

## NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

24 November 2010

At the Annual 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	
Cllr C Bellamy	P T R Hurn	
B Britain	N S Manser	
Cllr C J T H Brewis	Cllr S G Marthews	
J A Clarke	H Neale	
D R Coates	Cllr Mrs P M C Potts	
C J Cutteridge	Cllr M D Seymour	
G T Fisher	J W J Sly	
A E Gee	Cllr R C Speechley	
T J Gee	A J Wadsley	
Cllr R Green	Cllr D Wheeler	

**In attendance:**

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

**1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED (222)**

That Mr J H R Hoyles be appointed as Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

Mr Hoyles thanked members for expressing once again their confidence in him by appointing him for a further term, and acknowledged the assistance he had received from his Vice-Chairman and the Board's staff during the past twelve months.

**2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED (223)**

That Mr M H S Sly be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

Mr Sly thanked members for their trust in appointing him for another term.

### **3 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr M Cotterell MBE, Cllr R Dobbs, W E C Gee, P S Gray, Cllr D Harrington and J Waltham. Before continuing with the meeting and having been advised that a boy had be born to Mr and Mrs W E C Gee. the Board joined together in offering congratulations and wishing the family well.

### **4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

#### **RESOLVED (224)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 29 September 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.

### **5 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising

### **6 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.

### **7 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 98.5% of the drainage rates due. He said the investments still continued to offer a low return and that often the requirements which were needed to transfer money into marginally higher interest rate investments absorbed what little interest rate increase being offered.

In reply to a question from Mr Fisher he explained that the high number of padlocks purchased by the board was attributable to the need for locked access gates along the drains, and wherever possible double locks were now being applied enabling tenants to install their own locks, negating the need to a single North Level provided lock.

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 (225)**

That the Financial Report be accepted and approved.

**8 ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**1 Rainfall has been as follows:-**

	Sept		Oct	
	mm	inch	mm	inch
a) Tydd P S	62.00	2.44	47.00	1.85
b) Sutton St Edmund	57.50	2.26	52.30	2.06
c) Thorney Offices	57.30	2.26	47.70	1.88
d) Cross Guns	52.50	2.07	50.70	2.00
e) Dog-in-a-Doublet	55.60	2.19	22.40	0.88
f) Peakirk	30.20	1.19	11.60	0.46
g) Mouth Lane	35.25	1.39	Broken gauge	
h) Hundreds	61.00	2.40	40.50	1.59

**2 Hydrometric Information**

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
07/09/10	14.9	86.5	05/10/10	13.2	62.9
14/09/10	15.7	92.7	12/10/10	13.3	71.0
21/09/10	13.1	102.7	19/10/10	9.2	70.9
28/09/10	12.8	92.8	26/10/10	6.6	63.5

**3 Pumping hours have been as follows:-**

	Sept	Oct
a) Poplars	9	29
b) Denhams	0	0
c) Dog-in-a-Doublet (New)		
(Large)	0	0
(Small)	0	0
Dog-in-a-Doublet ( Old )	33	40
d) Cross Guns – Electric	0	0
– Diesel	70	86
e) Mouth Lane – Electric	0	0
– Diesel	0	0
f) Willow Holt	1	13
g) Tydd – Electric	0	0
– Diesel	38	43
h) Postland	0	5
i) Newborough	5	0
j) Peakirk	0	1
k) Hundreds	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>217</b>

#### 4 Maintenance to 30 October 2010

	2010	2009
<b>a) Hand roding</b>		
5,047m have been completed in urban areas		(5,925m)
<b>b) Machine roding</b>		
Hitachi ZX180	84,120m	(78,861m)
Hitachi ZX210	100,545m	(136,025m)
Berkenheger	176,164m	(225,229m)
Hired	81,115m	(81,040m)
Boat	Nil	(Nil)
Tractor & weed-basket	25,400m	(33,110m)
<b>c) Flailing</b>		
1,103,431m on one side have been completed using 4 No flail mowers		(1,132,956m)
<b>d) Mudding Out – machine</b>		
Hitachi ZX180	Nil	(Nil)
Hitachi ZX210	Nil	(1,668m)
Hired	Nil	(Nil)
<b>e) Mudding Out – hand</b>	Nil	(Nil)
<b>f) Chemical weed control</b>		
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)
<b>g) Piping side dykes</b>	Nil	(Nil)
<b>h) Revetment work</b>	Nil	(Nil)
<b>i) Properties</b>		
Work at Tydd Pumping Station House is now complete		
Routine maintenance carried out to all Board's properties		
<b>j) Faggot making</b>	Nil	(Nil)
<b>k) Pumping stations</b>		
General repairs and maintenance carried out to all pumping stations		
<b>l) Water level control structures</b>		
The majority of slackers and dam boards have been lifted or removed and the freshwater feeds are closed.		
<b>m) Board's plant</b>		
General repairs and servicing carried out to all plant and vehicles.		

## **5 Capital Works to 9 November 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.

The new cabinets are currently being assembled at E Rand & Son's base and are due to be delivered to site shortly.

### **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.

320m<sup>3</sup> 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.

### **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.

Works are now 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  
Tydd catchment strategy modelling  
Crowland Parish Council Drain Works – Crowland (Rechargeable works)  
Thirty Chain Spur Drain – Postland  
Tanholt Drain - Eye

### **Schemes being prepared**

Old Wryde Drain - Murrow  
Foul Anchor sluice refurbishment – Foul Anchor  
Clough Cross sluice refurbishment – Parson Drove  
Telemetry upgrade  
Steward House Drain Phase II – Thorney  
Mossops pipeline- Newborough  
Main Drain Phase II - Tydd Gote

**P D Sharman**

The Engineer updated the Hydrometric data and pumping hours then went on to update members on his report.

#### Tydd Pumping Station

He told members that the electric control cabinets were under construction at Rands and that they were due for delivery shortly. He said that a Grant had been received for 45% towards the modelling and catchment strategy which, by undertaking our own survey work, would be put towards the consultancy services required. He explained that this modelling work was necessary to authenticate our claims for 1 in 50 or 1 in 100 year standard of protection and that it only took into account our own drains, thereby ignoring possible extra capacity available in some private drains should the need arise.

#### Councillor's View Day

The Engineer reported that the Councillor's view day had been very successful and well attended and that the Chairman and Board had received very favourable comments. The Chairman said that this was a worth while exercise and should help to raise the awareness of the work of the North Level.

#### ADA

ADA is now issuing a regular newsletter which will be circulated by email. The Engineer asked if any member wished to receive a copy of the newsletter, to pass on their contact details to him which he will forward on to ADA. He also informed members that ADA was seeking to locate a one day demonstration site, and that the Cross Guns pumping station area looked favourable. He said that at the moment this was in the investigation stage and would possibly not be in place until 2013.

In response to a question raised by Mr Clarke, the Engineer said that the lack of chemical weed control has not had an adverse affect this year but that it was anticipated it will be most apparent next year.

In response to a question from Mr Neale he said that the Telemetry upgrade was an upgrade review following 15 years of the present system in operation which had been an upgrade of the first system installed in 1984. He said that to ensure value for money it is necessary to be aware of the new developments and what benefits they can bring to the Board.

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

#### **RESOLVED (226)**

That the Engineer's Report be accepted and approved.

## **9 AMALGAMATION WITH THE NENE WASHLANDS COMMISSIONERS**

The Chief Executive reported that following a special meeting of the Nene Washlands Commissioners held on the 1 November 2010, The Commissioners had voted by a substantial majority to continue with the amalgamation, 15 for the motion and 4 against; the original minute being confirmed. He thanked members who had represented Peterborough City Council on the Commissioners at the meeting, for their support. He reported that the draft scheme had been approved by DEFRA and the Notice had been signed by the EA Regional Director, the EA would now advertise the Draft Scheme locally. He did suggest that it is unlikely that the amalgamation would be completed before the end of March 2011, but would keep members informed as to progress.

**Due to the relevancy of the Partnership Meetings and Defra correspondence, it was decided to take item 11 next**

## **11 PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS**

The Engineer took item 11 first and briefly explained the history behind the formation of the Flood Risk Partnerships with Lincolnshire County Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. He went on to explain the process of data gathering being used by each of the Lead Local Flood Authorities in order to fulfil their duty to produce firstly Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments by June 2011, Flood Hazard maps and Flood Risk maps by June 2013, and finally Flood Risk Management Plans by June 2015. The Environment Agency remain responsible for mapping the flood risk from Main River and the sea, however they have also produced a map of areas susceptible to flooding for all areas, and these maps are being used by some Lead Local Flood Authorities. The Engineer explained the obvious failings of this mapping in our area, although a second generation of the maps was due out shortly.

## **10 DEFRA CORRESPONDENCE**

Under item 10 the Engineer referred to a letter from Defra dated 14 October 2010, which included a questionnaire regarding how the efficiency and effectiveness of IDB's varies with the size of the organisations, and explains the introduction of the Public Bodies Bill. After briefly explaining both the North Level response to the questionnaire compared to the ADA model response, the Engineer highlighted salient points from the Chairman of ADA response to the Ministers letter.

The term "Total Place" appeared for the first time in this response and the Engineer highlighted the dangers this project could bring to IDB's specifically with regard to future funding arrangements. It was explained that Lincolnshire County Council had been selected as one of sixteen counties as a pilot for the scheme and that in theory all monies appertaining to flood risk would go directly to the County to be directed and distributed as the County see fit. The Engineer explained the implications of the Public Bodies Bill whereby the Minister could be given the powers to make Orders that previously would have necessitated Parliament having to pass a raft of primary Acts, otherwise known as "Henry VIII" provision, to reform IDB's.

A lengthy debate ensued where Members expressed their displeasure at these proposals and the Engineer informed Members that a workshop was to be held the day after the meeting specifically to discuss the issue of Total Environment with Lincolnshire County Council. This workshop would be attended by The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive and Engineer.

**It was agreed to take item 12 at the end of the meeting**

### 13 **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.

He referred to the application listed under South Holland District Council where a development in Crowland was intending to discharge the surface water run off into the existing facilities. He said that North Level had been unable to support the application due to insufficient information available on the existing facilities. Cllr Brewis said that he would raise this issue with the Council.

There were no other 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 (227)**

That the report be received and its contents noted.

### 14 **FIX DATE FOR TECHNICAL MEETING**

The Engineer informed members that as there was only one item of plant which needed to be replaced in the next year, it was therefore agreed to consider this at this meeting and not call a Technical Meeting this year.

He reported that the JCB 540-70 Teleporter although only 6.5 years old had already had one new transmission pack and that it now needed another one. He advised members that from quotes he had received, repair of the transmission would be in the region of £4,500 to £6,000. Bearing in mind that this would be the second time in six years that this machine had developed the same fault, he recommended that it be replaced. Having investigated a replacement JCB and alternative equivalent machines, he recommended that a CLAAS Scorpion 7040 VP be purchased at a cost of £56,600 less £20,000 trade in for the existing JCB 540-70 as is, ie. not repaired. This CLAAS Scorpion 740 VP model is a different design which does not rely on a transmission pack. He conceded that the problems suffered with the JCB may just be attributable to this machine, but he was reluctant to risk replacing like for like. After a full discussion where the Engineer told members that all existing attachments will fit the proposed new machine and that it would be funded from the Plant Replacement fund, it was

#### **RESOLVED(228)**

To trade in the JCB 540-70 against a CLAAS Scorpion 7040 VP Telehandler.

**15 FIX DATES OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2011**

It was agreed that the dates of Board meetings for the year be as suggested in the agenda.

**Board Meeting dates 2011**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. February at 11.00am

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>. April at 9.00am

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. June at 11.00am

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>. September at 9.00am.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. November at 11.00am.

A members inspection will be held after the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011

A Members and Guests inspection will be held after the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Also it was agreed that the dates of the Governance and Audit Committee meetings for the year be as suggested in the agenda:

**Governance and Audit Committee Meetings 2011**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>. January at 9.30am.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>. June at 9.30am

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>. September at 9.30am

**16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Select List of Tenderers

Members raised concerns regarding the North Level in its efforts to apply the joint working and share of resources element of the partnership schemes tendering for work for the local council bodies. The Engineer said that although he had requested that North Level be invited to tender for a number of contracts within the North Level District, no invitation had been received. This was because the local councils operate a select list of tenderers which included preferred companies for contracts with the local councils. He said that a meeting had been set up with Ian Russell of the Environment Agency on Tuesday 30 November to discuss how tenders are issued.

There was no other business.

The secretary Mrs C L Emery left the meeting

## **12 STAFF MATTERS**

The Chief Executive explained to members his suggested changes to staffing arrangements as circulated with the agenda and attached to these minutes. He answered members questions and then left the meeting.

The Engineer answered members questions regarding the workload for the existing staff specifically with the increase in attendance of meetings regarding changes in legislation. The Engineer confirmed his satisfaction with the arrangement as proposed. Members also noted that the appointment of a suitably qualified finance officer was a key appointment.

The Engineer left the meeting.

After a brief discussion it was:

### **RESOLVED(229)**

That the Chief Executive, Mr S H Morris, take flexible retirement from 25 June 2011, reducing his hours by 25%, to 26.25hrs per week on a flexi-time basis and his salary being reduced accordingly. The Board agreed to the early release of his pension benefits.

### **RESOLVED(230)**

That the Finance Clerk, Mrs Farrugia, reduces her hours to 21hrs per week as from 1 April 2011.

Mrs Farrugia continues working part time past her contractual retirement age on 12 September 2011, a maximum of 21 hours per week, for a further twelve months.

### **RESOLVED(231)**

That a suitably qualified Finance Officer be appointed as from 1 April 2011 on a salary range Grade 3/6