

MINUTES of Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2022 at the Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York

PRESENT

Mr J P Coverdale (In the Chair)
Mr D J E Sherry
Mr P E Clark
Mr M Cockerill
Mr M Kemp
Mr I Ridsdale
Mr R J Burnett
Mrs S Wiseman
Mr D M Crossley
Mr C Chambers
Cllr T Fisher
Cllr D Sykes

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D Brotherton and Mr S Wragg.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr T Fisher declared an interest in planning matters as he was on the Council's Planning Committee.

The Chairman declared an interest in the Board's depot lease.

There were no further 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 D M Crossley and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th January 2022, 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 Clerk informed the Board had received a letter from Defra confirming the Boards updated Byelaws. This following the agreement to implement the changes which are now included in the 'Model' document published by Defra.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

The Clerk confirmed no reportable incidents had occurred since the last meeting which would require reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (RIDDOR). He confirmed he will also be Meeting with the Board's Health and Safety Advisor to update safety documentation and review compliance requirements.

RATES

The Clerk reported that the total rates collected up to the 28th February 2022 are as follows:

(a) Special Levy	-	£317,479.64	(100%)
(b) Direct Levy	-	<u>£ 50,371.17</u>	(99.9%)
		<u>£367,850.81</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.

DEPOT LEASE

The Clerk informed that the revised depot lease and map had arrived at the office on Friday for consideration. This will be progressed and considered with the Vice Chairman shortly as agreed at the last meeting.

MAINTENANCE WORKS

New Mapping Software

The Engineering Assistant had circulated a report to Members with the Agenda along with a web link to electronic maps identifying the maintenance work carried out by the Board. He informed that the Board had taken a licence out in new mapping software. This creates a web address which links to an online map on a view only basis highlighting the work being progressed. The work for last year being highlighted which can be saved for reference in the future.

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.

Old Foss Beck

Mr I Ridsdale asked following the work on the Old Foss Beck, to the rear of the caravan site, about how much more significant bank work of maintenance and piling and excavating was required locally.

The Engineering Assistant reporting that quite a bit across the district. The Board however only progresses it where necessary on a risk basis. Work of this nature for potential piling and bank work could be continuous. The Board however is tackling the work on the basis of where low-level flows are being held up to assist land drainage or if the channel is significantly constrained in higher flows. It was also noted that timber supplies are now getting more expensive as having to obtain material from further away and alternative suppliers.

The Chairman informed that the work at this location to the rear of the caravan site was last carried out in 2007 so not necessarily a regular occurrence.

Cllr T Fisher questioned if the work would help alleviate flows near Brandon Grove/Hopgrove South.

The Engineering Assistant informing that it was unlikely to make any significant difference as so far downstream. However, weed spraying will be carried out as required in this location to control weed growth.

Hacking Lane Drain

Mr R J Burnett thanked the Board for the work carried out on the Hacking Lane Drain. He informed he could see the water was not now being held back in the village and a good job was being carried out.

Westfield Beck Pumping Station

Mr C Chambers was concerned about the situation and the position of Yorkshire Water with maintaining the pumps.

The Engineering Assistant informed that the pumping station appears to need refurbishment. The Board has been reporting the problems to Yorkshire Water under a complaint reference number. This allows a log of calls and complaints over time is recorded in the call centre. The Board hoping a more longer-term repair can be put into place.

Tractor Back Mower

The Chairman noted that the Board's tractor back mower was 2005/6 and in need of replacement.

The Engineering Assistant informed that the purchase of new equipment was tending to have a long period for delivery but was happy to obtain quotes for a replacement. It being anticipated that a replacement would cost about £14,000. However, it was unlikely a replacement could be obtained for the forthcoming summer mowing season.

Mrs S Wiseman believed the Board should look into the equipment and costs to renew the mower.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to delegate the decision and gave delegated authority for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to decide on the equipment to be purchased. This taking into account the time for delivery of the replacement and part exchange or sale of the existing mower.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

PRECEPT

The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency's letter dated 17th February confirms the Board's Precept is set at £13,796.00 for financial year 2022/23. 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.

HIGHLAND WATER CONTRIBUTION

The Clerk informed that at the last Regional Flood and Coastal Committee a decision was made in the Yorkshire Region to increase the overall budget for Highland Water by £150,000. This has resulted in an overall payment of £71,123.21. An increase of £15,068.50 to the Board.

CONSORTIUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Clerk reported that a Consortium Management Committee Meeting was held on 8th February 2022. The meeting was attended by Mr J P Coverdale. A copy of the Consortium Agreement is available with the Clerk for Members to view if they wished. The meeting confirmed and agreed the Consortium staffing levels for financial year 2022/23 and the resources to provide the service.

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.

The Chairman supporting the increased resource proposals for the Consortium.

STAFF

Pay Award 2022/2023

The Clerk advised the Board that the ADA Lincolnshire Branch pay negotiations for 2022/2023 have concluded and agreed a 2.5% increase on all grades from 1st April 2022. This increase was concluded as part of an ongoing agreement which included a formula for calculating 2022/23's increase.

Planning Officer Maternity Cover

The Clerk informed that the Board was providing maternity cover for its Planning Officer with a potential return in May 2022.

Workforce Training

The Engineering Assistant informed that training for the workforce was being reviewed and progressed following the lifting of the virus pandemic restrictions.

ADA NORTHERN BRANCH

Early Summer Meeting – EGM

The Clerk informed an early summer meeting (Extraordinary General Meeting) is to be held at the Cave Castle Hotel along with a visit on 27th May 2022. At this meeting the Branch Constitution will be considered and reviewed. This will confirm the number of meetings annually and delaying the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to later in the year.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Clerk informed this is likely to be on 4th November 2022 but no venue has been decided upon.

CORRESPONDENCE

Red Diesel

The Clerk reported that a positive letter regarding the usage of red diesel in IDB maintenance work had been received from ADA dated 2nd March 2022. This was ADA's interpretation of a meeting held with HM Treasury and Defra to receive an updated position on the consideration of IDBs use of red diesel after 1st April 2022. It is anticipated the precise wording will be included within guidance by HM Treasury and HMRC such as within Excise Notice 75, which will be updated on or before 1st April 2022. It being believed that the outcome will be favourable to IDBs continuing to use red diesel in watercourse maintenance work.

Keeping Our Rivers Flowing Meeting – 12th May 2022

The Clerk informed the second meeting of this group following the first 'virtual meeting' is being organised. This will be held at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire at the show ground close to ADA's office. Tickets are available online and he will be attending on behalf of the York Consortium Member Boards. The meeting including representatives from CLA, NFU, ADA, EA and others.

CIWEM Flood and Coast Seminar, Leeds – 4th May 2022

The Clerk informed that a Regional Conference for flood and coastal professionals to attend in Leeds on 4th May 2022. It is being organised by the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) and Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM). The Clerk intending to attend on behalf of York Consortium Boards and ADA.

Potential Demonstration in 2023

The Clerk informed that a potential ADA National land drainage machinery and equipment demonstration is being considered in 2023 which potentially may be held in partnership with Dyson Farms.

National Conference – November 2022

The Clerk informed that at this stage it was unclear on the arrangements for an ADA National Conference but currently it was not being organised in London.

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

The Clerk reported a number of schemes are being progressed in the York area which includes a flooding study related to Westfield Beck and the flood storage area being progressed at Lilling Green.

Lilling Green (River Foss) Upstream Storage

The Clerk reported that a construction/dewatering consent application had been sent to the Board for consideration. The work on site was believed to be starting soon and likely to be progressed over two years. It however remained that the Environment Agency still has not been forthcoming with its designs and requirements for channel work on the River Foss for formal consideration. It being made clear that the application will be considered on the basis of what is applied for but a risk exists the work may not be consented. In this the Board would not wish to delay the progress of the work on site should this occur. In view of this the Clerk has asked for the information or consent application to be provided as soon as possible.

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 if required by any Members.

(SEE APPENDIX TO MINUTES)

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)

YORK FIVE YEAR PLAN

PLANS

CONSENTS

BANK STATEMENTS

The Clerk produced the Bank Statements for the Board's Current Account with a credit balance of £459,651.47 with Barclays Bank as at the 18th February 2022.

The Virgin Bank account has an additional credit balance of £153,715.10. 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 £63,565.33. The Board placing funds in a 95 day business saver account which is achieving 0.55% gross per annum an increase from 0.4%

The total balance of the Boards funds held in these accounts is £676,931.90.

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 physical meeting on **Monday 6th June 2022** commencing at **1.30pm**. This is intended to be held at the **Strensall and Towthorpe Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York, YO32 5XW**.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday 5th September 2022
Monday 7th November 2022

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk thanked Members for attending the meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.15pm as there was no other business.

(APPENDICES TO FOLLOW)