

# TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference on Thursday, 24th June 2021.

## Elected Members

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

## \* Present

### Staff

Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)  
\* N. Kemble (Engineer)  
\* M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)  
\* A.J. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)  
\* C Harris (Auditor to the Board)  
\* Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)  
\* C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

## \* In attendance

## Nominated Members

### Bassetlaw District Council

\* Cllrs J. Ogle  
Mrs S. Fielding  
J. Naish

### Newark and Sherwood District Council

\* Cllrs Mrs S. Michael  
\* I. Walker  
\* J. Lee  
\* Mrs L. Dales

### Rushcliffe Borough Council

Cllrs Mrs M. Stockwood  
\* K. Shaw  
\* Mrs C. Jeffreys  
Mrs P. Gaunt

### Gedling/Melton Borough Councils

\* Mr J. Evens

### West Lindsey/North Kesteven District Councils

\* Cllr P. Overton

### Invited Representatives of Partner Organisations

Miss S. Jaques (Nottinghamshire County Council)

The Chairman welcomed Mr C. Harris to the meeting.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr T. Hawthorne and Cllr Mrs M. Stockwood. Messrs A. McGill, T. Farr and W. Staunton gave their apologies as they were attending an Association of Drainage Boards Meeting 'Keeping our Rivers Flowing Summit'.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr A. Arden declared an interest in Agenda item17, Delegated Matters-Planning, Byelaws and Supervisory Role

## 3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

## 4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 455 to 462)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25th March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the Consortium Committee Meeting on the 10th June 2021 at Wellington House and that the Vice-Chairman had joined via MS Teams.

A Business Plan had been circulated to members and the Chairman asked members to approve the plan. He also confirmed that a meeting was being arranged with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairman to consider the workload over the next six years and the resources that would be needed to ensure delivery.

The Chairman asked the Boards for approval to recruit an apprentice. The Corporate Services Manager confirmed that the apprenticeship would take 18 months to complete and the cost to the Board would be £8,500 for the first year plus a further £600 for college fees. Funds would be secured from savings made in the salary budget as the DLO team had two vacancies. He also asked for approval to recruit a temporary admin position over the summer period to assist with the scanning of records at the Manby office. The cost would be split between the four Board's.

In respect of the Annual Pay Award, he confirmed that the decision was to recommend that the WMC Boards withdraw from the Lincolnshire Branch Pay Agreement and that the Board would negotiate directly with staff.

He confirmed that training would be made available for new members and that a Policy Review was to be undertaken and this would include Climate Change and also an Inclusion and Diversity Policy.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 10th June 2021 be confirmed as correct.
- (b) That the recommendations of the committee be approved and adopted by the Board.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Senior Operations Manager updated the Board on Covid-19 restrictions and confirmed that as restrictions had remained in place, Consortium staff continued to adhere to the Consortium's Policy. He confirmed that lateral flow testing had been introduced across all departments and that office-based staff attending face to face meetings were required to be in receipt of a negative flow test before attending. He reported that the Health and Safety Executive continued to concentrate on ensuring Covid measures were in place at all workplaces across the country and the Consortium had received four enquiries including the office accommodation at Trent Valley. To date no issues had been raised and the HSE were satisfied with the measures in place.

It was reported that there had been no new changes to Health and Safety legislation since the last meeting.

In respect of incidents the Senior Operation Manager confirmed that there had been four incidents across the Consortium. The incident in Trent Valley had caused damage to a window from a stone ejected during mitigation mowing and there were no injuries sustained.

He commented that this type of incident was being continually assessed to see where improvements could be made.

The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that an audit programme had been introduced following the recent review of the Consortium's Health and Safety policy and this was progressing well. Several audits had been undertaken with specific focus being placed on Pumping Station, Depots, Construction Sites, Contractors and Field Based Staff. The programme would not only allow Officers to identify areas of risk but also help ensure staff safety and wellbeing. He also confirmed that a review of Risk Assessments was being undertaken including Field Working and Weedboat Operations.

RECEIVED

## 8. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Finance Manager reported that drainage rates and special levies collected to the 31st March 2021 totalled 98.22%. She confirmed that the total amount outstanding at that date was £7,426.95 and since that date a further £473.15 had been collected.

In respect of the current financial year, she confirmed that as at 31st May 2021, 21.52% had been collected. She commented that since the preparation of the report the percentage collected had increased to 55%

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## 9. FINANCE

### 9:1 Management Accounts and variance report for year ending 31st March 2021

The Finance Manager presented the management accounts up to the 31st March 2021 together with the Income and Expenditure accounts detailing the variance of actual income and costs to estimates. It was confirmed that any income/expenditure relating to Engineering schemes had been removed and would be reported separately.

The variance report showed that income was lower than anticipated for the twelve-month period to 31st March 2021 resulting in a negative income variance of £231,066.75. The Finance Manager commented that the Absorbed Income expected from our Own Use of Plant deployed in both operations and engineering projects was lower than anticipated by £234,239.55. Whilst the aim was for the figure to be accurate, any variance would not impact on the Board's cash position or the overall outturn.

The Finance Manager reported a positive variance of £227,563.15 in the respect of Maintenance and Development Expenditure. The variance was mainly due to under-absorbed plant cost of £198,700 within Drains Maintenance. This lower than estimated cost is matched by a lower than estimated income. Any variance in this area had no impact in the Board's cash position or the overall outturn, as any lower than expected cost was matched by the lower than expected income and vice versa. The costs that would have an impact on the cash reserves are those relating to pumping stations costs, which were £34,973.36 underspent. Of this sum £32,000 was in relation to Drinsey Nook Pumping Station which had been overcharged for electricity in the previous year. An overspend of £31,600 was reported in respect of external costs relating to drains maintenance this was due to emergency drain repairs, plus the use of a hired contractor to work on Kingston Brook and Grassthorpe Beck. It was confirmed that a transfer had been made to Operations from the 2021 schemes budget to cover these additional costs.

The variance report showed that the Supportive Expenditure was higher than anticipated for the 12 month period to 31st March 2021 resulting in a negative variance of £310,888.51. The majority of the variance was in relation to depreciation costs of £244,467.45 and Pension fund costs of £76,000 which are non monetary accounting adjustments. Consortium costs were higher than estimated by £34,016.84 which was lower than the projected £49,505 overspend. The Balance Sheet planned disposal relating to the Iveco Flatbed had not taken place prior to the year end. It was reported that loan capital repayments were lower than expected as a planned loan was not drawn prior to the year end.

The outturn, not relating to schemes, was a positive variance of £6,730.79. The approved estimate had expected a surplus of £6,775.00.

A variance report was also presented for Engineering Schemes together with a detailed breakdown of individual projects.

It was confirmed the Boards current Surplus Cash reserves were £362,715.09 as at 31st March 2021. The Board's reserve policy was to hold 30% of net operating expenditure, and whilst the surplus cash position was currently only 20.02%, should the Board suffer a flooding event the funds held in Capital Receipts Reserve would need to be used, as this cash position was at a rate of 30.93%

The Chairman thanked the Finance Manager and confirmed the presented report demonstrated tight control and that the Board was very much on target.

RESOLVED

That the Variance Report for the Year Ending 31st March 2021 be approved.

9:2 Final Management Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2021

The final accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 were presented to the Board for consideration and approval including the schedule of Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and Schedule of Reserves.

The Finance Manager commented on the pension reserves deficit of £3,094,000.00 and explained to the Board that the Pension funds actuaries had revalued the pension fund. The Board would only be liable for this amount if it left the pension fund.

The Finance Manager also made the Board aware of an error highlighted by external auditors on the AGAR return for 2019/2020. Section 2 was partially incomplete as the date signed by the Chairman had not been completed in full. She apologised for the oversight and confirmed the Chief Executive had resolved the matter with Defra and ADA.

RESOLVED

That the Management Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

9:3 Audit of Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2021

The Internal Auditor presented his report confirming Substantial Assurance. On this occasion he had no recommendations to make but he assured the Board that he would continue to observe previous recommendations. He commented on the hard work of the Senior Management Team and Finance Department.

RESOLVED

That the attached report of the Internal Auditor be noted, and the recommendations adopted.

9:4 Annual Governance Statement and Review of Internal Control

The Annual Governance Statement Part 3, page 4, was presented to the Board for a review of Internal controls.

RESOLVED

The Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman and Chief Executive.

9:5 Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Account Statements of Part 3 of the Return, page 5, were presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED

That the attached Accounting Statement for 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

9:6 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 31st March 2021

Officers reported a total of £1,225,131.20 invested across five accounts.

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9:7 External borrowing

Officers reported one loan outstanding for the value of £593,207.55.

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9:8 Payments over £500

The attached schedule of payments over £500 made since the last meeting was presented for consideration.

RESOLVED

The attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

## 10. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that in respect of procurement, three of the four planned purchases had been completed with only the purchase of the 4x4 outstanding.

The Operations Manager presented his report in respect of works completed. He confirmed that 90% of the Winter Maintenance Works had been completed and 65% of the Construction Works. The remaining construction/reforming works would be completed later in the year when there would be a second window in October/November. He commented that repair works had been carried out on the Grassthorpe Beck, Winthorpe Airfield Drain and River Whipling. An unadopted watercourse at Moorhouse Beck also had improvements carried out at, the request of Norwell Parish Council and the Flood Warden, to improve conveyance.

He confirmed that there would be some planned early cuts of weed growth in priority watercourses.

In response to a question raised by Cllr J. Ogle, the Engineer confirmed that flooding in the Grassthorpe Beck area was downstream of the Board's catchment and occurred in the section maintained by the Environment Agency and that Officers were working closely with them to resolve the issues. Cllr Ogle offered his support to Officers. The Chairman commented that the Board and Officers were challenging the EA in respect of the maintenance of a number of watercourses including the Rivers Devon and Smite.

In response to a question from Mr D. Gash the Operations Manager confirmed that he was interviewing next week for replacement DLO operatives for the Orston area.

Mrs J. Love raised concerns in respect of issues on the Kingston Brook with bank slips and the gradient of the sides.

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## 11. ADOPTION OF OUTFALL STRUCTURE AT HOVERINGHAM LAKES

The Engineer presented a report on the adoption of the outfall structure at Hoveringham Lakes from Tarmac. He confirmed that a commuted sum of £38,172.00 had been calculated. This amount included some repairs to be undertaken and also the ongoing maintenance plus an amount for inflation.

Mr R. Jackson commented that if the outfall was not maintained there would be an issue with possible flooding to the Hoveringham area.

RESOLVED

The Board approved the adoption of the outfall structure at Hoveringham Lakes.

## 12. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

### 12:1 North Scarle/Eagle Road Flood Relief Study (TV21802)

The Engineer presented a report on issues which had arisen over the last couple of years at an area to the east of North Scarle which had been developed. There was an old section of abandoned watercourse that had been closed off at each end and had become a linear dry feature. The Board had given consent for this to be back filled by the developer. Over the last two consecutive very wet winters, the gardens in this area

and a paddock had become waterlogged and were causing residents a lot of distress. A scheme had been developed that would improve conditions during wet periods. Funding for the project had been found through partnership funding from the Board, local levy, and two developers. North Kesteven District Council had declined to contribute but Officers were still negotiating. He also confirmed that there had been resistance from a land owner to the proposed scheme and that the Chief Executive had an appointment to discuss these issues with the land owner. The Engineer proposed that the Board contribute £10,000 to the scheme. The total cost of the scheme would be £29,500 with contributions from the partners.

Cllr P. Overton confirmed that he would raise the funding issue with North Kesteven District Council.

#### RESOLVED

The Board approved the funding of the scheme at North Scarle to the amount of £10,000.

#### 12:2 Sutton on Trent (TV21505)

The Engineer reported on the investigations at Sutton on Trent. Evidence had been collated that confirmed that the pumping station required an increase in capacity. The overall catchment had been reassessed to better reflect the upper Cuckstool catchment and the integrated 1D2D model of Cuckstool Dyke and Bulham Lane Drain was prepared by Consultants (JBA Consulting) for the Board to model the now replaced bagwork culvert on Bulham Lane Drain and to assess pumping station capacity requirements. Modifications included catchment changes, improved representation of pumps and changed boundary conditions that better modelled the effects of the Trent when it was in spate for extended periods (i.e. when the pumps were most likely to work hard). Officers sought a solution that allowed the existing sump, pipework, control-panel, power supply etc, to be retained to keep investment to a minimum. This effectively limited pump size and, required derogation from the EA to comply with the Fish and Eel regulations, which was granted.

Hydraulic modelling determined that the Board's standard of service could be achieved with pumps that deliver 700l/s each against the expected static (Trent in spate) and friction heads. This could be achieved using pumps with identical external dimensions to those currently installed but with different internal vane (impellor) configurations.

Replacement fitting of the pumps was considered to be around £80,000 and a budget price for the pumps was being sought. On completion the station would have a 30 year life.

Funding sources were also being investigated. Nottinghamshire County Council had agreed to invest some money to support flood relief plans at Sutton on Trent and FDGIA funding was earmarked for a pumping station upgrade and a flood embankment on Bulham Lane Drain in 2024/25. The funding plan needs to be reworked; with new pumps, Cuckstool Pumping Station would have an expected life of about 30 years, so the 2024/2025 investment would be un-necessary.

It was considered that a Local Levy application could provide a rapid source of funding support, and this was being explored along with any Highland Water contributions from the EA, that might be payable.

He confirmed Cuckstool was a catchment that generally discharges by gravity, so the additional cost of operating the pumps is not going to be of great significance overall. It should be noted that the increased pump capacity will not prevent water flowing out of

bank in Sutton on Trent (including along the access road) but it would provide the Board's standard of service to all but two properties that would require very limited property level protection.

Modelling had also shown that the provision of a flood embankment upstream of the Great North Road would help reduce out of bank flows but not prevent them completely. The benefit of a flood embankment was that some 6 hectares of farmland would be protected and additionally there was an appreciable reduction in water levels near to the pumping station.

No opportunity had been identified to have a material benefit on the Cuckstool flows, however, the larger pumps together with attenuation to Bulham Lane Drain would work together to allow the Cuckstool flows to be managed through the system.

The provision of a retaining wall 0.5m high to help retain flows within channel from the confluence of Bulham Lane Drain to the Cuckstool Pumping Station along High Street and First Holme Lane would assist in keeping floodwater off gardens and the road.

It was recommended that funding options for two replacement pumps rated at 700 litres per second each, were pursued and that procurement options for the pumps were progressed in parallel.

Work priorities for Sutton on Trent were recommended to be:

1. Pumps
2. Flood control structure on Bulham Lane Drain
3. Local measures to keep flood flows in bank.

RESOLVED

The Board agreed to seek funding sources for the procurement of new pumps.

### 13. SCHEDULE OF TRANSFER OF BUDGETS

The Finance Manager presented the proposed Schedule of Transfer of Budgets and added that the transfers were not coming from general reserves but existing schemes.

RESOLVED

That the proposed schedule of budgets within schemes be approved.

### 14. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

In the absence of the Chief Executive, it was agreed an update would be given at the next Board meeting.

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**15. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

The Board noted the submitted report and the Chairman confirmed that no date had been set for the next meeting.

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**16. PLANNING AND BYELAW POLICY UPDATE**

The Engineer to the Board confirmed that the revised Planning and Byelaw Policy approved by the Board at their meeting in January together with the new charges were being implemented by Officers. A new application form had been designed for use by all four Boards together with technical notes and the Board's website had been updated.

RECEIVED

**17. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE**

**17:1 Byelaw Applications**

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

- TVIDB/LDC/2020/026 Installation of a 1200mm diameter culvert and installation of a new watermain over the culvert on the Board maintained Mill Dam at national grid reference 488419-363043 in the parish of Swinderby.
- TVIDB/LDC/2020/065 Installation of stock proof fencing for a temporary period of 5 years within 9 metres of the Board maintained Thurgarton Beck At national grid reference 470108-348736 in the parish of Thurgarton.
- TVIDB/LDC/2020/056 Repairs to existing bridge/retaining wall and public footpath on the board maintained Winthorpe Airfield Drain at national grid reference 481436-356544 in the parish of Winthorpe.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/003 Installation of a concrete canvas into the maintained Winthorpe Air Field Drain at national grid reference 484432-355545 in the parish of Coddington/Langford.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/006 Installation of a concrete canvas into the board maintained River Whipling at national grid reference 476812-336963 in the parish of Granby.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/009 Installation of a culvert to provide a bridge crossing on the Board maintained Goosemoor Drain at national grid reference 474954-369848 in the parish of Weston.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/011 Surface water discharge into a riparian watercourse at national grid reference 477999-390734 increasing flows into the board maintained Bar Bank Drain Tributary.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/014 Construction of a replacement footbridge over the Board maintained Flagg Dyke at national grid reference 468868-346578 in the parish of Hoveringham.

- TVIDB/LDC/2021/016 Installation of a new pressure sewer pipe under the Board maintained Doge Dyke at national grid reference 477233-350817 in the parish of Farndon.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/017 Installation of a new pressure sewer pipe under the Board maintained Honey Lane Feeder at national grid reference 477723-351000 in the parish of Farndon.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/019 Construction of an extension within 9 metres of the Board maintained Hallam Beck at national grid reference 467527-354767 in the parish of Hallam.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/020 Installation of a rising main below the Board maintained Car Dyke Pt 2 at national grid reference 469702-340365 in the parish of Bingham.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/022 Installation of two culverts on the Board maintained Newton Sewer at national grid reference 482335-374451 and 482803-374210 in the parish of Newton on Trent.

17:2 Section 23 Applications

The following consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board Meeting:

- TVIDB/LDC/2021/001 Temporary installation of a clearspan bridge in order to reinforce existing vehicular bridge over a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 481312-371780 in the parish of Fledborough.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/004 Installation of a concrete canvas into a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 476475-335498 in the parish of Granby.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/005 Installation of a concrete canvas into a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 476582-335965 in the parish of Granby.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/007 Installation of a concrete canvas into a riparian watercourse with the Board's area at national grid reference 477409-339252 in the parish of Elton.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/008 Installation of a concrete canvas into a riparian watercourse with the Board's area at national grid reference 477444-339345 in the parish of Elton.
- TVIDB/LDC/2021/018 Installation of a new pressure sewer pipe under a riparian watercourse within the board's area at national grid reference 480062-351168 in the parish of Farndon.

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

RECEIVED

17:3 Planning Applications.

The Engineer reported that 173 planning applications had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments made.

The Board had objected to the following planning application since the last meeting.

Ref: 17/01846/FUL – 20/02454/DISCON

Location: Redmay Industrial Estate, Church Lane, South Scarle

Proposal: Demolition of existing industrial buildings and erection of 6 dwellings with associated access

Applicant: [REDACTED]

NGR: 484740 – 364016

The Board had objected to the planning application on the grounds that the submitted information did not demonstrate an appropriate means of adequately disposing of surface water from the site through a proven network of watercourses. The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) had also submitted a detailed objection to the proposals and the Board supported this stance. Prior to being able to offer favourable comments on the proposed discharge of condition, the Board would need to see evidence that the developer has a right to discharge into the riparian network and that an appropriate route for discharge of the surface water has been proven downstream of the site. The Board would also need to see the removal of the LLFA's formal objection.

RECEIVED

18. ADA TRENT BRANCH

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of Trent ADA would be on the 6th July 2021.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question from Cllr L. Dales the Engineer confirmed that the refurbishments on South Clifton Pumping Station would commence in the summer of 2022.

Mr D. Gash raised the question of whether the Board could potentially use the 'What three words' application to help identify locations. The Senior Operation Manager confirmed that this was being investigated.

Mr R. Jackson raised the issues of planning applications and potential access for the Board. The Operations Manager confirmed that when responding the 9 metre easement was highlighted to the Planning authority where necessary.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN