

DEMPSTER INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING

MONDAY 21 JULY 2014 – SWINEFLEET VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Peter Chantry, Chair (PC)
Paul Jacklin, Vice Chair (PJ)
Cllr John Frost (JF)
Edward Cowling (EC)
Barry Philipson (BP)
Mark Johnson (MJ)
Martin Backhouse (MB)
Stuart Hall (SH)
Mike Ball, Clerk & Engineer to the Board (MJB)
Russ Towse, Deputy Clerk & Engineer to the Board (RT)

1473 Apologies – There were no apologies for absence.

1474 Declarations of Interest – PJ, EC, MJ and BP expressed an interest in the Goole 2 Windfarm proposed development.

1475 Previous Minutes – The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2014 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was proposed by EC and seconded by MB and subsequently signed off by PC. The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 9 June 2014 were accepted as a true record of the meeting. This was proposed by PJ and seconded by JF and subsequently signed off by PC.

1476 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes – The Backhouse drainage rate remains outstanding. As regards the rates in general, some ratepayers have received refunds for overpayment whilst others have not. PC said there had been rumours in the district and added that this was unfortunate, adding that Board business should be for Board members only to discuss. He proposed a letter be sent to those affected explaining the reason for the error. He asked RT to draft the letter.

On the subject of the tender process carried out by the Board to appoint the clerk & engineer during the early part of the year and the subsequent challenge by JBA Consulting as to its 'legality', PC reported that no further correspondence had been received from them on the subject.

EC asked if Diane Taylor, the Board's auditor, had been paid for her recent work. It was explained that the banking mandates were currently being changed to reflect the recent change of clerk & engineer, and that as soon as this was completed the payment would be made.

1477 Clerk's Report – RT reported that he'd been through the governance documents listed and distributed at the meeting. He explained that those in green were in the clerk's possession and those in amber were still to be looked at. Those in red, he pointed out, could not be found or had been deemed not to be required. RT added that he was currently reviewing the Contractor's Code of Conduct and said that several of the documents referred to were not, in his view, needed.

A discussion followed regarding pump hours and drain maintenance.

RT raised the subject of piling works within the Board's district which, it was decided, would be looked at after the crops had been removed.

RT informed the Board that the Register of Elections would appear in the Goole Times on 10 July ahead of elections in the Autumn.

The former clerk & engineer to the Board identified 16 parcels of land within the district. RT has checked these details with the Board's members.

The question of whether the special levy applied to the "tip area/scrapyard" within the district was raised. RT to check with Iain Omand, the council's responsible financial officer.

The election nomination papers were distributed and completed by each member around the table.

A policy for lone working was discussed with respect to checking the clough and the Board's pumps.

1478 Any Correspondence Not Covered by Clerk's Report –

ADA contributions were deferred from the last meeting and subsequently discussed regarding financial contributions towards ADA Northern's appearances at this summer's agricultural shows. It was decided that a contribution of £100 would be made from the Board's funds. This was proposed by PJ and seconded by SH.

RT reported that the website development had not progressed to the point that was anticipated so there was a need to pay for one more month.

Owing to the bank mandates not being finalised at the time, no payments had yet been made except to Diane Taylor the auditor.

RT would continue to work on the Board's behalf with the Goole 2 Windfarm proposed development.

There was a unanimous show of hands to propose working with the current contractor.

Biodiversity Action Plan: MJB explained that he had met with colleagues at county hall and had agreed that they would liaise with the author, David Patrick with a view to reaching agreement on the wording of the report. They have since contacted the author with their comments and it is understood that amendments are being made.

MJB reported that he had been in discussions with audit colleagues within county hall with the aim of carrying out an initial comprehensive audit of the board in the same manner to that carried out by the council's auditors on the Cowick & Snaith board recently. It was felt that this would be the best approach and would cost around £250 per day. It was agreed that this was the best way to proceed: this was proposed by MB and seconded by PJ.

There was a general feeling of unhappiness with the steady stream of invoices from the former clerk & engineer to the board, A&F Consulting. PC said that 'new rates' were being applied to current invoices: rates that had not been agreed by the board. These invoices were mostly related

to requests from RT for information that it was felt should have been presented at the handover meetings held in May and June. RT was asked by the board to write to A&F Consulting on behalf of the respective Chairs stating that they must hand over all work commissioned by and paid for by the boards.

1479 Date of Next Meeting – Monday 27 October 2014 at 7.00 pm in Swinefleet Village Hall