



Dempster Internal Drainage Board

Minutes from the Full Board Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021 via Zoom

PRESENT:

Ratepayer Members: Mr P Jacklin Mr M Johnson Mr P Chantry Mr J Cowling
Appointed Members: Cllr Sargeantson Cllr Coultish
Co-opted Members:
Members Present:

APOLOGIES:

Ratepayer Members: Mr M Backhouse Mr R Hall Mr J Phillipson Mr D Walton
Appointed Members:
Co-opted Members:

ABSENT:

Ratepayer Members:
Appointed Members:
Co-Opted Members:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Officers: Mr McLachlan – Chief Executive
Mr Towse – Operational & Technical Manager
Miss Smith – Board Secretary (Minutes)

Others:

Andrew McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board
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1737. Order of Meeting

1737.1. With the permission of the Board the CEO chaired the first part of the meeting until the Chair was installed

1738. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

1738.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr Backhouse, Mr Hall, Mr Phillipson, and Mr Walton.

1739. Declarations of Interest

1739.1. None

1740. Health and Safety

1740.1. None

1741. Additional Agenda Items

1741.1. Mr Chantry raised the issue of portable pumps.

1742. Elections

1742.1. Following the 2020 Election, the CEO advised the Board of the elected members.

1743. Election of Chairman

1743.1. The CEO set out the procedure for the election of the Chairman and oversaw proceedings.

1743.2. It was PROPOSED by MR CHANTRY and SECONDED by MR COWLING and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board appoint MR JACKLIN as Chair of the Board.

1744. Appointment of Chair

1744.1. Mr Jacklin was duly appointed by the Board.

1745. Election of Vice Chair

1745.1. The CEO set out the procedure for the election of the Vice Chairman and oversaw proceedings.

1745.2. It was PROPOSED by MR JACKLIN and SECONDED by MR CHANTRY and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board appoint MR BACKHOUSE as Vice-Chair.

1746. Appointment of Vice Chairman

1746.1. Mr Backhouse was duly appointed as Vice-Chair.

1747. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

1747.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes of the previous meeting.

1747.2. It was PROPOSED by CLLR COULTISH and SECONDED by MR JOHNSON and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopts these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

1748. Matters Arising

1748.1. In relation to minute 1665.4 the CEO advised Officers are in the process of closing bank accounts.

1748.2. In relation to minute 1674.2 the CEO asked the Board if the item should remain on the agenda.

1748.3. Mr Jacklin asked if Officers were persevering with receiving funding.

1748.4. Cllr Sargeantson advised that as the Board are a statutory body, the Board would not be entitled to receive funding.

1748.5. Mr Chantry asked if a cooperative were to be formed, which were not affiliated with the Board, could there be the possibility of receiving funds.

1748.6. Cllr Sargeantson advised a cooperative would be in a more positive situation for an application to be made.

1748.7. Mr Chantry referred to neighbouring areas who may also see the benefit of forming a cooperative and asked if the entire amount needed could be applied for to wish Cllr Sargeantson responded advising there were no financial limitations.

1748.8. It was advised by the CEO to continue discussions outside of the meeting to ensure no affiliations with the Board could be made and it was unanimously agreed by the Board to remove the item from the agenda.

1748.9. In relation to minute 1731.8, the Chair asked if the trial spraying programme had been successful on Mr Cowlings land.

1748.10. Mr Cowling confirmed it had been and agreed it should be attempted again in Spring.

1748.11. The Chair suggested that due to the success, moving forward in late spring, spraying should be attempted elsewhere in the Board area to reduce and prevent the encroachment of weeds.

1749. Minutes of ADOC Consortium Meeting

1749.1. The Chair drew attention to the minutes of the ADOC Consortium meeting for noting.

1749.2. The CEO highlighted the telemetry discussions and advised funding has been received to install on Board pumping stations.

1750. Financial Position

1750.1. CEO advised that the outturn position is expected to be broadly in line with the Budget and the final outturn will be reported at the June meeting.

1751. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to Q3

1751.1. The Chair drew attention to invoices paid and accounts settled.

1751.2. The Chair queried as to whether a contractor's bill remained outstanding.

1751.3. The OTM confirmed this had been received and paid in January, but after the time of printing Board papers.

1751.4. It was PROPOSED by the CHAIR and SECONDED by MR CHANTRY and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the invoices paid and accounts settled as a true record totalling £26,071.03 (net).

1752. Internal Audit

1752.1. The CEO advised internal audit for the year ended 31 March 2020 was completed and no matters were raised to give cause for concern.

1753. Conclusion of Annual Audit 2019/20

1753.1. The Board's External Auditors PKF Littlejohn completed their annual audit of the Board and no matters were raised to give cause for concern.

1754. Budget & Rate Setting

1754.1. The Board discussed the rate increase, and the CEO explained the Budget in detail.

1754.2. Mr Chantry queried the amount held in the reserves.

1754.3. The CEO confirmed the Board held £34,172 in the reserves, a slight decrease in funds held from last year.

1754.4. It was PROPOSED by MR CHANTRY and SECONDED by CLLR SARGEANTSON and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the proposed budget for 2021/22 as shown below is approved at £39,299.

1754.5. It was PROPOSED by the CHAIR and SECONDED by MR JOHNSON and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that to meet the approved budget the rate is set at 9.5p£.

1755. Register of Members' Interests

1755.1. The Board Secretary advised the Declaration of Interests form will be updated to include sharing of email addresses to allow electronic calendar requests to be sent to members.

1755.2. Members present agreed that they would allow their email addresses to be shared amongst other Board Members.

1756. Capital Programme

- 1756.1. The CEO informed the Board of the upcoming investment period adding that hopefully with the information the Board have from the current strategy, further funding may be requested.
- 1756.2. Mr Chantry advised that the syphon looks to need cleaning and painting.
- 1756.3. The OTM asked the Board if they would prefer to put work to contractors or complete in house.
- 1756.4. The Chair advised this work was previously completed by contractors and should be put to Colwills to complete the work. **Action OTM**
- 1756.5. The CEO informed the Board that there are some piling works to be completed but it is difficult to acquire piles at the present time. The OTM added that the cost of piles has trebled.
- 1756.6. Mr Jacklin advised that what is classed as our "A" Dike [?], there is a section which keeps slipping with telegraph poles.
- 1756.7. Mr Jacklin asked, if a cooperative group were to be unsuccessful in receiving any funding for a pumping station, would the Board be able to take on any second-hand equipment if there were replacements in another Board area.
- 1756.8. The CEO advised this could be examined, with a nominal fee to be paid for the equipment.

1757. Maintenance Programme

- 1757.1. Mr Jacklin requested the spraying programme is attempted again in the late spring.
- 1757.2. Mr Johnson suggested a month prior to de-weeding, possibly June.
- 1757.3. The OTM advised that application timing depends on the weed, advising it is sometimes better to spray reeds in summer, other weeds are better to be sprayed in spring.
- 1757.4. Mr Chantry recommended spraying the bottom of the watercourses when they dikes are dry.
- 1757.5. The CEO and OTM advised they will be speaking with Board members around maintenance moving forward and the spraying programme.

1758. Planning & Development Control

- 1758.1. The OTM informed the Board there were no applications made in the Boards area of concern.
- 1758.2. The CEO spoke of the Board moving forward, of his previous discussion with the Chair, and for the Board to look at long term strategic views. He advised that in 2005 there was a push

for IDBs to amalgamate to make them a sufficient size, and whilst Dempster IDB was moved into a Consortium, there remains gaps in terms of future investment, rate rises and financial shock where the Board perhaps need to consider working together as one larger board.

- 1758.3. Cllr Sargeantson presented her view, stating that by sitting on both the Reedness & Swinefleet IDB and Dempster IDB, it seems a logical progression for the Boards and opens further funding opportunities, adding that it would certainly be a worthwhile consideration.
- 1758.4. Mr Jacklin advised that the conversation was initially raised partly because other Boards infrastructure is not coping as it should. He noted, from a Dempster structure, this already works well and would not want to dilute funding or infrastructure.
- 1758.5. In depth discussions continues around the pros and cons of amalgamation and hydraulic links in future years.
- 1758.6. Mr Jacklin asked the Board if conversations should continue or should the Board revisit discussions in the future?
- 1758.7. Mr Chantry advised he was not opposed to having these discussions.
- 1758.8. The CEO suggested this forms part of ADOC Consortium discussions
- 1758.9. Mr Johnson queried if there was an issue with the pumping station on the Moors as the Board seem to be pumping additional Moors water.
- 1758.10. The OTM advised the pump is a diesel-powered machine which needs manning all the time. He reminded the Board. He added the pumping station is not operating correctly therefore water is currently filtering into Dempster and other Board systems, costing the Boards money. He reminded that Board that with the Moors being a SSSI, there is little that can be done other than making suggestions.
- 1758.11. He informed the Board there is an action from Reedness & Swinefleet Board meeting to speak with Natural England regarding this pump.

1759. Date of Next Meeting

- 1759.1. The next Full Board meeting is due to be held on 14th June 2021 at 1:00pm with the ADOC Consortium to be held on 19th November 2021 at 9:00am.