

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 10th March 2014 at Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, Main Street, Copmanthorpe

AINSTY
IOB Minutes

PRESENT

Mr S E Jackson (In the Chair)
Mr C E Mills
Mr A P Sykes
Mr R F Hildreth
Mr J Sanderson
Mr M Haigh,
Mr J B Blacker
Mr A Percy
Mr J Bramley
Mr C Clayton
Mr R Burniston
Cllr G Simpson
Cllr C Lewis

The Clerk – Mr W Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G H Smith, Cllr J Galvin, Cllr I Gillies , Cllr J Savage and Cllr K Ellis.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr G Simpson, seconded by Mr A P Sykes and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 27th January 2014, a 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

Queen Ethelburgers School - Wall Consent Thorpe Underwood Estate

The Clerk asked the Board if it was prepared to reconsider the granting of a consent for the school to construct a brick boundary wall within the Boards 9 metre byelaw margin. The Board having made a decision on this matter in the last six months. The Chairman accompanied by the Clerk had visited the location and inspected the proposed location of the wall.

It was Unanimously agreed by Members including the original Proposer and Secunder of the Motion that the Board could reconsider its decision on this matter. The Board having 75% of the Members of the Board present and voting in agreement to the suspension of the Boards Standing Orders on this decision on a proposal made (Clause 27 suspension of Standing Orders - Boards Standing Orders).

Site inspection

The Chairman reported that the wall footings had been excavated but were not concreted and could be moved. The nature of the watercourse and its meanderings along a line of a straight brick wall created a variable maintenance strip width. That with re-alignment at various locations of the wall, the Board would be able to maintain the ditches with mechanical equipment on the wall side of the ditch.

The Chairman suggested that the Boards officers should be permitted to negotiate with the schools land agents. The officers being asked to agree modifications to the line of the wall so that the Boards en-mained ditches can be maintained by mechanical equipment from the wall side of the ditch. This alignment will then reduce the width available for maintenance in some locations below 9 metres but still allow the ditch to be maintained.

Cllr G Simpson proposed that the Board should rescind the original motion and accepts the Chairman's suggestion as the substantive motion. This being seconded by Cllr C Lewis and unanimously agreed to by the Board Members.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the rates collected up to the 28th February 2014 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	- £282,849.60	(100%)
(b) Direct Levy	- <u>£58,162.97</u>	(99%)
	<u>£341,012.57</u>	

The Clerk also advised that rates collected since the date of the last meeting were in the sum of £464.81.

The Clerk noted a few accounts were in credit where overpayments have been made. Any outstanding rates will be pursued for payments and any remaining sums or credits at year-end will be included in next year's rate demand.

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.

CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 18th February. The meeting being attended by the Chairman and the Vice Chairman. A copy of the agreement was made available at the meeting for Members to view if they wished.

The role of the Planning officer was discussed and how Parish Councils are now informed about Planning applications. It was noted that York City Council were no longer providing hard copies of planning applications.

STAFF - WORKFORCE

Progress in Recruiting the Boards Foreman

The Clerk reported that the Board now has in the region of sixteen applications for the position. The Clerk had also engaged De lacy Executive Recruitment who are agricultural business recruitment consultants to seek further suitable applicants. If the Board then recruits one of the Agency candidates a percentage fee of the candidate's first year salary is charged to the Board.

Advertising for the Position

The Clerk reported on the prices he had obtained to advertise the vacancy. A basic advert of 25 words in the York Press will cost about £600 to £700. The York Post being slightly cheaper. The Board is currently exploring potential advertising media such as the Farmers Weekly. It however is sometimes unclear if the adverts will be in published journals or if they are only to be advertised on the internet.

Mr R Burniston suggested advertising in the Farmers Guardian and it was also suggested by other Members that Northern Farmers also might be an opportunity for advertising.

PRECEPT AND
PRECEPT APPEAL

The Clerk advised the precept has been confirmed by the Environment Agency in its letter dated 10th February 2014 at £43,272.00 for financial year 2014/15. This keeps the precept at the same level as the last three financial years. The payment is required in two instalments on or before 1st August 2014 and 1st December 2014.

The Clerk explained he was still concerned because the Agency for the Yorkshire Region for 2014/15 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 for IDB's 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 likely that further funds possibly £30million nationally for maintenance might be made available following the recent storms and flooding. It is however uncertain how much might be allocated to our Region.

The Clerk further reported that the Agency were delaying giving notice of no longer maintaining reaches of 'main river' to land owners. The Clerk being aware this affects the Swale Ure and Nidd Rivers. The reason for the delay being related to acceptance of the Agency Protocol in regard to process of giving notice along with consultation on the protocol with the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

The Clerk asked if the Board wishes to raise a further precept appeal for financial year 2014/15. The reason to appeal is on the basis of the precept set and its fairness in relation to the varying revenue budgets to which it partially contributes. The Board members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Clerk should raise a further precept appeal for 2014/15 Financial Year under Section 140 of the Water Resources Act 1991.

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Interview Selection and Attracting Further Candidates.

Mr G Simpson highlighted that the recruitment sub-committee had now agreed a comprehensive job description and criteria for the position. The job applicants will be reviewed against the job criteria. Then from these applicants a short list will be produced for invitation for interview.

Members discussed the potential terms and conditions to possibly attract a wider range of candidates

Mr C Clayton suggested that the Board should perhaps promote the work of the Board to attract interest in the Boards vacancy for the Foreman.

Members discussed the timespan for recruiting the new Foreman and the importance of having a new Foreman in place as soon as possible. However it was noted that the Board did not want to recruit an inappropriate candidate.

CORRESPONDENCE

ADA Northern Branch Conference

The Clerk informed Members of the ADA Northern Branch Conference to be held on 20th May 2014 at Cave Castle in South Cave. A presentation being given about the power station carbon capture pipeline scheme to transfer compressed CO2 for storage out at sea. The Board Members considered this event and approved payment for the cost of members wishing to attend at £40 a head.

The Clerk advised Members that there had been no further correspondence of significance received since the date of the last Meeting.

PLANS

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.

(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 £258,068.31 with Barclays Bank as at the 28th February 2014.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £155,476.16. The Board placing £40,000 funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.2% gross per annum The remainder on 95 day notice achieving 0.7 % gross per annum with the Yorkshire Bank.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £413,544.47 .

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 would be held at a venue to be confirmed on Monday 16th June 2014 at the Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York 6.30pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Future dates for meeting at the same venue to be held at 6.30pm on:

Monday 15th September 2014

Monday 10th November 2014

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Grass cutting on alternative years

Mr RF Hildreth asked about the Board possibly changing the approach to bank mowing to reduce maintenance costs. As an example if it might be possible to perhaps mow adjacent banks on alternative years.

The Engineering Assistant reported having difficulties with this approach on another Board in the Consortium. The approach not being accepted by some farmers as they believed the work was not up to standard and the Board was not achieving value for money.

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.

There was no other business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)