

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Monday 24th
February 2020 at the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall,
Northfields, Strensall

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr R A Armitage
Mr D J E Sherry
Mr P E Clark
Mr M Kemp
Mr R J Burnett
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

Member of the Public – Mr J Sowery (Farmer)

APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Stark,
Mr D R Brotherton, Mr I Ridsdale, Mr M Cockerill and Mr
S Wragg.

MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman introduced Mr J Sowery as a potential
Member as a replacement to Mr R A Armitage who wishes
to retire.

DECLARATION OF
INTEREST

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

The Chairman declaring an interest in the Boards
depot as landlord.

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

MINUTES OF LAST
MEETING

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the
Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th January 2020, copy of
which had been sent to all Members, be taken as read and
approved with all in favour 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 & SAFETY

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

The Engineering Assistant reported rolling out the updated Health and Safety Policy to the workforce along with reviewing its implementation.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 21 February 2020 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy -	£304,867.86	(100.0%)
(b) Direct Levy -	£ 48,244.06	(99.8%)
	<u>£353,111.92</u>	

The Clerk further reported that there were a few outstanding rate accounts, with only three accounts with a sum outstanding above £10. A few accounts were in credit where overpayments have been made.

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

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report with the Agenda on the Boards maintenance works and machinery purchase. The Boards maps were displayed at the meeting showing the work progressed to date.

Huntington North Lane – Wagtail Caravan Site Ditch Adoption

The Engineering Assistant had provided a location map and the extent of the watercourse. Members were being asked to consider for adoption as a 'maintained watercourse.' This following a request from the landowners raised at the last meeting by Mr D J E Sherry.

Members discussed the location along with the extent of the additional benefit the work would achieve. The length relating to about 300 metres to maintain. It being noted some Willows which could become a maintenance problem along with the proximity of the caravan park.

The Chairman proposed that the Board at this stage did not wish to adopt this reach. However, it would be happy to offer to the landowners carrying the work out on a recharge basis if they were willing to pay and suitable terms and conditions can be agreed.

Mr P E Clark seconding the proposal of the Chairman in particular as the area to benefit appearing limited and the potential future problems which could occur.

Mr D J E Sherry being in support of the proposal in particular the potential future problems of the willows.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREEING the proposal of the Chairman.

Mr M Kemp asked if the Board was aware of the breach in the bank of the Thornton Beck.

The Engineering Assistant informed that he was aware and any repair was likely to require material such as clay. However, at the current time weather and ground conditions are unfavourable so future repair work will have to be considered when conditions improve.

Boards Flail Mowing Contracts

The Clerk asked about the award of the Boards flail mowing contracts for the forthcoming maintenance season.

Members considered the matter and decided that the tender return documents could be reviewed by a subcommittee to include the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Mr D J E Sherry and Mrs S Wiseman so a recommendation for award could be made to the Board at the next meeting. The Boards package of work being larger with the change of operational practice.

PRECEPT

The Clerk advised the Board that the precept has been confirmed by the Environment Agency in its letter dated 17th February 2020 at £13,796.00 for financial year 2020/21. This keeping the precept at the same level as financial year 2019/20. 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 11th February 2020. The meeting was attended by Mr J P Coverdale and Mr D J E Sherry who was again elected as Chairman for the forthcoming financial year. A copy of the Consortium Agreement was made available at the meeting 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.

STAFF

Pay Award 2020/2021

The Clerk advised the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch have had pay negotiations for 2020/2021 and a 3.70% increase on all grades has been agreed as from the 1st April 2020. The Union has balloted its members and they have accepted this pay award. This increase in pay will be applied to the Board's workforce and staff members from 1st April 2020. The mileage rates paid to staff have remained the same. An agreement is also in place as to the method of calculation for increases over the next two years.

Consortium Technical Officer – Technical Support

The Clerk reported the Consortium Boards had agreed a vacancy to be filled to provide technical support to Consortium Boards for the next financial year 2020/21. A scope of work for the post is currently required.

Workforce

The Clerk informed Mr M Pearson had resigned his position of machine operator. This following the change to operating excavators with more limited tractor flail mowing work.

Members considered this was a shame as he had worked for the Board for a significant amount of time and had considerable knowledge of the drainage district.

Recruitment of a New Machine Operator

The Clerk informed the Board had advertised the position and had received over 70 applicants. Interviews have been held on Friday and it is likely an offer for the position will be made shortly.

ADA NORTHERN BRANCH

ADA Northern Branch Meeting, Howden – 5th March

The Clerk informed this meeting was being organised as a think tank at the Masonic Hall in Howden. This proposed to seek two representatives from each Board in the Northern Branch area. The aim is to discuss a coordinated approach to IDB matters important in the Northern Branch area. This is intended to confirm, prioritise and progress relevant local problems relevant to IDBs. In particular this may highlight the problems of watercourse channel maintenance and leaking high level watercourses.

ADA Northern Branch – Summer Conference

The Clerk informed a Summer Conference and trip is also planned on 5th June 2020. This includes a visit to the Vale of Pickering to view the ‘Slowing the Flow’ Natural Flood Management Project.

The Board Members considered this event and approved payment for the cost of any Member if they wish to attend.

The Clerk reported that beyond the above there had been no correspondence of significance received since the date of the last meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

ADA Floodex Conference 2020

The Clerk informed that ADA were organising another Floodex Conference at Peterborough East of England Showground on 26th & 27th February. Anyone wishing to attend please let the Clerk know.

Environment Agency Conference

The Clerk reported that the Environment Agency Conference would be held in Telford from 2nd to 4th June 2020.

The Clerk informed that he would attend for part of the conference on behalf of the Consortium.

YORK FIVE YEAR
PLAN

The Clerk was expecting a meeting prior to the meeting however this was cancelled.

Lilling Green Foss Flood Storage Reservoir

The Clerk informs this is part of the above project and is currently being out for planning consultation both in City of York and Ryedale District Council areas. The project will be advanced on the Board's watercourses but clearly the benefits will be downstream and related to 'Main River flooding.' The Board has objected to the scheme largely because it is unclear how the works will be maintained and funded post construction in the future. The Environment Agency appear to be building the development on other people's land along with the benefits being achieved elsewhere.

Cllr T Fisher noted that he sits on the planning committee so has an indirect interest in the planning application.

Mr P E Clark (upstream farmer) believes the Environment Agency had not had adequate information to understand the implications on upstream water levels and the impact on land drainage.

The Clerk will continue to seek confirmation on how the scheme will be maintained in the future. He will further work closely with the National Farmers Union (NFU) to be aware of the local concerns.

Mrs S Wiseman believed that the Board should provide draft planning conditions for consideration.

PLANS

The Clerk referred to the list of planning applications commented on 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)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Boards Current Account. The statement shows a credit balance of £465,810.65 with Barclays Bank as at the 7th February 2020.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £150,000. The Board placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 1.75% gross per annum.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £62,979.45. The Board placing funds into a Business 95 day saver account which is achieving 1.05% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £678,790.10.

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.

Mrs S Wiseman proposed that the accounts for confirmation are accepted and confirmed.

Mr M Kemp seconding the proposal of Mrs S Wiseman.

Members UNANIMOUSLY PROPOSED 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 to be held at a new venue at Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall on **Monday 1st June 2020** commencing at **1.30pm**.

Mr C Chambers and Cllr T Fisher declared an interest in the venue and its administration.

DATES OF FUTURE
MEETINGS

Monday 7th September 2020

Monday 26th October 2020

ANY OTHER
BUSINESS

There was no further business and therefore the meeting was closed at 2.33pm.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)