

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2015 at the Memorial Hall, Huntington

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr D J E Sherry
Mr M Kemp
Mr I Ridsdale
Cllr A S Richardson
Cllr Mrs S Wiseman
Mr D M Crossley
Mr C Chambers
Cllr K Pace
Mr C Perrett
Cllr S Lane

The Clerk – Mr W Symons
Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D R Brotherton, Mr R A Armitage, Mr P E Clark, Mr M Cockerill, Mrs J M Burnett and Mr S Wragg.

DECLARATION OF
INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest related to the items listed on the Agenda.

MINUTES OF LAST
MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th January 2015, 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.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes which were not covered under the Agenda Items.

The Clerk reported that it had been considerably busy and a few items were outstanding from the last meeting. These items include writing for the Board a publicity statement along with writing to the MP concerning the approach to progressing pollution incidents with the Environment Agency. It was further informed that the letter to Tang Hall Beck residents had not yet been sent.

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 the Consortium had recently held a joint training course for Consortium Boards for first aid another one will be held later in the year.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 2 March 2015 are as follows:

- (a) Special Levy - £252,800.38 (100.0%)
 - (b) Direct Levy - £40,121.60 (99.9%)
- £292,921.98

The Clerk further reported that there were a few outstanding rate accounts however they were mostly a low value or subject to revaluation. However the Board is progressing potential court action with one rate payer. 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 had circulated a report with the Agenda on the Boards maintenance works. It was noted that ground conditions had been quite good. The Engineering Assistant ran through the report at the meeting.

Mr D M Crossley raised the Barr Lane Road closure proposal from the Council. At the current time this matter had not been resolved.

BYELAW MATTERS

Tannery Site – David Wilson Homes

The Clerk reported that legal action has had to be threatened in a formal solicitor's letter. The developer is now proposing local arrangements to regain the ability to access and maintain the watercourse by the developer. The work including bank restoration and repairs. The developer providing plans and sections which the Clerk made available at the meeting. The proposals being discussed by Members and the Engineering Assistant.

The Clerk explained at this stage the approach would not be to grant consent to the works until alternative adequate access and maintenance arrangements were put in place. However these works are required as soon as possible.

The Clerk further made the Board aware of the required timetable for advancing formal byelaw action in the Court.

Cllr Mrs S Wiseman proposed a small working group was required to decide how the matter would be progressed.

The Board agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Mrs S Wiseman, Mr C Chambers and Mr D J E Sherry can consider the developers proposals to seek a way forward and can consider compromising 9m maintenance access if it is appropriate and the watercourse can be maintained in the future. The meeting will be held in the near future.

Huntington – Ben Bailey Homes – Byelaw Infringements

The Clerk explained the position with the Boards 9 metre maintenance strip being compromised by the development of a number of new houses with an unconsented fence in the Boards byelaw margin. This being at the development at the old Sessions print work site in Huntington. The location being difficult as access is not readily available from the other side of the watercourse as it is in effect an island because of the parallel River Foss.

The Chairman had authorised the Clerk to seek legal guidance at the Boards expense on the Boards position. The Board's solicitor having written to the developer requesting the removal of the fence. The solicitor also having to review the supporting documentation prior to sending the letter. The Clerk reading the content of the letter out at the meeting.

Cllr Mrs S Wiseman proposed that the Board should continue to obtain legal advice and progress this matter towards court action if required. The proposal was seconded by Cllr A S Richardson and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** by the Board.

The Engineering Assistant left the meeting at this stage.

PRECEPT

The Clerk advised the Board that the precept has been confirmed by the Environment Agency in its letter dated 10th February 2015 at £13,796.00 for financial year 2015/16. This keeping the precept at the same level as financial year 2014/15.

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 shortly.

The Clerk explained he was still concerned regarding the Boards precept contribution and was uncertain if the Board should again raise a further precept appeal to the Minister.

Members **AGREED** that another precept appeal was not required if the Agency continues with the further maintenance works on the Bielby Beck. The Clerk being given delegated Authority to decide if a further precept appeal is required in the next couple of days.

INSURANCE

The Clerk is scoping the Boards Insurance Covers, which are due for renewal on 1st April 2015.

The Clerk will be asking Towergate as the Boards Insurance Broker to seek covers to sustain the Boards policies. The Board at its next meeting will be able to review the covers and costs if required.

CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 17th February. The meeting was attended by the Chairman and Mr D J E Sherry. The Clerk further thanked Mr D J E Sherry for chairing the meeting. A copy of the Consortium Agreement was made available at the meeting for Members to view if they wished.

The Clerk running through the items covered at the meeting.

The Clerk further noted that work may be required in regard to consortium arrangements and public sector cooperation agreements etc. This requires funding but the Clerk is considering talking to other Boards with consortium arrangements with a view to perhaps set up a Consortium Club to share the progression of any work which might be required.

STAFF

Staff Contracts

The Clerk reported that this item was still being progressed.

Consortium Staff

Rating Assistant

The Clerk reported that the Consortiums Assistant Rating Officer Mrs T Simpson will have been with the Board for six months from 15th March so is approaching the end of her probation period of employment. On completion of the period her employment will become permanent.

Planning Officer

The Clerk reported that the Board had been seeking a replacement following the notification from Mr P Hey that he wished to retire. The Boards new recruit reported at the last meeting had worked for one day and became sick and unable to work. The Board was then unable to train the new recruit when able to work as the period allocated with Mr P Hey was exceeded so the Boards employment was curtailed.

REGISTER OF
MEMBERS
INTERESTS

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that he has had to cover the planning officer work in this period. This unfortunately has been concurrent with the time that a number of significant sites have required the Boards response to on-going planning applications.

The Clerk reported that the Board was currently considering recruiting a new planning officer who is Msc qualified having studied water and water usage. This appointment being progressed through a recruitment agency.

The Clerk reminded and asked Members to keep up to date the Register of Members Interests. The Clerk bringing the register for Members inspection at the meeting.

ADA Northern Branch

The Clerk informed Members of the ADA 67th Annual Northern Branch Conference to be held on 29th May 2015 at Cave Castle hotel in South Cave. This along with reporting on the items to be covered at the conference.

The Board Members considered this event and approved payment for the cost of any member and the Clerk if they wish to attend. Cllr A S Richardson and Cllr Mrs S Wiseman noting that they may wish 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.

Huntington Stadium

The Clerk reported that the above development was being progressed for planning approval. The Clerk explaining the drainage arrangements being progressed as part of the planning approval. The Clerk highlighting the Boards response which should shortly be on the Councils website.

Mr D J E Sherry expressing his concern that the South Beck Study has not been progressed beyond a draft as a supporting document for the local decisions on drainage being made.

(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)

BANKING
ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk informed the Board that Barclays Bank are likely to start charging after 1st April 2015.

The Clerk made reference to the Boards investments and the policy of reducing funds to below £85,000 with the Yorkshire Bank. He further informed the Board about a Nationwide deposit account for a one year investment which was currently achieving a 1.2% gross income.

Mr D M Crossley proposed that the Board should open a Nationwide deposit account with the Boards funds up to a sum of £85,000. The proposal being seconded by Cllr S Lane and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account and Business Premium Account showing an aggregate credit balance of £412,169.91 with Barclays Bank as at the 13th February 2015.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £80,000.00 on Deposit.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £492,169.91.

ACCOUNTS FOR
CONFIRMATION

The Clerk referred to the list of accounts paid since the date of the last Meeting which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

It was 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 8th June 2015 commencing at 1.30pm.

DATES OF FUTURE
MEETINGS

Monday 7th September 2015

Monday 2nd November 2015

ANY OTHER
BUSINESS

Election

The Clerk reported that the time table for the Boards election is being progressed with the draft register of electors being published on 1st April.

The Meeting was closed at 3.15pm.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)

