

NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

16 June 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	
Cllr C Bellamy	P T R Hurn	
Cllr C J T H Brewis	N S Manser	
B Britain	H Neale	
J A Clarke	Cllr Mrs P M C Potts	
D R Coates	M D Seymour	
Cllr M Cotterell MBE	J W J Sly	
C J Cutteridge	Cllr R C Speechley	
G T Fisher	A J Wadsley	
A E Gee	J Waltham	
T J Gee	Cllr D Wheeler	
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 R Dobbs, N J Harris, Cllr J Holdich OBE and Cllr S G Marthews

Before continuing with the meeting the Chairman offered congratulations from the Board to Councillor Marthews in his absence on his appointment as Chairman of South Holland District Council and also to Councillor Seymour on his appointment as Vice-Chairman.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED (188)

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 April 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

King's Delph Spur Dyke

Councillor Potts asked if the remedial works carried out on behalf of Fenland District Council and Nene Washlands have rectified the drainage problem. The Engineer said that it has, the Anglian Water surface water sewer now has a good outfall which prior to the ditch improvements it did not have. Mr Gray said that it would now be reliant on Anglian Water maintaining its outfall pipe properly.

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 that to date we have now received £107,000 compared with £87,197 received by this time last year. He said that by issuing the drainage rate demands in May this year we are now close to being in line with the Audit Commissions advice. He further informed members that the ratepayer in arrears of £443 at the beginning of this year had agreed to pay £180 monthly by standing order so as to clear his account by the end of this financial year.

He drew members attention to the investment maturing from Loughborough Building Society who reluctantly took the funds offered for re-investment, but at a rate of only 0.7% .

In response to a question from Mr Clarke he confirmed that the budget line indicated on the Maintenance of Drains and Pumping Station expenditure graphs related to the year 2010 / 2011.

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 further questions and in conclusion it was

RESOLVED (189)

That the Financial Report be accepted and approved.

5 ENGINEER'S REPORT

1 Rainfall has been as follows:-

	<u>April</u>		<u>May</u>	
	mm	inch	mm	inch
a) Tydd P S	7.50	0.30	22.00	0.87
b) Sutton St Edmund	10.00	0.39	22.60	0.89
c) Thorney Offices	9.10	0.36	25.60	1.01
d) Cross Guns	6.00	0.24	24.70	0.97
e) Dog-in-a-Doublet	8.00	0.31	23.80	0.94
f) Peakirk	6.60	0.26	18.20	0.72
g) Mouth Lane	2.40	0.09	23.30	0.92
h) Hundreds	9.50	0.37	24.00	0.94

2 Hydrometric Information

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
06/04/10	6.8	11.4	11/05/10	8.0	65.1
13/04/10	9.0	23.4	18/05/10	9.7	81.1
20/04/10	8.4	38.1	25/05/10	16.3	98.5
27/04/10	10.4	54.4	01/06/10	11.9	103.9
04/05/10	10.4	58.2			

3 Pumping hours have been as follows:-

	April	May
a) Poplars	32	13
b) Denhams	0	0
c) Dog-in-a-Doublet (New)		
(Large)	0	0
(Small)	0	0
Dog-in-a-Doublet (Old)	67	13
d) Cross Guns – Electric	0	0
– Diesel	76	35
e) Mouth Lane – Electric	0	0
– Diesel	0	0
f) Willow Holt	23	9
g) Tydd – Electric	0	0
– Diesel	106	48
h) Postland	18	0
i) Newborough	31	0
j) Peakirk	6	1
k) Hundreds	7	0
Total	366	119

4 Maintenance 31 May 2010

	2010	2009
a) Hand roding	Nil	(Nil)
b) Machine roding		
Hitachi ZX180	Nil	(Nil)
Hitachi ZX210	Nil	(Nil)
Berkenheger	Nil	(Nil)
Hired	Nil	(Nil)
Boat	Nil	(Nil)
Tractor & weed-basket	Nil	(Nil)
c) Flailing	Nil	(Nil)
d) Mudding Out – machine		
Hitachi ZX180	Nil	(Nil)
Hitachi ZX210	Nil	(1,668m)
Hired	Nil	(Nil)

e) Mudding Out – hand	Nil	(Nil)
f) Chemical weed control		
Midstream GSR – tractor	Nil	(173,010m)
Midstream GSR – hand	Nil	(67,474m)
Roundup pro-biactive - tractor	67,470m	(3,800m)
Roundup pro-biactive – hand	17,724m	(Nil)
g) Piping side dykes	Nil	(Nil)
h) Revetment work	Nil	(291m)
i) Properties		
Routine maintenance carried out to all Board’s properties		
j) Faggot making	Nil	(Nil)
k) Pumping stations		
General repairs and maintenance carried out to all pumping stations		
l) Water level control structures		
Slackers are down and dam boards are in place. The freshwater feeds are opened on demand.		
m) Board’s plant		
General repairs and servicing carried out to all plant and vehicles.		

5 Capital Works to 7 June 2010

East Counter Drain Phase IV – Guyhirn

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from revenue to improve the East Counter Drain from Cross Guns to Guyhirn.

As part of the drain improvement works the stock fencing has been reconstructed using concrete posts, stock netting and barbed wire. Phase IV of the works are to improve the cross fences that divide the holdings. In addition to this all gates have been renewed.

Works are now 75% complete.

Main Drain Phase I – Tydd Gote

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from development funds designed to improve the Main Drain from Tydd Pumping Station to Clough Cross Sluice.

Phase1 of the works improved a 750 metre length of the Main Drain between Tydd Pumping Station and the Old Shire Drain outfall, approximately 15,000 cubic metres of silt has been excavated from the drain and carted to holding lagoons on the south bank.

The works were carried out with Boards own direct plant and labour with the hire of additional plant to include dump trucks, pontoons to float the Hitachi ZX180 and an additional hydraulic excavator.

The first phase of the works was completed in 7 weeks.

New Drove Drain Phase I – Wisbech St Mary

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from revenue funds to improve the New Drove Drain for a length of 700 metres. To provide access for the proposed works tree and bush clearance works have been carried out on the drain. In addition to this the drain bank to be re-profiled has been sprayed with round-up to deter nesting birds.

The remaining works will begin in late June 2010, the works are 15% complete.

Moor Drain West – Peakirk

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from development funds to improve the Moor Drain West for a length of 400 metres.

Approximately 600 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated from the drain in re-profiling the landward batter. 1 No new access culvert has been constructed to improve access for the Boards plant.

The batters have been grass seeded and land drain headwalls replaced, the remaining spoil will be spread after harvest.

The works are 75% complete.

Proctors Drain – West Side Marshes

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from revenue funds to improve the Proctors Drain for a length of 350 metres.

To date the drain works have commenced with the re-profiling of the landward batter.

The works are 20% complete.

Re-chargeable Works

The Board were approached by Crowland Parish Council to design a new drainage scheme at Crowland in conjunction with the new A1073 road construction.

Financed by Lincolnshire County Council the scheme includes the construction of a new drain 600 metres in length adjacent to the new road boundary and the filling of an existing drain.

To date all shrubs have been removed and the existing drain cleaned out in preparation for a 4 inch land drain being installed before filling. The new drain alignment has been set out and excavations have commenced using the Boards ZX180 excavator.

The works are 10% complete

French Drove House Extension

Works on the French Drove house single storey extension have begun to provide a utility room and disabled ground floor bathroom. This project is funded from North Level capital fund and Peterborough City Council Care and Repair Agency.

The construction of the structure is now completed, including first fix plumbing and electrics, plastering and floor screeding.

Works are 75% 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
Gores Drain – pipeline inspections/cleansing – Thorney

Schemes being prepared

Thirty Chain Spur Drain – Postland
Moor Drain – Newborough
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
Main Drain Phase II - Tydd Gote

P D Sharman

The Engineer updated the rainfall figures saying that June had so far had a varied rainfall between 35 to 47mm across the district. He said that the early June recorded soil moisture deficit figure is 103.9mm and that indicated a good situation for the year. He also updated pump hour figures. In respect to Maintenance he said that hand roding had just started and reminded members that Midstream GSR had been withdrawn leaving only Roundup available for chemical weed control.

Board's Plant

The Engineer advised members that the John Deere 6830 had been stolen from the Main Drain at Tydd,Gote during the night of 26 April 2010. Owing to the Tracker system being activated, it was recovered along with two other John Deere tractors not belonging to the Board, later on the 27 April and subsequently returned.

He then showed members photographs of fire damage caused to the Board's Hitachi ZX210 whilst it was deployed alongside the A1101 at Wisbech on 15 June. The photos showed that the base machine had been vandalised by cutting a hole through the door and the machine set on fire. Fortunately the long reach boom was not on the machine and it appears that the short reach boom was not badly damaged. He reported that the police officer dealing with the incident had stated "You shouldn't run such expensive toys". The Chairman said that it was not practical to move the machine every night, and that he was most annoyed about the attitude of the police and the policing situation in this district. Mr Fisher added that there were only three police offices on duty most nights, and they appeared to be office bound. Councillor Cotterell suggested that a letter be written to the Chief Constable with a copy to the local MP stating our concerns particularly in view of the serious spending cuts for rural policing.

Owl Boxes

The Engineer reported that following the annual inspection of the twelve owl boxes with Mr Shepherd from the Hawk and Owl Trust, there were 7 Barn Owl and 6 Kestrel nests, producing 9 barn owl chicks with a further 10 eggs, and 19 kestrel chicks plus 7 eggs.

Rechargeable Works

He updated members saying that the North Level ZX180 has been excavating two new ditches for Crowland Parish Council in order to accommodate the A1073 road. This work he believed was ultimately being financed by Lincolnshire County Council.

He then said that a video was being made of a year in the working life of the North Level District Internal Drainage Board. This was being produced by Clare Buckby from Crowland at a cost of approx. £2,000. This would be published on the new web site as well as being used for public relations work at schools and exhibitions, when required.

He referred to the Board's display at the Open Farm weekend on June 12/ 13th and confirmed that there had been distinctly more awareness than previous years, of the function of the Internal Drainage Board.

The Vice-Chairman gave his thanks to the Board and members of staff for their support of the Open Farm weekend and reported that there had been a 50% increase in attendance to 3000 people over the two days.

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

RESOLVED (190)

That the Engineer's Report be accepted and approved.

6 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE BOARD FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

The Chief Executive advised member that Grant Thornton, the Board's auditors, will be carrying out their external audit for 2009/2010 during the two weeks commencing 9 August 2010.

7 RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr J Sly (Chairman of the Governance & Audit Committee) reported on behalf of the Audit Committee, he advised members that Mr Godfrey Parkes had retired as Internal Auditor and following a successful interview Mr Hiren Rao had been appointed as the new Internal Auditor for the Board. He said that Mr Rao had made a good impression at the Governance & Audit Committee meeting and that he was looking forward to working with him. Mr. Clarke confirmed that he to was pleased with the appointment of Mr. Rao and felt he would have a more professional approach to the Internal Audit. Mr. Sly referred to item 5 explaining the need for a Revenue Account reserve minimum limit . Mr. Clarke asked that the word "Members" be substituted for "Directors" in the Internal Audit Charter, item 8. Mr. Sly asked members to note the Audit Committee's

recommendation in item 6, the Statement of Accounts, when considering item 8 on the main agenda.

Following a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED(191)

That the target minimum Revenue Account Reserves should be 25% of income.

It was also

RESOLVED(192)

To accept the Internal Auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2010

It was also

RESOLVED (193)

To accept the Internal Audit Charter, subject to the word "Members" being substituted for "Directors"

It was also

RESOLVED (194)

To accept the Audit Plan for 2010/2011

It was also

RESOLVED (195)

To accept the Strategic Plan for 2010

It was also

RESOLVED (196)

To continue with the investment principles as previously adopted

The Chairman then thanked Mr Sly and the Governance & Audit Committee for carrying out this function so efficiently.

8 APPROVE THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

The Chief Executive presented the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2010. He said that he felt that the Board complied fully with the Annual Governance Statement as presented. He further advised members that the Board has utilised the most appropriate accounting policies and having answered members questions it was

RESOLVED (197)

To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31 March 2010.

It was also

RESOLVED (198)

To adopt the Accounting Policies used, as being those most appropriate.

It was also

RESOLVED (199)

That the Boards Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2010 be adopted and approved as recommended under **item 6** of the Governance and Audit Committee.

9 ELECTIONS

a) Register of Electors

The Chief Executive reported that the Register of Electors for the three electoral districts of the Board had been prepared and advertised as required by the electoral Regulations. No objections to or requests for inclusion therein had been received

RESOLVED (200)

That the Register of Electors as advertised be approved

b) Date for receipt of nominations

RESOLVED (201)

That Tuesday 28 September 2010 up to 12 noon be fixed as the last date for receipt of nominations

c) Date of poll (should one be necessary)

RESOLVED (202)

That Thursday 28 October, 2010 be fixed as the day of the poll, if a poll should be necessary. The Chief Executive confirmed that nomination papers would be circulated to the existing agricultural members within the next month.

The Chief Executive informed members that the amalgamation with Nene Washlands which was anticipated to be completed by April 2011 was now unlikely to happen by that date. On a 12 point schedule the amalgamation process had reached point 2 in 11 months and the Environment Agency was currently waiting for DEFRA to approve the draft scheme. The Chairman said that this matter had been raised at a recent meeting of the Welland & Nene branch of ADA.

10 A1073 IMPROVEMENTS WORKS

The Engineer showed pictures of swales and drainage arrangements along the A1073. He showed the earth bunds adopted by the road designers to attenuate water into our drainage system. There were also pictures of flooding of agricultural land due to the inadequate drainage arrangement taken during the wet time, and that the contractors were planning to withdraw from site within the next two months or so. He said he was unsure of future maintenance arrangements which Lincolnshire County Council had in place for the upkeep of the swales and ditches. Following his letter of 1 February where he stated his dissatisfaction he had a response on 3 May following a meeting on-site on the 28 April. It was suggested at that meeting to replace the earth bunds with culverts with 4" pipes to enable attenuated run off into our systems. A further meeting is scheduled for Wednesday next week 23 June to meet with the design team to ensure the standard of protection for the new road and subsequently the adjoining agricultural land is up to dealing with a 1 in 100 year event. He said that Councillor W Webb has been copied in on all of the correspondence on this scheme and he would report further following next week's meeting.

11 ADA CONFERENCE

The Engineer reported that the Association's Annual Conference would be held at the East of England Showground on the 22nd and 23rd September 2010.

The Chairman told members that Jean Venables Chief Executive of ADA had been awarded a CBE in the queen's birthday honours and that a letter expressing the Boards congratulations had been sent.

The Engineer reported that the usual practice for attendees at the Conference was for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive, Engineer and a District Councillor, to represent the Board; this year being the turn of a Member from Fenland District Council.

RESOLVED (203)

That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive, Engineer, attend; Councillor Cotterell said that due to previous commitments it was unlikely that any Board member from Fenland would be available to attend.

12 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. Mr C Cutteridge

declared an interest in ref no: 10/00208/FUL. 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.

(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 (204)

That the report be received and its contents noted.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive reminded members that the next Board meeting had been re-scheduled to the 29 September 2010 to avoid conflicting with the ADA Conference.

Grant Thornton have indicated that they will not have the necessary paperwork complete in time for the proposed meeting on 6 September, therefore it is proposed to move the next meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to week beginning 13 September. He said he would circulate the revised date to the members of the Audit Committee.

The Vice-Chairman informed the meeting that having inadvertently missed the 250th. anniversary of the North Level Drainage Act of 1753, perhaps they would like to consider marking the 260 year anniversary in 2013 in some way.

There was no other business.