

Dempster Internal Drainage Board Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2015 – Swinefleet Village Hall

Minutes of Meeting

Present: *Peter Chantry (PC)*
Paul Jacklin (PJ)
Mark Johnson (MJ)
Edward Cowling (EC)
Martin Backhouse (MB)
Stuart Hall (SH)
Barry Philipson (BP)
Iain Omand (IO)
Russ Tomse (RST)
Mike Ball (MJB)

1501. Apologies for absence: Cllr John Frost

1502. Declarations of Interest: None

1503. To sign and approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on 14 January 2015: Minute 1489 – JP should read JF. Minute 1491.PJ proposed that they were a true record of the meeting. Seconded by EC.

1504. Matters Arising: A&F Consulting appear to have accepted the Board's payment for services as 'full and final settlement'.

1505. Clerk & Engineers Report: The Contractor's Code of Conduct was brought back to the Board following the insertion of the caveat relating to the actioning of emergency works. After due consideration the content was agreed and a proposal for acceptance was made by MJ and seconded by MB endorsed by a show of hands in favour.

Point 26 of the Financial Regulations was discussed as regards the practicalities of having a £10,000 ceiling below which quotations could be accepted. It was agreed to increase this value to £15,000 and to review it during the coming year. This was proposed by SH and seconded by BP followed by a show of hands in support.

The Board asked for quotes to be obtained for the provision of its electrical supply.

Drain Maintenance: RST reported that he had still not received an invoice from the Board's contractor, James Canty. PC agreed to look into this.

RST agreed to look into the question of the waste handling station.

RST will speak to the Environment Agency as regards the environmental quality of water in a Board watercourse due to corrosion of metalwork in the Board's pumping station. PC's questions regarding planning issues with the site would be raised on his behalf by RST with East Riding of Yorkshire Council's planning officers.

Public notices – Section 48(3) of the Land Drainage Act 1991 requires the Board to make the agreed drainage rate for the year publically accessible.

MJB gave an update on the current position with the Thorne Moors Water Level Management Plan. He explained that from now on there would be a single point of contact representing the adjacent drainage boards and this would be from Swinefleet IDB. The name of the person would be clarified.

No one from the Board was available for the planned Ada Northern event on 29 May 2015.

Authorisation to pass cheques for payment together with one for £24 for Swinefleet Village Hall was proposed by PJ and seconded by EC.

The subject of Grant in Aid (GiA) funding from the Environment Agency to enable the Board to invest in capital infrastructure along with financial contributions from beneficiaries as proposed by the EA's Partnership Funding initiative, was discussed. MJB agreed to look into the possibilities that could be explored. PJ proposed that this be carried out, and seconded by BP.

RST stated the contractors that could be approached by the Board that could carry out its maintenance work, namely John Colwill, Dan Sweeting James Canty, John Canty, Peter Fletcher and Martin Richardson.

With regards to the rates, it was noted that the rate payable for Goole Fields IDB relates to a fixed sum rather than a land area, and needs to be increased by a percentage based on the increase in the pence per pound rate.

A new insurance quote from NFU Mutual in the sum of £911-60 had been received. PC agreed to check this figure with the sum paid last year.

1506. Treasurer's Report: IO discussed a risk assessment valuation of the Board's finances. He said he had considered its financial reserves with a view to making provision for financial planning for the future, an example being its pumping station.
1507. A&F Consulting Invoice Payments: it was noted that the cheques passed for payment by the Board had been accepted and banked by A&F on the understanding that they were 'full and final payment'. The Board expressed disappointment that subsequently A&F had submitted a further invoice for the forwarding of mail addressed to them as the former clerk and engineer to the Board.
1508. East Riding of Yorkshire Council Invoicing payments Q4: It was pointed out that a previous billing error had occurred, which would be rectified by invoicing for one month as opposed to three.
1509. MJB pointed out that following the failure on the part of the Environment Agency to attend the meeting planned for 5 February to discuss Public sector Cooperation Agreements as a means of contracting between the Board and east Riding of Yorkshire

Council, a re-scheduled date to convene the meeting would be agreed. Post Meeting Note: this has been arranged for Friday 15 May at The Institute, West Cowick.

1510. Contractor tendering 2015/16: This has been discussed within Minute 1505.

1511. Any correspondence not covered in Engineer's Report: none.

1512. Any Other Business: MJB pointed out the importance of filling the Nominated Members vacancies on the Board. He added that he will continue to work with the Council's Legal & Democratic Services colleagues in order to achieve this.

1513. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19 May at 7pm in Swinefleet Village Hall. Note that the Thursday meeting could not be accommodated at the Village Hall on account of the local shooting club having this as a 'block booking'.