

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 4th January 2016 at the Memorial Hall, Huntington

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr D R Brotherton
Mr R A Armitage
Mr D J E Sherry
Mr P E Clark
Mr S Stark
Mr M Kemp
Mr R J Burnett
Cllr A S Richardson
Cllr Mrs S Wiseman
Mr D M Crossley
Mr C Chambers
Cllr M Warters
Mr C Perrett

The Clerk – Mr W Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Cockerill, Cllr S Lane, Mr G Tate and Mr I Ridsdale.

DECLARATION OF
INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest related to the items listed on the Agenda. The Clerk further informed Members that the Register of Members Interests was available at the meeting for inspection and update as required.

MINUTES OF LAST
MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2015, copy of which had been sent to all Members, be taken as read and approved and that they be forthwith signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported no other matters were arising from the Minutes of the last meeting which were not covered on the Agenda.

HEALTH AND
SAFETY

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

HEALTH AND
SAFETY POLICY
UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the Boards Health and Safety Policy had been reviewed. This had been progressed by the Board with the Boards Safety Advisor, Mr R Shepherd. The Boards Health and Safety Policy being divided into two parts which are in summary:

- 1) Local Arrangements for the Management of Health and Safety;
- 2) Health and Safety Policies.

The format remaining the same as the previous but the draft document includes updates to latest health and safety requirements.

The Clerk had circulated draft copies of these documents with the Agenda for the meeting for Members consideration.

Cllr Mrs S Wiseman proposed that the Board adopts the two documents.

Mr M Kemp seconding the proposal which was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 24 December 2015 are as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| (a) Special Levy - | £263,866.87 | (100.0%) |
| (b) Direct Levy - | £42,833.50 | (100.0%) |
| | <u>£306,700.37</u> | |

The Clerk further reported that there were a few outstanding rate accounts with one account being progressed to court however most of the outstanding rates are of a low value. A few accounts were in credit where overpayments have been made.

The Clerk showing the Chairman a list of accounts with sums outstanding.

The Clerk confirmed that 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.

TRANSFER TO
SPECIAL LEVY AND
WRITE OFF

The Clerk referred to the sheet and maps circulated with the Agenda of the land to be transferred to Special Levy and amounts to be written off.

Special Levy

The Clerk had circulated maps and a summary table with the Agenda for the Board's consideration. This related to a number of sites for the transfer to City of York Councils Special Levy from agricultural usage. The three locations included land in agricultural rating at the Old Tannery Site in Strensall which had now been developed. It further included land being developed at Brecks Lane and a small area of land at Brecks Lodge. The land tabled for consideration was discussed by Members.

Amounts to be Written Off

An overall sum in drainage rates remaining on land to be transferred to Special Levy which cannot be collected amounts to £11.68 is requested for consideration of writing off.

The transfer to Special Levy and sums to be written off was considered by Members. The Clerk explained the implications on the Special Levy for the City of York Council and that the proposal did not entail any transfer to East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

It was then proposed by Mr D R Brotherton, seconded by Mr D M Crossley and UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED for the transfer of the land to the Special Levy as per the maps provided and the write off in the sum of £11.68 from the Board's rates income in relation to land transfers.

Consortium Secretary and Receptionist

The Clerk reported that this post is a job share and a vacancy had occurred for a person to cover the second part of the week. The post had been filled for a month with a new recruit being trained. However she had resigned at short notice.

The Clerk further reported that the post has now been filled. This had been achieved by extending the working hours of its Assistant Rating Officer, Mrs T Simpson who wished to work full time. The outcome is useful as the Boards Assistant Rating Officer is now available for longer hours and the work load for the Secretary/Receptionist at the latter part of the week is covered.

STAFF –
CONSORTIUM

CONSORTIUM
ARRANGEMENTS

Planning Officer

The Clerk raised his concerns about the Consortiums Planning Officer which although now he was covering the workload and trained up for the position he may not stay in the future. In view of this the Clerk reported that he was asking Mr P Hey if he could assist in supporting the Board should the Planning Officer decide to leave to manage the workload.

Meeting Date

The Clerk confirmed the next meeting of the Consortium Management Committee will be held on Tuesday 16th February 2016 at the Escrick Club in Escrick, York. This is prior to the next meeting of the Board which gives an opportunity to address any matters which could be raised at the meeting prior to the start of the next financial year.

Sustaining the Boards Nominated Members on the Committee

The Clerk asked the Board if it wished to sustain its two nominated Members for the meeting who are Mr J P Coverdale and Mr D J E Sherry.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREEING to sustain the above arrangements for Mr D J E Sherry and Mr J P Coverdale to remain its two nominated Members for the Consortium Management Committee. The Members being given Authority to act on behalf of the Board.

PLANT RENEWAL

Plant Renewal Sheet

The Clerk and Engineering Assistant had reviewed the Boards likely plant renewal requirements for the future along with the sum held in its plant reserves. This was included in a plant renewal sheet which had been circulated with the Agenda. This showing the third and final payment on the Boards tractor and replacement of the Boards agricultural trailer in 2016/17 financial year.

Building Plant Reserves

The Clerk explained the need to build plant reserves to fund future plant replacement. The Board now has four in its workforce and a range of plant to support its work productivity. The Board needing to consider increasing its income in order to be able to fund its plant reserves to replace its equipment. The Clerk endeavouring to increase plant reserves by £15,000 a year in addition to reserves already held. Indicatively a 1% increase in current drainage rates brings in £3,062.74.

The Clerk further explained that even if the Board can fund plant reserves from a surplus of £15,000 at year end in time it will have to utilise its reserves to replace the more expensive equipment. This being demonstrated in the plant renewal sheet with the figures being developed on the basis of a 2.47% increase.

The Board Members considered the Boards plant renewal sheet.

BUDGET 2016/17

The Clerk had circulated a budget sheet and notes with the Agenda for the forthcoming financial year. The budget forecasting the out turns for financial year 2015/16 and advising on a potential budget for financial year 2016/17. The option given was based on a rate of 3.74p in the £. an increase of 2.47% and provided details as to the budget's composition.

The Clerk went through the budget sheet line by line. This estimated a net surplus of approximately £12,534 for the end of 2015/2016 financial year. If the Board then increases its drainage rates to 3.74p for 2016/2017 financial year and purchases equipment as illustrated in the plant renewal programme the Boards reserves would be £464,252 at the end of financial year 2016/17. This equating to a reduction in reserves of £6,867.08.

The Board Members discussed this matter in detail along with the position on the Boards reserves and the provision being made for plant replacement.

Board Members discussed the current value of the Boards plant and the level of reserves held. The potential implications of falling fuel costs were also discussed.

It was proposed by Mr D J E Sherry an increase in the drainage rates of 2.47% to a rate of 3.74p in the £. which was seconded by Mr C Chambers.

Mr R A Armitage proposed an amendment of keeping drainage rates at 3.65p in the £. which was seconded by Mr P E Clark.

LAYING OF THE
RATE & SPECIAL
LEVIES

The Clerk clarifying the position prior to the vote. The amendment as the substantive motion at 3.65p in the £ with no increase. This was voted upon with four votes for the motion and nine votes against. The amendment was not carried. No further proposals were made. To confirm the acceptance of the proposal of a drainage rate of 3.74p in the £. an increase of 2.47% was voted upon with nine votes for the motion and four votes against.

The Clerk asked Members if they were satisfied with the number of votes recorded which was confirmed.

The proposal of an increase in rates and levies at 2.47% was carried and RESOLVED that the proportion of their expenditure to be raised by drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings and by Special Levies on local billing Authorities are 13.74% and 86.26% respectively.

THAT the Drainage Board do hereby make a Drainage Rate for the purposes chargeable thereon assessed on the Annual Value of agricultural land and buildings subject to the provisions of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 as hereunder set out that is to say: AN OCCUPIERS' RATE assessed at 3.74p in the £. for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2017.

A Special Levy chargeable to **RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the sum of £3,366.97, for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2017.

A Special Levy chargeable to **THE CITY OF YORK COUNCIL** in the sum of £252,486.92, for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2017.

A Special Levy chargeable to **HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the sum of £814.09 for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2017.

A Special Levy chargeable to **THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL** in the sum of £14,053.77 for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2017.

AND that the Special Levies shall be payable in two equal instalments on the 1st May 2016 and the 1st November 2016.

THAT the purposes for which the said Rate and Special Levies are made and the amount in the £. for each of the purposes are as hereunder set out.

AND that the said Rate shall be payable on Demand

AND that the seal of the Board be affixed on the said Rate and Special Levies accordingly

AND that the Clerk be and is hereby authorised to take all necessary steps to demand and collect the said Rate.

PURPOSES under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for which the Rate mentioned is made.

AMOUNT of the Rate in the £. for the Occupiers' Rate.

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|-------|
| a) | Expenses of Administration under this Act. |) | |
| b) | Works of maintenance under the said Act. |) | 3.74p |
| c) | Improvement of existing works under the said Act. |) | |
| d) | New works under the said Act. |) | |
| e) | Precept of The Environment Agency under the said Act. |) | 3.74p |

ASSISTANT ENGINEERS REPORT

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report at the meeting regarding the Boards maintenance works which was considered at the meeting.

Fangfoss Pollution

Members considered the position with Fangfoss pollution and how difficult it was to resolve. It was questioned about the possibility of fly tipping by a tanker.

Christmas Flood Event

The Engineering Assistant reported on the flooding and noted how difficult it was to travel to the flooded areas. He further thanked the Chairman and Foreman for attending site meetings over the Christmas period during the flood event. This along with the workforce assisting as required.

Mr C Chambers thanking the Engineering Assistant for responding to his enquires over Christmas.

Members also raised issues of concern regarding the operation of the Foss Barrier and the circumstances of the flooding which occurred.

PRECEPT APPEAL

The Clerk reported on the meeting held at the Boards Office on 11th December. This was attended by the Boards Clerk, Mr J P Coverdale and Mr M Kemp along with other Board representatives from Ainsty (2008) IDB and Beverley and North Holderness IDB who also have raised a precept appeal. It was also attended by two Defra representatives, Ms K Holdsworth and Ms C Tidmarsh and the Area Manager of the Environment Agency, Mr M Scott and the Manager of the Environment Agency's Workforce, Mr P Holmes.

ADA NORTHERN
BRANCH MEETING

CORRESPONDENCE

PLANS

Mr M Kemp believed the Board had made progress in organising the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Defra will now consider what action it wishes to take to progress the matter further.

The Clerk informed that a Northern Branch ADA Meeting is to be held on 26th January at the Masonic Hall in Howden if any Members wish to attend. The Clerk having circulated details with the Agenda.

The Clerk reported there was no further correspondence of significance received since the date of the last meeting.

The Clerk referred to the list of planning applications commented upon since the last Meeting of the Board, which had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda.

The Board APPROVED the comments.

Small Development Discharges

The Clerk noted a number of small scale planning applications were being progressed for infill development in areas draining into watercourses like Westfield Beck which in recent events appear to be full to capacity in peak flow. The Board is seeking on a site by site basis no increase in peak runoff on an individual site by site development with flow control and attenuation.

The Clerk reported that the Councils advice given to planners and the Boards advice can conflict with the Council seeking a practical solution to peak watercourse discharge rather than the calculated allowance. The Board continuing to object to the planning application in these circumstances. The Council highlighting that if the Boards advice is taken this could result in planning applications being refused and a consequential planning appeal raised.

Board Members confirmed the approach of the Clerk in these circumstances in applying the Boards policy and noted the recent events which had happened at the Foss Barrier.

Mr C Chambers noting the cumulative effect of multiple small developments is significant.

Planning Response – Caravan Site

Mr C Perrett questioned a planning application for an earth bund around a caravan site which the Board had objected to in Stockton Lane because of insufficient information (Ref 15/02071/FUL).

(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.

The Board APPROVED the comments.

(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 £379,905.96 with Barclays Bank as at the 18th December 2015.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £83,480.00. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.2% gross per annum.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £60,000. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.4% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £523,385.96.

The Clerk reported it was uncertain how much longer Barclays will be able to provide free banking it being due for review in February.

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 7th March 2016 commencing at 1.30pm.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 6th June 2016
Monday 5th September 2016
Monday 31st October 2016

**ANY OTHER
BUSINESS**

Foss Barrier and Flooding

Mr D J E Sherry raised concerns about the Foss floods and the operation of the Foss Barrier.

Cllr A S Richardson highlighted that an investigation will be carried out into the flooding and operation of the Foss Barrier and it is likely a public meeting will be held in the near future. It being noted that York City Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority, who have the powers to investigate flooding under the Floods and Water Management Act.

Tang Hall Beck

Cllr A S Richardson also raised a problem on Tang Hall Beck at the location near the allotments. It was reported a number of conifers had been chopped down, the debris remaining being a possible risk of flooding. The location is at the rear of 121 Hempland Lane. It was also noted a number of Willow trees were also causing problems near this location to the watercourse.

The Engineering Assistant offered to investigate but noted this area is close to the Boards drainage boundary. It is therefore possible that it could be in the City Councils area. The Engineering Assistant will investigate further and if in York City Councils area inform the Councils officers of the details. If however they are in the Boards district he will consider what action is required.

Westfield Beck

Cllr A S Richardson asked about Westfield Beck over the Christmas period.

The Engineering Assistant reported that Westfield Beck was up to the top on boxing day with the pumps running flat out throughout the event.

Future Strategy for York

Mr D J E Sherry proposes an alternative solution for York for the next 100 years. He thinks that large scale upstream storage of flood waters is required. This would require upstream farmers and landowners to be adequately compensated for storing water in large events. This potentially could be a better option than raising downstream flood defences including increasing the height of flood barriers.

The Clerk agreed with Mr D J E Sherry but also believed the overall catchment of the Ouse and Derwent Rivers need modelling and considering for appropriate schemes to manage the catchments holistically for the future. This work to include upstream flood storage and other potential options. A long term plan is clearly needed to manage these catchments in an integrated way so investment can be made effectively.

The Clerk informed that he attends North Yorkshire (which includes York) Partnership Meetings. The Clerk will raise the need for an overall strategic approach to the catchments.

The Board Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED with Mr D J E Sherry that something needs doing now. The Clerk being asked to progress the matter to see what can be done.

Flooding on the River Derwent

Mr M Kemp is concerned about water on the River Derwent which appears to be being held back currently to Melbourne up to 4ft deep. This raising concerns regarding the Environment Agency operation of the Barmby Barrage.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.10pm as there was no other business.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)

