



Rawcliffe Internal Drainage Board

MINUTES FROM THE FULL BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24th JANUARY 2023
AT 24 INNOVATION DRIVE, HU15 2FW

PRESENT

Elected

Mr Chantry (C)

Mr D Backhouse

Mr Lewis

Mr Mckenna

Appointed

Mr K Fillingham

Mrs S Backhouse

Clr Fox

APOLOGIES

Elected

Mr Blacker

Mr Sykes

Appointed

Mr S Shubrook

Clr L Sargeantson

ABSENT

Elected

Mr D Nicholson

IN ATTENDANCE

Officers

Mr A McLachlan – Chief Executive Officer

Mr R Towse – Director of Operations

Miss A Cowen – Director of Policy & Finance

Miss L Smith – Board Secretary

Andrew McLachlan
Chief Executive Officer and Clerk to the Board
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864. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

864.1. None

865. Declarations of Interest

865.1. None

866. Health and Safety

866.1. None

867. Natural Environment

867.1. No issues raised.

868. Additional Agenda Items

869. Minutes of the previous Full Board Meeting

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

869.2. It was PROPOSED by MR LEWIS and SECONDED by MRS BACKHOUSE and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approves these minutes as a true record.

870. Matters Arising

870.1. DPF advised a bank account has been closed following the last meeting, looking to transfer funds into the Boards savings account and exploring investment options.

870.2. Any other matters arising.

871. Minutes of ADOC Consortium Meeting

871.1. The minutes of the ADOC Consortium meeting are presented at Appendix B (page X) for noting.

871.2. CEO gave a brief summary of the matters discussed.

872. Budget & Rate Setting

872.1. Mr Mckenna arrived.

872.2. The CEO predicted that Board would be under budget this year due to the new agreement with National Highways.

872.3. Mrs Backhouse asked for clarification on the agreement. The CEO advised the agreement on a revenue/maintenance basis is reimbursable. If capital works are required, such as a pumping station, they may contribute to these schemes but would be expected to align capital programmes.

- 872.4. The CEO advised that across the country, IDBs are facing increases of up to 40% due to the increase in electricity costs.
- 872.5. Mrs Backhouse requested information from the budget from the previous year is included in the Board packs so there is a clear comparison. **Action CEO.**
- 872.6. In previous year the Board had a favourable position with electricity costs, paying 9p/kwh however now facing charges of up to 40p/kwh with government support.
- 872.7. The CEO clarified that the budget is an estimate based on the information to hand at the time, advice received without prejudiced from Woldmarsh is that the Board need to plan for a 400% increase in electricity costs.
- 872.8. The DO explained he is exploring the market to attempt to secure an improved rate. The CEO confirmed the extension to the government subsidy scheme will not apply to IDBs and the Board will face open market rates.
- 872.9. Mr Chantry queried the serviceability line in the budget, the DO advised this is for remedial works such as slips in the watercourses.
- 872.10. The Board queried whether there would be enough reserves with the volatility of the market. The DPF explained that reserves, according to policy should be 75% of the operating budget and at present, the Board meets this policy position.
- 872.11. The CEO advised the Board how the decision today affects council tax. There is a council tax cap, in which levies are included, therefore if the council decides to set their budget at the maximum of 4.99% and the Board raise the rates above that cap, effectively the difference must be balanced from the Council's available budget.
- 872.12. It was PROPOSED by MR MCKENNA and SECONDED by MR LEWIS and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve a rate of 15.4p£ to meet an estimated budget requirement of £122,616.

873. Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled to Q3

- 873.1. DPF drew attention to Invoices Paid and Accounts Settled at Appendix C (page X).
- 873.2. DO explained that Woldmarsh, had been invoicing and crediting monthly due to charging for expected costs rather than actual.
- 873.3. CEO advised that payment to Xylem was being withheld due to the pump at Pastures which was not received. As this issue has now been resolved, the payment has been made.
- 873.4. It was PROPOSED by S BACKHOUSE and SECONDED by MCKENNA and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Board approve invoices paid and accounts settled to the value of £79,382.75 (net).

874. Internal Audit

874.1. The DPF drew attention to the internal audit report, noted that Board has now adopted the fixed asset valuation policy which values assets in a more appropriate way.

875. Conclusion of Annual Audit

875.1. The DPF confirmed that the Board's External Auditors PKF Littlejohn completed their annual audit of the Board and concluded that no matters were of cause for concern. This means the Board has passed the external audit.

875.2. The External Auditor did however note that the dates of the consultation period for members of the public to inspect the accounts should have been 30 working days rather than 30 consecutive days, and consequently that the Board must answer "No" to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

876. Development Control & Planning

876.1. The DO advised only one application for a small property extension with no developments or farm buildings of note.

876.2. The Board has not had any consent applications or taken enforcement actions since the last meeting.

877. Capital Programme

877.1. The Board's Asset Manager has submitted a bid for national flood defence grant to fund a feasibility study into the Rawcliffe Village Flood Alleviation Scheme [replace or renew Dobella and Pastures Pumping Stations].

877.2. Mrs Backhouse asked where this money comes from to which the CEO advised this is exchequer funding, via Defra.

877.3. The Chair asked about the freeport at Goole, and would there be any funding in respect of this due to the development? The CEO advised he is always on the lookout for developer funding opportunities.

877.4. The Board noted that the development of the Freeport would increase special levy payments to the area.

878. Maintenance Programme

878.1. Remedial works at Langham Drain Upper - spoil is being stored at the Tileworks. Croda pays rates on this land, they are unsure as to whether they own this however they do not have any objection to us storing the spoil there at present.

878.2. The soak dike at the side of the Canal, payment is normally made by CRT to accept water into a Board maintained watercourse however this year, they refused to make payment. A meeting was held, and it was clarified there is seepage into the Board district and payment of the invoice was resolved.

- 878.3. A proposal has been made to add a watercourse in this area which will be brought to the June Board meeting for consideration. **ACTION DO**
- 878.4. Other than a small number of watercourses which were not completed due to cropping, all proposed works should have been completed.
- 878.5. The Chair queried if it would be worth trying some spraying on reeds in some areas of the Board.
- 878.6. Mr Fillingham highlighted that Dobella Lane Drain West was not maintained with the weed bucket, only completed with the basket. **ACTION DO**
- 878.7. Chair raised the piling near the school, the BT pole makes it difficult for maintenance with a digger. Have they been asked to move this? **ACTION DO**
- 878.8. Mr Lewis raised how well the flap door was working at beech tree, is it worth looking at the maintenance of this to ensure it continues to work as well as possible. **ACTION DO**

879. Date of Next Meeting

- 879.1. The next full Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 9:30am at 24 Innovation Drive, HU15 2FW.
- 879.2. The ADOC Consortium Committee is due to take place on Monday 20th November 2023 at 9:30am.
- 879.3. Chair thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.