

## NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

20 APRIL 2011

At a 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
D R Coates		H Neale
G T Fisher		Cllr M D Seymour
Cllr R Dobbs		J W J Sly
A E Gee		Cllr R C Speechley
T J Gee		J Waltham
W E C 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 M Cotterell MBE, C J Cutteridge, P S Gray, Cllr R Green, Cllr Mrs P M C Potts, and A J Wadsley.

**2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED (245)**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 2 February 2011, 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**

There were no matters arising

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R.C. Speechley wished to confirm that he attended the meeting and that he 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 having achieved an April issue date for the drainage rate demands we had to date received £64,000.

He said that although the Engineers were making savings on the maintenance of drains wherever possible, some of this benefit could be absorbed in pumping expenditure as fuel prices continue to rise.

Mr James Sly raised a concern about the possible European Union directive to abolish the use of red diesel and its effect on the costs to the Drainage Board. The Chairman said that a watching brief will be kept on this issue and where appropriate, action would be taken.

The Chief Executive then 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 (246)**

That the Financial Report be accepted and approved.

**6 STAFF MATTERS**

The Chief Executive reported that 3 candidates were interviewed for the position of Finance Officer. Mrs Simone Drew was appointed and commenced employment on 1 April 2011. She holds a Member of Association of Accounting Technicians certificate and is currently working on the installation of the new accounting package. He also advised members that Ms Katie Jones is attending a secretarial course at Pitman Training. She has completed 30% of the course and has achieved a Distinction in both Word 2007 and Business Documentation.

## 7 ENGINEER'S REPORT

### 1 Rainfall has been as follows:-

	Jan		Feb		March	
	mm	inch	mm	inch	mm	inch
a) Tydd P S	45.5	1.79	51.50	2.03	4.00	0.16
b) Sutton St Edmund	38.9	1.53	45.10	1.78	4.20	0.17
c) Thorney Offices	46.8	1.84	43.10	1.70	4.00	0.16
d) Cross Guns	25.5	1.00	45.00	1.77	4.10	0.16
e) Dog-in-a-Doublet	42.2	1.66	41.40	1.63	4.20	0.17
f) Peakirk	12.2	0.48	40.80	1.61	3.20	0.13
g) Mouth Lane	52.4	2.06	44.60	1.76	5.00	0.20
h) Hundreds	38.5	1.52	44.00	1.73	2.00	0.08

### 2 Hydrometric Information

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
04/01/11	2.9	37.9	22/02/11	4.0	13.6
11/01/11	3.9	23.5	01/03/11	6.8	10.0
18/01/11	8.4	17.3	08/03/11	3.1	14.6
25/01/11	3.9	17.5	15/03/11	7.4	22.3
01/02/11	1.6	19.4	22/03/11	7.4	29.7
08/02/11	8.5	26.9	29/03/11	8.3	37.6
15/02/11	6.8	17.8			

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

	Jan	Feb	March
a) Poplars	156	89	83
b) Denhams	16	11	3
c) Dog-in-a-Doublet (New)			
(Large)	93	22	12
(Small)	12	0	0
Dog-in-a-Doublet ( Old )	18	32	46
d) Cross Guns – Electric	5	0	16
– Diesel	178	126	88
e) Mouth Lane – Electric	21	15	17
– Diesel	25	9	8
f) Willow Holt	126	72	52
g) Tydd – Electric	11	17	0
– Diesel	256	144	156
h) Postland	74	43	40
i) Newborough	96	41	38
j) Peakirk	15	12	9
k) Hundreds	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>568</b>

**4 Maintenance to 31 March 2011**  
**Annual Totals 2011** **2010**

**a) Hand roding** 21,542m (20,520m)

**b) Machine roding**

Hitachi ZX180	116,500m	(117,290m)
Hitachi ZX210	153,295m	(166,015m)
Berkenheger	192,915m	(225,229m)
Hired	81,115m	(81,040m)
Boat	Nil	(Nil)
Tractor & weed-basket	30,630m	(35,957m)

**c) Flailing**  
 1,103,431m on one side have been completed using 4 No flail mowers (1,132,956m)

**d) Mudding Out – machine**

Hitachi ZX180	1626m	(11,810m)
Hitachi ZX210	2294m	(7,378m)
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 (6 No)

**h) Revetment work** Nil (144m)

**i) Properties**

Routine maintenance carried out to all Board's properties

**j) Faggot making**  
 3600 faggots have been cut (4,690)

**k) Pumping stations**

Denhams pump was removed by Shoebridge Engineering on 28 January, following repeated problems with pump tripping out on overload. The problem proved to be caused by the rubber cutlass bearings adhering to the pump shaft and these have been replaced with phosphor bronze bushes. The pump was returned and commissioned on Friday 11 March. The 37Kw motor has been tested and the slip rings revarnished.

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 2011**

**Tydd Pumping Station Refurbishment Phase IV**

The new control panels were delivered to site on 1 March 2011 and work commenced on the installation of these panels. This necessitated the shut down of the HV supply to the site by Freedom Contractors. The Auma actuator has been installed to operate the gate valve on pump no 5 and the liquid starters are currently being refurbished by W H Shoebridge of Wisbech.

Unfortunately work has been delayed by a break in to the station on 7 March, with extensive damage to 1 no electric panel requiring a total rebuild. It is envisaged that pump No 6 will be back on line shortly with pump No 5 delayed a further 3 weeks. It should be noted that throughout the shutdown period pumps 1 – 4 have been fully operational.

Works are 50% 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.

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. Works are now complete.

**Mossop's Pipeline – Newborough**

This is a grant aided scheme financed from Flood Defence Grant in Aid (45%) and North Level development funds (55%). This scheme has been designed to improve a 200 metre length of pipeline in Newborough village, originally constructed in 1980 the pipeline serves approximately 56 residential properties.

Due to the establishment of trees adjacent to pipeline the pipe has become blocked by roots, reducing the cross sectional area of the pipe by 95%. This is now clearly limiting the efficiency of the pipeline and reducing the level of protection provided to the properties upstream.

The scheme will involve the reconstruction of 110 metres of pipe, using 0.9 metre diameter weholite pipe, with the remaining 90 metres that is difficult to access through gardens, being lined.

Works started on the scheme in February with the clearance of the trees over the pipe, the remaining works will be completed in April/May 2011.

The works are 20% complete.

### **Clough Sluice Refurbishment – Parson Drove**

This is a grant aided scheme financed from Flood Defence Grant in Aid (45%) and North Level development funds (55%). Originally constructed in the 1800's and re-commissioned in 1994 the sluice gates have received limited maintenance.

The works started in March 2011 with the lifting of the sluice gates and component parts off the Clough Bridge structure, prior to transporting to Fentec Powder Coating and Shot Blasting in Peterborough. Scaffolding has been erected to provide access to the sluice framework remaining on the bridge structure to facilitate on site shot-blasting and repainting.

The works are 35% complete.

### **Tydd Catchment Strategy & Modelling**

This is a grant aided scheme financed from Flood Defence Grant in Aid (45%) and North Level revenue funds (55%).

The Tydd Catchment covers an area of 14,565 hectares, and outfalls via the Tydd Pumping Station into the tidal river Nene. Approximately 11,273 hectares discharges to the Main Drain by gravity the remaining 3,292 hectares is pumped via the Poplars, Willow Holt, Denhams and Hundreds Pumping Stations.

The aim of this study is to hydraulically model approximately 85km of open watercourse within the Tydd Catchment, the results of this study will determine the overall level of protection provided to agriculture, residential and industrial assets in the catchment. In addition to this the results of the study will be used to determine future capital investments and improvement works programmes, also identifying and supporting works suitable for Flood Defence Grant in Aid.

The study is being managed by the Boards Engineers, the 85km of watercourse are being surveyed by the Boards Engineering Assistant with the recently purchased GPS survey equipment and Coastal and Rivers Engineering Consultants Royal Haskoning have been awarded the modelling contract.

The study is due to be completed by November 2011.

### **Tanholt Drain – Eye**

This is a non grant aided scheme financed from development levy, designed to improve the Tanholt Drain for a length of approximately 1600 metres. This drain provides an outfall to a recent development of some 1.1 hectares.

3200 thorn faggots have been cut and transported to site in readiness for this scheme, the remainder of the works will be completed in May 2011.

Works are 20% complete.

### **Re-chargeable Works**

Tree Trimming – Welland & Deepings IDB

The Hitachi ZX210 and Dymax tree shears were hired by Welland & Deepings IDB for 2 weeks in January, in the interest of working in closer partnership with neighbouring boards the WDIDB have agreed to hire the plant on an annual basis for a 2 week period.

The works are now complete

### **Drain Improvements – Phase 1, Crowland (see attached site plan for LCC ditches)**

This is a scheme financed by Lincolnshire County Council to improve three drains at Crowland totalling a length of 740 metres.

Works began on site on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 with trees and hedge removal using the Board's Hitachi ZX210 and Dymax tree shears.

Approximately 3000 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 4No access culverts reconstructed.

Works are now complete.

### **Drain Improvements – Green Drove, Crowland**

This is a scheme financed by Lincolnshire County Council to improve approximately 393 metres of watercourse.

Approximately 500 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 1No access culvert reconstructed.

Works are now complete

### **Drain Improvements – Hill Farm, Newborough**

This is a scheme financed by Lincolnshire County Council to improve approximately 1050 metres of watercourse.

Approximately 1575 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 5No access culverts reconstructed. In addition to this 30 metres of stabilization works has been carried out using timber fir piles and toe boards.

Works are now complete

### **Drain Improvements – Radar Corner, Postland**

This is a scheme financed by Lincolnshire County Council to improve approximately 304 metres of watercourse.

Approximately 450 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 1No access culvert cleaned.

Works are now complete

### **Drain Improvements – Carringtons Drove, Crowland**

This is a scheme financed by Lincolnshire County Council to improve approximately 569 metres of watercourse.

Approximately 650 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 2No access culverts have been reconstructed.

Works are now 75% complete.

### **Crowland Parish Council Drain Works – Crowland**

In conjunction with the construction of the new A1073 and the Green Drove link road, Crowland Parish Council approached the Board's engineers to construct a new drain adjacent to the newly constructed Green Drove link road at Crowland for a length of 542 metres.

Financed by Crowland Parish Council, approximately 1100 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 2No access culverts have been constructed.

The 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 Pumping Station Refurbishment – Phase IV  
Main Drain Phase 2 – Tydd Gote  
Little Ramper Drain – Westside Marshes

### **Schemes being prepared**

Thirty Chain Spur Drain – Postland  
Old Wryde Drain - Murrow  
Foul Anchor sluice refurbishment – Foul Anchor  
Telemetry upgrade  
Steward House Drain Phase II – Thorney

**P D Sharman**

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

### **Thefts**

The Engineer reported a break-in at Tydd Pumping Station on 7<sup>th</sup> March, where access was gained through the 18" x 12" windows. Two small fires were started in the new electric control panels, resulting in the total destruction of the incomer panel and the loss of telemetry control to pumps 4, 5 and 6. The incident was reported to the police who

attended the scene and collected DNA evidence. We have since been advised that they have identified one possible culprit who was arrested and bailed to appear in court on the 21 April. Unfortunately one of the burned out parts was a pressure switch for pump No 5 which has caused a delay in commissioning that pump. In response to a members question the Engineer said that the insurance claim for this burglary was in excess of £7,000. Since then there has been a second break-in and a small drum of electrical cable was taken, but no further damage was done. He said that the break-ins appeared to be purely malicious because although there were large drums of cables in the vicinity, none were taken. In response to these occurrences, the burglar alarm has been upgraded and bars have been fitted to the windows.

He also advised members that there had been five thefts of diesel taken from hydraulic machines within the district, during the period 22 February to 17 April.

### Capital Works

#### Tydd Pumping Station

The Engineer added to his report on Tydd Pumping Station by advising members that pumps 1 to 4 were fully operational, No 6 is up and running on manual control and No 5 has been delayed due to the break-in.

In response to a question from Mr Fisher he said the that installation of a CCTV system linked to a security company had been investigated but was extremely expensive to run with no guarantees of identifying the intruders.

#### Main Drain Mudding out

He then advised members that Mudding out of the Main Drain has started using a 38RB with a 90' stick hired from Taylor Dredging. This work was being funded jointly from revenue and development levy.

#### Feed-in-Tariffs

The Engineer told members that he was still gathering data in regard to Feed-in-Tariffs which would be brought to the June board meeting as an agenda item.

#### Mossop's Pipeline

Mr Harris asked whether the proposed development of some 2ha of land which could drain into the Mossop's drain would be catered for. The Engineer stated that the reconstructed length of the pipeline had been upgraded to 0.90m diameter.

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

### **RESOLVED (247)**

That the Engineer's Report be accepted and approved.

## **8 PURCHASE OF ACCESS ROAD TO CROSS GUNS PUMPING STATION**

The Engineer told members that as part of the recently completed Land Registry exercise we were advised that whilst historically it was understood that the Board owned

the access road to Cross Guns Pumping Station and accordingly have been maintaining it, in fact it is owned by the Environment Agency. Verbal agreement had been reached with the Agency to transfer the road into our ownership for a nominal fee, however the EA then decided to place the road and the Knarr lake fishing pit onto the open market. As we had suffered with unauthorised people using the fishing lake, camping out and leaving the area in a mess last year, along with the added concern over security of the Boards properties at Cross Guns it was suggested that it would be prudent for the Board to purchase both the road and Knarr lake.

Following a brief discussion it was

**RESOLVED (248)**

That the Board purchase both the access road and the fishing lake at the District Valuer's valuation of £12,500.

**9 RATING AND ACCOUNTS SYSTEMS**

The Chief Executive reported to members that following the appointment of the new Chief Executive to Welland and Deeping IDB and they having only a partial computerised rating system in place, the Welland and Deepings IDB has purchased a half share ownership of our new rating program, "Boardrate". The program was installed by our retained programmer assisted by Mrs Christine Emery on 6 April. The Welland and Deepings IDB are now in the process of inputting their data. Part of the purchase agreement is that should any other parties wish to purchase the program, the sale price would be split 50/50 between the Welland and Deeping IDB and ourselves, with the North Level retaining ownership of the program code.

He then said that due to the high maintenance costs of £3,500 per annum for our existing Evolution Accounts program and that Welland and Deepings IDB operated with Sage 50 Professional it would be prudent in terms of both risk management and long term financial savings to change our accounting package to Sage 50 Professional. This would also provide an element of economy for both maintenance charges and in the use of shared training.

After a short discussion it was

**RESOLVED(249)**

To confirm the Boards approval to the sale of half share in the "BoardRate" rating programme to the Welland and Deepings IDB and to install Sage 50 Professional accounting as the Boards accounting system.

**10 AUDIT – 2010/2011**

The Chief Executive reported that the Audit Regulations had recently changed and had been backdated to cover the accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup>. March 2011; the limit for full audit being raised from £1.0 million to £6.5 million. He advised members that if the same format of the 2009 /10 "Statement of Accounts" was retained and presented to the Board for approval the cost to the Board would be £10,000 for a full Audit. However if the Board adopted the Limited Assurance Return the cost to the Board would be approximately £3,000. He suggested that a full breakdown of costs and activities which

are currently approved as the Statement of Accounts could be presented as "Management Accounts" and would then be considered by the Governance and Audit Committee.

The Board would then receive a copy of the "Management Accounts" for information, but would only consider the Limited Assurance Return for approval.

Following a brief discussion it was

**RESOLVED(250)**

To adopt the Limited Assurance Return and present "Management Accounts" to the Governance and Audit Committee and Board for information.

**11 BOARD RECONSTITUTION**

The Chief Executive advised members that three elected members had suggested that they would retire from the Board in the near future and it may now be an opportune time to reconstitute the Board. Members may wish to consider reducing the total number of Board members from 29 to 23 by reducing the elected members by 3 and appointed members by 3 and as the amalgamation with the Nene Washlands was proceeding it may be prudent to consider doing so as part of this process. He went on to advise that the amalgamation with Nene Washlands had not been completed by 31 March 2011 as hoped and therefore because it has been agreed not to amalgamate part way through the accounting year, the amalgamation would now, hopefully, come into being on 1 April 2012.

After a short discussion it was

**RESOLVED (251)**

Not to reconstitute the Board at this time.

**12 THE CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY, AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT GROUP**

The Engineer drew members attention to the report on the seminars which had taken place over the two day 43<sup>rd</sup> Robson Meeting, copies of which having been circulated with the agenda. He said that as usual the seminars were interesting and informative, however the IDB officers need to stress the importance of weed control for flood risk management rather than concentrating on the promotion of biodiversity.

**13 PUBLIC BODIES BILL**

The Engineer reported that Schedule 7 and its associated clause 11 has been dropped from the Public Bodies Bill. He recommended members sign up to the ADA e-news letter for more updates. With regard to Total Place, there was no further news as discussions were ongoing with LCC.

## **14 EXERCISE WATERMARK**

The Engineer reported that the Exercise Watermark had been borne out of the Pit Review 2007, whereby it was stated a large scale exercise must be undertaken to test the country's preparedness for flooding. The North level is involved with the Lincolnshire Boards, whereby these Boards have an agreement to assist each other wherever possible in the event of a flood. To this end as many officers as possible had a stint in silver control room at Lincoln during exercise watermark. The exercise itself was carried out on the days between 4 to 11 March and involved all organisations involved in flood risk, including emergency planners and Local Resilience Forums, together with police, fire and rescue, EA IDB's and water companies. The Engineer stated that one notable absentee from the exercise was the electricity supply companies who had declined to participate.

## **15 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 (252)**

That the report be received and its contents noted.

## **16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Due to the forthcoming local council elections Councillor Marthews wished to thank members for his time spent on the Board in the event that he was not successful in being re-elected.

In reply to Mr Neale's question regarding the Sewage Counter Drain, the Engineer said that Anglian Water Authority was not co-operating particularly well with Peterborough City Council in providing information regarding their discharge rates from the flag fen sewage treatment works. At this time Anglian Water has financed the maintenance costs, but they had not accepted ownership or liability for the drain.

There was no other business.