

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 15th March 2021 via Microsoft Teams Online Meeting due to Global Pandemic. No attendance at St Andrews Parish Church, York

PRESENT

Mr S E Jackson (In the Chair)

Mr A P Sykes

Mr C E Mills

Mr J B Blacker

Mr A Percy

Mr R F Hildreth

Mr C Clayton

Cllr D Carr

Mr S Wragg

Cllr D Mackay

The Clerk – Mr W Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Sanderson, Cllr J Galvin and Cllr N Waller.

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 for inspection and update as required.

MEMBERSHIP

Sad Loss of a Member

The Clerk reported the sad loss of Mr J Bramley who attended his first North Wharfe IDB Meeting on 6th February 1987. He will be missed by the Board as a regular attender and a strong supporter of the Board and its work. The Board holding a minute silence to reflect on the sad loss especially to his family.

Vice Chairman Position

The Chairman informed that Mr A P Sykes had offered to be Nominated as the Board's Vice Chairman, the position having been vacant since the departure of Mr M Haigh when he relocated.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED for the appointment of Mr A P Sykes to the position of Vice Chairman of the Board.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr D Mackay, seconded by Mr A Percy and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2021, 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 were not covered under the agenda items.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk confirmed that no reportable incidents had occurred since the date of the last Meeting which required reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR).

The Clerk further informed that the Board continues to keep up to date with the global virus pandemic and will adjust its working practice as required for administration staff, workforce and contractors. This being aimed at reducing the risk of spreading the virus and containing it if it occurs.

RATES

The Clerk reported the total rates collected up to the 15th March 2021 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	-	£316,159.43	(100%)
(b) Direct Levy	-	£ 63,133.88	(98%)
		<u>£379,293.31</u>	

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.

MAINTENANCE WORKS

New Mapping Software

The Engineering Assistant demonstrated a new software mapping system to show how maintenance works progress will be shown in the future. The mapping being clearly seen on Microsoft Teams. The system needing more watercourses to be included. The North Wharfe area was demonstrated showing work from last year highlighted. The annual work can then be recorded and saved for future reference.

Mr R F Hildreth asked how the Board was off plotting real time maintenance working.

The Engineering Assistant informed the technology is difficult to interpret the machine movements to work carried out. In reality it gives multiple lines of movement so difficult to interpret however as this technology develops it may become available in the future.

Cllr D Mackay thanked the Engineering Assistant for his perseverance with the new system and believed the system was a big step forward.

Mr R F Hildreth asked if it was possible for the operators to have the maps on an electronic device to view and edit.

The Engineering Assistant informed he was hoping to make the mapping available to the Board's Foreman initially with the ability to edit. However, its usage could be developed as it starts to be used. This potentially also including the Boards maintenance contractors.

Maintenance Report

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report with the Agenda which he ran through highlighting the items raised. He reported that work had been limited as it had not been long since the last meeting.

Roadside Bank Slippage

Mr C Clayton has sent a picture of a bank slip on the side of a road which needs attention but not necessarily urgent.

The Engineering Assistant reported that he will be considering when this work will be progressed with the Foreman shortly

Fallen Trees

Mr A P Sykes asked about the policy on fallen trees with the Boards flailing work contracted out.

The Engineering Assistant reported that if trees are found they need to be reported in and a view will be taken when the work will be carried out if not urgent.

CARR DRAIN NEAR
RUNSWICK
AVENUE, ACOMB

The Clerk reported he had looked at the situation in greater detail in that access to the watercourse was no longer available which has been lost over a long period of time. The location is closely developed and permitted development rights has allowed side and rear extensions which have not required planning permission. Many of the side extensions are not within the Boards control for access under its Byelaws which has resulted in no machine access remaining to the watercourse.

Consultants Study to Consider Options for the Watercourse

The Clerk reported that he had a quotation from Mason Clarke Consultants, a copy of the quotation being electronically circulated to Members. This is to carry out the study requested at the last meeting. In the time available from the last meeting along with the difficulties to view the watercourse in the current pandemic only one quotation has been able to be obtained. If another was obtained it would be hard to make them comparative. The cost obtained is £4,620 plus VAT. As the sum is over £4,000 the Boards Standing Orders require two quotations so single tender action would be required to be authorised.

Mr D Mackay noted pictures of the location and believed the Board should get legal advice on the matter.

Mr C E Mills asked how difficult it will be to culvert it.

The Engineering Assistant informed that equipment would have to be craned in. Culvert installation would have to be progressed on sections already culverted.

Mr S Wragg noted the property extensions and bank structures are already in place. He believes that the study needs to be progressed and that Mason Clarke are reliable Consultants. He believes property owners/occupiers will become aware when the investigative work by the consultants is carried out. He believes the study is the way to move forward.

The Chairman proposed that the Board awards the work to Mason Clarke in the sum of £4,620 on a single quotation tender.

Mr R F Hildreth seconding the proposal of the Chairman which was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** by the Board.

Mr A Percy was concerned, believing responsible parties should be put on notice about the deficient structures.

The Chairman noted caution on informing and writing and suggested getting the consultancy work progressed and reviewed before progressing.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

PRECEPT

The Clerk advised the Board that the Precept has been confirmed by the Environment Agency in its letter dated 16th February 2021 at £43,272.47 for financial year 2021/22. A recommendation of the Precept required by the Environment Agency being made and accepted by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC).

CONSORTIUM
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 9th February 2021. The meeting was attended by Mr S Jackson and Mr A P Sykes. A copy of the Consortium Agreement can be made available for Members to view if they wished.

The Clerk running through the items covered at the meeting. This including the potential to consider increasing the number of Boards in the overall Consortium and the administration efficiency in relation to the wider resources should an appropriate opportunity arise. This requires a reasonably sized Board for efficiencies to be achieved.

Committee Members gave the Clerk an open mandate to call a meeting of the Consortium should any appropriate opportunities arise.

The Clerk further highlighted the opportunities across the Consortium for partnership working under Public Sector Cooperation Agreements (PSCA) with our partners which this Board is clearly progressing.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman supporting the increased resource proposals for the Consortium.

STAFF

Pay Award 2021/2022

The Clerk advised the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay negotiations for 2021/2022 have concluded and agreed a 4.1% increase on all grades from 1st April 2021. This increase was concluded as part of an agreement established in last year's pay review which included a formula for calculating 2021/22's increase.

ADA

Potential Demonstration in 2022

The Clerk informed that a potential ADA National land drainage, machinery and equipment demonstration is being considered in 2022 which potentially may be held in the Doncaster area.

National Conference November 2021

The Clerk informed that an ADA National Conference is being organised on 11th November 2021. It is hoped this can be held in London but remains uncertain with the ongoing virus pandemic. If this is not possible then it may have to be held as a virtual meeting.

ADA Northern Branch

The Clerk as ADA Northern Branch Director is hopeful that a Northern Branch Conference can be organised on 5th November potentially at the Cave Castle Hotel.

The Clerk further informed that the Northern Branch were intending to have a stand at the Great Yorkshire Show and Driffield Show. It being noted the Lincolnshire show has been cancelled.

Mr C E Mills noted for social distancing the Great Yorkshire Show will run over four days which includes an extra day.

CORRESPONDENCE

Red Diesel

The Clerk informed that red tax free diesel was being phased out. However in agriculture it was being phased out over a longer period. However Drainage Board and Environment Agency watercourse maintenance is not included in the Agricultural exemption so will be taxed from 2022. To date the Environment Agency do not appear to be concerned but clearly to IDBs this will create an increase in costs. This along with potential difficulty finding contractors running on white diesel in the agricultural sector providing much of the Boards machine work such as flailing. In view of this the Clerk is writing to MPs for support to link IDBs to the longer agricultural exemption period.

The Clerk reported that no further significant correspondence had been received by the Board 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.

The Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided to Members if requested.

(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 Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided to members if requested.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account with a credit balance of £551,223.60 with Barclays Bank as at the 16th February 2021.

The Yorkshire Bank/Virgin Bank Account Term Deposit has an additional credit balance of £152,646.57. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 0.7% gross per annum.

The Nationwide Building Society Account has an additional credit balance of £73,886.21. The Board placing funds in a 95 day business saver account which is achieving 0.40% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £777,756.38.

The Clerk confirmed that Barclays Bank continue charging for its banking services.

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.

Mr A P Sykes asked about the period for the electric bill at Angram Depot as it appeared to be a high cost.

The Engineering Assistant reported it was a bill for nearly 18 months.

It was proposed by Mr C Clayton, seconded by Mr A P Sykes 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 due to be held as a virtual meeting on **Monday 14th June 2021** commencing at **6.30pm**. This however will require the Board's Standing Orders to be changed at the beginning of the meeting. If not then a physical meeting will be required.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 13th September 2021
Monday 15th November 2021

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr C E Mills asked if the Board could approach Mr P Bramley to see if he wished to become a Member of the Board.

The Clerk thanked Members for their patience and perseverance in joining the meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.54pm as there was no other business.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)