

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

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr D R Brotherton
Mr M Cockerill
Mr S Stark
Mr M Kemp
Mr I Ridsdale
Mr R J Burnett
Cllr A S Richardson
Mr D M Crossley
Mr C Chambers
Cllr M Warters
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 R A Armitage, Mr D J E Sherry, Mr P E Clark, Cllr Mrs S Wiseman, Mr S Wragg and Mr G Tate.

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.

ELECTION

The Clerk as Returning Officer advised that the new Board had come into place from 1st November. An election had not been required as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions on the Board. In view of this all the current Members were re-elected.

NEW MEMBER

The Chairman welcomed Mr R J Burnett to his first meeting of the Board. Mr R J Burnett recently having joined the Board with the retirement of Mrs J Burnett.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Clerk advised that Members were required to consider nominations and to appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Board. The positions are usually for a three year tenure.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr J P Coverdale wished to be considered for nomination for the position of Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr D R Brotherton, seconded by Cllr S Lane and RESOLVED that Mr J P Coverdale be elected as Chairman.

As there were no other nominations Mr J P Coverdale was duly elected as Chairman. The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Mr J P Coverdale.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr D R Brotherton informed the meeting that he wished to be considered for nomination for the position of Vice Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr J P Coverdale, seconded by Mr D M Crossley and RESOLVED that Mr D R Brotherton be elected as Vice-Chairman.

As there were no other nominations Mr D R Brotherton was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

Election Advert

The Clerk informed the Board that the outcome of the Boards election will be advertised shortly in the York Press as required. The Clerk noting the required content which includes the details of the elected Members names and addresses and subsequent high cost to publish.

Members discussed this matter in detail and asked about the potential implications of not advertising.

The Clerk informed Members that the advert was being shared with two other Boards of the Consortium the total cost of which was £2,849. The advert being in the York Press and when shared between three Boards showed a saving over an individual cost of £1,050.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th September 2015, 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

There were no further matters arising from the Minutes, which are not covered in the Agenda.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk confirmed no reportable incidents had occurred since the last meeting which would require reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR).

The Clerk further confirmed the Board was updating its 'Health and Safety Policy' with help from the Boards Health and Safety Advisor Mr R Shepherd. It was hoped that progress on this matter can be reported at the next meeting of the Board.

RATES

The Clerk reported that since the report of the last meeting a sum of £2,099.47 in agricultural drainage rates had been collected. The total rates now collected to the 30th October 2015 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy -	£ 138,791.23	(52.6 %)
(b) Direct Levy -	£ 42,024.32	(98.3%)
	<u>£ 180,815.55</u>	

The Clerk reported that final reminders had been sent out. A list of outstanding rate accounts was shown to the Chairman at the meeting. The Clerk will progress court action if required in line with the Boards policy for sums outstanding over £15 following the final reminders if no queries or land transfers are outstanding.

MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Engineering Assistant ran through a report which was provided at the meeting. This along with a number of photographs of the work the Board had recently been carrying out.

Habbig Tree Shears

Mr D R Brotherton asked about the costs in the accounts for the work on the Habbig tree shears.

The Engineering Assistant reported that the manufacturer was closing down and the tree shears required refurbishing. The work including replacing the blades which are expensive. As the shears fit the Boards equipment it was decided to refurbish rather than renew.

Bielby Beck and Environment Agency 2m Rule

The Clerk explained the current position with the Environment Agency and the embargo on working within two metres of the edge of a watercourse until a site risk pack is signed off. The implication of this has resulted in the Environment Agency not being able to progress its proposed work on the Bielby Beck. This however has not constrained the Board carrying work out on the Agency's behalf.

Tannery Site

The Clerk reported that a damp section in the public footpath remained. It being noted that water appears to be seeping out of the development site. One of the residents believing that water is accumulating in material placed under the development and seeping into the bank. At this stage the Board is uncertain how this matter will be progressed by the parties concerned.

GREATER
YORKSHIRE
DEVOLUTION
PROPOSAL

The Clerk informed Members about the Greater Yorkshire Devolution Plan which has been raised. In regard to the York Consortium of Drainage Boards interests this relates to four Lead Local Flood Authorities. These include North Yorkshire County Council, East Riding Of Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council and City of York Council. Details of the devolution proposal are available on the internet. This could result in central government funding being devolved to perhaps new regional bodies. The Clerk making Members aware that flood and coastal revenue funding streams possibly could be devolved in these new arrangements which include the Boards Special Levy. The proposals could also have implications to the Environment Agency maintenance revenue funding streams.

PUBLIC SECTOR
COOPERATION
AGREEMENT (PSCA)

The Clerk referred to the model document prepared by the Environment Agency and endorsed by the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA). A copy of this agreement had been circulated with the Agenda for the Boards consideration.

The model document being prepared and agreed as a format to set in place an agreement for five years between an Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency. The document allows an Internal Drainage Board to conduct work on an Environment Agency designated 'Main River.' The document setting in place mechanisms for programmes of work, delegation of powers along with costs and contributions agreed prior to work commencing. This is recorded in Schedule 3 'Form of Schedule for Specific Work or Activity' of the document as and when required.

Members considered the documentation and the potential implication of signing up to the agreement. This along with the fact that the arrangement may assist with progressing works on the Bielby Beck.

The Clerk informed the Board that he was reasonably happy with this latest document however earlier documents had put too larger risk on the IDB and had a lack of clarity on responsibility for transfer of 'Main River' powers. In view of this the Clerk had not advanced the document for the Boards agreement earlier.

Mr D R Brotherton proposed the Clerk be authorised by the Board to initially prepare and submit the relevant documentation and evidence to the Agency. Then when it is agreed to sign up to a Public Sector Cooperation Agreement for a five year period as prescribed in the document tabled at the meeting.

Cllr M Warters seconded this proposal which was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

STAFF

Consortium Planning and Asset Officer

The Clerk reported that the Boards new Planning Officer, Mr J Perkins is making good progress and has now completed the training and support in the post provided by Mr P Hey who retired from the position recently.

Consortium Secretary and Receptionist

The Clerk reported that this post is a job share and the person covering the second part of the week was leaving to return to full time education. The Clerk is in the process of interviewing to find a new recruit for the position. The Board having recruited a new member of staff who had unfortunately resigned this morning after being trained by the Board.

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.

Cllr M Warters asked about the Boards response on application number 1980 – Land Lying to the West of Metcalfe Lane, Osbaldwick regarding the Boards objection letter. The Clerk providing a copy of the letter sent at the meeting.

(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 £330,254.82 with Barclays Bank as at the 23rd October 2015.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £83,480. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.3% 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 three accounts is £473,734.82.

The Clerk noted he had been informed that the FCIS Guarantee was being reduced from £85,000 to £75,000 from 1st January next year. He further noted that he had been informed by the Beverley Building Society that public funds from an organisation such as a Drainage Board are unlikely to be covered by this arrangement. In view of this he had tried to seek guidance from FCIS but was told to either consult the FCIS website or engage a compliance solicitor for an opinion. In view of this he had raised the matter with ADA and been informed that the advice given is possible but a formal position has not been given.

The Clerk further noted because of the size of the Beverley Building Society and the uncertainty of the FCIS guarantee he had decided not to progress the 12 month account investment.

ADA

ADA National

The Clerk informed the Board that ADA National have agreed to increase its subscription by 5% for 2016.

ADA Northern Branch

The Clerk informed the Board that the ADA Northern Branch are likely to hold a meeting open to Board Members in the early new year which was likely to be in Howden.

CORRESPONDENCE

ADA Conference

The Clerk reported that the ADA London Conference will be held on 11th November 2015 at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London. The conference will be attended by the Clerk.

The Clerk reported that no further significant correspondence had been received by the Board since the date of the last meeting.

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.

Cllr S Lane proposed that payment of these accounts be confirmed. This being seconded by Mr I Ridsdale and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was directed that the next Meeting of the Board, which is its Annual General Meeting, is to be held at the Memorial Hall, Huntington, York on Monday, 4th January 2016 commencing at 1.30pm.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 7th March 2016
Monday 6th June 2016
Monday 5th September 2016
Monday 31st October 2016

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr C Perrett raised the Board position on payment on its contribution to employee's pensions. This relating to new or recently recruited employees who if they wish can join the Governments 'Nest' scheme. The Board currently offering a 1% contribution which has previously been agreed. The Board having not yet reached its staging date for the legal requirement of pension provision as a smaller employer.

Mr M Kemp noted that he thinks the Board should get the current proposals up and running with a Board contribution of 1% which was supported by a number of Members.

The Chairman raised that this matter can again be considered at a future meeting of the Board as an Agenda item.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.50pm as there was no other business.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)

