

# TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Collingham Memorial Hall and via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference on Thursday, 24th March 2022.

## Elected Members

\* Messrs J. Miller (Chairman)  
\* T.H Farr (Vice-Chairman)  
\* A. Arden  
D. Gash  
N.J. Greenhalgh  
T. Hawthorne  
R.J. Jackson  
D. Loates  
\* W.J. Staunton  
\* R. Warburton  
J. Love  
Vacancy

## Nominated Members

Bassetlaw District Council  
\* Cllrs J. Ogle  
\* Mrs S. Fielding  
J. Naish  
Newark and Sherwood District Council  
\* Cllrs Mrs S. Michael  
\* I. Walker  
K. Walker  
Mrs L. Dales  
Rushcliffe Borough Council  
Cllrs K. Shaw  
\* Mrs C. Jeffreys  
M. Gaunt  
\* G. Dickman  
Gedling/Melton Borough Councils  
Mr J. Evens  
West Lindsey/North Kesteven District Councils  
Cllr P. Overton

## \* Present

\* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)  
\* R. Brown (Engineer)  
\* M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)  
\* A.J. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)  
\* Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)  
\* C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

## \* In attendance

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs D. Loates, N. Greenhalgh, D. Gash, R. Jackson, J. Evans, and Cllrs. J. Naish, K. Walker, L. Dale.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr A. Arden declared an interest in Agenda item 15.3, Application No. 144130. Mr W. J. Staunton declared an interest in Agenda Item 15.3, Application No. 22/00281/FULM.

## 3. NOTICE OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman confirmed that there were two items to be discussed later in the meeting, the ratepayers liaison meeting and the procedure for dealing with complaints received by a Board Member.

## 4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 490 to 500)

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27th January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### 5.1 Minutes 5 - Page 491

The Chairman confirmed that he had been accompanied by Mr R. Brown Engineer to the Board when he attended the Scrutiny meeting with Newark and Sherwood District Council.

### 5.2 Minutes 7 - Page 493

It was confirmed that the dated for the Finance and Plant Committee was Thursday 3rd November 2022.

## 6. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager presented a health and safety report. He commented that from the 24th of February the Government had removed the remaining legal restrictions imposed at the start of the pandemic. The Consortium's Covid-19 risk assessment was currently being reviewed with the mindset of reintegrating more members of staff back into the office environment. Departmental teams continued to remain segregated as a precaution to help minimise any potential cross department infection. He confirmed that the Consortium continued to observe a common-sense approach in terms of social distancing, coupled with daily stringent hygiene routines.

The Health and Safety Executive issued new regulations on the provision of Personal Protective Equipment for organisations that employed "LIMB" workers. The definition of a limb worker was an employee who was employed under a contract of employment, on a casual employment relationship or on a fixed term contract of service. It was the employer's responsibility to provide PPE free of charge for any staff that fall within this type of arrangement. He confirmed that the Consortium did currently employ several staff that would be classed under the "LIMB" category and that those staff members were provided with adequate PPE to undertake duties as and when required.

It was reported that there had been three incidents since the last meeting. There were none in the Trent Board and no injury or major damage had been sustained. He reported annually that there had been a total of 17 accidents/incidents across the four Boards and a summary was provided. Focus continued on encouraging reporting of incidents and near misses. Statistics were presented from a Health and Safety Executive Summary issued in December 2021 which confirmed that 142 workers had been killed at work in 20/21 and that 1.7 million workers were currently suffering with the long-term illness which prevented them returning to work. In terms of specific industries that presented the highest risk of non-fatal workplace injuries, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing along with the construction sector were those with the highest number of workplace injuries. The Consortium's involvement in these fields of activity presented the highest risk to the organisation in terms of potential injury to employees and as such remained the priority focus in the Consortium's day-to-day activities.

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## 7. RISK REGISTER

The Corporate Services Manager presented the areas of focus from the updated Business Risk Assessment:

- (a) Finance
- (b) Data Protection
- (c) Asset Failure and Hand Over Procedures

- (d) Emergency Procedures
- (e) Succession Planning
- (f) Health and Safety
- (g) Lack of resources
- (h) Governance including Declarations of Interest.

## 8. OPERATION REPORT

The Senior Operations Manager presented the report. He commented that 60% of the 2021/22 winter tree and bush works programme was completed and that any works not completed this year would be deferred until 2022/23. This year the programme had focused on the River Smite catchment around Hickling, Colston Bassett and Tythby and in addition, priority works had been carried out in the Laneham, Fledborough, Marnham, Kirklington, Newark and Marton areas. In respect of the reforming works an update of completed and remaining works was presented to the Board. He confirmed that to date 75% of planned access improvements and construction works were complete. The installation of new gates, culverts and repairs to access tracks had been undertaken to allow the Board better access to watercourses.

It was confirmed that the Board's plant and machinery was being inspected prior to the start of the cutting season on the 15th July 2022. Strategic watercourses had previously been identified across the district and these were monitored on a regular basis to ensure continued conveyance of water. If necessary early weed removal would be undertaken in consultation with the Board's Environmental Officer. A review of the 2022/23 summer maintenance programme would be carried out shortly and discussions would be held with the Board's DLO and Environmental Officer to ensure works were completed in line with the Board's Environmental Policy. Fly tipping continued to be an issue throughout the area with at least one incident reported each month. He confirmed the Board had built up an excellent working relationship with the district councils, working in partnership to facilitate the removal of any debris from Board maintained watercourses.

It was confirmed that there were currently two vacancies on the DLO Team. The positions had been advertised and interviews were to take place.

Tenders for the purchase of a new wheeled excavator to replace the 2014 JCB JS160 tracked excavator had been sought from five suppliers. The Board previously approved the provision of £120,000 at the January meeting to purchase a replacement excavator. Details of the tenders were presented to the Board and officers recommended the purchase of a JCB Hydradig at £133,000 with the trade-in value of the 2014 excavator being offered at £25,000 making the total cost to the Board £108,000.

Tenders had also been sought for the purchase of a Bomford flail to replace the 2018 flail. A budget provision of £35,000 was made in the 2022/23 estimates for the purchase of a suitable replacement. Officers recommended the purchase of a Bomford 81-81 flail mower at £37,750 with a trade in price of £18,000, giving a total cost to the Board of £19,750. The recommendation was based on the higher trade in value and also a two-year warranty not offered by other competitors.

Tenders were sought for the purchase of a new flail head for the Laneham self-propelled flailmower. A budget provision had been made for £13,000. Tenders were received from two of the three suppliers approached. Officers recommended the purchase of a genuine Energreen/Spearhead flail at a total cost of £9,213 including fitting.

A budget provision of £15,000 had been made for the purchase of a tractor front loader to be fitted on to the Orston yard tractor. Tenders had been sought and officers recommended the

purchase of a Quickie ALO Q6M at a total cost of £12,445 which included an amount of £1,445.00 for pallet forks.

Mr. R. Warburton asked whether the workforce was consulted before purchasing any new equipment and whether the Hydradig was as stable as the heavier excavators. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that operators were consulted as part of the process. He confirmed that the driver of the current JCB Hydradig had no problems with stability and that the machine was very usefully for accessing smaller areas.

The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that officers were currently investigating a new fuel management system which would allow greater accounting for stock and usage. A recommendation would be brought to the Board in due course.

In respect of the continued use of red diesel the Senior Operation's Manager confirmed that internal drainage boards could continue with the use of red diesel as long it was related to agricultural purposes - this information had been sourced from the Treasury and ADA. He confirmed that the majority of Board maintained watercourse were in agricultural areas and therefore justified the continued usage. He recommended that the Board continue to use red diesel.

Mr T. Farr commented that the advice from ADA was that red diesel could be used for the benefit of agriculture and flood protection. He raised concerns on how this would be enforced locally and how the Board could demonstrate this.

Mr R. Warburton asked whether this recommendation had been made to the other Consortium boards. The Senior Operation's Manger confirmed that the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire and the Lindsey Marsh Boards had approved the continued use of red diesel.

Cllr Mrs C. Jeffreys commented on the serious environmental impact of fly tipping and that those found guilty should be punished accordingly. Cllr J. Ogle confirmed that in areas of repeated fly tipping cameras were now being used to secure prosecutions.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That a JCB 110W Tab Stage 5 wheeled excavator be purchased at a total cost of £108,000.00 in the 2022/23 financial year together with a five-year warranty at a cost of £7,500.00 and a five-year service plan, paid monthly at a cost of £236.00 per month.
- (b) That a Bomford Flail B81-81 be purchased at a total cost of £19,750.00 including a two-year warranty in the 2022/23 financial year.
- (c) That an Energreen/Spearhead flail be purchased at a total cost of £9,213.00 including fitting in the financial year 2022/23.
- (d) That a Quickie ALO Q6M front loader be purchased at a total cost of £12,225.00 including pallet forks in the financial year 2022/23.
- (e) That the Board continue to use red diesel for maintenance operations.
- (f) That the report of Officers be noted.

#### 9. COMPENSATION

It was confirmed that since the last meeting a total of £1,801.79 was paid in compensation.

The attached compensation rates for 2022/23 were presented for members approval. These were prepared in line with the Board's policy.

RESOLVED

That the attached rates of compensation for 2021/2022 be approved.

10. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

Officers presented the following updates:

10:1 North Scarle Flood Alleviation (TV21803)

The over-flow pipe to carry away water from the edge of a new development had been completed and invoices would now be raised to the contributors of the scheme. Costs were £34,377 against the approved budget of £30,500, leaving an over-spend of £3,877. The overspend would be shared equally with Lincolnshire County Council. Officers sought approval for a budget transfer of £3,000 from the Drainage Investigation budget to the North Scarle Flood Alleviation Scheme.

10:2 Torksey Pumping Station – Move of Weedscreen Cleaner (TV21306)

Following the installation of the new twin leaf penstock to the gravity discharge, the performance and in particular the response to weed had been monitored and it was concluded that an extension to the automatic weedscreen cleaner to clear the gravity overflow channel was unnecessary. Should weed become a problem (which was now considered unlikely) a floating boom that directs weed to the existing automatic weedscreen cleaner would be the first option. This meant that the Torksey weedscreen 2022 project could be removed from the programme and funds reallocated.

10:3 Torksey Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV16002)

An update was presented on the interior works which included completion of the mezzanine floor, installation of lighting and sockets, heating, kitchen area and toilet facilities. It was confirmed that Northern Powergrid were due back on site at the end of March to finish fitting some parts of the switchgear from Schneider that were not delivered during the initial installation and to make it ready for energisation. Backfilling around the kiosk and landscaping could then be completed. Committed costs to date were £1,332,943.00 against an approved budget of £1,431,000.00.

10.4 Telemetry System Replacement (TV20303)

As previously reported communication issues were being resolved.

10.5 Fenton Marsh

Discussion had been held with the Environment Agency regarding the installation of a penstock to protect the catchment when the tidal door becomes jammed open. Quotes were being sought for the supply and installation of a suitable piece of equipment before going back to the EA for final sign-off and financial agreement.

10.6 Cuckstool Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV21310)

The new pumps were installed and commissioned by Bedford Pumps Ltd. The pumps were set at different fixed speeds. This site would be the first site with Telemetry auto speed control.

In response to a question raised by Cllr. Mrs S. Michael it was confirmed that the new pumps were working well and that the mobile pump had been removed. It was confirmed that residents stated they were content with the pumps at the Parish council Meeting on the 8th March attended by the Chairman. Details of the proposed alleviation scheme would be brought to the next Board Meeting in June.

Mr R. Warburton raised a question about the remaining budget for scheme (TV11018) Beckingham Pumping Station and whether there were any outstanding works. The Engineer to the Board confirmed he would investigate this scheme.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Officers report be noted.
- (b) That the transfer of £3,000 from the Drainage Investigations budget (TV21801) to the North Scarle Flood Alleviation Scheme (TV21803) be approved.

11. FINANCE

11:1 Management Accounts for the period ending 31st January 2022

The Finance Manager presented the management accounts up to the 31st January 2022. Variances to Estimate Reports were highlighted in respect of Income, Maintenance and Development Expenditure and Supportive Expenditure. It was confirmed that PSCA invoices were still to be billed and that the sale of the land owned by the Board at Egmonton needed to be completed. An increase in plant and vehicle fuel and motorised plant repairs was being monitored.

The Balance Sheet was presented and it was reported that the expected outturn affecting the cash reserves was a negative balance of £43,652.10. The Board's Surplus Cash Reserve was 26.7%, just below the Board's reserve policy of 30%.

11.2 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 31st January 2022

It was reported that the Board currently had five accounts with a total balance of £1,420,830.07

The Board had one loan with a balance outstanding of £561,199.15.

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11.3 Payments over £500

A schedule of payments over £500 totalling £349,588.08 was presented for Board approval.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached Management Accounts for the period ending 31st January 2022 be approved.
- (b) That cash balances and borrowings be noted.

- (c) That the schedule of payments over £500 totaling £232,555.53 be approved.

## 12. DRAINAGE RATES & SPECIAL LEVIES

The Finance Manager reported that drainage rates and special levies collected to date totalled 99.34%. A total of seven liability orders were obtained amounting to £2,292.62.

A schedule of proposed write offs totaling £283.69 was presented to the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED

The Board approved the write off amount of £283.69.

## 13. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Chief Executive reported that partnership working with the Environment Agency continued and that the Board's Direct Labour Organisation undertook monthly bridge and debris runs along with any additional requests. The Board was still committed to the standby arrangement which was agreed as part of the PSCA agreement.

The Chief Executive reported on the inaugural meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Flood and Drought Management (APPG) which was held on the 28th February 2022 where he had made a presentation entitled 'Why Not Sustainable Flood and Drought Management? Areas of Special Drainage Need'. He had explained the work of IDBs and the areas they protected, highlighting that this included critical infrastructure, industry, and tourism, as well as high grade agricultural land and local communities. Examples of poorly maintained rivers were presented together with examples of what could be achieved. He stressed the following points:

- (a) Current policy sees the main rivers/highlighted water carriers not being maintained to the correct standard in IDB areas.
- (b) Currently policy funding was geared to protect people and not property does not in its current format work in areas of special drainage need.
- (c) The current policy needs adjusting to recognise the importance and need for ongoing investment in the systems that exists.
- (d) We need recognition that the capital system was catchment wide not just the bricks and mortar of the pumping station at the end.
- (e) If we were serious about carbon reduction, we need to invest capital funds across the whole system to improve channel maintenance.

Mr T. Farr thanked the Chief Executive and the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Board for their actions which had led to DEFRA taking a serious look at and entering into conversations about the Environment Agency. He felt that a great deal of progress had been made.

In response to a question raised, the Chief Executive confirmed that there had been a number of MPs at the meeting. He confirmed that maps could be made available for local MPs and that he was holding a meeting with Robert Jenerick, MP for Newark on the 1st April 2022.

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#### 14. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Board noted the report on the National Internal Drainage Board Annual Biometrics Survey.

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#### 15. DELEGATED MATTERS- PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

##### 15:1 Byelaw Applications

The following consent had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

TVIDB/LDC/2021/040 Discharge from package treatment plant into the Board maintained Egmonton Mill Dam at national grid reference 473478-368803 in the parish of Egmonton.

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##### 15:2 Section 23 Applications

There following Section 23 consent had been granted since the last meeting.

TVIDB/LDC/2022/02 Remediation works on an existing riparian brick arch culvert rail crossing at national grid reference 469161-347860 in the parish of Gonalston.

No applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

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##### 15:3 Planning Applications

The Board had not objected to any planning applications since the last meeting.

The Engineer reported on 24 other planning applications that had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments made.

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#### 16. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Corporate Services Manager confirmed that the term of office for elected members to the Board's five electoral districts would expire on the 31st October 2022. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Land Drainage (Election of Drainage Boards) Regulation 1939 and the Land Drainage (Election of Internal Drainage Boards) (Amendment) Regulation 1997 the election process would commence shortly with the preparation and advertisement of the Register of Electors. Should an election be necessary the proposed date was 28th October 2022. Nomination papers would be sent out in September.

It was noted that Trent Valley was the largest Board in the Consortium, with 25 members. Mr T.H. Farr explained that the number of members had been set at this number when the boards amalgamated to ensure adequate representation from each of the former boards. He felt that this number gave adequate local representation and would not like to see a reduction in the number of members. Cllr S. Michael agreed and could see no advantage in reducing the membership. It was agreed to monitor attendance and review the position in three years.



Mr R. Warburton did point out that some of the active farmers did have difficulty getting to meetings, particularly during harvest.

RESOLVED

(a) That the Corporate Services Manager undertake the role of Returning Officer and the Data Protection Officer the role of Deputy Returning Officer.

(b) That the Election date be set for 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

#### 17. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

The Corporate Services Manager confirmed that requests had been sent to all members asking them to review and update their Declaration of Interest forms. It was essential that this was completed annually for good Governance and this would be reviewed by the Internal Auditor.

Any members who had not yet completed their declaration were advised to contact the Corporate Services Team to either confirm their declarations were still valid or complete a new form.

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#### 18. STAFFING

The Chief Executive advised the Board that following the resignation of Mr Neil Kemble, Engineer to the Board, that Mr Robert Brown had been appointed as Senior Engineer, explaining that Robert had worked for the Board for many years and had worked closely with Neil. In order to ensure delivery and oversee the proposed Engineering Department programme over the forthcoming years it was proposed to recruit a Senior Executive who would also deputise for the Chief Executive.

The Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to Mr Neil Kemble for all his hard work and achievements, saying, Neil had been very dedicated during his four years with the Board, he was very sorry to see him go and wished him well in his new position.

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#### 19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Chairman reminded members that any complaints received in respect of any area of the Board's activities should be directed to the Chief Executive, Senior Operations Manager or himself for investigation and a response.

The Chairman confirmed that it was intended to hold a Ratepayers' Liaison Meeting on the 12th May 2022. He proposed Newark Rugby Club as the venue for the evening starting at 7pm. Further details would be circulated.

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CHAIRMAN