

Minutes of a meeting of the Whittlesey & District Internal Drainage Board held on Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 2.30 pm at the Town Hall, market Street, Whittlesey.

**Present** R Brown (Chairman), C Allen, D M Band, D G Beaton, P Bradshaw, A Cade, R Easton, R W Fletcher, T Martin, Mrs P Potts, C Saunders, P W Tingey, R Wright (CEO), Mrs M A Wright, R L Price (Operational Engineer).

**Apologies for absence** M Fisher, R Hollins, S Halden, M Sweet, J Young

**WD156/15 Confirmation of Minutes** – RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Board meeting held on 3rd February 2015 and the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 were correctly recorded and that they be signed as being a true record.

**WD157/15 Matters Arising**

a) Crowtree Farm – Further to minute WD145/15(a) & FGP152/15(d) – The Vice Chairman reported that a thirty day notice has been sent to S Halden requesting that he complies with the report submitted by S Hemmings in that the drain is either re-instated or he lay a 225mm pipe. The Vice Chairman stated that no response had been received and that the Operation Engineer was monitoring the situation. RESOLVED – that the Clerk contacts the land owner (Cambs County Council) and a letter be sent informing S Halden that the water course be re-instated after harvest.

b) Meremouth Farm – Further to minute WD145/5(b) – The Operation Engineer reported that seeding of the drain batter had not been undertaken. The matter would be resolved when the 2016 drain work programme was undertaken.

**WD158/15 Operating Engineer**

a) The programme and inspection for the 2015 drainworks has been completed and notices issued.

b) The Operation Engineer submitted his report and a copy is attached to the minutes.

c) Churchesfire – The OE has had all fire extinguishers serviced.

d) Messrs Speechley had started the pump servicing and completed Manor Farm and Lords Farm stations.

e) Badgers – the OE highlighted the problems associated with badgers and was grateful of the assistance of Cliff Carson of the MLC.

f) R Easton raised concerns that several of the pumping station grounds were overgrown and that spraying should have been undertaken in April. The OE and D Beaton would liaise to ensure that the appropriate work was undertaken as soon as possible. D Beaton also confirmed that spraying on district drains would be implemented later in the year.

The Chairman thanked Richard for the work he had undertaken during the past year but stressed that he should seek assistance wherever and whenever required in order to prevent situations like the overgrown and messy pumping station sites.

## **WD159/15 General Matters**

a) Planning – Matters reported upon by the Consulting Engineer:

F/YR14/3138/COND R Warren Drakes Farm, Kings Delph Drove -2 storey 3 bed dwelling.

FYR14/0891/F R Ross 60 South Green Coates - dwelling

FYR14/0925/F Mr Matthews 150 Eastrea Road - extension

R Baxter Pre- Application consultation regarding 4 dwellings 196 Coates Road, Coates

Proposed Solar Park to the north of Six Tree Farm, Conquest Drove, Whittlesey – Client of Partners in Planning -Pre -Application Internal Consultation discussion request from Amazi Consulting Ltd, who are the consultants acting on behalf of the above, to undertake the above development. The application has since been withdrawn.

The CEO reported that a Digester using maize and food waste was planned at land in the former Dryside area but to date no application had been received.

b) Risk Management & Health & Safety

The CEO reported upon the risk management assessment: - Risk management Strategy & Policy – Standing Orders – Financial regulations and Systems of Internal Controls. All systems of internal control were discussed and no revision to the existing policies were proposed. The approval of using internet banking was endorsed and the CEO would contact the Chairman/Vice Chairman when making such payments.

The CEO reported that he has reviewed the insurance for the Board.

The OE was to investigate the water controls that were considered a Health & Safety issue and arrange for safety improvements as soon as possible.

c) Consents No 39 UK Power Networks works within nine meters of drain at Narrow Drove & N Kings Delph Drove.

The CEO presented proposals from Farcet farms Ltd to install there access gates within the district. No objections were raised provided the Board were allowed 24/7 access.

d) Defra – Amalgamations – no further news about amalgamation

The CEO presented details of the extension of the North level District drainage area which included developed areas of Whittlesey that drained into the Nene Wash land area. The CEO would check that lands within the Whittlesey & District IDB area were not included.

e) ADA

The CEO spoke about the European Eel Recovery programme and the effect it could have upon IDB, s. To date no stations within the district had been identified as high priority.

f) Water Abstraction – D C Roberts & Son - Abstraction for the purpose of spray irrigation between 01 April and 31 October.

- Abstraction of 55 cubic metres per hour, 340 cubic metres per day, 10,283 cubic metres per year, instantaneous pump rate of 15.3 litres per second.

g) Municipal Mutual Insurance Ltd – Outstanding claims estimates (100%) as at 31<sup>st</sup> march 2015 £-

h) Register of Electors – The CEO reported that the term of office for elected members would expire on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The proposed register of electors was circulated to members. RESOLVED – that the Register be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**WD160/15 Payments** – The Board considered and approved the payments attached to the minutes:

Vouchers 235-270 £36,685.89

Vouchers 271-295 £213,328.26

Vouchers 1 - 40 £44,243.75

**WD161/15 Annual Accounts year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

a) The Board considered and approved the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 and the Statement of Annual Governance.

b) The Clerk reported that the audit has been called for 8th June 2015 and the appropriate notices have been displayed. The Internal Auditor is currently re-viewing the 2014/2015 accounts.

c) The Board approved the appointment of Mr I Cooper as the Internal Auditor.

**WD162/15 Income & Expenditure**

a) The CEO reported upon income for 2014/2015 and explained that the surplus of £42,040 was an accumulation of underspends on water controls of £19,000, electricity £7,000, drain works £6,500, maintenance £2,950, sale of vehicle £6,000, increased highland water £2,300

b) The CEO reported upon estimates for 2015/2016. Copy attached to minutes. The net expenditure of £281,900 would produce a rate of 13.12p in £. The CEO reported that the surplus could be utilised to reduce the rate and recommended that a rate of 12p in £ be levied. P Bradshaw questioned whether the rate should be retained as to avoid a sudden increase in later years.

**WD163/15 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 met for 2014/2015 is: -

a) Agricultural Sector	57.60%
b) Special Levy issued to Fenland District Council	36.29%
c) Special Levy issued to Huntingdonshire D C	6.11%

In 2015/2016 a rate of 1p would raise £21,472.14. The Board have raised a 12p rate since 2009/2010.

RESOLVED:-

- a) A rate in the £ of 12 p on agricultural land and buildings to raise £148,413.12
- b) A special levy on Fenland District Council of £93,508.92
- c) A special levy on Huntingdonshire District Council of £15,743.64
- d) The seal of the Board be affixed to the Record of the Rate
- e) The Clerk is empowered to recover outstanding rates through an appropriate court.

**WD164/15 Dates of next meeting** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Town Hall, Market Street, Whittlesey at 2.30pm