

Minutes of the meeting of Feldale Internal Drainage Board held on Thursday 14th May 2015 at the Three Horseshoes, March Road Turves at 8.00 pm.

Present P D Band, G W Dale, M W Dale, T J Fletcher, M Sweet, Mrs M A Wright (Clerk), R Wright (Consultant)

Apologies for Absence R J Stevenson, O Wheatley

97/15 Election

The Clerk reported that the election in 2014 was uncontested and all members were re-elected.

- i) To appoint Chairman – RESOLVED that P D Band be appointed Chairman. P D Band completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office
- ii) To appoint Vice-Chairman RESOLVED that M Sweet be appointed Vice-Chairman. M Sweet completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- iii) All members present completed their Register of members Interest form.

98/15 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th May 2014 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

99/15 Matters Arising

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

100/15 Maintenance of Channels

- a) The Chairman reported that during 2014/2015 flail mowing and slubbing was undertaken on all of the district drains with the exception of part 11-16 and 16,17 & 18. Part 21-22 Messrs Hollands
- b) The Board resolved that A Garner would be asked to undertake sections part 11 – 16 – 17 – 18 for 2015/2016.

101/15 Pumping Station

- a) The Chairman reported that the Fire extinguisher was replaced and that A J Speechley & Son did not service the panel and pumps.
- b) The Chairman reported that the condition of the station after piling works had been undertaken by the Environment Agency in line with the works to the South Barrier bank was in the same condition as prior to the works.
- c) National Vulcan had inspected the lifting equipment, Centrifugal pump and its motor slip ring and the control panel. They stated that a safety clip needed to be re-fitted to the load hooks and the safe working load and identification number should be clearly marked in accordance with a test certificate.
- d) The Chairman reported that a representative of Decoy Lakes entered the pump house without permission and tampered with the operation of the pump and opened the inlet from Morton's Leam. The matter had been resolved.
- e) The Chairman reported that during the Easter break damage to a recorder put in place by the Middle Level Commissioners was vandalised and damage to the contractor's fence occurred. They took a digital video recorder and related items valued at about £250 from the security cabinet and the Commissioners are now looking at fitting the items inside the pumping station and adding a security camera to monitor the site. The Chairman felt that the easier access that the haul road provided was a factor in the culprits getting to such a remote site. The latest newsletter highlights that the vandals have been active elsewhere on the Project.

Middle Level Commissioners had been asked to look into a security camera and C Carson provided an estimate for £509 that did not include a charge for his time as it would be his contribution as part of his service.

RESOLVED – that the Environment Agency/Contractor be approached as regards to making good any damage and replacing fencing that had been removed.

That the Chairman and Consultant look into the provision of a security camera and be authorised to take the appropriate action.

102/15 General Matters

a) Planning - The Clerk reported that the Consulting Engineer had dealt with the following applications on behalf of the Board: -

FYR13/0473/RM Larkfleet Homes – Bassenhally Farm - dwellings

FYR14/0552/RM D Maddiss 17 Mayfield Road – 2 dwellings

FYR14/0722/F N Proctor 41a March Road Coates – 3 dwellings

FYR14/0407/F J Dunkling 47 March Road – 2 dwellings

FYR14/0915/F N Courcey 47 March Road – dwelling

FYR14/0268/F K McCue 47 March Road – dwelling

FYR14/0374/PNH H Taylor 2 Kelful Close - extension

The Board are investigating the possible direct drainage connection of the access road to the Bassenhally Farm development.

The Consultant is also liaising with the Commissioners regarding planning fees.

b) Risk Management - Control and Risk Management – The Consultant reported upon the risk management assessment and that a review of the Board’s insurance cover along with recommendations by ADA to review of Systems of Internal Control and all policies and procedures on a regular basis. RESOLVED – that Standing orders and Financial Regulations were in order but an addition would be made as to the procedure for dealing with payment of invoices via the internet.

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

d) Consent – Kingsland Farm seven tile drain outfalls into district drain.

e) Baps – The action plan report for 2014/2015 was circulated to members. An extract of the report highlighting the main points is attached to the minutes.

103/15 Environment Agency

Whittlesey Washes Safety Works- Bank works and work on the low concrete wall has started between Stanground and Ball Bridge. At Stanground you will notice large cement wagons delivering the concrete for the wall and dumper trucks moving backwards and forwards on the site. The bank works are progressing well from Ball Bridge working towards Stanground which will tie into the concrete wall just past the Stanground Sluice. Security cameras have been installed within the compound at Stanground to record activities on site 24 hours per day.

104/15 Payments

The Board considered and approved the payments made during 2014/2015 in the sum of £15,368.90.

105/15 Annual Accounts 2014/2015

a) The Board approved the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 and the Annual Governance statement. RESOLVED – that the RFO and Chairman sign sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return and the Annual Accounts.

b) Audit Arrangements – External Audit – Littlejohn LLP have been appointed as external auditor. The 2014/2015 audit has been advertised for 6th June 2015 with inspection from 8 May to 5 June 2015 and returns are to be completed by 30th June 2015.

Internal audit arrangements – Ivan Cooper an ex Finance Officer with Fenland District Council has replaced G Whitfield a former Audit Commission Manager to undertake an internal examination for the 2014/2015 accounts

106/15 Estimates of Income and Expenditure

The Board considered and approved the estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2014/2015

The payment of the Clerk's salary for 2014/2015 was £1,300 and was agreed at £1,365 for 2015/2016

The expenses payment to the District Officer for 2014/2015 was £500 and was agreed at £550 for 2015/16

107/15 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 2015/2016: -

- | | |
|--|--------|
| a) Proportion to be borne by Agricultural Sector | 48.89% |
| b) Proportion to be borne by Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council | 51.11% |

In 2015/2016 a rate of 1p together with corresponding special levy would raise £1009.19

The estimated net expenditure of £11,430 in 2015/2016 is equivalent to: -

- a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land and buildings of 11.325p in the £ to raise £5,587.75
- b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £5,841.32

RESOLVED - that a rate of 12p in the £ be levied:-

- a) A rate in the £ on agricultural land & buildings of 12p in the £ to raise £5,920.80
- b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £6,189.48
- c) That the Clerk be authorised to collect any outstanding drainage rates through the appropriate court.
- d) That the seal be affixed to the Record of drainage rates and special levies.

108/15 Any other business

No other matters were raised

109/15 Date of next meeting

May 2016