

NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

21 April 2010

At the meeting of the Board held this day at the Drainage Office, Thorney

Present: -

	J H R Hoyles (Chairman)
M H S Sly (Vice-Chairman)	P S Gray
B Britain	N J Harris
J A Clarke	N S Manser
D R Coates	Cllr S G Marthews
Cllr M Cotterell MBE	H Neale
C J Cutteridge	Cllr Mrs P M C Potts
Cllr R Dobbs	J W J Sly
A E Gee	Cllr R C Speechley
T J Gee	J Waltham
W Gee	

In attendance: S H Morris (Chief Executive)
P D Sharman (Engineer to the Board)
C L Emery (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr C Bellamy, Cllr C J T H Brewis, G T Fisher, Cllr J Holdich OBE, P T R Hurn, M D Seymour, A J Wadsley and Cllr D Wheeler

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED (183)

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 3 February 2010, copies of which having been circulated with the agenda, be taken as read and certified under the hand of the Chairman as being a correct record of the business of such meeting.

3 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

A1073 Improvement Works

The Engineer reported that a meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 28 April with both LCC and Morgan-Est to discuss our concerns.

There were no other matters arising.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Executive referred to the preface and the Finance Report enclosed with the agenda and updated the position regarding income from drainage rates by saying there was now £534 outstanding, a payment of £443 being received but subsequently returned by the bank. He advised members that the term deposit with Tipton & Coseley had matured on 20 April, Tipton offering 0.65% for a further 3 months he asked for the money to be returned and re-invested with Santander at 2%. This now brings the total investment with Santander to the £500,000 permitted by the Board's Financial guidelines. The remainder was on deposit at between 0.75% to 0.85%. He informed members that a replacement boiler had been fitted to Tydd Pumping Station house and not the pumping station as reported.

He explained that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had examined the accounts of expenditure referred to in his report and found the same to be correct.

Members raised no questions and in conclusion it was

RESOLVED (184)

That the Financial Report be accepted and approved.

5 ENGINEER'S REPORT

1 Rainfall has been as follows:-

	Jan		Feb		March	
	mm	inch	mm	inch	mm	inch
a) Tydd P S	53.5	2.11	72.00	2.83	30.60	1.20
b) Sutton St Edmund	58.1	2.29	70.60	2.78	32.80	1.29
c) Thorney Offices	48.4	1.91	66.30	2.61	35.50	1.40
d) Cross Guns	57.6	2.27	66.60	2.62	30.60	1.20
e) Dog-in-a-Doublet	49.8	1.96	67.00	2.64	42.00	1.65
f) Peakirk	35.6	1.40	57.40	2.26	30.20	1.19
g) Mouth Lane	60.8	2.39	64.80	2.55	9.00	0.35
h) Hundreds	57.5	2.26	67.50	2.66	32.00	1.26

2 Hydrometric Information

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
05/01/10	0.1	20.2	23/02/10	1.0	3.1
12/01/10	-0.5	19.8	02/03/10	4.5	3.9
19/01/10	3.3	11.3	09/03/10	2.1	8.4
26/01/10	3.6	8.3	16/03/10	5.3	14.1
02/02/10	2.1	6.8	23/03/10	9.3	13.6
09/02/10	3.1	4.6	30/03/10	9.4	4.8
16/02/10	2.0	4.2			

3 Pumping hours have been as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	March
a) Poplars	251	175	138
b) Denhams	64	43	12
c) Dog-in-a-Doublet (New)			
(Large)	131	159	50
(Small)	72	47	30
Dog-in-a-Doublet (Old)	34	31	83
d) Cross Guns – Electric	40	25	11
– Diesel	320	287	265
e) Mouth Lane – Electric	52	50	24
– Diesel	54	48	39
f) Willow Holt	192	126	114
g) Tydd – Electric	26	0	3
– Diesel	489	429	337
h) Postland	165	137	89
i) Newborough	190	175	133
j) Peakirk	58	54	23
k) Hundreds	43	3	9
Total	2181	1789	1360

4 Maintenance 31 March 2010

	Annual Totals	2009
a) Hand roding		
20,520m have been completed in urban areas		(23,652m)
b) Machine roding		
Hitachi ZX180	117,290m	(134,208m)
Hitachi ZX210	166,015m	(154,180m)
Berkenheger	225,229m	(179,535m)
Hired	81,040m	(112,515m)
Boat	Nil	(Nil)
Tractor & weed-basket	35,957m	(24,130m)
c) Flailing		
1,132,956m on one side have been completed using 4No flail mowers		(1,004,174m)
d) Mudding Out – machine		
Hitachi ZX180	11,810m	(9,661m)
Hitachi ZX210	7,378m	(6,520m)
Hired	Nil	(160m)
e) Mudding Out – hand	Nil	(Nil)
f) Chemical weed control		
Midstream GSR – tractor	173,010m	(98,230m)
Midstream GSR – hand	67,474m	(65,730m)
Roundup pro-biactive - tractor	58,830m	(7,800m)
Roundup pro-biactive – hand	7,552m	(13,940m)
g) Piping side dykes		
6No side dykes have been piped during 2009/10 to give the board continuous access.		(8No)
h) Revetment work		
144m of drain bank has been stabilised using a combination of timber piles, toe boards and faggots		(50m)

i) Properties

Routine maintenance carried out to all Board's properties

j) Faggot making

4690 faggots have been cut

(6,018)

k) Pumping stations

General repairs and maintenance carried out to all pumping stations

l) Water level control structures

All freshwater feeds remain closed

m) Board's plant

General repairs and servicing carried out to all plant and vehicles.

5 Capital Works to 31 March 2010

Tydd Pumping Station Refurbishment Scheme – Phase III

This scheme allows for the installation of a further Scania engine to replace the electric motor currently driving pump No 4.

Works are now complete but for a few minor snagging issues.

East Counter Drain Phase III – Guyhirn

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from revenue designed to improve the East Counter Drain from Redgate Farm, Guyhirn for a length of 1400 metres. Approximately 2100m³ of spoil has been excavated over the 1400m length of drain, all excavated spoil has been deposited directly on the bank of the river Nene and has been re-profiled and seeded by the Environment Agency.

500 metres of timber piling has been constructed using 4.2m timber fir piles and 3.9m long pressure treated toe boards to provide stability to sections of the drain with poor soil structure.

In addition to this 1400 metres of stock fencing has been reconstructed using concrete posts, stock netting and barbed-wire.

Works are now complete.

Leverington Church Drain – pipeline inspection/cleansing

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from development levy funds to cleanse and inspect 470 metres of armco pipeline in Leverington, as part of the Boards ongoing asset management programme.

No maintenance or inspections have been carried out since its construction and approximately 141m³ of silt has been removed from the pipe. On completion of the cleansing a CCTV camera survey was carried out to ascertain the condition of the pipe. We are currently awaiting the final report.

Works are now complete.

New Drove Drain Phase I – Wisbech St Mary

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from revenue to improve the New Drove Drain for a length of 700 metres. The total area of benefit for this scheme is approximately 100ha and the improvements are to be phased over 3 years. To provide access for the proposed works, tree and bush clearance works have been carried out on the drain. The drain works will begin in June 2010.

The works are 15% complete.

Re-chargeable Works

Kings Delph Spur Dyke – Whittlesey

Following some localised flooding issues in West Delph Whittlesey, the Board has been working with Fenland District Council to resolve these issues. It was discovered that an Anglian Water surface water sewer outfall had been buried beneath a private drain and had been unable to discharge. Fenland District Council carried out the necessary enforcement to get the drain cleared out and the North Level was subsequently contracted to carry out this work.

The work included some tree and hedge clearing to provide access for the Boards' plant ahead of mudding out approximately 600m of private watercourse and the reconstruction of 1No access culvert.

The works are now complete.

A1073 Morgan-Est Revetment Works – Newborough

The Board was approached by Morgan-Est to repair a slip on the Newborough Main Drain. As a result of recent drain diversion works carried out by Morgan-Est during the winter the drain banks had slipped. The Board have been contracted to install some 50 metres of timber piling to provide additional stability to the drain batter, with all costs recharged to Morgan-Est.

The works are now complete.

Anglian Water Slip Repairs

As a result of snow fall and frost in January a number of Anglian Water main bursts caused significant damage to 3No Board's watercourses. A 25 metre slip on the White Engine Drain, Leverington, a 20 metre slip on the Harold Bank Drain and a 20 metre slip on the Gorefield Main Drain.

All repair works were carried out by the North Level and Anglian Water recharged for all costs incurred in doing so.

The works are now complete.

Tree Trimming – Welland and Deepings IDB

The Board was approached by the Welland and Deepings IDB regarding the possibility of hiring our excavator equipped with the tree shears. Three weeks work was anticipated and programmed in for January. This close working with a neighbouring Board proved very successful with a further two weeks hire being requested for January 2011.

The works are now complete.

French Drove House Extension

Works on the French Drove house single story extension commenced 25 March to provide a utility room and disabled ground floor bathroom. The footings, flooring and drains, have been constructed and passed by the Building Inspector. Currently the brickwork is complete to window height. This is a project partly funded with Peterborough City Council Care and Repair Agency

Works are 25% complete.

Schemes prepared but not yet started

Hundreds Drain – Crowland
Whitehall Drain Phase II - Postland
Culpin's Drain Phase II – Newborough
Culpin's Spur Drain Phase II Newborough
East Counter Drain – Phase IV - Guyhirn
Proctors Drain – West Side Marshes
Gores Drain – pipeline inspections/cleansing – Thorney

Schemes being prepared

Thirty Chain Spur Drain – Postland
Main Drain Phase I - Tydd Gote
Moor Drain – Newborough
Moor Drain West – Peakirk
New Drove Drain – Wisbech St Mary
Old Wryde Drain - Murrow
Foul Anchor sluice refurbishment – Foul Anchor
Clough Cross sluice refurbishment – Parson Drove
Telemetry upgrade
Tydd catchment strategy modelling
Steward House Drain Phase II – Thorney
Tydd Pumping Station Refurbishment – Phase IV
Mossops pipeline- Newborough

P D Sharman

The Engineer updated the Hydrometric Information, pump hour figures and rainfall data. In particular he drew attention to the Hydrometric reading for the last week in March which indicated a significant drop in the soil moisture deficit due to the high level of rainfall which fell during the last week of March. He also informed the meeting that during the three months January through to March, pumping at Tydd had been carried out on all but five days. This inevitably had implications on the expenditure for pumping and it was estimated that by the time all of the costs had been received there would be an overspend on pumping of approximately £50,000. The Chief Executive said that although there had also been an overspend last year of £38,000 for pumping, he confirmed that there was still sufficient funds available in balances not to affect the rate at this time, highlighting the drier years when underspend had been put into balances.

Maintenance of Properties

The Engineer told members that the work on French Drove pumping station house had now progressed to roof height. He then told members that the office is in the process of being refurbished, having been redecorated and will have new carpets and a new kitchen fitted within the next few weeks. The cost of approx £20,000 will be met from the Capital fund which currently stands at £290,000.

The Engineer informed members of a break-in which occurred on 7 April at Mouth Lane pumping station. The burglars managed to gain access into the station but owing to the masterblaster alarm system, nothing was stolen. The police were notified and the station made secure.

Leverington Church Drain pipeline inspection

He updated members that the surveys had been carried out and that we were now awaiting the final report.

Kings Delph Spur Dyke

The Engineer said that following a flooding event in July last year the Board, as agents for the Nene Washlands Commissioners, was approached by Fenland District Council to assist with remedial works. Following a number of meetings Fenland issued an Enforcement Notice on the owners of the land and the work was carried out in March, by the North Level, on a rechargeable basis. Mr Gray as a member of the Nene Washlands Commissioners suggested that he would raise this matter with the Commissioners, to perhaps include the area in their Autumn Drainworks discussions at their next Annual meeting in May this year.

Following further discussions and there being no further questions it was:

RESOLVED (185)

That the Engineer's Report be accepted and approved.

6 THE CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY, AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Engineer referred to the Annual Summary Report given by Dr Jonathan Newman, Head of Aquatic Plant Management Group and to the seminars which took place over the two day Robson Meeting event. He said in particular that although there were a number of chemical treatments which were already being used overseas which would adequately replace Casoron Midstream GSR, these had not been approved for use in this country. Dr Newman had said that this amounted to 40 years of chemical development wasted!

7 LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Engineer informed members that with the shortened Floods and Water Management Bill having received royal assent as the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that under section 9, the County Council becomes the "lead local authority" for flood risk management. These duties to be carried out by the Local Authority in co-operation with the Environment Agency. He described the structure being adopted by Lincolnshire County Council as being a three tier hierarchical operation, with the Strategy Group on the first level, the Operations Group at the second level, and the Local Flood Risk and Drainage Management Groups on the lower level. He then handed the item to Councillor Marthews who had attended three seminars by Lincs County Council and ADA. Cllr Marthews stated that having attended the meetings it is clear that the paper as submitted with the agenda is not prescribed by legislation and should be seen as a set of proposals by Lincolnshire County Council designed to enable it to discharge its statutory obligations.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Marthews for his report.

The Engineer said that he did not see that participating in this Framework would have any detrimental impact on our day to day operations, indeed he felt that the Board should actively participate in the partnership and offer our services to carry out works on behalf of Lincs County outside of our district. Mr Clarke questioned the impact of funding. Both the Vice-Chairman and the Engineer advised that no additional funding had been made available at this time, DEFRA have stated that any extra liability would be funded, but the source remains unclear at this time. The Chief Executive

reported that although a number of Drainage Boards were involved with Cambridgeshire County Council in their partnership, that although we had been advised that we would be kept informed, there have been a number of meeting held without our knowledge.

Following a short discussion it was

RESOLVED (186)

To adopt the Lincolnshire County Council Framework, but with reservations.

8 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications

Relevant Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council members, wished to confirm that they attended the meeting and that they took no part in debate or voting on any planning application thereon. The Engineer referred to his Planning Report, a copy of which having been circulated with the agenda and being attached to these minutes, in which were listed those planning applications received since the last meeting of the Board where it had been necessary for him to respond to the Planning Authority in respect of drainage matters. There were no comments made on the applications.

Cllr Marthews raised a concern as to the effects on local council planning committees due to the Flood & Water Management Bill 2010 where he could envisage local committees assuming that the County Council will deal with the issues raised under the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

(b) Enforcements

The Engineer advised members that there were currently a number of ongoing enforcements. .

There were no questions on this matter, it was therefore

RESOLVED (187)

That the report be received and its contents noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.