

Ainsty
IDB

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 26th January 2015 at Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, Main Street, Copmanthorpe.

PRESENT

Mr S E Jackson (In the Chair)
Mr C E Mills
Mr R F Hildreth
Mr S Barnes
Mr J Sanderson
Mr M Haigh
Mr A Percy
Mr J Bramley
Mr C Clayton
Mr R Burniston
Mr G H Smith
Cllr J Galvin
Cllr D Mackay
Cllr J Savage

The Clerk – Mr W Symons
Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Simpson, Mr J B Blacker, Cllr C Lewis and Mr S Wragg.

MR LEATHER

The Clerk announced the sad loss of Mr Leather who had passed away. Mr Leather having been a Board Member of the old Marston Moor IDB. The Chairman having recently attended the funeral.

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 Mr G H Smith, seconded by Mr R F Hildreth and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th November 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

There were no matters arising from the minutes which were not covered under the agenda items.

RATES

The Clerk reported that since the date of the last meeting the sum of £3,921.20 had been raised from drainage rates. The total rates collected up to the 22nd January 2015 are as follows:

Special Levy	£296,531.73 (100%)
Direct Levy	<u>£ 59,942.05 (97.8 %)</u>
	<u>£356,473.78</u>

The Clerk reported the account from Oaklands Farm had now been settled. A list of outstanding rate accounts was shown to the Chairman at the meeting. It was also reported a few rates were outstanding and if payment is not made shortly court action will be progressed in line with the Boards policy for sums outstanding over £15. Final reminders now having been sent on the accounts with no queries or land transfers outstanding.

The Clerk noted a few accounts were in credit where overpayments have been made. 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.

LAND TRANSFER TO SPECIAL LEVY & WRITE OFF

The Clerk reported at this time he was not aware of any land transfers to Special Levy or any resultant write off in regard to land transfer.

PLANT RENEWAL

The Clerk had circulated a plant renewal sheet with the Agenda to all Members on the replacement costs of the Board's existing plant and equipment. This is intended to inform Members about plant renewals to keep the equipment up to date and reliable. The sheet shows the future replacement of the Boards equipment including the 2009 tractor and 2011 Bomford flail. The Clerk highlighting the requirement to build plant reserves in order to be able to replace the equipment when required.

The sheet shows the proposed purchase of a weed cutting basket for the Spearhead machine in financial year 2015/16. The Engineering Assistant explaining the benefits of being able to do this work with the Spearhead machine.

The sheet shows a £10,000 contribution towards plant which would fund the weed cutting basket, £2,000 for small tools leaving a surplus of £35,420 in the Boards plant reserves at the end of 2015/16. It was also intended to not replace the Boards 2009 tractor until 2016/17 giving the Board time to consider its requirements for the future.

Board Members and the Engineering Assistant discussed the plant requirements usage and replacement for the future.

Board Members asked for the Engineering Assistant to seek quotes for consideration and to advance the purchase of the weed cutting basket for the Spearhead machine.

Mr C E Mills raised that he was concerned about the Board potentially increasing drainage rates. This is being driven to fund the future purchase of equipment without considering the cost of alternative approaches. In particular if the Board could contract its work out which requires the more expensive equipment? Mr A Percy agreeing with the point raised.

Mr C E Mills noted that he did not mind an increase but he thought it needed to be justified that the funding was required.

The Clerk noted that the Board had considered this matter prior to the purchase of the Spearhead machine, the year before its purchase being carried out by contractors because of similar concerns. It being noted that flailing work is likely to be cheaper contracted out. However it was likely to require greater supervision and instruction. The Board further having the resource of its workforce to consider and the option of using its own equipment for other work. The correct evaluation of the situation is not easy. At the current time the Board has remaining asset life in the Spearhead machine and is sustaining the 2009 tractor for a further year. Any increase in rates at this stage to contribute towards plant reserves is not a commitment to purchase either now or in the future.

Members discussed the supervisory roles if contractors were used more with the Assistant Engineers role and the Boards Foreman explained.

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 2014/15 and advising on a potential budget for financial year 2015/16. The option given was based on a rate of 3.99p in the £ an increase of 2.84% and provided details as to the budget's composition.

Financial Position at the End of 2014/15 Financial Year

The Clerk went through the budget sheet line by line. This estimated a net surplus of approximately £41,861 for the end of 2014/2015 financial year. This being larger than originally estimated which had been contributed towards by a larger upland water contribution from the Environment Agency.

BUDGET 2015/16

Budget Option for 2015/16 Financial Year

If the Board then increases its drainage rates to 3.99p for 2015/2016 financial year and purchases the weed cutting basket as illustrated in the plant renewal programme the Boards reserves would be £444,475 at the end of financial year 2015/16. This equating to an increase in reserves of £10,741.

The Board Members discussed this matter in detail along with the position on the Boards reserves and the provision being made for plant replacement. Members considered and APPROVED the Budget subject to setting the rate.

Mr M Haigh proposed that the drainage rates be increased to a rate of 3.95p in the £. This is an increase of 1.80% to the overall income of rates and levies of the Boards district. This proposal was seconded by Mr C E Mills.

The Chairman asked if any amendments were proposed and no amendment was tabled in regard to the laying the rate.

The proposal of an increase in rates and levies at 1.80% was CARRIED and UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED at a rate of 3.95p in the £ and 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 16.97% and 83.03% 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 3.95p in the £ for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2016.

THAT the Drainage Board do hereby make Special Levies assessed as hereunder, that is to say:

A Special Levy chargeable to **HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL** in the sum of £35,666.80, for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2016.

A Special Levy chargeable to **LEEDS CITY COUNCIL** the rate in the sum of £7,193.62 for the period ending on the 31st day of March 2016.

A Special Levy chargeable to **CITY OF YORK COUNCIL** in the sum of £228,701.19, for the period ending on the 31 day of March 2016.

A Special levy to **SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL** in the sum of £30,319.88, for the period ending on the 31 day of March 2016.

LAYING OF THE RATE AND SPECIAL LEVY

AND that the Special Levies shall be payable in two equal instalments on the 1st May 2015 and the 1 November 2015.

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.) | 3.95p |
| 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.) | 3.95p |

Assistant Rating Officer

The Clerk reported that the position is now held by Mrs T Simpson who is making good progress in this position.

Planning and Asset Officer

The Board had made two offers of appointment to the post but the post has not yet been filled.

Workload

The Clerk reported that in recent months the workload particularly in planning had increased. This along with recruiting staff for the Consortium and other matters had created a backlog of work. The Clerk was optimistic that this will be addressed shortly. It was further hoped that the Board could continue to retain Mr P Hey in regard to some of the more complex planning and enforcement actions.

STAFF

CONSORTIUM
ARRANGEMENTS

Meeting Date

The Clerk confirmed the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday 17th February 2015. 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

The Clerk asked the Board if it wished to sustain its two nominated Members for the meeting who are Mr S E Jackson and Mr C E Mills.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREEING to sustain the above arrangements to retain its two nominated Members for the Consortium Management Committee. The Members being given Authority to act on behalf of the Board at the Consortium Management Committee Meeting.

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

Acaster Improved Drainage Bypassing Culverts Intake Lane

The Engineering Assistant reported that an alternative agreement has now been proposed to this drainage problem. This requires the Board to install the pipe work within the paddock belonging to Mr R Raimes. Once this has been accomplished the complainant will undertake the remainder of the work at a later date. This would benefit the Board in so much as the cost for the Boards involvement would now be significantly less than the contributing figure previously agreed. This along with putting the onus on creating the benefit of the work on the project being completed by the complainant.

The Board Members agreeing and being in support of this approach rather than contributing to the overall works.

The Clerk had circulated an NFU briefing with the Agenda regarding a new scheme of Single Farm Payments and Cross Compliance in relation to hedge and tree cutting not being permitted until 1st September 2015. The Boards work usually starting in mid-July.

The Clerk noting the Board has permissive powers to carry this work out and that the Board is not legally constrained by this agreement if it complies with all other legal requirements.

MAINTENANCE
WORKS

SINGLE FARM
PAYMENTS AND
CROSS
COMPLIANCE 2015

However with or without a permitted derogation of some form the party responsible for the land in the scheme is likely if the land is inspected to receive a reduced payment if trees and hedges have been cut in the period prohibited in the agreement.

Mr C E Mills noted that derogation in regard to the Boards work could be a big issue and he did not believe the Board should conduct any work which could jeopardise payment until the matter is clarified.

The Clerk will raise this matter again with ADA nationally and will consider what action can be taken.

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

The Clerk advised the Board that 2015 is election year for the agricultural Members.

The Clerk presented an Election timetable, which is as follows:

1 April	-	Register of Electors advertised
1 May	-	Board approval of Register advertised
July/August	-	Nomination Forms issued
25 Sept.	-	Nomination Forms returned
23 October	-	Election Day
01 Nov.	-	New Board commences

The Board AGREED the following:

- (1) Approve the timetable, which authorise the Officers to undertake such in accordance with the Land Drainage Act 1991.
- (2) Approve the proposed Register of Electors prepared on the 1 April 2015.
- (3) Approve the proposed Register as the Register if no objections received by the Board's Officers.
- (4) To call a Special Meeting, if necessary, to deal with any matters relating to the approval of the Register.

It was proposed by Mr G H Smith, seconded by Mr C E Mills and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the proposed timetable be approved.

The Clerk had circulated an email from the Environment Agency which highlighted the outcome of the Boards precept meeting showing the Environment Agency's intention to try to resolve the matter locally.

HEALTH & SAFETY

ELECTIONS

PRECEPT APPEALS

The Clerk highlighting his concerns with the Board entering into a public service cooperation agreement to have the work progressed. It however was also noted that the Board would like to see work progressed as soon as possible to confirm the intentions of the Environment Agency. This should then allow the Board to consider its position on its Precept Appeal along with the possible release of the precept funds which have been withheld. The Clerk will therefore progress suitable documentation to progress this matter with the Environment Agency.

Members AGREED to delegate the Boards authority regarding the Precept appeal and payment of the outstanding sums to the Clerk when he is satisfied suitable arrangements has been put in place.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised Members that no correspondence of significance has been 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)

DRAFT TOCK WITH ROW FLOOD REPORT

The Clerk referred to the report which had been circulated with the agenda for Members consideration. The report and its content including its conclusions were discussed by Members in detail.

Mr M Haigh proposed that the Board can release the Report as its Floods and Water Management Section 19 Flood Investigation Report. The proposal being seconded by Mr C Clayton and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk confirmed that following the Boards concerns regarding the Yorkshire Bank funds were being returned to Barclays so that only £85,000 was to remain as and when funds can be withdrawn from the Yorkshire deposit accounts.

The Clerk informed Members that the Board could open a Nationwide deposit account with a year's notice to withdraw funds which was achieving a rate of 1.2% APR gross. The intention being to invest £85,000 on deposit.

BANK STATEMENTS

Mr R F Hildreth proposed that the Board can complete the mandates and open a Nationwide deposit account and authorised the Clerk to invest £85,000 on a one year deposit. This proposal was seconded by Cllr D Mackay and was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

The Clerk further informed Members that Barclays Bank had confirmed they will continue not to be charging for banking services until 1st April 2015.

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account and Business Premium Account showing an aggregate credit balance of £415,722.49 with Barclays Bank as at the 16th January 2015.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £120,000 staggered 12 month deposit of £40,000. The total balance of the two accounts is £535,722.49. The Yorkshire Bank funds achieving 1.2% gross per annum in stage payments with the Yorkshire Bank.

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)

ACCOUNTS FOR CONFIRMATION

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED that the next meeting of the Board will be held at the Copmanthorpe Methodist Church, Main Street, Copmanthorpe, York on Monday 9th March 2015 at 6.30pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Possible future dates for meeting:

- Monday 15th June 2015
- Monday 14th September 2015
- Monday 9th November 2015

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was asked about land at RAF Church Fenton which was now being used as a private airfield and it was asked what the position was in regard to drainage rates.

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)

