



Danvm Drainage Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT MOSS & FENWICK VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

<u>Ratepayer Members:</u>	Mr M Falkingham	Mr N Welburn	Mr C Hogarth	Mr S Lomas	Mr D Platt
	Mr R Thompson	Mr J Duckitt	Mr D Atkinson	Mr R Robinson	
<u>Appointed Members:</u>	Mrs G Ivey (C)	Ms C Anderson	Mr C Crowe	Mr T Grady	Mr P Maddison
	Ms L Watkinson-Teo	Cllr M Crane	Cllr J Mackman		

APOLOGIES:

<u>Ratepayer Members:</u>	Mr C Platt	Mr A Cooke
<u>Appointed Members:</u>	Mr A Scholey	Mr J Gilliver

ABSENT:

<u>Ratepayer Members:</u>	
<u>Appointed Members:</u>	Mr G Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

<u>Officers:</u>	Mr McLachlan – Chief Executive Mr Lever – Operations Manager Miss Smith – Board Secretary Miss Mews – Finance Assistant
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<u>Apologies</u>	Mr Towse – Director of Operations
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<u>Members of Public</u>	Mr R Haigh
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Andrew McLachlan
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118. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

118.1. The Chair welcomed members to the Board noting apologies from Mr C Platt, Mr Cooke, Mr Scholey, and Mr Gilliver.

119. Standing Orders

119.1. The Chair drew attention to the revised Standing Orders presented at Appendix A. The Chair advised these had been agreed in principle however the Board must resolve to formally adopt these.

119.2. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Crane and SECONDED by Cllr Mackman and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopts these Standing Orders and submit them for Ministerial approval.

120. Declarations of Interest

120.1. None.

121. Health and Safety

121.1. The CEO advised the Board that a Consortium wide Health & Safety Policy is currently being developed.

122. Additional Agenda Items

122.1. None

123. Minutes of the previous Full Board meeting

123.1. The Chair drew attention to the minutes of the previous meeting presented at Appendix B.

123.2. It was PROPOSED by Mr Maddison and SECONDED by Cllr Mackman and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board adopt these minutes as a true record of that meeting.

124. Matters Arising

124.1. The CEO provided an update to ongoing matters, highlighting that in relation to minute 116.11, a formal response from the Barrister had not yet been received.

125. Minutes from the Policy & Finance Committee

125.1. The Chair drew attention to minutes from the previous Policy & Finance Committee Meetings at Appendix C for noting.

126. Financial Position

- 126.1. The CEO presented the financial papers at Appendix D and explained the format of the reports.
- 126.2. There were numerous questions from Members in relation to debtors, interest on funds, and the precept, to which the CEO responded.
- 126.3. Ms Anderson requested that future financial reports include an annual projection chart.
Action CEO.

127. Rates

- 127.1. The CEO informed Members that liability orders had been granted, and that debts unpaid, would be referred to an enforcement agency.
- 127.2. The Chair queried the figure relating to rates outstanding due to queries to which the CEO responded, notifying Members that there is currently an administrative exercise in progress improving the quality of information which will reduce this figure.

128. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled

- 128.1. The Chair drew attention to invoices paid and accounts settled at Appendix E.
- 128.2. Members and officers discussed monies spent on topographical surveys, security upgrades and safety.
- 128.3. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Mackman and SECONDED by Mr Thompson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the invoices paid and accounts settled, totalling £886,198.38 (net), as a true record.

129. Conclusion of Annual Audit 2020/21

- 129.1. The CEO informed Members that the Board passed the annual external audit without qualifications.

130. Environment Agency

- 130.1. The Chair updated Members in relation to the ongoing communications with the EA regarding the precept.
- 130.2. The CEO advised Members that Officers recently held a meeting with the EA's Operational Manager for South and West Yorkshire, with one outcome being an agreement to put forward a proposal for the Board to maintain the River Went under PSCA.
- 130.3. A discussion around the precept and general maintenance of rivers was held, it was agreed by Members that maintenance of rivers needs to significantly improve.

- 130.4. The CEO advised Members that whilst an upland water claim of £72k was submitted for works undertaken in 2020/21, the EA recommended a payment of only £47k.
- 130.5. He informed Members that despite some lobbying by the CEO and other Clerks at the RFCC, the Committee were not willing to approve claims above the EA's recommended figures, however the Committee did commit to looking into whether there may be any underspend available to part-fund the shortfalls.
- 130.6. Mr Maddison expressed his concerns regarding this decision.

131. Capital Programme

- 131.1. The CEO presented the capital programme and gave a brief update as to the progress of each scheme.
- 131.2. It was PROPOSED by the Chair and SECONDED by Mr Thompson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves the current Capital Programme.

132. Maintenance Programme

- 132.1. The CEO advised that with some absence within the workforce and some breakdowns of machinery, the maintenance programme is unfortunately running behind its anticipated schedule.
- 132.2. He added that an additional contractor was hired in September to support, and that OHDB-tractor flail mowers will assist with some works on a cost reimbursable basis.
- 132.3. The OM informed the Board that operational staff are on top of flailing works but are falling slightly behind in the Northwest and Southwest where there is a clear need for more excavators.

133. Pumping Station Maintenance

- 133.1. The OM informed Members that there are currently only two pumping stations out of use, which are currently being repaired by contractors.
- 133.2. The CEO confirmed that the Policy and Finance Committee received detailed information on the works being carried out on pumping stations, including at Flood Evacuation PS, Gowdall, Thistlegoit PS and Hensall.

134. New Development

- 134.1. The CEO presented the updated provided by the Board's Senior Planning Control Officer.
- 134.2. He advised of some subtle amendments to the Board planning policy and presented these at Appendix F.

134.3. It was PROPOSED by the Chair and SECONDED by Mr Thompson and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves and adopts the amendments made to the Technical Guidance for Developers & Standing Advice.

135. Plant and Vehicles

135.1. The CEO advised of a recent visit to Mecalac to view and test new tracked machines. He presented a table of options for vehicles viewed and considered as potential purchase options for the Board.

135.2. He discussed the tax treatment of red diesel and how it highlighted the need to bring flailing operations in house.

135.3. The OM answered technical questions regarding the Mecalac from Members.

135.4. The CEO confirmed that as agreed at a previous meeting, the recommendation was discussed in detail with the Board's Task and Finish Group in advance of this Full Board meeting.

135.5. Mr Lomas confirmed that the presentation clearly showed the Mecalac would complete the works required.

135.6. Mr Duckitt raised concerns around the machines ability to carry out maintenance for the Board and how this machine would be transported.

135.7. The CEO explained finance options for the new machines, 5 years with warranty, with the supplier's broker or via a public works loan if approved. He notified Members that this would require an annual budget allocation of approximately £45k per year plus the purchase of a tow tractor for around £25k.

135.8. A lengthy, detailed discussion around how to finance the machine was held, with a PROPOSAL from Mr Thompson, SECONDED by Mr Welburn and RESOLVED BY MAJORITY that the decision for the Board to purchase a Mecalac MCR 10, Pick-Up and Go be delegated to Officers in conjunction with the Task & Finish Group, based on the differential between outright purchase & hire purchase.

135.9. Mr Duckitt ABSTAINED.

136. Staff Matters

136.1. The CEO advised that following the resignation of a MEICA engineer, the Policy and Finance Committee agreed to allow some changes to be made to the existing job specification, to better reflect current operational needs.

136.2. He added that The Policy and Finance Committee had also agreed to the employment of an additional operator.

137. Board Membership

137.1. The Chair advised of the need for a replacement member on the Joint Consortium Committee due to a DMBC resigning their role as a Board Member.

137.2. Mr Maddison volunteered to join as Joint Consortium Committee member an appointment to which all members agreed

138. Date of Next Meeting

138.1. The date of the Joint Consortium Committee is 26th November at 9:30am

138.2. The date of the next Policy & Finance Committee is 12th January 2022 at 9:30am

138.3. The date of next Full Board is 4th February 2022, 9.30am.