

NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

29 September 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)	N J Harris	
B Britain	P T R Hurn	
J A Clarke	N S Manser	
Cllr M Cotterell MBE	Cllr S G Marthews	
C J Cutteridge	H Neale	
G T Fisher	M D Seymour	
A E Gee	J W J Sly	
T J Gee	Cllr R C Speechley	
W E C Gee	A J Wadsley	
P S Gray	J Waltham	
Cllr R Green	Cllr D Wheeler	
Cllr D Harrington		

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, D R Coates, Cllr R Dobbs and Cllr Mrs P M C Potts.

Before continuing with the meeting the Chairman welcomed Councillor David Harrington appointed by Peterborough City Council and also Councillor Roger Green appointed by Fenland District Council.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED (205)

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 16 June 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

Board's Plant

The Engineer said that he had written to the Chief Constable on 24 June and as a consequence of that and other communications with Julie Spence and Russell Waterston, a meeting was held at the North Level Offices attended by the Chairman, the Chief Executive, himself and Chief Inspector Waterston to discuss the situation regarding vandalism to the Board's plant and the police reaction. As a result of this meeting the North Level has been invited to join the rural community action group, ECOPS, and also to work alongside the Crime prevention team. The Chairman having updated new members regarding the situation which had prompted this meeting said it was well worth doing and has had a positive outcome.

Elections

The Chief Executive, as returning officer, informed members that nominations received had not exceeded the number of members to be elected and, accordingly, it would not be necessary to conduct a poll. In the circumstances, existing members had been re-elected to serve for a further three years from 1 November 2010. He circulated a list of members, including District Council appointments, a copy of which being attached to these minutes.

There were no other matters arising.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor R. Green, Planning Committee Chairman FDC, relevant Fenland District and Peterborough City Council members along with Councillor R.C. Speechley wished to confirm that they attended the meeting and that they would take no part in debate or voting on any planning application thereon.

5 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 95% of the drainage rates due. For the benefit of new members he explained the presentation style of the financial report.

In response to a question from Councillor Cotterell regarding the reliability of Santander and the £500,000 invested there, he said that this had been carried out in line with the Audit Committee guidance and that he would be keeping a watchful eye on the stability of the bank. He also advised Cllr Cotterell that there had been no adverse reports of Santander in this country at this time.

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 (206)

That the Financial Report be accepted and approved.

6 ENGINEER'S REPORT

1 Rainfall has been as follows:-

	June		July		August	
	mm	inch	mm	inch	mm	inch
a) Tydd P S	52.00	2.05	40.00	1.57	144.50	5.69
b) Sutton St Edmund	49.90	1.96	39.50	1.56	156.80	6.17
c) Thorney Offices	22.20	0.87	14.60	0.57	139.00	5.47
d) Cross Guns	54.00	2.13	7.50	0.30	129.00	5.08
e) Dog-in-a-Doublet	4.80	0.19	25.60	1.01	124.80	4.91
f) Peakirk	39.00	1.54	22.60	0.89	100.20	3.94
g) Mouth Lane	53.00	2.09	17.00	0.67	135.00	5.31
h) Hundreds	49.00	1.93	49.00	1.93	157.00	6.18

2 Hydrometric Information

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
01/06/10	11.9	103.9	20/07/10	18.2	142.2
08/06/10	15.9	85.9	27/07/10	17.7	142.3
15/06/10	13.6	98.8	03/08/10	16.8	143.5
22/06/10	13.8	119.0	10/08/10	16.6	144.0
29/06/10	19.2	130.5	17/08/10	15.5	132.8
06/07/10	18.5	137.6	24/08/10	17.0	112.1
13/07/10	19.0	135.7	31/08/10	13.6	84.1

3 Pumping hours have been as follows:-

	June	July	August
a) Poplars	0	0	16
b) Denhams	0	0	1
c) Dog-in-a-Doublet (New)			
(Large)	0	0	13
(Small)	0	0	0
Dog-in-a-Doublet (Old)	0	0	49
d) Cross Guns – Electric	0	0	0
– Diesel	7	0	50
e) Mouth Lane – Electric	0	0	0
– Diesel	0	0	4
f) Willow Holt	0	0	9
g) Tydd – Electric	0	0	0
– Diesel	2	3	44
h) Postland	0	0	8
i) Newborough	0	0	33
j) Peakirk	0	0	0
k) Hundreds	0	0	0
Total	9	3	227

4 Maintenance 4 September 2010

20102009

- a) **Hand roding**
5,047m Nil have been completed in urban areas (5,925m)
- b) **Machine roding**
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Hitachi ZX180 | 25,380m | (Nil) |
| Hitachi ZX210 | 13,605m | (9,155m) |
| Berkenheger | 45,628m | (25,982m) |
| Hired | 19,750m | (Nil) |
| Boat | Nil | (Nil) |
| Tractor & weed-basket | Nil | (Nil) |
- c) **Flailing**
722,441m on one side have been completed using 4 No flail mowers (145,491m)
- 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 | 72,820m | (58,830m) |
| Roundup pro-biactive – hand | 30,292m | (7,552m) |
- g) **Piping side dykes** Nil (Nil)
- h) **Revetment work** Nil (Nil)
- i) **Properties**
Due to ongoing issues with Tydd Pumping Station House roof, it is proposed to refurbish the entire roof. This will be funded from the Capital Fund and is anticipated to cost approximately £10,000. The existing tiles will be re-used, new felt and battens supplied and the valley around the perimeter of the entire roof will be lead-lined.

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**
The majority of dam boards and slackers have now been removed and the freshwater feeds are closed.
- m) **Board's plant**
The Board took delivery of the new Hitachi ZX210 excavator at the end of July and was made operational by the mid August.

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

5 Capital Works to 4 September 2010

Tydd Pumping Station Refurbishment Phase IV

This phase of the scheme involves replacing the electric control cabinets to pumps 5 and 6 with modern up to date equipment in line with the rest of the stations. As part of this scheme the old air motor and proximity switches currently operating the gate valve on pump 5 will be replaced with an Auma actuator as installed on all of the diesel driven pumps.

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 complete.

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 were carried out in February. In addition to this the drain bank to be re-profiled was sprayed with glyphosate to deter nesting birds.

Phase I of the scheme included the construction of a 60 metre pipeline constructed using 0.9m dia. Weholite pipe, the pipeline replaced 2 No existing access culverts and incorporated an open section to provide improved access for the Board's maintenance plant.

In addition to this 375m³ of spoil has been excavated, re-profiling landward batters and lowering bed levels over 300 metres of open watercourse.

The works were carried out using the Board's direct labour together with a local builder to construct the inspection chambers and hard landscaping.

Works are now 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.

The works are now 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.

320m³ of spoil has been excavated, re-profiling landward batters and lowering bed levels over 350 metres of open watercourse, in addition to this approximately 150 metres of stabilisation works have been carried out using timber piles and thorn faggots.

The batters have been grass seeded and land drain headwalls replaced, the remaining spoil will be spread once the crops are harvested.

The works are 75% complete.

Gores Drain – pipeline inspections/cleansing - Thorney

This is a non-grant aided scheme financed from development levy funds to cleanse and inspect 250 metres of Armco pipeline in the Gores Drain, as part of the Board's ongoing asset management programme.

No maintenance or inspections have been carried out since its construction, approximately 85m³ 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.

Works are now complete.

Re-chargeable Works

The Board was 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.

In preparation for the scheme all shrubs and trees were removed in February to deter nesting birds.

The existing drain was cleaned out and a 4 inch land drain pipe installed before filling.

Approximately 3600m³ of spoil has been excavated in the construction of the new watercourse and 3 No access culverts constructed using 0.45m dia weholite plastic pipe.

The surplus spoil has been spread across the adjoining land and grass seed sown on the drain batters.

The works are now complete

Anglian Water Services Limited

Following a water main burst, a section of the Board's White Engine Drain slipped on the road side of Leverington Common for a length of some 20m. This was stabilised by North Level direct labour and plant using timber piles and toe boards. All works were recharged to Anglian Water.

French Drove House Extension

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

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

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
Mossops pipeline- Newborough
Main Drain Phase II - Tydd Gote
Tanholt Drain - Eye

P D Sharman

The engineer updated the Hydrometric data and pumping hours and pointed out that the Flailing measurement under item (c) was incorrect and should read 489,702 metres.

Board's Plant

He told members that delivery of the New Excavator had been made in July and having been fitted with our modifications was operational by August.

Board's Properties

He updated members by saying that re-roofing had commenced on the pumping station house at Tydd.

Staff

He informed members that Engineering Assistant Jamie Jenkins had successfully completed his first year of National Certificate in civil engineering at Peterborough Regional College attaining six subjects with distinction. He added that Jamie had also passed a City and Guilds in Computer Aided Design 2D level 2 and that he was now embarking on his second year both for NC in civil engineering and CAD 2D level 3. He said that he was very pleased with Jamie's progress. As per the agreed career grade structure he would receive two accelerated increments being on salary point 7 as from 1 October 2010.

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

RESOLVED (207)

That the Engineer's Report be accepted and approved.

7 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2010

The Chief Executive explained to members that in future, the meeting papers issued for the Audit Committee meetings would be circulated to all members with the Board meeting agenda papers, giving all members the opportunity to make themselves familiar with the contents prior to the Board meeting enabling them to formulate any questions or queries they may wish to raise at the meeting. Mr J Sly (Chairman Governance & Audit Committee) reported on behalf of the Committee and following a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED(208)

To approve the amended Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2010

RESOLVED(209)

To accept the Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED(210)

To accept that the operational buildings including pumping stations be valued annually with the proviso for this to be revisited should the cost become prohibitive.

RESOLVED(211)

To approve and accept the Annual Governance Report including the change referred to in the minutes of the report.

RESOLVED(212)

To approve and accept the Letter of Representation.

RESOLVED(213)

To approve and accept the updated Risk Register

RESOLVED(214)

To approve and accept the Investment Strategy to include the investment period being increased from a maximum of 3 months to 12 months

RESOLVED(215)

To approve and accept that the Board's insurance remain with the NFU for the following year

RESOLVED(216)

To approve and accept the Scheme of Delegation including the suggested amendments

RESOLVED(217)

To approve and accept the Internal Auditor's VFM Governance report dated 7 August 2010

RESOLVED(218)

To approve and accept the Internal Auditor's Risk Management & Internal Control report dated 11 August 2010

RESOLVED(219)

To approve and accept the Audit Committee's Annual Report 2009-2010

RESOLVED(220)

To approve and accept that the Corporate Governance strategies be incorporated into one document.

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

8 AMALGAMATION WITH THE NENE WASHLANDS COMMISSIONERS

The Chief Executive briefly summarised the reasoning behind the proposed amalgamation of the Nene Washlands Commissioners and North Level District IDB. He explained that at their meeting in May 2009, the Commissioners had resolved to amalgamate with the North Level, the draft order had been prepared by the Environment Agency and approved by DEFRA, The Order had now been sealed and was due to be advertised shortly, but had been put on hold at the request of the Chairman of the Commissioners.

Following the change of Government and the apparent change of policy by DEFRA, the Commissioners who had previously resolved to amalgamate with North Level had called for a Special Meeting to be held to consider recent correspondence from both the Minister and DEFRA. The Nene Valley 1862 Act states that a person possessed of twenty acres shall be a Commissioner, every person possessed of one hundred acres may appoint two Commissioners. As a result of the 1988 Finance Act, as a charging authority Peterborough City Council would be able to appoint a majority of representatives, by one. These representatives would all be invited to attend a meeting to consider the proposed amalgamation with the North Level. This meeting has been called for 1 November 2010, the outcome of which will be reported to the North Level Board at the November meeting.

9 ADA CONFERENCE

The Engineer reported that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and himself attended the ADA Conference on 22 September at Peterborough Showground. He reported that Mr H Cator had been re-elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year and that the conference for 2011 would be moved back to London. Reports were received from the various sub committees, Finance and Admin, Publicity and Technical and Environment. The Chief Executive of ADA, Dr Jean Venables informed delegates during her presentation that whilst DEFRA had appeared to change their thinking on large sub-catchment IDB areas, there had been no withdrawal of the necessity to amalgamate Boards under £500,000 turnover.

Following the formal business of conference a break was taken to allow delegates ample opportunity to visit the Exhibition Hall. A presentation was then received from Professor Laura Nola regarding the activities of Italian Drainage Boards for renewable energy and sustainable irrigation. Following this was an hour long question and answer session to a panel of guests and ADA representatives.

10 PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Applications

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 (221)

That the report be received and its contents noted.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

North Level District Internal Drainage Board

BOARD MEMBERS AS AT 1 NOVEMBER 2010

Elected Members

Mr J A Clarke
Mr D R Coates
Mr C Cutteridge
Mr G T Fisher
Mr A E Gee
Mr T J Gee
Mr N J Harris
Mr J H R Hoyles (Chairman)
Mr N S Manser
Mr H Neale
Mr M H S Sly (Vice-Chairman)
C Cllr R C Speechley
Mr A J Wadsley
Mr J Waltham

Fenland District Council Appointments

Cllr C Bellamy
Mr B Britain
Cllr M Cotterell MBE
Mr P S Gray
Cllr R Green
Cllr Mrs P M C Potts
Cllr D Wheeler

Peterborough City Council Appointments

Cllr R Dobbs
Mr W E C Gee
Cllr D Harrington
Mr P T R Hurn
Mr J W J Sly

South Holland District Council Appointments

Cllr C J T H Brewis
Cllr S G Marthews
Cllr M D Seymour