

Aire, Don & Ouse Consortium
of Drainage Boards
Cowick & Snaith, Rawcliffe,
Dempster and Reedness & Swinefleet IDBs

REEDNESS & SWINEFLEET INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING 22nd May 2017
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT SWINEFLEET VILLAGE HALL,
SWINEFLEET

Present:

Malcolm Barker (Chair) (MB)
Paul Hirst (Vice Chair) (PH)
Geoff Cowling (GC)
Richard Oldridge (RO)
Ian Backhouse (IB)
Cllr John Barrett (JB)
Trevor Jones (TJ)
Liz Sargeantson (LS)
Vaughan Grantham Sustainable Development, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (VG)
Mike Ball, Clerk & Engineer (MJB)
Richard Syed Hessel, Deputy Clerk & Engineer to the Board (RSH)
Iain Omand Responsible Financial Officer (IO)
Karyn Devoy Administration (KD)

AGM:1: Apologies: Tony Reed

AGM:2: MJB invited nominations for the Chair IB proposed MB, JB seconded this proposal. RO proposed PH for Vice Chair IB seconded this proposal

Present:

Malcolm Barker (Chair) (MB)
Paul Hirst (Vice Chair) (PH)
Geoff Cowling (GC)
Richard Oldridge (RO)
Ian Backhouse (IB)
Cllr John Barrett (JB)
Trevor Jones (TJ)
Liz Sargeantson (LS)
Vaughan Grantham Sustainable Development, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (VG)
Mike Ball, Clerk & Engineer (MJB)
Richard Syed Hessel, Deputy Clerk & Engineer to the Board (RSH)
Iain Omand Responsible Financial Officer (IO)
Karyn Devoy Administration (KD)

New nominated Board members Liz Sargeantson and Trevor Jones were introduced to the Board by MJB.

2017.12: Apologies for absence: Tony Reed

2017.13. Declarations of Interest: None

2017.14. To sign and approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on 9th January 2017: The minutes were declared to be a true record of the meeting. This was proposed by JB and seconded by PH

2017.15. Matters arising from the minutes:
None

2017.16: Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement: The treasurer presented the Annual Return Report for the Year Ended March 2017. In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 the Board are required to approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for 2016-17. The Annual Governance Statement must be approved prior to the Accounting Statements and this order of business must be evidenced by the meeting minute references. The Treasurer informed the Board that all the controls referred to in the Annual Return had been undertaken.

The Board Approved the Annual Governance Statement

2017.17: Accounting Statement

The Treasurer informed the Board that the Accounting statements must be signed by the Responsible Financial Officer before they are presented to the Board. The total expenditure for 2016-17 was £55,137. Compared to the year end March 2016 this is an increase of £11,774 which is due to Drain Maintenance.

The Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017 and the notes to the Accounts.

The Board Approved the Accounting Statements

2017.18. Clerk & Engineers Report: James Canty has completed the 2016 drain maintenance programme. MB suggested that he also complete the 2017 maintenance programme. RSH will contact James Canty regarding the completion of Health & Safety information. The Board will review his contract again in twelve months. John Colwill has completed his first year for the Board. It was suggested that he starts at Reedness Drain next time and more collaboration with Jame Canty is required during the maintenance programme. Warping drain requires bigger machinery to be used this will be done extra to the maintenance programme.

MB has completed a regimented maintenance programme to supply to the contractors for the 2017 drain maintenance programme.

Warping Drain: RSH informed the Board that the section of the Warping drain leading towards Thorne Moors has not been maintained for some time and is very overgrown, RSH advised that some attention is needed to avoid vegetation growth getting out of control. MB suggested dividing this area into four

sections and obtain quotes for clearance. IB asked if Natural England could be approached for a contribution towards this work. VG raised concerns about the moss in this area being removed recommending this be encouraged to grow as it has benefits to the wildlife in the area. A track through the vegetation was suggested to assist with access leaving the trees in place.

Reedness Junction Pumping Station: RSH told the Board that there are intermittent problems with the telemetry equipment. He has contacted Henry Jubbs Electrical Engineers to investigate. RSH raised concerns about Health & Safety issues for contractors accessing the telemetry and recommended looking at installing a walkable platform or the implementation of a new telemetry system. The area has had vegetation removed improving the site

Eon are still investigating ongoing issues and a final decision is still to be made regarding the arrears. No bills have been paid in the last financial year. The Board agreed to pay the latest and obtain quotes from other electricity suppliers with a view to changing suppliers. After meeting note: The invoice has been settled after agreeing a new rate has been back dated to when the contract ended and the out of contract price was charged.

An Insurance Policy has been taken out with NFU Mutual. As all the Boards are insured with NFU Mutual a discount was obtained from the original quote. They also offer a loyalty discount for every year you remain a customer.

A meeting has been arranged with Victoria Townend from the Environment Agency and the ADOC Drainage Boards. Funding and building a working relationship will be discussed. TJ expressed an interest in attending.

The ADA Northern General Meeting will be taking place on June 2nd this will include a visit to Bransholme Pumping Station. The Board were asked if anyone was interested in attending this meeting.

RSH has checked the site at Thorne Moors and is happy with the level of work completed. The Internal Drainage Board can ask for the pump to be turned off if water levels require this. Natural England have been informed that any subsequent changes have to be passed by the Board's engineer. The old pump will be decommissioned. MB raised concerns that more water may now be pumped to the Board's watercourses. RSH will monitor the situation.

Health & Safety: RSH is making progress in implementing new Health & Safety equipment. An improvement ladder, anchor points and a safety rail have been installed at Reedness Drainhead. Kenneth Howitt the Pump Attendant and MB have completed confined spaces training and have been supplied with the required PPE.

Reedness Drainhead: John Colwill has been approached by RSH to supply quotes to upgrade the handle/shaft section to lift and close the door, this currently takes a lot of time and effort to lift and close

Cherry Tree Farm Footpath: The footpath outside Cherry Tree Farm remains closed to the public due to safety concerns. This is under investigation by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Highways Department. RSH has told ERYC that the Internal Drainage Board will not complete any maintenance work or improvements to the watercourses until the footpath is upgraded or replaced.

2017.19. Biodiversity Report: VG completed a biodiversity audit on the Internal Drainage Board area. A survey for breeding birds and larger mammals was completed in the Board area in April. yellow wagtails, corn bunting reed bunting skylarks, linnets, tree sparrow, doves and lapwings were in evidence. No evidence of water voles was found. A pair of roe deer was present no brown hares were recorded. The drain banks are the most extensive and important semi-natural habitats within the IDB area and are an important source of plant and insect food for birds as well as acting as a refuge. The timing of the management of the watercourses and banksides is important to avoid adverse effects upon biodiversity and should take place September or October. MB will liaise with VG on any bio diversity issues

IO and VG left the meeting

2017.20 Chair's Report:

MB proposed a two year rotation for drain maintenance. Drains 2-35 and 74 to be maintained on an even year and Drains 36-73 to be maintained on an odd year. Drain 1 is to be maintained on an odd year up to drain 70. The effect of this will be monitored for the next few years. Slips will be dealt with during the maintenance and priced as an extra cost.

Reedness Drainhead's penstock and sluices have been surveyed water is running underneath the junction into the receiving area. Work will be required to deal with this seepage. Local workers should be encouraged to do the work and Martin Childs was recommended to be approached.

Warping Drain requires cleaning from the drainhead to the dam and black dyke to the pump in the next maintenance cycle.

2017.21: Financial Report: The Public Sector Corporation Agreement was presented to the Board. It was proposed by TJ that the agreement be signed for one year and reviewed on a yearly basis this was seconded by IB.

The cheques were presented to the Board for signing TJ proposed all the cheques be signed IB seconded this proposal.

2017.22. Any Other Business: None

2017. 23 Date of Next Meeting: 8th January 2018.