

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Monday 3 March 2014 at the Memorial Hall, Huntington

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr R A Armitage
Mr P E Clark
Mr S Stark
Mr M Kemp
Mr I Ridsdale
Mr A S Richardson
Cllr Mrs S Wiseman
Mr C Chambers
Cllr K Pace
Cllr M Warters
Cllr S Lane

The Clerk – Mr Bill Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D J E Sherry, Mr D R Brotherton, Mrs J M Burnett and Mr D M Crossley.

Loss of Mr D Fullwood

The Clerk announced the sad loss of Mr D Fullwood who became the Board's Clerk in 1999. David then on retirement became the York Consortiums part time Planning and Consenting Officer in 2008 until 2013. David passed away following a short illness on 26th January 2014.

There were no further declarations of interest related to the items listed on the Agenda. The Chairman thanked Members for returning the completed declaration forms.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th January 2014, copy of which had been sent to all Members, be taken as read and approved with all in favour that they be forthwith signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Monks Cross Land Transfer to Special Levy

The Clerk reported that the land transferred to Special Levy (York City Council) at Monks Cross had been adjusted to exclude the land which is now linked to the property of Chow Dene.

Foss
Islands

APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE

CLERKS
ANNOUNCEMENT

DECLARATION OF
INTEREST

MINUTES OF LAST
MEETING

MATTERS ARISING

Boards Historical Valuation Records

The Clerk reported that Strutt and Parker (Harrogate) the Boards Valuer for its rating had now confirmed that they have the Boards historical rating information. In view of this the Clerk will progress the revaluation of the agricultural buildings at St Louis Farm with Strutt and Parker so any changes can be based on the original valuation.

The Clerk noted the on-going issues with the installation of the footbridge at the tannery site in Strensall which is part of the tannery redevelopment.

All other items arising from the Minutes were covered under Agenda Items.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Clerk advised that there have been no reportable incidents to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR) since the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting along with the Boards Health and Safety Consultant and the Engineering Assistant to review the Boards Health and Safety arrangements. A few areas need updating in the Boards systems which the Boards Health and Safety Advisor is helping the Board address.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 2 March 2014 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	- £ 242,059.03	(100.0%)
(b) Direct Levy	- £ 38,441.00	(99.9%)
	<u>£280,500.03</u>	

The Clerk further reported that there were a few outstanding rate accounts however they were all of a low value or subject to revaluation. A copy of a report containing these accounts was shown to the Chairman. A few accounts were in credit where overpayments have been made. Any outstanding rates will be pursued for payment and any remaining sums or credits at year-end will be included in next year's rate demands.

MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Engineering Assistant circulated a report at the meeting on the Boards maintenance works. It was noted that ground conditions had been quite wet although the land is now beginning to dry out. The Engineering Assistant ran through the report at the meeting

Haxby Grange Dyke

The Engineering Assistant reported that maintenance works proposed on the Haxby Grange Dyke had run into problems. This was relating to a dispute over polluted silt removal on a neighbours land downstream to the polluter. It now appears a solution to the maintenance has been achieved with the upstream landowner and the work can now be progressed.

Galley Gap Lane Culvert

Cllr M Waters enquired about the culvert near Galley Gap Lane in regard to a house which has been built beside it which is at risk of flooding. The Engineering Assistant reported that the Board had looked previously at the possibility of replacing the culvert but a gas main apparently has been put in across it which technically made the task more complicated.

Cllr M Waters informed the meeting the Council are currently considering the matter. The culvert is reported to suffer from blockages possibly being caused by tree roots. Cllr Waters asked if the Engineering Assistant could summarise the historical position regarding the culvert and send copies to York City Councils Planning Department (Mr M Slater and Mr D Richardson).

Bielby Beck

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council have written asking the Board to adopt the Beck. The Clerk has responded that we are unfunded to carry the work out as the Beck which is designated as 'Main River' and within the remit of the Environment Agency's responsibility.

Mr M Kemp asked how the Board might be able to resolve the maintenance issues and high flow levels in the Bielby Beck as the current situation is untenable. The Beck appearing to have very little maintenance work carried out by the Environment Agency.

Mr I Ridsdale reported he had attended the recent Water Summit at Sand Hutton. At this meeting he had spoken to Mr C Magavey of the Environment Agency who informed that the Agency are open to giving up watercourses for others to maintain but the Agency were unable to release any funding.

Mr M Kemp recalled that the Bielby Beck in 1978/79 was taken by the Agency from Drainage Board. In view of the lack of maintenance and high downstream flows the Thornton Ings are now flooding with water backing up the river which is making the area very difficult to farm.

The Clerk reported that the Agency are arranging meetings with IDB's about its revenue maintenance programme and funding. At this meeting it is intended to explain the Agency's revenue maintenance work to be carried out and how the Boards precept payments will be applied. A date for this meeting however has not yet been fixed by the Agency

Members AGREED it was the time to challenge the Agency on its maintenance works along with the operation and maintenance of the Barmby Barrage.

The Clerk was asked to consider how to challenge the Agency position regarding 'Main River' maintenance. This including preparing a draft letter to send to the local MP's regarding Agency maintenance works.

Brandon Grove Bank Cutting

Cllr Mrs S Wiseman asked at the request of Mr D Crossley to request for the banks at Brandon Grove to be cut back. The Engineering Assistant reported he believed the banks had already been cut.

Tractor and Flail Replacement

The Engineering Assistant circulated a hand out concerning the replacements for the Boards 2008 Case Puma tractor and Bomford B8181 flail mower. The hand-out included a list of the potential tractors and flails along with photographs and supporting information.

Tractor Selection

The Board requires a tractor with the technical specification to carry a rear mounted flail mower. In investigating the latest design of appropriate tractors it has become apparent that tractor cabs are now being placed further forward and hence the driver is sitting further forward. As a consequence this makes the operation of a rear mounted flail more difficult because of the driver's posture operating the flail to the side of the machine. The Board has reviewed a number of tractors because of this problem to establish the machine with the correct specification and posture of the driver operating the equipment. It being considered necessary for the machine driver's to be comfortable in the safe sustained operation of the equipment. The choice of tractor becomes limited because of the position of the cab with side vision. Cheaper tractors are available but problems clearly noted from the position of the outer cab vision. This however could be partially addressed with a camera and in cab screen although problems can occur with this arrangement in bright sunlight.

PLANT

Favoured Tractor

The Massey Ferguson 7616 has been established as the tractor with the best cab position and size for the Boards flailing work. It was noted that the tractor is not the cheapest available. The 7616 comes in two specifications of either high or low equipment. This matter was considered in detail including the costs by Members along with the other tractors the Board had considered. The higher specification machine with a slightly higher cost is likely when the tractor is sold to give a higher resale value because of the extra options provided. Mr M Kemp believed spreading the cost for the higher specification tractor at an additional £2,425 over its usable life with the Board was marginal.

Flail Mower

The Board favours another Bomford B8181 rear flail mower. It was concluded at a previous Board meeting that the prices of a replacement and the implications of part exchanging of equipment highlighted that no dealer was particularly cheaper than any other. It was noted that Farmstar had worked closely with the Board and provided a very good quality service both for the tractors it had provided and Bomford flails. They had further demonstrated expertise in providing the correct equipment for the Boards requirements. The Board has been offered £4,500 in part exchange for its B8181 flail mower and has received two tender offers to purchase of £6,250 and £6,750 plus VAT.

Assistant Engineers Recommendation

The Assistant Engineer's recommendation was to accept the Peacock and Binnington quote for the higher specification Massey Ferguson 7616 tractor. This is because of the driving position whilst flailing and because the increased specification of the tractor should provide a higher resale value in the future. The Board also wishes to purchase the extended warranty but the Engineering Assistant needs to review the cover provided. The concern relating to the servicing requirements required for the warranty to be valid. The tractor can also be purchased on a 0% interest hire purchase arrangement if available. This including part exchanging the Boards Case Puma tractor at £25,000. The Board to further purchase a Bomford B81-81 from Farmstar at the price of £30,750. The Board should also consider the sale of its Bomford B8181 flail mower to Mr P Fletcher for the tendered sum of £6,750 plus VAT as it is the highest tender and in excess of the part exchange offered.

Summary

Tractor Purchase	£65,100
Case Puma PX	£25,000
Warranty(up to 5 years)	£ 6,268
Total	£46,368 all sums plus VAT

B8181 Flail Purchase	£30,750
B8181 Flail Private Sale	£ 6,750
Total	£24,000 all sums plus VAT

Cllr S Lane proposed the Board advanced the Assistant Engineer's recommendation in the Peacock and Binnington quote to purchase a Massey Ferguson 7616 Hi spec tractor and the Farmstar quote to purchase a Bomford B8181 flail. The Boards Case Puma tractor to be part exchanged and its Bomford B8181 privately sold. He concluded it was important for the drivers to be comfortable and thus the driver will be more productive. The proposal was seconded by Mr C Chambers and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

PRECEPT

The Clerk advised the precept has been confirmed by the Environment Agency in its letter dated 10th February 2014 at £13,796.00 for financial year 2014/15. This keeping the precept at the same level as financial year 2012/13.

Members were informed that the Environment Agency were organising a meeting to explain the Agency's maintenance plans and how the Boards precept was being allocated towards this work but a date had not yet been organised.

The Clerk explained he was still concerned because The Agency for the Yorkshire Region for 2013/14 financial year funding had made a bid for roughly £9 million revenue. The National team of the Agency had given an indicative allocation of £6.9 million. This indicative funding was then reported at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) meeting in January along with the fact that the indicative allocation had been reduced to £4.271 million a reduction on the indicative sum of 37%. This being compared to last year's sum of £5.249 million. At the same RFCC meeting the Regional Precept was set at the same level as the prior year. In regard to the Boards precept it is likely that less maintenance works will be carried out in the Boards district for the same precept paid. It is however possible that further funds possibly £30million nationally for maintenance might be made available following the storms and flooding. It is however uncertain how much might be allocated to our Region.

CONSORTIUM
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

STAFF –
WORKFORCE

PLANNING ARTICLE
4 DIRECTIVE

The Clerk informed Members that other Boards of the York Consortium are already progressing a precept appeal under the Water Resources Act for Financial year 2013/14.

The Clerk asked if the Board wishes to raise a precept appeal for financial year 2014/15 on the basis of its fairness in relation to the varying revenue budgets to which it partially contributes. The Clerk informing the Board of the time limit to raise an appeal Under the Water Resources Act 1991. The Board UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that it should raise a precept appeal for the forthcoming financial year 2014/15. This is because the precept as a contribution is unfair under the Water Resources Act with the Agency's declining maintenance revenue investment.

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 18th February. The meeting was attended by the Chairman and Mr D J E Sherry. A copy of the Consortium Agreement was made available at the meeting for Members to view if they wished.

Staff Mileage to Work Payment

The Clerk reported that this item was still being progressed.

The Clerk reported that he had prepared a potential Article 4 Directive A3 Map. A copy of which was circulated at the meeting. The map relating to the old Foss Board drainage district in the City of York Councils area. The map relating to a request from Cllr M Warters for a map to be produced at the last meeting of the Board. The blue line on the map highlighting the district and a red area being highlighted in the district which the directive could cover. The map trying to highlight the areas being developed but not including areas outside the Boards district. Cllr M Waters thinking the area should be larger in the B and Q site on Hull Road and should include the Badger Hill area. However some of this area is very close or in the Ouse and Derwent IDB District.

The Clerk noted that in creating the maps it was difficult to establish the extent to be covered as upland water discharges clearly all have implications in the lower reaches.

Cllr S Wiseman suggested that perhaps the Councillors in the areas need to get together to consider how this matter can be progressed. The Clerk raised that the Board is not a statutory consultee in planning and it is possible that an Article 4 Directive could stifle development in the area.

Cllr S Wiseman personally believes that the direction should come from the Councillors and the Drainage Board could then be asked to assist as required.

The Clerk reported that the City Council are currently recruiting a new Flood Risk Manager Officer who should be able to take a wider view on the matter.

Cllr M Warters will be composing a letter to move the matter regarding an Article 4 Directive in relation to controlling flood risk management to the City Councils Planning Department.

CORRESPONDENCE

ADA Northern Branch

The Clerk informed Members of the ADA 66th annual Northern Branch Conference to be held on 20th May 2014 at Cave Castle in South Cave. This along with the items to be covered at the conference.

The Board Members considered this event and approved payment for the cost of any member wishing to attend.

The Clerk reported that beyond the above there had been no correspondence of significance received since the date of the last meeting.

PLANS

The Clerk referred to the list of planning applications commented on since the last meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all members with the agenda.

Trevor Smith Landscapes (Osbalwick Beck in Holtby)

The Clerk reported that the Board had objected to the application. The Boards ditch having already restricted maintenance access with the activities at this location.

Cllr M Waters offered to arrange to have the application called in for further consideration.

The Clerk providing a copy of the Boards report on the application to Cllr M Waters.

Tannery Development Footbridge Strensall

The Clerk reported that the above development required a new footbridge to be installed next to the road bridge. The Clerk having copies of the submitted planning application, maps and drawings available at the meeting. The Board's Planning Officer is raising concerns about future bank maintenance and access when the bridge is installed with the arrangements currently proposed.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

CONSENTS

The Clerk referred to the list of Consents granted since the last Meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account and Business Premium Account showing an aggregate credit balance of £337,997.28 with Barclays Bank as at the 14th February 2014.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £155,348.69. The Board placing £40,000 funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.2% gross per annum. The remainder in a 95 day notice account achieving 0.7 % gross per annum with the Yorkshire Bank. It being intended to stagger 12 month investments to be able to draw funds off more frequently.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £493,345.97.

ACCOUNTS FOR
CONFIRMATION

Mr C Chambers asked about the costs of toilet hire and emptying and maintenance at roughly £17 per week.

The Engineering Assistant reported that the price was the cheapest of three quotes and the contract can be ended at any time. The Engineering Assistant will review the Boards position.

Mr P E Clark noted how expensive the repairs have been on the Volvo Machine.

It was proposed by Cllr S Lane, seconded by Mr I Ridsdale and RESOLVED that payment of these accounts be confirmed.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

DATE OF NEXT
MEETING

It was directed that the next Meeting of the Board is to be held at the Memorial Hall, Huntington, York on Monday 9 June 2014 commencing at 1.30pm.

DATES OF FUTURE
MEETINGS

Monday 8th September 2014
Monday 3rd November 2014

ANY OTHER
BUSINESS

Water Summit

Mr C Chambers thanked the Board for informing Members of the Water Summit which was held at Sand Hutton at FERA on 11th February. The Speakers included representatives from the EA, CLA, Environment Agency and others. The meeting was a good opportunity to discuss matters following the recent tidal and rainfall events.

Progress being made on South Beck Study

The Clerk informed the Meeting that progress was being made on the South Beck Study with a draft report being circulated internally for comment by the Council's Consultants.

Insurance

The Clerk is scoping the Boards Insurance Covers, which are due for renewal on 1st April 2014. The Clerk will be asking Towergate as the Boards Insurance Broker to seek covers to sustain the Boards policies.

The Meeting was closed at 2.55pm.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)