

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023 at the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)

Mr S Stark

Mr P E Clark

Mr M Cockerill

Mr M Kemp

Mrs S Wiseman

Mr D M Crossley

Mr C Chambers

Cllr M Warters

Cllr T Fisher

Cllr D Sykes

The Clerk – Mr W Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D R Brotherton, Mr J Sowray, Mr D J E Sherry, Mr I Ridsdale, Mr R J Burnett and Mr S Wragg.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

The Clerk informed Members that the Register of Members Interests was available for inspection and update as required.

MINUTES OF MEETING

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2023, 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

The Clerk informed that no 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. The Board had a meeting with Mr R Shepherd, its Health and Safety Advisor, reviewing and updating its Health and Safety Policy and arrangements on 17th February 2023.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 3rd March 2023 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	-	£329,026.74	(100%)
(b) Direct Levy	-	<u>£ 52,008.62</u>	(100%)
		<u>£381,035.36</u>	

The Clerk having a list of accounts with sums outstanding or in credit at the meeting which were viewed by the Chairman.

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.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report to Members with the Agenda along with a web link to electronic maps identifying the maintenance work carried out by the Board. He offered to give demonstrations on using and gaining access to the scribble maps software system to individuals if required.

Foss Upstream Storage

The Engineering Assistant ran through the details contained in the report and highlighted the difficulties the project was causing.

Cllr T Fisher offered his support if it is believed the York Council Planners or Enforcement Officers need to intervene.

The Engineering Assistant informing that many of the issues relate to the requirements of the Boards Byelaws and onsite controls regarding material wash off. He thanked Cllr T Fisher for his offer.

Biodiversity Action Plans and Water Framework Directive

The Engineering Assistant highlighted potential plans for an informal agreement to relax some of its annual flailing works. These were highlighted in the report and would hope to progress habitat improvements for biodiversity and improvements under the Water Framework Directive.

The Engineering Assistant informed that the proposed approach may leave some locations partially uncut but the work would be considered by the Board on the basis of not hindering flows or restricting outfalls. He further asked if any Members have any questions, concerns or objections.

Cllr M Warters noted concerns about Osbaldwick Beck believing the current approach of later cutting is sustaining habitat. He noted he would not wish to see any changes in this location. More widely he does not wish to see any interference with these changes with water flow from upstream areas.

The Engineering Assistant believes this is a positive approach if managed correctly but also highlighted the biodiversity problems caused by pollution and species such as mink.

Machine Replacement Sale of Current Excavator

The Engineering Assistant informed that the Board's new excavator was due to be delivered shortly. In relation to the old machine the dealership had offered £40,000 in part exchange last year. This offer however had been withdrawn as a year had passed. In view of this the Board had asked for tenders to purchase the old machine for consideration at this meeting. The Board having received two tenders.

The Chairman opened the tenders and read the offers out to the meeting which were as follows:

- Atkinsons £38,000 (can be hired back if required)
- Greystone Transport Services £40,350 (suggested by the dealer)

Both sums excluding VAT.

Members discussed the offers.

Mrs S Wiseman proposing the Board agrees and accepts the offer from Greystone Transport Services in the sum of £40,350 plus VAT as the highest offer.

Cllr T Fisher seconding the proposal of Mrs S Wiseman which was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** by the Board.

Health and Safety Case Study

Members discussed health and safety issues arising out of the case study. This relating to competency and machinery training in its usage. It was particularly noted the difference in requirements of construction with CDM regulations and agriculture.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

PRECEPT

The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency's letter, which was received on 21st February 2023, confirms the Board's Precept is set at £13,796.05 for financial year 2023/24. The recommendation of the Precept required by the Environment Agency being made and accepted by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). This keeping the Precept at the same level which has been held for a number of years. The payment is required on or before 1st July 2023.

HIGHLAND WATER CONTRIBUTION

The Clerk informed that at a recent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee a decision was made in the Yorkshire Region to pay 74.92% of the IDB Highland Water claims. The Boards claim was made on the basis of the eligible sum of £88,294.52 on expenditure of £211,274.59 up to the end of financial year 2021/22. The Board being paid £66,149.37 to match the budget of the overall payments in the Yorkshire Region. The Environment Agency have considered if any efficiencies or savings can be made in its revenue budget which could be used to increase the payment percentage made. As the financial year is closing the Board has been informed that this is not possible.

This returning of maintenance funds a year later is an important return income to the Board. The level of percentage paid in recent years has been high. It however gives no certainty that the percentages will remain at this level in the future, however, the Board supports and appreciates the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) keeping the percentage contribution at a high level.

CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 7th February 2023. The meeting was attended by Mr J P Coverdale and Mr D J Sherry. A copy of the Consortium Agreement is available with the Clerk for Members to view if they wished. The meeting confirmed and agreed the Consortium staffing levels for financial year 2023/24 and the resources to provide the service.

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. This, if the opportunity arises, would be intended to increase the administration efficiency of the consortium arrangements. 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 supporting the increased resource proposals for the Consortium.

The Clerk highlighting the agreement to an increased geographical mapping resource (GIS) across the Consortium Boards and the employment of a Field Works Supervisor for the three Boards in the York area.

STAFF

Pay Award 2023/2024

The Clerk advised the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay negotiations for 2023/2024 were being progressed and a 2.1% increase on all grades plus an unconsolidated sum of £1,800 payable in two half instalments. The offer currently being progressed is not yet agreed.

The Clerk highlighted that he and the Engineering Assistant had an interest in this matter. He noted at this stage agreement had not been achieved. He however hoped that the decision will be made or close to being made in time for the next financial year. This would enable payment to be made in relation to the employers offer.

Members considered the position and agreed with the approach suggested by the Clerk but noted increasing costs and the need to retain staff.

Mr C Chambers noted that no decision was currently required and the matter and details had not been included on the Agenda.

ADA NATIONAL

Keeping Our Rivers Flowing Meeting – 29th March 2023

The Clerk informed that the third meeting of this group is being organised. This will be held at the National Farmers Conference Centre at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire at the show ground close to ADA's office. Tickets are available online and he will be attending on behalf of the York Consortium Member Boards. The meeting including representatives from CLA, NFU, ADA, EA and others.

London Conference

The Clerk informed that an ADA National Conference is to be held on 8th November 2023 in London.

ADA NORTHERN
BRANCH

WATER
MANAGEMENT
LIVE 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

PLANS

ADA National AGM

The Clerk informed that this meeting will be held virtually away from the National Conference. This is being organised on 27th September 2023. Details and joining instructions can be provided by the Clerk if requested closer to the time.

Summer Meeting/Visit

The Clerk informed a summer meeting/visit is to be held at Cave Castle along with a visit on 19th May 2023. It being likely a site visit will be held in the local area.

ADA Northern Branch AGM

The Clerk informed this is likely to be on 24th November 2023 and will be held at the Ouse and Humber IDB offices in Newport.

ADA Northern Branch Publicity

The Clerk reported that ADA Northern Branch will have a stand at the Driffield Agricultural Show on Wednesday 19th July 2023.

The Clerk informed that an ADA National Land Drainage Machinery and Equipment Demonstration is being organised in 2023 at Dyson Farms in Carrington near Boston in Lincolnshire. The event will be held on 5th and 6th July 2023.

The Clerk reported there was no 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 Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided at the meeting on a laptop computer instead of the paper records.

Planning Applications In and Out of the Drainage District

Mrs S Wiseman asked about planning applications in and out of the drainage district.

The Clerk informed that the Board responded to applications outside the drainage district to protect its watercourses. In some locations near the Boards boundaries this can be confusing particularly if the application address is in the drainage district but the application outside.

Four Alls Inn, Malton Road, Stockton on the Forest, York

Cllr T Fisher asked about application 7213 (AOD/23/00017). The Board commenting that the discharge had not been agreed.

The Engineering Assistant informing that the applicant had not established an acceptable drainage solution for discharge of the condition. He had worked with the planning authority and the developer to try to find a solution, but this required further work and was not yet concluded.

Foss Upstream Storage Work at Lilling Green

Mr P E Clark asked if the planners were listening to Board requirements. He remained concerned about the upstream implications of this project.

The Clerk informed that planning had been granted for the scheme. The Boards comments being considered in granting permission. It was however uncertain if amendments to the scheme may wish to be progressed by the Environment Agency with planning implications. If this occurs the Board would provide appropriate responses if any further applications or amendments are made seeking consultation.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account with a credit balance of £497,798.87 with Barclays Bank as at the 17th February 2023.

The Virgin Bank account has an additional credit balance of £154,176.25. The Board placing funds into a twelve-month deposit account which is achieving 1.9% gross per annum.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £64,394.25. The Board placing funds in a 95 day business saver account which is achieving 2.8% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £716,369.37.

ACCOUNTS FOR
CONFIRMATION

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

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 proposed by Mr C Chambers, seconded by Cllr T Fisher 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 at the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall York on **Monday 5th June 2023** commencing at **1.30pm**.

DATES OF FUTURE
MEETINGS

Monday 4th September 2023
Monday 6th November 2023

ANY OTHER
BUSINESS

Mr M Kemp informed on a positive note the work in the eastern area of the Boards district on the Black Dyke and Scanlan Drain, which included removing reed growth, had worked very well. He noted this had improved water conveyance, draining six villages along with herons returning to the area.

CLOSE OF
MEETING

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

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)