

Derwent
IDB

MINUTES of Meeting held on Tuesday 17th June
2014, at the Village Club, Escrick, York

PRESENT

Mr R Britton (In the Chair)
Mr J Hopwood
Mr A Dear
Mr K W Terry
Mr J Daniel
Mr B Smith
Mr R D Percy
Mr I Ellwood
Cllr B Marshall
Cllr Mrs K McSherry
Cllr J Cattanach
Cllr J Brooks
Mr S Wragg

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

APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W A
Jacques, Mr J R Bramley, Cllr J Deans, Cllr K Ellis and Cllr
W Bramley.

DECLARATION OF
INTEREST

Cllr J Brooks noted that it was a neighbour in regard
to Planning Application reference 1464 in Water Lane,
Dunnington, York.

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

BOARDS RETIRED
ENGINEER

The Chairman announced the sad loss of Mr John
Lofthouse. John had taken over from his father and
supported the Board as its Engineer through the period of
mining remediation to sustain land drainage in the Boards
District. The work carried out including the construction of
pumping stations and regarding of the Boards drainage
ditches. John continued in post until the Board joined the
York Consortium of Drainage Boards when he retired. He
however continued to work for the Board as a consultant as
the final mining remediation works were completed. John
will be sadly missed by all.

The Board Members and Officers stood in silence as a
matter of respect to Mr John Lofthouse who had sadly
passed away.

MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman welcomed Mr S Wragg to his first meeting of the Board as York City Council's Flood Risk Manager. Mr S Wragg having been Nominated to the Board in a recent letter from the City Council along with joining the Boards Finance Sub Committee. Mr S Wragg has been recruited to the Post following the retirement of Mr M Tavener.

MINUTES OF MEETING

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs K McSherry, seconded by Cllr B Marshall and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th February 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

The Chairman ran through the Items in the Minutes page by page.

The Clerk reported that the Boards new Byelaws are now in place and have been authorised by the Minister.

There were no further matters arising from the Minutes that were not covered in the main agenda.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 3rd June 2014, a copy of which had been sent to all Members.

The Chairman ran through and summarised the items included in the Minutes of the Meeting.

Boards Sludging and Weeding Contracts

The Clerk confirmed that since the meeting of 3rd June and the opening of the maintenance tenders, clarification on the rates have been provided. The matter concerned if the costs provided in the rates were inclusive with the machine of its operator. On investigation Hagrapat and Wrights of Cockey Hill rates including the plant operator and the rate for Sweeting Brothers excluding a plant operator. It was now confirmed that Wrights of Cockey Hill have provided the cheapest rates for the Boards weeding and sludging works.

However the Board can utilise any of the tender rates provided but should use Wrights of Cockey Hill if available as a preference to obtain best value for money.

Proposed Site Visit by Sub Committee to Ox Gang Drain

The Clerk thanked the committee for its offer to progress and seek a resolution to the issue raised by Mr J Outhwaite regarding the restrictions on the Ox Gang Drain and his alternative proposals.

The Chairman proposed acceptance and approval of the recommendations contained within the Finance Sub-Committee Minutes. The proposal was seconded by Cllr B Marshall and the proposal was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

MATTERS ARISING

Board Accounts for Financial Year 2013/14

The Clerk informed the Board that the accounts for the year-ending 31 March 2014 had been internally audited and the Audit Commission's Annual Return for the same period had been completed. This information was considered at the Board's Finance Sub-Committee on 3rd June 2014.

Copies of the accounts were circulated with the meeting agenda.

The Board considered these documents it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr B Marshall and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Chairman and Clerk are AUTHORISED to sign:

1. The balance sheet of the accounts;
2. To further sign the Audit Commission's Annual Return, which includes:

Section 1 – Statement of Accounts and
Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement.

The Clerk noted that the Boards external auditors where now Littlejohns LLP, to whom the documentation will be submitted.

RATES

The Clerk reported the Board was in credit to the sum of £883.68 for rates at the financial year end of 2013/14 but this sum excludes outstanding court costs in relation to overdue accounts. The credit balance relates to a number of overpayments along with some outstanding rates.

The Clerk reported that as at the 16th June 2014 the following rates had been collected:

- (a) Special Levy - £ 198,701.03 (50.0 %)
 - (b) Direct Levy - £ 66,150.50 (79%)
- £ 264,851.53

The Clerk advised that the Board's 'direct debits' will be drawn shortly and the first reminder letters will be issued and sent out in July. Final reminders would be issued in September on all land where no queries were pending.

MAINTENANCE

The Engineering Assistant reported on the maintenance work carried out since the date of the last meeting of the Board. A maintenance report was circulated to Members at the meeting. The Board maps were displayed in the Meeting for members inspection showing the extent of the work being carried out.

Actions from the Maintenance Report

Stillingfleet Pumping Station

The Assistant Engineer highlighted the requirements at Stillingfleet Pumping Station regarding refurbishing or replacing the pumps. The matter is currently being progressed by the Coal Authority regarding the options to be progressed.

Members offered to attend a Meeting with the Coal Authority if the matter does not progress satisfactorily.

Kelfield Ings Pumping Station

The Assistant Engineer reported on the progress being made improving this station as noted in the Report.

The Board Members AGREED the Board should accept the quotation provided by Winders Electrical in the sum of £4,280 to locate the pumping stations electrical components.

Hagthorpe Pumping Station

The Engineering Assistant reported this work is being planned but it is likely the costs will increase slightly. This is because it is also intended to replace the roof as it is likely to need replacing in the near future.

University Lakes Surface Water Outlet

The Engineering Assistant reported that he was hoping to organise a further meeting to the University lakes to view the discharge arrangements in greater detail.

Purchase of 9 ton Excavator

The Engineer reported on the options considered and the practical considerations and prices of the machines. This along with consideration of servicing and support. The Boards workforce having trialled some of the machines. It being found that a three piece boom option was very effective for the Boards work which is only available on the Kubota model. The machine however is not the cheapest but is the best machine for the Boards requirements. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had authorised the Engineering Assistant to order the machine. The Boards Members supporting the approach of purchasing the Kubota excavator at £56,950.

The Clerk confirmed that no reportable incidents to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR) have occurred since the last Meeting. The Clerk noted that a local contractor who had been used occasionally by Consortium Boards had recently had a fatal accident whilst working from a ladder.

Pay Award 2014/2015

The Clerk advised the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch have concluded the pay negotiations for 2013/2014 and a 1.00% increase on all grades has been agreed as from the 1 April 2014. This increase in pay has been applied to the Board's Workforce Members from 1st April 2014.

The Clerk reported on the ADA Northern Branch Conference, which was held on 16th May at the Cave Castle Hotel, South Cave, Brough. This was attended by the Chairman and the Clerk. The conference included a presentation on the carbon capture pipeline scheme transferring carbon dioxide from Drax to Barmston sea end.

It was also agreed at the Branch Meeting at the Conference that Northern Branch Boards would each contribute to the Branch expenses the sum of £100. This including promoting ADA in activities such as attending the Great Yorkshire Show.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

STAFF PAY AGREEMENT

ADA NORTHERN BRANCH CONFERENCE

CORRESPONDENCE

ADA National Conference

The Clerk informed the Board that the ADA National Conference will be held at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London on 12th November 2014. The Board AGREED to fund Members conference fees and traveling costs if required. The Clerk reported that he would be attending on behalf of the Consortium.

Board Council Nominations

The Clerk confirmed he had received letters from Selby District Council and York City Council regarding its Nominations to the Board. These remained the same except for the addition of Mr S Wragg as a Nominated Member from York City Council.

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. It being noted that the number of planning applications being made appears to be increasing recently.

The report on the planning responses were received by the Board Members and noted.

Planning Development Applications

The Clerk informed the Board that a number of significant developments are being progressed in the District. These include developments at Turnhead Farm in Barlby which is likely to discharge surface water to the River Ouse. Winthorpe, a new development with possible implications on the River Tilmire. The Laurels, for 40 houses in Barlby and the on-going Germany Beck Village developments.

The Clerk raised that in the past the Board wished to be determined by Members rather than officers for large developments.

The Clerk noting that these applications can come as lots of small consents and planning enquiries for an overall project. This along with alternative surface water drainage arrangements can be proposed such as discharge to 'main river' or to the sewerage system and sewage works.

The Boards responses cannot always be timed to match Board meetings.

The proposal of Turnhead Farm, Barlby as an example caused the Board to object. The developers have considered the Boards 'objection' and have now adjusted the proposal to move to the Boards requirements. It now being proposed to discharge water to the River Ouse. However the Board still has concerns and comments on the latest proposal.

The Chairman proposed that on developments of 200 houses or more the Boards position should be addressed and progressed by its Planning Officer. The Planning Officer should keep the Local Member involved in the discussions. If the Boards Planning Officer and the Local Member is not in agreement then this matter will be referred to the Board.

The Chairman changed his proposal in summary of the discussion of the meeting. This was for the Board to consider the Planning Officer has delegated Authority on planning matters from the Board. However if it is a contentious matter he should seek the involvement of the Boards Local Member. If the Local Member and the Planning Officer were not in agreement then this matter will be referred to the Board. The approach being proposed and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

CONSENTS

The Clerk referred to the list of Consent Applications commented upon 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 in Barclays of £869,591.05 as at the 6th June 2014.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £261,187.37. The Board placing £80,000 funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.2% gross per annum. The remainder in a 95 day notice account achieving 0.7 % gross per annum with the Yorkshire Bank.

It being intended to stagger 12 month investments to balance the Boards cash flow and be able to draw funds off more frequently than once a year.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £1,130,778.42.

The Clerk noted that these funds include the UK Coal and Coal Authority balances and deposits for the ongoing and rechargeable works, which are £58,886.50.

NEXT MEETING

It was directed that the date of the next Meeting of the Board is to be at The Escrick & Deighton Club on Tuesday 21st October 2014.

FUTURE MEETING

The Boards Annual General Meeting will be held on 3th February 2015.

ANY OTHER
BUSINESS

Consortium Management Committee Meeting

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held on 18th February which was attended by the Chairman and Cllr J Cattanach. A copy of the Consortium Agreement was made available at the meeting for Members to view if they wished. It was also noted by the Clerk that the Boards office lease with the Consortium will be up for review for the next financial year.

There was no other business and therefore the meeting was closed.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)