

NORTH LEVEL DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

21 SEPTEMBER 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)	W E C Gee
Cllr N Arculus	P S Gray
Cllr F Biggadike	Cllr D Harrington
B Britain	N J Harris
J A Clarke	P T R Hurn
D R Coates	N S Manser
G T Fisher	H Neale
A E Gee	J W J Sly
T J Gee	

In attendance:

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

Before commencing the business of the meeting the Chairman informed members of the recent death of Cllr R Green a representative of Fenland District Council.

He also informed members of the recent death of Mr Roy Wedley who retired from the North Level 7 years ago. Roy had been appointed Clerk to the Tydd, Leverington and Wisbech Northside Boards in 1972. In 1973 he was appointed Clerk on the formation of the North Level Internal Drainage Board. His service to the Board was some 32 years.

He also informed members of the recent death of Mr Steve Broadhead, Clerk and Engineer of the Newark Area IDB.

Members stood in silence as a mark of respect

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Nick Arculus onto the Board as a representative of Peterborough City Council.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr C J T H Brewis, Cllr M Cotterell MBE, C J Cutteridge, Cllr R Dobbs, Mrs P M C Potts, Cllr M D Seymour, R C Speechley and J Waltham

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED (264)

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 22 June 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

8 PURCHASE OF ACCESS ROAD TO CROSS GUNS PUMPING STATION AND KNARR LAKE

The Engineer informed members that the purchase had now been completed

There were no other matters arising

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Executive referred to his Financial Report a copy of which having been circulated with the agenda and being attached to these minutes. 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.

After the Chief Executive had further expanded upon his report and Members raised no further questions, in conclusion it was

RESOLVED (265)

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	50.00	1.97	65.50	2.58	42.00	1.65
b) Sutton St Edmund	42.70	1.68	58.00	2.28	41.90	1.65
c) Thorney Offices	48.80	1.92	49.20	1.94	41.10	1.62
d) Cross Guns	56.90	2.24	42.50	1.67	40.10	1.58
e) Dog-in-a-Doublet	55.40	2.18	54.20	2.13	45.00	1.77
f) Peakirk	45.00	1.77	49.85	1.96	34.10	1.34
g) Mouth Lane	58.40	2.30	43.60	1.72	36.80	1.45
h) Hundreds	53.50	2.11	50.50	1.99	35.00	1.38

2 Hydrometric Information

Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm	Date	Mean Temp Degrees Celsius	Soil Moisture Deficit -mm
07/06/11	14.1	124.4	26/07/11	14.3	126.8
14/06/11	13.1	128.9	02/08/11	17.2	139.7
21/06/11	14.7	132.0	09/08/11	16.6	139.6
28/06/11	17.2	134.6	16/08/11	17.0	142.0
05/07/11	16.1	139.0	23/08/11	15.4	140.9
12/07/11	15.7	141.0	30/08/11	14.1	136.6
19/07/11	15.3	117.3			

3 Pumping hours have been as follows:-

		June	July	August
a)	Poplars	0	6	4
b)	Denhams	0	0	0
c)	Dog-in-a-Doublet (New)			
	(Large)	0	0	0
	(Small)	0	0	0
	Dog-in-a-Doublet (Old)	0	11	23
d)	Cross Guns – Electric	0	0	0
	– Diesel	0	14	40
e)	Mouth Lane – Electric	0	0	0
	– Diesel	0	0	0
f)	Willow Holt	0	0	1
g)	Tydd – Electric	2	0	0
	– Diesel	7	24	18
h)	Postland	0	0	0
i)	Newborough	0	4	12
j)	Peakirk	0	0	0
k)	Hundreds	0	0	0
	Total	9	59	98

4 Maintenance to 5 September 2011

	2011	2010
a) Hand roding	17,315m	(5,047m)
b) Machine roding		
Hitachi ZX180	20,680m	(25,380m)
Hitachi ZX210	20,520m	(13,605m)
Berkenheger	5,852m	(45,628m)
Hired	15,550m	(19,750m)
Boat	Nil	(Nil)
Tractor & weed-basket	2,100m	(Nil)
c) Flailing	528,542m	(489,702m)
d) Mudding Out – machine		
Hitachi ZX180	Nil	(Nil)
Hitachi ZX210	Nil	(Nil)
Hired		Nil
(Nil)		
e) Mudding Out – hand	Nil	(Nil)
f) Chemical weed control		
Roundup pro-biactive - tractor	24,200m	(67,470m)
Roundup pro-biactive – hand	29,046m	(17,724m)
Roundup pro-biactive – Berky	55,584m	(Nil)
g) Piping side dykes	Nil	(Nil)
h) Revetment work	Nil	(Nil)
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		
Most of the slackers are now lifted and dam boards have been removed.		
The freshwater feeds are closed.		
m) Board's plant		
General repairs and servicing carried out to all plant and vehicles.		

5 Capital Works to 5 September 2011

Tydd Pumping Station refurbishment Phase IV

This phase of the works involved the replacement of the electrical supply cabinets to pumps 5 and 6. This work is now complete with the contract for redecorating the station soon to be placed.

Mossop's Pipeline – Newborough

This is a grant aided scheme financed from Flood Defence Grant in Aid (45%) and North Level development levy 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 established trees adjacent to the pipeline the pipe has become blocked by roots, reducing the cross sectional area by 95%. This is now clearly limiting the efficiency of the pipeline and reducing the level of protection provided to the properties upstream.

Works started on the scheme in February 2011 with the clearance of the trees over the pipe, the remaining works started early in May 2011 with the excavation of the existing 0.6 metre diameter pipeline. To date 110 metres has been re-constructed using 0.9 metre diameter pipe, and 3 No inspection chambers constructed.

In addition to this, the remaining pipeline up-stream which is difficult to access has been lined, this process includes the cleansing of the pipe with a high pressure water jet followed by the installation of a liner using a controlled head inversion process and steam curing. This process has now been completed.

The site has been cleared and grass seeded.

The works are now complete.

Clough Sluice Refurbishment – Parson Drove

This is a grant aided scheme financed from Flood Defence Grant in Aid (45%) and North Level development levy funds (55%). Originally constructed in the 1830'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. These were then transported to Fentec Powder Coating and Shot Blasting in Peterborough. Scaffold was erected to provide access to the sluice framework remaining on the bridge structure.

All parts have now been shot blasted and painted using a two pack glass flake epoxy paint system, in addition to this all wiring has been replaced and two new control cabinets fabricated. The sluice gates have now been reinstated and are fully operational.

All the electrical wiring has been renewed.

The works are now 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 into 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 from 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.

All of the survey work has been completed and plotted on AutoCAD, the modelling work has been started by the consultant.

Project is 55% complete

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 1,600 metres. This drain provides an outfall to a recent development of some 1.1 hectares.

Approximately 2,500 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated in the widening of the drain, including returning batters back to 1.5:1 metre slopes, and lowering the bed. 4 No x 12m access culverts have been reconstructed replacing the original steel pipe with 0.9m diameter weholite pipe.

Approximately 350 metres of the watercourse has received extensive stabilization works. Some 600 No 4.2 metre long timber piles, 200 No pressure treated toe boards and 3,700 No thorn faggots being utilised.

Approximately 75% of the spoil has been spread.

Works are 90% complete.

Main Drain Phase 2 – Tydd Gote

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

Phase 2 of the works improved a 750 metre length of the Main Drain between the Old Shire Drain outfall and the A1101 Main Road Bridge with approximately 15,000 cubic metres of silt being excavated from the drain and stored in holding lagoons on the south bank.

The 2011 phase of the project has been carried out using a 38RB dragline on hire from Taylor Dredging Ltd, the works began in April 2011 were completed by **17 June 2011**.

The spoil has been stock piled on the south banks and will be levelled and seeded in 2012. In addition to this, contractors D Humphrey and Son have carted approximately 2,000 tons of spoil to a site in Long Sutton at no cost to the Board.

The works are 80% complete

Hundreds Drain – Crowland

This is a non grant aided scheme financed from both revenue and development levy funds and is designed to improve a 3,457 metre length of drain. Approximately 3,750 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 1 No side dyke culvert reconstructed to provide continued access for the Boards plant.

Some spoil has been spread onto the adjoining farm land, the remainder will be spread after harvest 2012.

The works are 80% complete.

Whitehall Drain Phase 2 – Postland

This is a non grant aided scheme financed from revenue funds. Designed to improve a 1,500 metre length of drain, approximately 1,850 cubic metres of spoil has been excavated and 3 No access culverts reconstructed using 0.9 metre weholite pipe.

The spoil has now been spread, works are complete.

Rechargeable Works

Sewage Counter Drain

In early July the Board weed cut the sewage counter drain for Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Works are complete

Schemes prepared but not yet started

Culpin's Drain Phase II – Newborough
Culpin's Spur Drain Phase II - Newborough

Schemes being prepared

Thirty Chain Spur Drain – Postland
Old Wryde Drain Phase I- Murrow
Foul Anchor sluice refurbishment – Tydd Gote
Telemetry upgrade
Steward House Drain Phase II – Thorney
Main Drain Phase 3 – Tydd Gote
Hundreds Drain Phase II – Crowland
Shire Drain Phase I – Tydd Gote
New Drove Drain Phase 2 – Wisbech St Mary
Newborough Pumping Station Basin - Newborough

P D SHARMAN

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

4(b) Berkenheger.

The Engineer reported to members that the Berky which was now nearing 11 years old, had performed as expected during the early season spraying operations, but recently a fault had arisen in the fuel pump which left the machine unable to carry out the normal routine weedcutting operations. He added that whilst the fuel pump is being repaired the hydraulic machines have been undertaking the work normally carried out by the Berky. In response to a member's question he said that a replacement Berky could be in the region of £200,000, but that he had not at this time sought any firm prices. In response to a question from Mr Britain he said that the Berky has completed approximately 6,000 hours.

STAFFING

The Engineer informed members that Jason Watson left the Boards employment during July and Mr Ray Burnham retired at the end of September. Mr Scott Tegerdine had moved into the house at Cross Guns and was now employed as deputy foreman as well as undertaking pumping station duties along with drain maintenance work.

Mr Keith Fletcher having had heart problems over the past 12 months was again absent due to sickness and would be retiring in December this year. Mr Ross Harris has been employed as his replacement.

In response to a question from Mr Neale he said that there were still on-going discussions between the Anglian Water Authority, Peterborough City Council and ourselves regarding the ownership of the Sewage Counter drain

RESOLVED (266)

That the Engineer's Report be accepted and approved.

7 GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee referred to the minutes of the Governance and Audit Committee meeting held on the 12 September 2011 circulated with the agenda. He requested approval of the recommendations made by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 12 September.

After a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED (267)

- (a) To approve and accept the changes identified to the Terms of Reference and Performance including the change of title to Governance & Audit Committee.

RESOLVED (268)

- (b) To approve and accept the External Auditor's report.

RESOLVED (269)

- (c) To approve and accept the revised Internal Audit Plan.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Committee and staff.

8 INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS

The Engineer referred to the discussion raised under minute 10 Renewable Energy Projects at the meeting on 22 June. He told members that he had investigated the option to install Solar Panels on the south facing aspect of the Cross Guns pumping station roof. He presented his findings for costings from six suppliers, and suggested that the most cost effective quotation would be the 10KWp array using T G Solar panels at £26,220 plus VAT as submitted by Solar Creations. In response to a question from Mr A Gee, the Engineer said that apart from maintenance of a periodic clean, the panels are estimated to deteriorate at a rate 1% per annum, and the predicted life is 25 years.

Following a full discussion it was

RESOLVED (270)

To accept the quotation from Solar Creations, and install T G Solar panels onto the roof at Cross Guns pumping station.

9 STAFF MATTERS

The Chief Executive informed members that the Finance Officer, Mrs Simone Drew had now been accepted on the operational level of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants course (CIMA) which would require four years study to complete. The Engineer informed members that the Assistant Engineer Mr Jamie Jenkins had achieved a BTEC National Certificate in Civil Engineering with a double grade distinction as well as completing an additional course in Computer Aided Design level 3. He is now embarking on an HND in Civil Engineering.

10 BANKING MANDATE

The Chief Executive reminded members that for payments under £10,000 the bank requires signatures from any two of: the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Chief Executive or Engineer. To ensure that dealings with the bank are carried out in a timely fashion he recommended that the new Finance Officer, Mrs Simone Drew, be added to the banking mandate to enable communications with the Bank to proceed on occasions when he is unavailable. He also reminded members that the mandate for purchases over £10,000 will remain unchanged.

After a short discussion it was

RESOLVED (271)

To add Mrs Simone Drew to the banking mandate for dealings under £10,000.

11 PLANNING MATTERS

The Engineer told members that bearing in mind the merger with the Nene Washlands Commissioners next year he had begun to keep a watch on developments which would affect that area as well as those already within the North Level. He added that a number of developments were proposing to use SUDS, and he would also be keeping a watch on those proposals.

(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.

Mr Gray asked if the item under Fenland District Council F/YR11/0337/FUL mobile home park, Common Road, Whittlesey would be discharging into the Moretons Leam via Commons Drove Award Drain. The Engineer said it would.

There were no further questions on this matter, it was therefore

RESOLVED (272)

That the report is received and its contents noted.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business