

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 1st March 2021 via Microsoft Teams Online Meeting due to Global Pandemic. No attendance at the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr S Stark
Mr M Cockerill
Mr M Kemp
Mr I Ridsdale
Mr R J Burnett
Mrs S Wiseman
Mr D M Crossley
Mr S Wragg

The Clerk – Mr W Symons

Engineering Assistant – Mr N Culpan

Member of the Public – Mr A S Richardson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D R Brotherton, Mr D J E Sherry, Mr P E Clark and Cllr Mr T Fisher.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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 proposed by Mrs S Wiseman, seconded by Mr M Kemp and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th January 2021, 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 in the Agenda.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Clerk confirmed no reportable incidents had occurred since the last meeting which would require reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR).

The Clerk further informed that the Board continues to keep up to date with the global virus pandemic and will adjust its working practice as required for administration staff, workforce and contractors. This being aimed at reducing the risk of spreading the virus and containing it if it occurs.

The Chairman raised awareness of a fatality which had occurred with an excavator hitting a worker when working which he had read about.

The Engineering Assistant will inform the workforce but also noted that the Board's machines are fitted with cameras which help the driver to see. However, this is a risk area when operating excavators which always needs considering with the risk to both workers and the public.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 28th February 2021 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	-	£312,833.53	(100%)
(b) Direct Levy	-	£ 49,555.93	(99.0%)
		<u>£362,389.46</u>	

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

New Mapping Software

The Engineering Assistant demonstrated a new software mapping system to show how maintenance works progress will be shown in the future. The mapping being clearly seen on Microsoft Teams. The work for last year being highlighted in red which can be saved for the future. The current Bielby Beck work being shown as an example.

Maintenance Report

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report with the Agenda which he ran through highlighting the items raised. He reported that work had been limited as it had not been long since the last meeting.

Foss Upstream Storage Erosion and Flow Restrictions

The Chairman asked about the photograph on page 2 of the report on the Bulmer Beck, if scouring was occurring with the ripple effect. This being asked in the context if this will occur and have an impact on the Foss proposed upstream storage both upstream and downstream of the flow control structure.

The Engineering Assistant reported that the Bulmer Beck does not appear to be a problem when the water has receded. He further would hope that the Consultants on the Foss Storage would design the flow control structure so either it does not happen or protection would be provided. However, until it is built it is uncertain. As an example, it may have implications on the locations that silt is deposited downstream because of changes in flow patterns.

Old Foss Beck

Mr D M Crossley asked about maintenance work on the Old Foss Beck at the back of an old oil yard.

The Engineering Assistant reported that they were doing a small section whilst ground conditions allow and access available but may do more if possible.

Mr D M Crossley reported that a good job was being done which he was pleased about.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 9th February 2021. The meeting was attended by Mr J P Coverdale and Mr D J E Sherry. A copy of the Consortium Agreement is available with the Clerk for Members to view if they wished.

**CONSORTIUM
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

STAFF

Pay Award 2021/2022

The Clerk advised the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay negotiations for 2021/2022 have concluded and agreed a 4.1% increase on all grades from 1st April 2021. This increase was concluded as part of an agreement established in last year's pay review which included a formula for calculating 2021/22's increase.

NEST Pension Scheme

The Clerk highlighted the Boards responsibility of making a 4% statutory contribution under work based pension's regulations. The Board's policy for employees in this scheme has been to make payments at this rate. If, however as an individual the employee wishes to make a larger contribution or even opt out of the Scheme then this is between the pension provider and the employee.

The Clerk has been asked if it was possible for the Board to make a higher contribution which would relate to all the Board's employees in the Scheme.

Members considered the Boards position and agreed that its contribution will remain the same and not increased.

ADA

Potential Demonstration in 2022

The Clerk informed that a potential ADA National land drainage machinery and equipment demonstration is being considered in 2022 which potentially may be held in the Doncaster area.

National Conference November 2021

The Clerk informed that an ADA National Conference is being organised on 11th November 2021. It is hoped this can be held in London but remains uncertain with the ongoing virus pandemic. If this is not possible then it may have to be held as a virtual meeting.

ADA Northern Branch

The Clerk as ADA Northern Branch Director is hopeful that a Northern Branch Conference can be organised in November potentially at the Cave Castle Hotel.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that no further significant correspondence had been received by the Board since the date of the last meeting.

YORK FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Clerk reported on the work and how it was progressing. One of the schemes being progressed is the Foss Upstream Storage.

LILLING GREEN (R
FOSS) UPSTREAM
STORAGE

The Clerk noted the documentation which had been provided in relation to the Foss Upstream Storage Project. At the last meeting it had been considered that a Sub-Committee could be called to consider any documentation provided and make a recommendation to the Board. The documentation which has only recently been provided and so has been circulated with this meeting's agenda. If, however the Board wishes for it or further information to be reviewed then a Sub-Committee meeting can be organised.

Draft Maintenance Manual

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Foss FSA-Control Structure Blockage Assurance document dated 16-02-2021 which had been circulated with the Agenda. The Engineering Assistant having worked with the Environment Agency to put in place.

The Chairman believing that the document appeared to be satisfactory.

The Engineering Assistant informed that the document was in about a third draft but believed it was reasonably robust and pleased with the outcome.

The Chairman asked if Members had any comments or questions and none were raised.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the Engineering Assistant can sign the document off.

Maintenance Commuted Sum Update

The Clerk informed the Environment Agency had provided a spreadsheet to calculate a potential commuted sum. This along with the calculation of the costs of specific tasks which will be required to be carried out. A copy of this information has been provided with the meeting agenda.

The Clerk had reviewed the information provided and noted that the commuted sum to be paid was based on annual costs which were discounted down year on year. In summary over the 100 year period £51,376 of estimated costs at the current prices are expected for a commuted sum of £19,617 based on a discount rate of 2.2%. The Clerk however was surprised the sum was not larger than the overall cost in the 100 year period and the discount applied to increase the sum rather than decrease to cover the future costs.

The Clerk therefore believes it is not in the Boards interest on the basis of this proposal to accept the offer. If, however any other offer is made then perhaps consideration of the Sub-Committee would be required.

Mr I Ridsdale agreed that it was not acceptable and a better deal would be required as the Board would be better off carrying the work out under a Public Sector Cooperation Agreement and real time prices.

Mr D M Crossley supporting the comments of Mr I Ridsdale.

Mrs S Wiseman did not believe the Board should not commit and try to anticipate future costs over such a long period of time.

The Chairman summarised on the basis proposed the Board is not prepared to sign up to such a long and uncertain term commitment. In the calculations in relation to the discount factor used it appears the proposed sum is not adequate to fund it.

The Engineering Assistant advised that the Environment Agency may be approaching others such as the wildlife trusts to seek alternative arrangements.

The Chairman asked how the Board wished to take this forward.

The Clerk suggested if an alternative proposal is forthcoming it may be a better idea to organise a full virtual Board Meeting rather than organise a Sub-Committee because Members could have a choice to attend if they wished.

Members supporting this approach.

Mr M Cockerill believed due to the commitment period there was too much uncertainty in the proposals.

Mr M Kemp thought that it would be best to pass the issue back to the Clerk and Assistant Engineer to see if a better arrangement could be put in place.

The Engineering Assistant suggested that the Board perhaps could make a counter offer on more favourable terms. However, some guidance on what is required is needed.

The Chairman believed the Board already has the powers to maintain watercourses and not enough money is on the table for any commitment for further works.

The Engineering Assistant informs only one of the borrow pits to be built could potentially restrict flows on the Boards network.

Mr M Cockerill believes that scope exists to come up with an appropriate figure however it is a very long term commitment and also questioned what agreement and how would the work be quantified and recorded. He believes the current calculation is flawed as the Board should seek a payment which covers increasing future costs.

Decision

The Chairman proposed scrapping the idea.
Mrs S Wiseman seconding the proposal of the Chairman.

The Clerk asked for any other motion or counter offer in relation to this motion.

Mr I Ridsdale proposed the Board could offer its services under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) as an alternative approach. The rates paid would then reflect current values and shorter periods of commitments.

Mrs S Wiseman seconding the proposal of Mr I Ridsdale which became the motion as the amendment to vote upon.

The Chairman asked for votes on the motion which was carried.

The Clerk asking Members if they were happy with the voting process.

Members were in agreement with the approach and the outcome concluded.

The Engineering Assistant was asked to inform the Agency of the Boards position.

Gauge Board on Sherriff Hutton Bridge

The Clerk informed he had been asked if it was possible to install a gauge board on Sherriff Hutton Bridge by Mr S Stark which can be photographed. Mr M Cockerill to take water level readings both pre and post the upstream storage scheme.

Mr S Stark highlighting the potential benefits.

The Engineering Assistant will see if this can be progressed with North Yorkshire highways as owners of the Bridge.

The Clerk noted that he was not sure if it could be fixed to an OS datum but could be used to monitor changes and readings adjusted if the information became available.

Sub-Committee Meeting to Consider the Above

The Clerk informed in relation to the above a Sub-Committee meeting was currently not required.

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.

PLANS

The Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided if required by any Members.

(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.

The Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided if required by any Members.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account with a credit balance of £345,846.28 with Barclays Bank as at the 19th February 2021.

The Yorkshire Bank account has an additional credit balance of £152,646.57. The Boards placing funds into a twelve month deposit account which is achieving 0.7% gross per annum. The Bank moving with a Brand change to become a Virgin Bank.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £63,226.35. The Board placing funds in a 95 day business saver account which is achieving 0.40% gross per annum.

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £648,384.96.

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.

It was proposed by Mr I Ridsdale, seconded by Mrs S Wiseman 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 as a virtual meeting on **Monday 17th May 2021** commencing at **1.30pm**. This however is on the basis of the Boards Standing Orders authority for virtual meetings being extended.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 6th September 2021
Monday 25th October 2021

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Precept

The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency's letter had arrived at the Board's Office after the meeting agenda had been sent out. The letter dated 17th February confirms that the Board's Precept is set at £13,796.00 for financial year 2021/22. The recommendation of the Precept required by the Environment Agency being made and accepted by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). The sum remaining the same as last year.

The Clerk thanked Members for their patience and perseverance in joining the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.15pm as there was no other business.

CLOSE OF MEETING

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)