



# Black Drain Drainage Board

## MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 HELD AT THE SEA CADETS, THORNE

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### PRESENT:

Elected Members: Mr D Hinchliffe (C) Mr R Hinchliffe Mr M Conroy Mr K Parkinson Mr Backhouse  
Mr R Ketteringham Mr M Oldknow

Co-opted Members Mr S Longthorpe

Appointed Members: Mr P Evans Mr P Marran Mr K Heydon

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### APOLOGIES:

Elected Members: Mr D Oldroyd

Appointed Members: Mr A Porter

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### ABSENT:

Ratepayer Members:

Appointed Members:

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### IN ATTENDANCE:

Officers:

Mr McLachlan – Chief Executive  
Mr Towse – Operational & Technical Manager  
Miss Smith – Board Secretary (Minutes)  
Mr A Day – Senior Liaison Officer

Others:

Andrew McLachlan  
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board  
91 Bridgegate  
Howden  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
DN14 7JJ

01430 430237  
[info@yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk)  
[yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk](http://yorkshirehumberdrainage.gov.uk)  
@idbyorkshire

**60. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

60.1. The Chair welcomed Members and Officers to the Board noting apologies from Mr Oldroyd, and Mr A Porter.

**61. Revised Standing Orders**

61.1. The CEO advised of the revised Standing Orders, sent by ADA on behalf of Defra and explained the amendments highlighted at Appendix A.

61.2. It was PROPOSED by MR R HINCHLIFFE and SECONDED by MR OLDKNOW and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these Standing Orders and submit for ministerial approval.

**62. Declarations of Interest**

62.1. None

**63. Health and Safety**

63.1. None

**64. Additional Agenda Items**

64.1. Mr Evans discussed the South Yorkshire Catchment Plan and the aim to develop an action plan and strategy to deal with flood risk, focusing on climate change, investment, operations, and community engagement.

64.2. Mr Evans presented an opportunity for IDB members to take part in the strategy consultation alongside Board Officers.

64.3. Discussions ensued regarding IDB position, funding, and investment.

64.4. The Chair requested that initially the CEO represent the Board at these meetings, with Members joining as it progresses. The Chair requested that Officers provide an update at the next Board meeting. **Action CEO**

64.5. Mr Parkinson requested an update regarding The Coal Authority and subsidence. The CEO advised a meeting had been held with TCA, there was a discussion about agreements with other authorities

64.6. Mr Parkinson informed Members that he believed there had been a previous agreement in respect of serviceability and capital works which was at a higher value than previously understood. The Chair was not aware of this but directed officers to investigate further. **Action CEO**

## **65. Minutes from Previous Board Meeting**

- 65.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes from the previous Board meeting and asked the Board to consider if these minutes were an accurate record of that meeting.
- 65.2. It was PROPOSED by the MR MARRAN and SECONDED by MR CONROY and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

## **66. Matters Arising**

- 66.1. The CEO updated Members regarding the request to de-register the reservoir. This process was now ongoing with communication between the Board's reservoir engineer and the EA. The OTM noted that their appeared to be a bureaucratic issue, but this was left with experts.
- 66.2. The OTM advised that he is looking for information regarding ground stabilisation at outlet pumping station.

## **67. Risk Register Review**

- 67.1. The CEO confirmed a review of the Boards adopted risk register had been completed, comparing risks against the previous year.
- 67.2. The CEO informed the Board of changes to the tax treatment of fuel which will prohibit IDBs from using of red diesel, explaining the significant detrimental impact on Board expenditure.
- 67.3. It was PROPOSED by MR HEYDON and SECONDED by MR R HINCHLIFFE and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the revised risk register for 2021.

## **68. Accounting Statements and Annual Return**

- 68.1. The CEO explained the external audit process and read the eight annual governance statements to the Board.
- 68.2. It was PROPOSED by MR OLDKNOW and SECONDED by MR EVANS and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21.
- 68.3. The CEO went on to explain the accounts and invited questions from the Board.
- 68.4. It was PROPOSED by MR HEYDON and SECONDED by MR LONGTHORPE and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the Accounting Statements for 2020/21.

## **69. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled**

- 69.1. The Chair drew attention to invoices paid and accounts settled for the fourth financial quarter of 2020/21.
- 69.2. It was PROPOSED by MR OLDKNOW and SECONDED by MR R HINCHLIFFE and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve the schedule of invoices paid and accounts settled for Q4 2020/21, totalling £31,525.61 (net).

## **70. Planning & Development Control**

- 70.1. The OTM advised there were no notable developments in the district and went on to inform members of the Senior Development Control Officers role and how he will be liaising with planning departments that coincide with the Board's district.
- 70.2. Mr Marran queried whether the Board are statutory consultees in the planning process, to which the CEO responded the Board is not, the Board has issued detailed technical guidance for applicants to follow which has been distributed to local planning authorities.
- 70.3. Mr Heydon advised he would support liaison between the Board and the Planning Department at DMBC.

## **71. Maintenance Programme & Capital Programme**

- 71.1. The OTM advised Members that contracts had been awarded for one year only due to the changes to legislation regarding red diesel.
- 71.2. He advised that he will be discussing a programme of works with the Chair and Vice-Chair and invited comments from Members regarding maintenance.
- 71.3. Mr R Hinchliffe queried whether the weed boat will be working on Durham Warping Drain to which the OTM confirmed it would and would require a launch.
- 71.4. The OTM informed Members that the Environment Agency have been working on the riverbank and have opened the gravity feed at Outlet Pumping Station. He advised that the EA have cleaned this and will survey and inspect at their cost.
- 71.5. The OTM advised that the No 1 Screw at Inlet Pumping Station has been taken for inspection.
- 71.6. The Chair requested spraying to be undertaken on Toe Drain with Mr Parkinson highlighting that de-weeding would also be necessary with shredded timber needing to be removed from the respective drain.
- 71.7. The CEO advised that he is working towards an agreement with Highways England, where maintenance work would be carried out by the Board, and HE recharged for this work.
- 71.8. The Chair requested that Notice is served if an agreement is not reached, and works are not carried out by HE. **Action OTM.**
- 71.9. Mr Evans left the meeting.
- 71.10. The CEO advised that No1 pump at Dikes Marsh (Inlet) gas suffered a catastrophic failure with the two bottom bolts having been sheared off. He estimated that it would cost tens of thousands to repair however advised he would try to capitalise this and is in the process of writing a business case.

- 71.11. The CEO described the business case. He considered the short term repair would be in the order of £500k. The Board should consider setting aside £50k from reserves to refurbish the pump.
- 71.12. The Chair requested a more detailed update on this repair to share with Board Members. The Chair advised that such a report would be used to decide whether the Board should hold an emergency Board meeting. **Action CEO.**
- 71.13. The Chair requested that should any future significant incidents occur; an email is circulated to Board members to update them. He also instructed Board Members to contact the office with their reports and/or enquiries as opposed to waiting until Board meetings. The CEO reiterated this point asking members to ring the office directly if they require information as this was the role of the Boards administration.

## **72. Policies**

- 72.1. The CEO highlighted the amendments to the Financial Regulations.
- 72.2. He then explained the purpose and reason behind the introduction of a Board Fly Tipping Policy.
- 72.3. It was PROPOSED by MR OLDKNOW and SECONDED by MR KETTERINGHAM and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt the revised Financial Regulations and the new Fly Tipping Policy.

## **73. Future Board Meetings**

- 73.1. The Chair advised the ADOC Consortium Meeting is due to be held on 19 November 2021 and the Annual General Meeting is to be held on 26 January 2022.