

Minutes of the meeting of Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the Three Horseshoes, March Road Turves at 8.00 pm.

**Present** P D Band, M W Dale, T J Fletcher, R J Stevenson, M Sweet, O Wheatley, Mrs M A Wright (Clerk), R Wright (Consultant), Cllr C Boden

**Apologies for Absence** G W Dale – M Dale reported that his father was current in hospital following a fall which resulted in a broken vertebrate bone. The Board agreed that the Clerk should send a get-well card from the Board.

**122/17 Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record

**123/17 Matters arising**

All matters that are on-going will be reported in the main agenda.

**124/17 Maintenance of Channels**

a) During 2016/2017 - 24 hours of flail mowing was undertaken at £888.00 and South Holland IDB used a weed cutting basket mounted on a tractor for 20 hours at a cost of £1034.60. The Chairman reported that the machine had made an excellent job and the drains were in good order. This was endorsed by C Carson the Environmental officer whose reported said that water voles were prominent in many of the district drains with hot spots in sections 8-9-10.

b) The Board considered works for 2017/2018. Resolved that the whole of the District be flailed and a review of whether drain works were needed be left until after flailing. The use of a weed cutting bucket was recommended as it was less intrusive and better financially.

c) Badgers – The presence of Badgers is still evident but was manageable.

**125/17 Pumping Station**

a) The Chairman reported that the Fire extinguisher was serviced and that A J Speechley & Son undertook a full E.I.C.R on the station electrics at a cost of £123.00. The pumping station site has been sprayed and is currently in good order.

b) National Vulcan inspected the lifting equipment, Centrifugal pump and its motor slip ring and the control panel. They stated that a safety clip is reto-fitted to the load hooks and the safe working load and identification number should be clearly marked in accordance with a test certificate. The protective (earth) conductor between the control panel and the motor has been trapped under one of the metal floor cover plates and damaged. It is recommended that the cable be better protected in metal conduit.

The matter was referred to Messrs Speechley who would undertake the appropriate repairs.

c) New hazard signs had been purchased along with water safety items and a new first aid kit.

## **126/17      General Matters**

a) Planning – It was reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with planning applications on behalf of the Board: -

Larkfleet Homes – residential development off Eastrea Road.

Mr Singh 161 Coates Road – extension

D Kew 8 North Green – single garage

N Bedford 36 North Green – 3 dwellings

A D Maddis 17 Mayfield Road – 2 dwellings

R Barrett replacement garage/shed

C Mawby dwelling

Mrs S Trundle erection of four dwellings

S Popely land east 100 Feldale Lane – hay store & ménage

C Bancroft extension

Mr Parker Change of use of warehouse to dwelling.

The Commissioners have also reviewed their planning application procedure and Mr Wright reported that the situation was under re-view by other Drainage Authorities in the Whittlesey Consortium.

b) Risk Management - Control and Risk Management – Mr Wright reported upon the risk management assessment and that a review of the Board's insurance cover along with recommendations by ADA to review Systems of Internal Control and all policies and procedures on a regular basis. The position of payments of accounts by the internet was discussed and it was reported that payments were only released after approval of the signatories on the bank accounts. No changes were made to the existing policies and procedure.

c) DEFRA - Review of Amalgamations – No further developments have arisen.

d) Abstraction Licence – Lord Rothschild (Kingsland Farm Co Ltd) have applied to reinstate their abstraction licence that expired on 15 Feb 2015 – no objections were raised. An application from G R & P Easton to abstract from the Moreton's Leam and 3 unnamed drains near Whittlesey had been received and investigated. It related to high land outside the district and would have no impact upon water levels.

e) Mr A D Maddis – Consent to discharge surface water from development north of 17 Mayfield Road Eastrea – contribution of £573.80 had been received.

f) S Popely – consent for works within 9m maintenance strip – stock proof fence and hedge.

g) The Pension Regulator – Under the regulations the Board does not have to provide pension arrangements as the Clarks earning are below the threshold specified. However, the Clerk is currently a member of the LGSS

h) Elections – It was reported that the current term of office of members expires on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The Board approved the Register of Electors 2017.

**127/17      Payments** – The Board considered and approved the payments made during the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 - vouchers 1-26 that amount to £60,630.60

Voucher 27 Middle Level Commissioners – fees - £92.40

### **128/17 Annual Accounts 2016/2017**

a) The board approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for 2016/2017

b) Audit Arrangements – External Audit – Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as external auditor. The 2016/2017 audit has been advertised with inspection of accounts from 5 June to 14 July 2017 and returns are to be completed by 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has agreed to undertake the internal examination for the 2016/2017 accounts and for 2017/2018.

The Internal auditor report for 2016/2017 financial years' accounts was circulated and approved as no matters had to be reported to the Board.

The external auditor reported on the 2015/2016 accounts and there were no matters to bring to the Boards attention.

### **129/17 Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2017/2018**

The Board considered and approved estimates of Income of £920 & Expenditure of £14,060 for 2017/2018

The payment of the Clerk's salary for 2016/2017 was £1,450 and is proposed at £1,550 for 2017/2018. The Chairman's allowance for 2016/2017 was £600 and is proposed at £600 for 2017/2018.

The Board made a surplus of £5,987.10 in 2016/2017 which £573.80 relates to the Development contribution from A D Maddis. The surplus of £5,414 was mainly a result of savings on fuel of £1,400, maintenance of £1,310, planning £535 it is equivalent to a rate of 4.5p.

The General Fund Account stood at £76,365.43 and the Development account at £8,975.42

The estimated net expenditure of £13,140 in 2017/2018 is equivalent to a rate of 11.04p  
RESOLVED – that the rate be retained at 12p.

### **130/17 Rates and Levy Requirement**

Under Section 37 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the appropriate proportions in which the net expenditure of the Board must be borne for 2017/2018: -

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| a) Proportion to be borne by Agricultural Sector                             | 40.82% |
| b) Proportion to be borne by Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council | 59.18% |

RESOLVED – that: -

- A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 12p in the £ to raise £5,829.36
- A special levy on Fenland District Council of £8,450.28.
- That the Common seal of the board be affixed to the Record of Rate.

**131/17 Date of next meeting** RESOLVED that the meeting time be brought forward to 7.00pm and held in May 2018. The exact date to be determined in 2018.