

The Consulting Engineer reported on a site meeting and investigation at Plainville Farm Lodge concerning a blocked culvert. The Foreman is currently obtaining quotations for jetting, desilting, and removal off site.

A report had been received from Clifton Manor Court which had been shared with the Environment Agency and City of York Council.

Consulting Engineers had been approached by railway contractors in respect of a collapsed railway culvert north of Alne near Wrang Beck.

The Consulting Engineer's report dated December 2023 included details of planning applications considered and consents issued between 1st May 2023 and 7th November 2023.

37 **Health & Safety Report**

The Clerk reported on a meeting with the Consulting Engineer and the Health & Safety advisor to review the existing policies and risk assessments and documentation. This was linked to the competency review and is to include training plans, contractors and the insurance review. A report is awaited from the Health & Safety advisor. The Vice Chairman reported that the men had recently attended a Health & Safety training course.

38 **Risk Management Strategy & Policy**

The Clerk reported that following the insurance review and Health & Safety review that the policy will be reviewed and updated and a report made to the Finance Committee.

One area that had been previously identified was reliance on specialist systems. It had been reported to ADA that the DRS rating package utilised by some 90% of Drainage Boards throughout the country was ceasing to be supported from March 2025. ADA are to carry out a feasibility study of options, however it is likely that each Board will need to budget for replacement of the system.

Following the insurance review and pending outcome of the above reported claim, insurance premiums had increased by some 32%.

39 **ADA Update**

The Clerk reported that there had been a positive response to the demonstration, however, turn out had been lower than expected although it was believed that costs would be covered. The AGM had been held online with the Conference being held in London. The Shadow Floods Minister had attended and spoken at the Conference which was attended by the Clerk. The Clerk also reported on the ADA Northern Branch meeting.

40 **Audit**

The Clerk reported that the Board had received an unqualified audit opinion by external auditors on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 and advertised on the website.

The internal auditors had undertaken their interim visit and there were no matters to be brought to the attention of the Board. Yorkshire Internal Auditors have now changed their name to Northern Internal

Audit Services and the Board confirmed their reappointment and authorised the Clerk to sign the Engagement Letter.

- 41 **Appointed Members** The Clerk confirmed that appointed members for City of York Council as Cllr Anne Hook, Mr S Wragg and Cllr T Stead (representing Skelton Parish Council). The representative for North Yorkshire County Council was Cllr J Cattanach.
- 42 **Direct Labour** The Clerk reported that the ADA had been requested to negotiate a wage review earlier this year and a report will be made to the Finance Committee and presented to the Board in the New Year.
- 43 **New Vehicles** As advised by the Chairman, the replacement pick up had been received.
- 44 **Tractor & Flail Replacement** The Finance Committee had considered replacing the existing tractor and flail mower with a used tractor, however because of concerns over warranty, cost of repairs etc quotations were obtained for a new replacement as follows:
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|----------------------|----------|
| Valtra T175 | £160,553 |
| Massey Ferguson S180 | £159,250 |
| Fendt 718 | £160,114 |
| New Holland T7.225 | £139,208 |
| Bomford Buzzard | £ 44,750 |
| McConnel PA8085T | £ 42,917 |
- The Finance Committee had considered the options and had authorised the Clerk to place an order with Russells for the New Holland T7.225 and McConnel PA8085T. The tractor was obtained on 0% finance and the flail at 11.24% APR over a 4-year finance period. The old tractor & flail mower are to be part exchanged.
- 45 **Consulting Engineer** The Clerk confirmed that the fixed contract had been received from Consulting Engineers and was to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk as authorised at the previous meeting.
- 46 **Rating** The Board approved the de minimis of £5 for rate demands due to the increase in cost of administration and debt collection.
- 47 **Accounts** Accounts for Payment Schedule numbers 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 were approved in the sums of £8,778.46, £17,737.01, £22,885.33, £27,089.84, £17,574.34 and £50,467.99 respectively.
- 48 **Next Meeting** The Clerk reported that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 5th February 2024 at 2.00pm at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold.

.....Chairman

.....Date