

MINUTES of Meeting held on Tuesday 19th October 2021 at the Village Club, Escrick, York

PRESENT

Mr J Hopwood (In the Chair)
Mr K W Terry
Mr K Atkinson
Mr J Daniel
Ms T Fawcett
Mr R Bramley
Mr R E Britton
Mrs K McSherry
Mr J Deans
Cllr P Welch
Mr M Headley
Mr A Vevers
Cllr C Vassie
Mr F Mahon (Natural England)
Cllr J Cattnach (joined towards the end)

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Wragg, Mr S Christian and Cllr M Crane.

Mr J Hopwood as Vice Chairman Chaired the meeting due to a delay in the Chairman arriving.

The Clerk asked everyone if they were happy with the arrangements of the room and spacing of seating as this was the first venue-based meeting following the restrictions of the virus pandemic.

Members being satisfied.

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

Mr J Deans proposed and it was seconded by Ms T Fawcett and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd June 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.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL)

The Clerk presented the Minutes and Recommendations of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on the 17th August 2021, a copy of which had been sent to all Members. These were summarised by the Clerk.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes which were not covered in the Agenda.

Mr A Vevers asked about the documentation and how it interrelated as it potentially was confusing and asked if a numbering system could be put in place.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (PLUS PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE)

The Clerk presented the Minutes and Recommendations of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on the 28th September 2021, a copy of which had been sent to all Members. These were summarised by the Clerk including a Private and Confidential Minute.

Mr J Daniel proposed acceptance and approval of the recommendations contained within the Finance Sub-Committee Minutes of both the meeting held on 17th August 2021 and 28th September 2021.

Mr R E Britton seconding the proposal which was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED by the Board.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes which were not covered in the Agenda.

MEMBERSHIP

The Clerk informed that Mr S Christian had asked for Mr C Ralston to be Nominated as an alternative representative if he was unable to attend (both working for Natural England). Mr F Mahon attending at this meeting on behalf of Natural England which was welcomed.

The Clerk informed that the Board was happy for alternative representatives to attend. However prior notice of delegation for Membership voting would be required to any particular meeting if Mr S Christian was not in attendance.

The Clerk noted Mr M Jewitt had not attended a Board meeting in six months and he had been informed he is potentially unlikely to attend in the future. In view of this the Clerk will remove him from the Membership of the Board unless otherwise advised.

Mr M Headley attended his first meeting of the Board as a potential Elected Member.

Long Serving Members

Mr A Jacques tendered his resignation who originally joined the Board's historical West Derwent Division.

Mr R Bramley also tendered his resignation who originally joined the Ouse and Derwent Division. He however offered for his son to take over as a Member.

The Clerk at the time recording the two Members joining at the start of the current Ouse and Derwent Board on 14th September 1977.

Mr R E Britton asking the Board to write to these two Members thanking them for the very long service and experience provided.

Membership Number Reduction

The Clerk confirmed that the Environment Agency Solicitor was progressing advancing the Boards Membership number reduction down to a total of 23. The solicitor is seeking Defra agreement to the numbers proposed and drafting a scheme for advertising.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 11th October 2021 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	-	£201,212.95	(50.00%)
(b) Direct Levy	-	£ 80,791.64	(97.0%)
		<u>£282,004.59</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 REPORT

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report with the Agenda which he ran through highlighting the items raised. He however was unable to display maps because the projector was not bright enough to view properly. These however can be viewed at the end of the meeting. It is also intended to provide a facility for members to log on to view the maps in the future.

Watercourse Near Cycle Track Near Riccall Dam

Mr J Daniel noted a watercourse near the cycle track at Riccall Dam is quite overgrown without much of the channel visible.

The Engineering Assistant offered to investigate and see if the work can be finished off.

Osgodby Syphons Near Newlands Pumping Station

Mr A Dear asked about lowering the sill on the inlet to the Osgodby Syphons, the flow heading towards Newlands Pumping Station.

The Engineering Assistant believed this work has been carried out and he will try to include pictures of the work in the maintenance report for the next meeting.

Watercourses being Flailed

Cllr C Vassie asked about lengths and costs of watercourses being flailed each year.

The Clerk informed that the Boards Contractors largely invoice for work on a linear basis so this information is held and used to budget the Boards maintenance work.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

UPLAND WATER CONTRIBUTION

The Clerk advised that claims had been made to the Environment Agency for the 2020/21 Upland Water ditch maintenance works. This was made on the basis of the sum of £5,784.00 on expenditure of £49,277.52 for expenditure up to the end of financial year 2020/21. The Clerk being informed that the overall IDB claims (£847,313) significantly exceeds the budget available in the Yorkshire Region (£558,000). In view of this further consideration and a more detailed report on the matter is required for the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee's (RFCC) consideration of the percentage to be paid. A decision on this will not be made therefore until after the October RFCC Meeting. However a payment in the range of £3,809.06 to £5,784.00 is likely to be made so a potential shortfall of £1,974.94 is possible.

Mr R E Britton believed the Board had achieved a higher sum than is currently proposed in previous years.

The Clerk explained it depended on the extent of work the Board conducts on eligible highland watercourses in relation to the size of the claim which can be made which varies year on year.

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).

BIODIVERSITY

The Clerk informed that the Board is having troubles progressing this work and suggested that the Board could hold a virtual meeting to pull interests together to collect ideas.

Vacuum Flailing

Mr J Daniel believes widespread vacuum flailing is not practical in particular if more equipment access is required on land.

The Engineering Assistant believed it would only be possible if landowners would be happy for this approach and appropriate areas identified. The Board having extensive channel maintenance work to carry out in a limited period of time.

Potential Board Biodiversity Meeting

Cllr C Vassie supports the approach of a meeting and believes the promotion of wild flower growth is a topic which can be looked at. As an example, the Council and Wildlife Trust are considering this on highways. In view of this he believes a number of organisations working together are likely to achieve better results than progressing matters independently.

Mr F Mahon was asked about Natural England's view and he believed that an initial meeting would be a good idea as well as highlighting some current local concerns.

Mr K W Terry noted the constraints of conservation requirements against wider public requirements. As an example, hedgerow such as blackthorn producing thorns near foot paths, bush height restricting light, production of berries for birds makes hedgerow and general untidiness make them very difficult to manage.

Ms T Fawcett noted that she was hoping to arrange an application for a grant for farmer clusters in the Boards district. A new opportunity to apply being likely to occur in December.

The Engineering Assistant offering to help with potential landowners to join when details of the application are confirmed.

ELECTION 2021

The Clerk informed that the election programme agreed at the Boards Annual General Meeting in January had advanced. The Board had approved the Register of Electors which had been advertised on the Board's website.

The Clerk had issued nomination forms in August to existing Elected Members and any other nomination forms as required. The closing date for submission of nomination forms was 28th September 2021. The Clerk confirming as the Election 'Returning Officer' that the Board had received no more Nominations than Elected Member positions available. In view of this an election will not be required on 26th October 2021 and the new Board will be in place on 1st November 2021 with existing Members re-elected. The Boards AGM in January 2022 will require the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for a three-year tenure.

ADA NORTHERN BRANCH

The Clerk as ADA Northern Branch Director was organising a Northern Branch Conference and AGM on 5th November 2021 at the Cave Castle Hotel, South Cave.

Members agreeing for the Board to pay Member's conference fees if they wish to attend.

ADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Clerk informed that an ADA National Conference is being organised on 10th November 2021. This has been decided to be a virtual meeting and details can be obtained closer to the time.

Potential Demonstration in 2023

The Clerk informed that a potential ADA National Land Drainage Machinery and Equipment Demonstration is being considered in 2023 and investigation for a suitable venue is underway.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that no further significant correspondence had been received by the Board 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.

The Clerk reporting that all this information was now digitised and a copy can be provided at the meeting on a laptop computer instead of the paper records.

(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 at the meeting on a laptop computer instead of the paper records.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account with a credit balance of £967,286.59 with Barclays Bank as at the 1st October 2021.

The Virgin Bank account has an additional credit balance of £153,715.11. The Boards placing funds into a twelve-month deposit account which is achieving 0.3% gross per annum.

The Nationwide Building Society account has an additional credit balance of £89,926.64. 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 £1,210,928.34.

The Clerk noted that these funds include the Coal Authority balances and deposits for the ongoing and rechargeable works, which are £50,500. He further confirmed that Barclays Bank are charging Foss for electronic bank transfers to whom the Board contributes towards this service.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was directed that the next Meeting of the Board is due to be held on **Tuesday 25th January 2022** commencing at 10am as a true meeting at this venue depending on the current position of the spread of the virus pandemic.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 28th June 2022
Tuesday 18th October 2022

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.15am as there was no other business.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)