

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference on Wednesday, 24th March 2021 at 9.00a.m.

* Messrs	G.A. Crust (Chairman)	* Cllrs	T. Aldridge
*	S.W. Eyre (Vice-Chairman)	*	D. Andrews
*	W. Cooper	*	S. Dennis
	R. Crust		D. Edgington
*	T.H. Heys	*	A.J. Howard
*	J.M. Mowbray	*	D. McNally
*	R.H. Needham	*	E. Mossop
	P.W. Pridgeon	*	W. Parkinson
	D.R. Tagg	*	P. Rickett
*	R.A.D. Unsworth	*	J. Swanson
			Mrs W. Bowkett

* *Present*

* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
* N. Kemble (Engineer)
* A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)
* S. Fender (Operations Manager)
* Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)
* C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

* *In attendance*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs R. Crust, D.R. Tagg, Cllr P. Rickett and Cllr Mrs W. Bowkett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr J.M. Mowbray raised Blockages in Mousewater Drain and proposed work by Anglian Water within the Board's Byelaw distance. It was agreed to cover these under agenda item 14.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1562 to 1581)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27th January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and the resolutions be adopted by the Board.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Minute 13:15 Page 1570 - Possible Environment Agency Support Funding Through Local Choices

Officers reported that they were in the process of making a submission for potential FDGiA funding for the Telemetry System and Local Choices funding for the work at Willoughby.

RECIEVED

5:2 Minute 14:2 Page 1572 - PSCA EA/LMDB Recovery Works - Embankment Repairs on the Great Eau, Long Eau, Greyfleet Drain and River Steeping (LM20902)

Mr R.H. Needham queried maintenance on the Greyfleet at Pickhill which was in a poor condition and regularly caused flooding to land but also had an impact on the Board's Howdales system. The Senior Operations Manager would raise the matter with the Environment Agency and report back at a future meeting.

Mr R.A.D. Unsworth asked for clarification on what was involved in shear vane testing. The Engineer reported that it was a method of measuring the properties of soil through torque required to cause failure of the soil. He further queried the sill depth on the Saltfleet Haven and asked what the difference was between this and the Greyfleet outfall. The Engineer would look into the levels and how they corresponded to mean high water level and report back to the Board.

RECEIVED

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Senior Operations Manager presented the annual Health and Safety review for members information it showed that whilst compliance with Health and Safety guidance and legislation was good there was a need to ensure staff were not complacent and that certain training gaps would be addressed. He further noted that the number of incidents was lower than usual which could be a result of home working.

RECEIVED

Cllr S. Dennis joined the meeting.

7. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The total balance outstanding at the 10th March 2021 was £1,313.86 with collections at 99.9%. Of the £521.20 outstanding at the 31st March 2020 only £55.09 remained outstanding.

A list of valuation amendments was distributed for members approval.

The Chief Executive informed members that the Ratings Officer would be retiring in April following 40 years of service, the loss of her knowledge and skills would be a loss to the Board. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Board for her dedicated service over many years and consistently to such high standards.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the collection of drainage rates and special levies be noted.
- (b) That the valuation amendment list be approved.

8. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for members to consider. The major variances to budget were highlighted to members and the Finance Manager reported that the predicted surplus for the year had increased from £114,768 to £143,282.84.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached Management Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2021 be approved.
- (b) That the cash balances and borrowing be noted.
- (c) That the attached schedule of payments over £500 totalling £1,213,266.49 be approved.

9. SCHEDULE OF TRANSFER OF BUDGETS

Members were asked to review and approve the transfer of £11,793.48 from the Reforming budget (LM19503) to the Culverting Works on Saltfleet Soke Dyke (LM2021RCH). There was no increase in the cost to the Board.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the transfer of £11,793.48 from the Reforming budget (LM19503) to the Culverting Works on Saltfleet Soke Dyke (LM2021RCH).

10. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £831.35 was circulated for approval; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

The proposed rates of compensation for 2021/22 were presented for member's consideration and approval along with a copy of the Compensation Policy. The Senior Operations Manager highlighted that there was an increase on the 2020/21 figures; they had been calculated in accordance with the Board policy using figures from John Nix Hand Book, Farmers Weekly and Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the compensation payments made since the last meeting totalling £831.35 be approved.
- (b) That the attached compensation rates for 2021/22 be approved.

11. BYELAW APPLICATION

The Engineer reported that an application had been received for the diversion of Skirbeck Drain Branch culvert in Maltby le Marsh. It was proposed that the 300mm culvert be diverted around the site with inspection manholes installed at 50 metre intervals and at changes in direction; all work was to be undertaken at the applicant's expense. The Engineering and Operations Teams had supported the proposal and suggested that Byelaw restrictions should be relaxed with regard to the redundant culvert and that it should be retained to provide additional drainage; this should not be made a condition of the consent. The Engineer confirmed there would be no loss of conveyance from the proposal and the work would be completed to the Board's specification. It was recommended that the Board approve the application.

RESOLVED

That the Board grant consent for the diversion of 300m of Skirbeck Drain Branch at Maltby Le Marsh with the costs to be met by the applicant.

12. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Members had been asked at the end of February 2021 to update their declarations of interest forms, they were reminded of their importance for good governance. The Corporate Services Manager reported that declarations were still outstanding from Mr W. Cooper, Cllrs S. Dennis, D. Edgington, E. Mossop, B. Parkinson, P. Rickett and Cllr Mrs W Bowkett. Members were asked to return these as soon as possible.

RECEIVED

13. CORPORATE SERVICES UPDATE

The Corporate Services Manager reported that there had been twelve staff changes since June 2020 one of which included the Planning and Byelaw Officer who would be taking on the role of Rating Officer. She further reported that home working for office staff had gone very well in the challenging circumstances. There were a number of projects being undertaken within the Corporate Services team, which included:

- (a) Electronic Working: Due to be rolled out to staff for final trial shortly.
- (b) New Queries/Complaints System: Planned to go live shortly, the new system would be fully automated and allow these to be categorised more accurately and responded to more efficiently.
- (c) Training Portal: Introduction of mandatory and bespoke online training for Office staff would be rolled out to DLO with the electronic working system.
- (d) New filing Structure: Filing across all Boards was being rationalised to make it easier to navigate and monitor to ensure compliance with the document retention policy.
- (e) Asset Management System: Was being reviewed to enable improved and streamlined recording of the boards' assets. Various options and providers were under consideration. Provision had been made in the estimates, however, the Corporate Services Manager requested Board approval to proceed with investigations and implementation of the new system provided costs were within the approved electronic working budget.
- (f) Land Registration: Land owned by the Board was being plotted on the GIS and reviewed to ensure it was registered in the correct name and address. A time-consuming task covering 94 pumping stations and involving the Land Registry and Board Solicitors. Once completed, other areas of land owned by the boards would be reviewed and registered.
- (g) Public Relations: Officers were working hard to raise the profile of the Boards and had recently had two articles published in the ADA Gazette. Project summaries were being pulled together for distribution to members and local councils and the profiles on Facebook and Twitter had increased in 'hits'.
- (h) Policy Review: The review continued and any joint policies would be amended to reflect DEIDB joining the Consortium.

Mr S.W. Eyre thanked Officers for their work on the Keddington Lock article which had appeared in the local paper.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the new AMS system within approved budgets.

14. VIRTUAL TOUR

14:1 Operations Update

The Operations Team gave an update on the 2020 summer maintenance programme with 100% of flailing and weedcutting complete. Members were updated on planned and completed construction and reforming works for 2021. The DLO would be undertaking maintenance on the Woldgriff Drain, Willoughby High Drain, Wold Drain, Lady Wath's Beck, Steeping River and Orby Drain under the PSCA for 2021.

(a) Keddington Lock

An update was given on work at Keddington Lock. Mr R.H. Needham commented that residents were complimentary of the work however they had noticed debris accumulating on the rocks. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that the Environment Agency were aware and would be checking and removing items as they deemed necessary.

(b) River Steeping

In response to Cllr S. Dennis the Chief Executive stated that levels in the River Steeping had been more easily controlled following maintenance work, with Thorpe Culvert electric and diesel pumps able to run throughout the recent heavy rainfall event. The only flooding he was aware of was a small element of street flooding that was being investigated by the Environment Agency (EA) to determine the cause. He further reported that bank strength on Wainfleet Relief Channel remained a concern.

The Board had applied for funding on behalf of the EA to undertake work however, this was unsuccessful and alternative funding options were being looked at by the EA. Around £4 Million of recovery funds had been spent to improve the watercourse. He further confirmed that the additional bank work was likely to cost £2-3 Million highlighting that the Board paid £450,000 to the EA in precept each year. He hoped that in the future there would not be a need to prove the value of maintenance of main rivers to such an extent as had been the case on the River Steeping. The Engineer stated that phase one dredging was complete and phase two was due to be undertake in 2021/22 which should improve conveyance of water further.

(c) Mardyke

Mr R.A.D. Unsworth queried levels in the watercourse opposite the football club at Saltfleetby. This was an ongoing issue; it was agreed that the Senior Operations Manager would contact Mr Unsworth to discuss the issues and find a solution.

(d) Mousewater Drain

Mr Mowbray stated that the flows in the Mousewater Drain at Anderby were slow and there were concerns about a blockage in the culvert and the size of the pipe as water was building up. The Senior Operations Manager and Engineer would contact Mr Mowbray to discuss issues.

(e) Anglian Water Work at Anderby

Mr Mowbray queried if the Board were aware of a sewerage main replacement in the Anderby area which would affect some Board watercourses. The Engineer confirmed that Officers were aware of the scheme and were liaising with Anglian Water.

Members expressed concerns about the quality and lack of maintenance on EA watercourses and encouraged officers to work with the EA to ensure appropriate maintenance work was undertaken.

14:2 Engineering Update

Chief Executive commented that the engineering projects were extensive however without the work undertaken by the Board the area would be permanently flooded or seasonably waterlogged.

The Engineer gave an update to members on the projects undertaken in 2020/21 some of which were still ongoing as well as those planned for the coming years. The total programme up to 2027 was estimated to cost £15 Million and covered catchments over most of the Board's area.

With regard to the work at Fulbeck Pumping Station Cllr A.J. Howard queried the timing of refurbishment work and the impact on local businesses. The Chief Executive stated that the Board had previously timed work to avoid the peak holiday season and this would be considered when planning work to reduce impact on businesses. Cllr Howard also highlighted development of the pub and carpark near the pumping station, the carpark had previously been excavated to install pipework. Officers would investigate this for potential impact on the Board's system.

Cllr Howard further queried work at Trusthorpe. Officers stated that work to mitigate against rising sea levels and flooding from the culvert near the pumping station was being undertaken by the Environment Agency. The Board was assisting and would also be looking to undertake work to prevent backflows into the pumping station.

Cllr S. Dennis left the meeting.

Mr S.W. Eyre commented that he was pleased to see we were using local suppliers for some of the work. He further commented that the reinstatement of two or three of the culverts at Thorpe Culvert station may provide additional reassurance to the local community.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN