2,650.

The payment for looking after the pumping station for 2014/2015 was £850. The Commissioners approved the payment for 2015/2016 at £850.

133/15 Rates and Levy Requirement

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Commissioners must be borne for 2015/2016: -

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| a) | Proportion to be borne by Agricultural Sector | 96.22% |
| b) | Proportion to be borne by Special Levy issued
To Huntingdonshire District Council | 3.78% |

In 2015/16 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £612.98

The estimated net expenditure of £14,785 in 2015/16 is equivalent to: -

- a) A rate of 24.12 p in the £ on agricultural land and buildings to raise £14,226.22
- b) A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £558.86

In 2014/2015 agricultural land paid £14,155.44 (24p) and the District Council £556.08

RESOLVED –

a) A rate of 24p in the £ on agricultural land and buildings to raise £14,155.44

b) A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £556.08

134/15 Great Fen Project

Kate Carver gave a presentation upon the Great Fen Project. Kate explained how it was conceived and how it has progressed over the years.

135/15 Date of next meeting

May 2016