

TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held via Microsoft Teams and Teleconference on Thursday, 28th January 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
* J. Pask
* D Gash
* Mrs J Love

Nominated Members

Bassetlaw District Council
Cllrs K.H. Isard
* 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. Gowland
Gedling/Melton Borough Councils
* Mr J. Evens
West Lindsey/North Kesteven District Councils
* Cllr P. Overton

* Present

Staff

* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
* N. Kemble (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

Invited Representatives of Partner Organisations

Miss S. Jaques (Nottinghamshire County Council)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs I. Walker and Mrs C. Jefferies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mr A. Arden declared an interest in Agenda Item 16, planning application no. 142026.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman confirmed that he would like to discuss a matter regarding Water Resources East.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 428 - 439)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 24th November 2020 be confirmed as correct.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that the Covid-19 Risk Assessment continued to be reviewed and updated. Office-based staff remained working from home with visits to the office restricted in line with the latest advice. Strict measures remained in place for all site-based staff, including single use of vehicles, minimum visits to the depot to not only comply with local lock-down rules but also to minimise their contact with each. Within the Consortium there had only been one reported case of Covid and that person had made a full recovery.

Since the last meeting, the Health and Safety Executive had issued new guidance on the purchase of machinery and Officers were reviewing this to ensure that the Board was compliant. The changes included identifying the risks operators face when compiling a specification for plant/machinery purchase and also confirming that these had been met on receipt. He confirmed that Officers were always talking to manufacturers.

It was reported that there had been four incidents since the last meeting. One incident had been reported under RIDDOR and the individual had now made a full recovery. Trends would continue to be monitored and staff encouraged to report incidents.

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7. RISK REGISTER

The Dynamic Risk Register was presented by the Chief Executive and the following points were noted:

- (a) Health and Safety - a full review/audit of the Consortium's policy was being undertaken.
- (b) GDPR - ongoing risk. All major aspects of GDPR complied with. Outstanding issues were with internal housekeeping and that individuals/departments needed to ensure their file keeping complied.
- (c) Banking - work was ongoing with simplifying the current banking arrangements.

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8. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Finance Manager reported that drainage rates and special levies collected to date totalled 97%. Of the outstanding balance as at 31st March 2020, £2,977.00 had been recovered. Court letters had been issued and bailiffs were due to go out the second week in February.

In response to a question raised by the Chairman she confirmed that an amount outstanding in respect of special levies due from a Borough Council had been received.

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9. FINANCE

9:1 Management Accounts for the period ending 30th November 2020.

The Finance Manager presented the management accounts up to the 30th November 2020. The variance report showed that income was lower than anticipated for the eight month period to 30th November 2020, resulting in a negative income variance of

£140,972.03. The report showed that “Absorbed Income” expected from the “Own use of Plant” deployed in both operations and engineering projects was lower than estimated by £146,446.85. She explained that whilst the aim was to estimate this figure accurately, any variance in this area had no impact on the Board’s cash position or the overall outturn, as any lower than expected income was matched by the lower than expected costs within the Maintenance and Development Expenditure and vice versa. There were also amounts outstanding from PSCA works and Recharge works, and they were to be billed.

The Finance Manager reported a positive variance of £202,391.83 in respect of Maintenance and Development Expenditure. The variance was mainly due to under-absorbed plant costs of £157,152 within Flailing and Weedcutting. This amount was matched by the lower than estimated income for own use of plant and had no effect on the Board’s reserves. Pumping Station electricity costs were lower than estimated by £54,425 and would continue to be monitored. The external costs of stock expenditure and contractor costs within the Emergency Drain Repairs was higher than estimated by approximately £14,678.00. Funds had been transferred from Engineering Schemes to meet this expenditure and to lessen the impact on reserves. The transfer had been approved by the Board. The variance report for Supportive Expenditure showed a positive variance of £12,498.00. Consortium costs were higher than estimated by £22,523 due to increased staff costs and lower the anticipated recharge of engineer’s time to projects. As previously, reported, it was expected that the Consortium costs would be higher than estimated in the 2020/21 year due to a delayed project. Estimated loan interest payments payable in the year 2020/21 were lower as the new loan had not yet been drawn.

A variance report was also presented for Engineering Schemes together with a detailed breakdown of individual projects. A request was received to provide this information in a bigger format.

The Balance Sheet was presented, and it was reported that the expected outturn effecting the cash reserves was a positive balance of £24,650.97.

9:2 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 30th November 2020

It was reported that the Board currently had five accounts with a total balance of £1,659,479.94.

The Board had one loan with a balance outstanding of £608,865.97.

9:3 Payment over £500

A schedule of payments over £500 was presented and it was confirmed that these totalled £355,061.83.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Management Accounts for the period ending 30th November 2020 be approved.
- (b) That cash balances and borrowings be noted.
- (c) That the schedule of payments over £500 totaling £366,061.83 be approved.

10. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021/22

The Finance Manager presented the 2021/22 estimates to the Board together with the Five-Year Plan. The estimates had been discussed at the November Board meeting and it was confirmed that no changes had been made. The estimates allowed for an increase of 6.5% and formal approval was sought.

The Finance Manager confirmed that the 2021/22 proposed Estimate of Income and Expenditure presented a net expenditure of £1,935,561 to be funded by Rates and Special Levy receipts or where this was insufficient, balances would be taken from reserves. Due to continued pressures on the Board's financial reserves and the need to maintain sufficient cash reserves to enable a response during an emergency event, it was recommended that the Board approve an increase of 6.5% in the rate. Such an increase would result in a drainage rate of 10.42 pence/£ for Area A and 1.954 pence/£ for Area B, for the 2021/22 financial year. The proposed increase of 6.5% was recommended for the increase in Special Levy payments from the Board's area councils. The proposed increase would result in an expected Net Surplus for the year of £1,954.00. Any surplus achieved would be transferred into the Board's reserves.

The Chief Executive confirmed that all those Local Authorities requiring further information had received a presentation and although resources were tight there was support.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the attached Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2021 be approved in the sum of £1,935,516.00.
- (b) That the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings, special levies on the local Charging authorities and estimate of the amount added to balances, for the year commencing 1st April 2021 be as follows:
 - (i) By drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings £436,521.00.
 - (ii) By special levies on the local charging authorities £1,500,949.
- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on Newark and Sherwood District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £623,188 (Area A).
- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on Rushcliffe Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £301,741 (£143,599 (Area A) and £158,142 (Area B)).
- (e) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on Bassetlaw District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £459,768 (Area A).
- (f) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on West Lindsey District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £44,047 (Area A).
- (g) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on North Kesteven District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £31,833 (Area A).

- (h) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on Gedling Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £20,437 (Area A).
- (i) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 on Melton Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £19,935 (Area A).
- (j) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (k) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2021 be made and sealed in the total sum of 10.42 pence in the pound (Area A) and 1.954 pence in the pound (Area B).

11. OPERATIONS REPORTS

The Senior Operations Manager reported that 46% of planned winter works had been completed. Tree and bush work, removal of silt beds, repairing bank slips and improving access were being undertaken in the Grassthorpe Beck catchment. Work to install gates and side dyke culverts would also improve access along fifteen watercourses. Most of the Board's plant would be operating in this area through the winter. Flailmowing on the Fairham Brook and Kingston Brook catchment had been completed. Further tree and bush work, and the removal of silt beds and blockages was to be undertaken by a local contractor on Kingston Brook. Significant rainfall leading up to and over the Christmas period had caused a number of problems for the Operations team when saturated catchments reacted extremely quickly.

It was confirmed that 96% of the summer weedcutting work had been completed amounting to 524Km. A small amount of weedcutting was still to be completed in the Swinderby area and along some busy roadside stretches.

In respect of construction works, emergency drain repairs had been prioritised. Undertaking bank repairs, removal of blockages and replacing under sized culverts after adverse winter events. It was confirmed that damage was still being reported.

Work for the Environment Agency (EA) continued with monthly bridge and debris runs along with continued standby commitment and also extra work when requested. Weedcutting had been undertaken on the EA Mill Dam, Fleet, Slough Dyke, Cocker Beck, River Greet, Middlebeck, Lowfield and Sodbridge Drains. Flailmowing had also been completed along the River Greet. Enhanced maintenance had been undertaken on the EA River Greet at Rolleston in partnership with Southwell Racecourse and the EA, which included re-grading sections of bank, excavating a wildlife beam, widening, de-silting and improving the access corridor between Rolleston and Upton Mills. The EA Dover Beck at Epperstone also received enhanced works in November/December consisting of tree and bush works, desilting and localised regrading works along a 350m stretch under the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) and had made a considerable difference to drainage locally.

Handworks on a short open section of a riparian watercourse in Balderton had been completed on behalf of Newark and Sherwood District Council.

The Senior Operations Manager confirmed that delivery would be taken shortly of the new Toyota Hilux pickup. A new Ifor Williams road trailer had been received and was awaiting fitting of the Hiab hoist. Officers had reviewed the plant replacement schedule for 2021/22 and would be seeking tenders.

A presentation was given detailing incidents of flooding during the period from November to date. This included a problem with the EA flood bank at Bole Ings Pumping Station and it was confirmed that the problem had been progressed to a higher level with the EA.

Cllr R. Jackson thanked the Operations team for the work completed on the EA Dover Beck at Epperstone commenting that everybody was pleased with the results. He commented that he had reported a problem at Gunthorpe, and the Operations Manager confirmed that the DLO would visit the site and report back on the condition. He also reported that heavy rain over the last few days had caused issues at Oxon. The Operations Manager confirmed that he would investigate.

Mr T. Hawthorne raised an issue faced by the farmers in an area south of Newark. He confirmed that the problem was not currently affecting properties but acres of farmland. He commented that a problem area appeared to be at Hawton where the watercourses had become very overgrown and there was a problem with large willow trees blocking the watercourses and holding water back. He observed that the area had flooded more times in the last 18 months than in the last 70 years. He confirmed that lots of local farmers were in agreement and felt that more conversation was needed with the Environment Agency as to their plans for the River Smite and Devon and also plans to use agricultural land to store water on. In response, the Operations Manager confirmed that he was aware of their concerns. He also confirmed that drone footage of the area had been taken at the beginning of the week but unfortunately, water levels had dropped by then, however, it was clear to see the damage caused. The Chief Executive confirmed that he was preparing maps of the area and would be visiting the EA together with Mr S. Fisher from the NFU to discuss many issues in Nottinghamshire including the River Devon and River Greet and also the other Consortium boards' areas.

Mr T. Hawthorne offered the use of commercial drone footage taken by a family member of the flooding events covering a period of three to four years. The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be most useful and that perhaps footage of the recording could be presented at the next Board meeting for all members to see.

Mr D. Gash commented that the River Devon was over topping today and that he would be interested to see the footage to see if the willow trees were blocking the watercourses. The Chairman commented that it would be interesting to see if the willows causing the problems were blocking the watercourse or had just become overgrown. He also thanked the Operation Manager for a recent repair on a flap and asked what maintenance programme the Board had in place for these. In response, the Operations Manager confirmed that the Board had over 100 flaps and, although these should be checked and greased twice a year, many of them had been underwater over the last 18 months so had maybe only been maintained once this year. It was noted that not all of these were the Board's responsibility.

The Operations Manager confirmed that problems had been report by a member of the public on the River Devon and that the DLO team would investigate. Mr D. Gash queried if the gentleman's email relating to the River Devon issues had been forwarded to the NFU and MP on his behalf. The Chief Executive confirmed that the issue was in hand. The Chairman commented that he and the Chief Executive had a meeting arranged with Mrs R. Edwards, MP for Rushcliffe, and that the drone footage would be very useful.

Mr T.H. Farr added that landowners in the Southwell area were equally frustrated with the EA and that from his involvement with ADA it was apparent that this was becoming a national problem.

The Chairman commented that before the Covid-19 restrictions, it had been planned to have some regional meetings with landowners and he hoped that this could be arranged in the summer before harvest. Mr T.H. Farr felt that the Microsoft Teams forum would work well for

such a meeting. He commented that we know where the problems sat within the agency and it was important to have a consistent approach between Boards and the Agency.

Cllr S. Michael asked for an update on the situation at Sutton on Trent as there had been significant rainfall over night. The Chief Executive gave an up-to-date report and confirmed that progress on Cuckstool Pumping Station would be give under Agenda item 12.

Mrs J. Love commented that there were similar issues on the Kingston and Fairham Brooks. In response, the Operations Manager confirmed that there had been a contractor working in the area over the autumn period and that the full length of the Kingston Brook and Fairham Brook had been mowed. He confirmed that the large trees at the back of the Co-op had been removed. Worked had stopped because of wet land conditions. Mrs J. Love asked if this type of work could be completed during the summer months and the Operation Manager confirmed that it would have to be undertaken as part of the winter works programme as the DLO team had only a short timeframe to complete weedcutting during the summer months. He stated that there were also environmental constraints to be considered.

Mrs J. Love also raised the ongoing problem of sewage leaking into the Kingston Brook in high water events. The Chief Executive confirmed that the relevant authorities had been contacted. He agreed to review the problem and report back at the next Board Meeting.

Mr T.H. Farr commented that it was likely in the future that the Southwell Flood Alleviation Group would be in talks with the Board on the benefit of using the River Greet. The Operations Manager confirmed that he had been contact the Trent Rivers Trust. Mr T.H. Farr also asked for confirmation that the Board would be making comments on a recent planning application by Southwell Racecourse in respect of a new race track surface. It was confirmed that the Planning Officer was reviewing the application.

In respect of the A46 Bypass discussion with Highways England, it was confirmed that the Engineer, Operation Manager and Planning Officer had all attended a consultation meeting and that the Board's response was being prepared.

The Chairman thanked the Operations team for their work and stated that, overall, responses from landowners had been positive.

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12. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Engineer reported to the board on the following items.

12:1 Egmanton Village Flood Storage Area

Members would be interested to know that the new Egmanton Village Flood storage area was recorded in operation on 14th January 2021 with no adverse feedback. Some minor modifications to the fencing to delineate the land to be resold and improve maintenance access were being arranged. There were some minor repairs to be undertaken and further grass seeding, these would be deferred until a more appropriate time of year. Westmoreland Civil Engineering had been awarded a small contract in the sum of £11,610 to improve the performance of the side drainage to the road opposite the church in the village. Concrete canvas would be used.

12:2 Telemetry System (TV20303)

The new telemetry system was proceeding in accordance with the programme except that the outstation units with 4G mobile communications, as requested, would not be available until March (COVID impact). Therefore, to keep on programme the first batch

of units would operate on the 3G network. The telemetry system may benefit from 4G coverage and there was a possibility that in a few years' time the 3G network would be closed down. 3G units could be upgraded to 4G in the future by the manufacturer (Schneider). It was planned that the four Boards jointly purchase two additional telemetry base units from Schneider at a cost of around £2,800 to swap with 3G sites to have them updated to 4G without interruption later this year when all sites had been completed. The two units would then be held as spares for emergency use, trials in a controlled environment, and training. Getting the new telemetry system up and running quickly was considered preferable to accepting a delay. 24 out of 92 units would be affected. The Functional Design Specification had been approved, logic sequences confirmed, telemetry pages were being programmed, cloud hosting established, and trial installations scheduled for the two-week period commencing 18th January 2021. Progress was generally as planned despite increased COVID restrictions. The Outline Business Case needed to support the Local Levy funding application which had been approved by Trent RFCC in April 2020 and was now with the National Team in the EA for final sign off; funds were expected in February.

12:3 South Clifton Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV19304)

Some remedial work had been carried out to keep the pump operable through the winter period. Westmoreland Civil Engineering Ltd had been to the site and filled in the void under the pump that had appeared following the high water of early 2020. However, inspection during the current high water levels (January 2021) in the River Trent, revealed that water was again coming through the embankment around the station and exiting in several locations. As a result, some of the stone pitching reinforcement had been displaced. The pump was currently still operational and in the opinion of Board's Officers, the station was currently secure. Investigations had commenced to secure the asset both temporarily and in the long term. The control panel kiosk from Cuckstool Pumping Station had been re-purposed in preparation for refurbishment works and it would need some attention to soften its visual impact on the area. A priority at this site was the preparation of the Outline Business Case to secure Grant in Aid funding. Costs to date were £7,334 against the approved budget of £115,000.

12:4 Torksey Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV16002)

Since the last Board meeting, the gravity sluice had been fitted. The dam to the gravity outfall that was in place during the works to the undercroft had now been removed to allow the penstock to operate over the Christmas period. The pedestal for the electric actuator was in manufacture following some design modification by the supplier, however, manual operation in the short term was possible. Works to complete were now limited to finishing the interior space including the toilet, mess facilities and the mezzanine floor. The repositioning of the weedscreen would take place later in the year followed by the landscaping. Costs to date were £1,249,539 against the approved budget of £1,431,000.

12:5 Marton Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV20305)

Watercourse surveys in the catchment were now complete and the data received was being validated. An order had been placed with Capita to undertake hydraulic modelling of the catchment in the amount of £10,200. The actions provided basic data for the Outline Business Case to secure Grant in Aid funding. An external contractor had been engaged to support the Engineering Team with the production of the Outline Business Case.

12:6 Moor Lane Pumping Station Refurbishment

Quotations were being obtained for refurbishment of the pumps.

12:7 Thurgarton Village Flood Relief Scheme

Latitude Surveys had been engaged to undertake further watercourse surveys required to extend the existing hydraulic model to incorporate possible sites for a flood embankment. The survey works were outside of the Board's area and the Thurgarton Parish Council Clerk had helped with consultation with landowners involved. A meeting with one of the landowners was planned for late January 2021 to obtain important local knowledge of the watercourses systems in the area and to initiate discussions in respect to the locating, building and maintaining of a flow control embankment. Once the watercourse survey information was available, the next step would be to complete the hydraulic model and assess suitable locations for a flood storage embankment. With the landowners' consent, ground investigation works would be undertaken in the vicinity of the proposed embankment together with an ecological assessment by the Board's Environmental Officer. The outline scope of the scheme could then be finalised. Outline Business Case preparation was scheduled for completion by the end of March 2021 to secure FDGiA funding.

12:8 Beckingham Pumping Station Refurbishment (TV11018)

Actuators had been installed by Inter-Lec Limited on the syphon valve discharge to each pump at the station to allow the variable speed drive pumps to operate at a lower speed without losing the syphon. Once the new telemetry system was operational, the benefit of using different speeds would be achieved.

12:9 Sutton on Trent

On 23rd December 2020 there were high water levels being attained upstream of Cuckstool Pumping Station following intense rainfall and rapid run-off. Officers were undertaking a number of actions to provide long term mitigation within the village. As with all flood defence assessments, the work had to be affordable relative to the benefits at a property level. The current status was as follows:

(a) Bulham Lane Drain

Following works in 2018 after the June 2018 floods, this watercourse had excellent conveyance characteristics which essentially meant that flows reached Cuckstool Pumping Station very quickly. With high velocities, flows were likely to overtop banks at changes in direction and at the confluence with the Cuckstool Dyke.

Works to manage the quantum and rate at which flows reached Cuckstool Pumping Station were planned. Funds to support this work were potentially available and earmarked through Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA). Currently the necessary information was being collated to support the funding application. COVID restrictions permitting, the programme was to submit an application for FDGiA by 31st March 2021 for work in financial year 2021/2022. Earmarked FDGiA contribution was £130,000 and for this additional work, Officers had also secured a provisional £50,000 contribution from Nottinghamshire County Council as the lead local flood authority. The key component of the scheme would be the installation of a deliberate flow restriction (with bypass) immediately to the west of the Great North Road. This would retain water for a few hours allowing controlled run-off through Bulham Lane Drain. Funding and land agreements permitting, this work was planned for late summer/early Autumn 2021.

(b) Cuckstool Dyke

The largest contributor of flows to the village centre was Cuckstool Dyke. Options to mitigate flows by partially diverting them elsewhere or introducing online storage (flood embankment) had not yet identified a financially viable option as has been previously reported. Officers were therefore looking at alternative routes to transfer intercepted flows from Cuckstool Dyke to the River Trent and high level modelling of options had identified a potentially viable solution which was to be validated by commissioning an extension to the existing flood model at an estimated cost of £5,000.

(c) Cuckstool Pumping Station

A flap valve which had become detached towards the end of December had been refitted and the seating of the second flap valve resolved so that both flap valves operated correctly. One of the flap valves would be replaced and the other refurbished, providing a backup which would be stored for future use. There had clearly been issues with the flap valves both this year and last, and if they did not seal when the Trent was running at high level, the pumps not only had to cope with flows from Bulham Lane Drain and Cuckstool Dyke, they also had to pump whatever ran back from the Trent. One of the recently refurbished pumps was not working properly. This had to be proved and flow monitoring equipment had been purchased and installed to validate pump output. This could only be fully proven when the Trent was high i.e. flap valves submerged; the results of this testing were imminent given recent rainfall conditions.

There had been suggestions that the pumps may be inadequately sized. Flow monitoring would validate the true output which would lead to decisions on the capacity of the pumps. The pumping station was noted to have worked effectively until the recent pump refurbishment, which indicated that proving that the pumps did what they were supposed to do was the first step. Pumps operated on start and stop levels and the volume pumped between start and stop was a function of the upstream volume and the rate at which it was replenished. The capacity of the watercourse leading to the pumping station was critical. Checks had been undertaken and the channel was considered adequate. Pumps had been tested and found to operate correctly, however, both pumps now had variable speed drives, so the operating regime was being reviewed to allow both pumps to work in tandem once a certain flow was achieved, ramping up together in line with inflows. This would improve the efficiency of the pumping through a consistent draw of water from the inlet channel and forebay. Issues with the setup of the automatic weedscreen were addressed on 12th January 2021 by the installer of the new equipment, however, further improvements were considered essential and the supplier returned to upgrade his equipment on 17th January 2021.

Cllr Mrs S. Michael requested details of the scheme to present to the Parish Council. The Engineer confirmed he would provide a written update.

12:10 Maintenance Issues - Old Trent Dyke

Concerns had been raised regarding the conveyance of a section of the Old Trent Dyke and its ability to function through the British Sugar site at Newark. A landowner whose land immediately abutted the Sugar Beet factory to the south of the old A1 had expressed concerns about the level of maintenance to the watercourses within the factory's curtilage. There were lagoons and infrastructure currently obstructing access to the watercourse along with overhead powerlines and dumper trucks running

alongside. The height of the land and existing bunds within the site had been raised alongside the watercourse to restrict dumper trucks from entering. These obstructions imposed severe restrictions on access for maintenance purposes. The Engineer and Operations Manager had met with representatives of British Sugar to discuss responsibilities for maintenance of the watercourse through their site. The outcome of discussions was as follows:

- (a) British Sugar would clear vegetation and trees from the banks of the Old Trent Dyke where they had taken root.
- (b) British Sugar would clear the watercourse using their own long reach excavators ensuring the free flow of water as required of a riparian owner. This work would take place in an ad hoc manner, when British Sugar had capacity to undertake the work in a manner that would not interfere with their operations.
- (c) British Sugar would arrange for before and after photographs to demonstrate the improvements that were to be achieved.
- (d) British Sugar would facilitate access for the Board's surveyor to inspect the watercourse when clearance work had been undertaken.

An update would be reported in Autumn 2021.

12:11 Relinquishment of Watercourse Tributaries (Moor House)

Report to be prepared and presented at the next Board Meeting.

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13. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Chief Executive confirmed that there were a number of issues to be discussed with the Environment Agency including the River Devon, River Smite, Bole Pumping Station and Fenton Marsh Pumping Station.

He confirmed that we the Board did have a good working relationship with the EA, working in partnership through the PCSA works.

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14. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The Chairman updated the Board on the IDB Biodiversity Action Plan, stating that a DRAFT document would be presented to the Conservation Advisory Group for consideration on 22nd April 2021 before being brought to the Board for approval.

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15. QUEIRES AND COMPLIANTS

The Chief Executive presented a report on 14 issues that had been logged since the last Board meeting, nine of which were ongoing. No formal complaints had been received.

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16. PLANNING AND BYELAW POLICY UPDATE

The Chairman asked the Board to consider approval of the proposed updated Planning and Byelaw Policy together with the proposed changes to charges.

Development control within Board areas along with Application and Environmental Compensation fees had been under review by ADA for over two years but no guidance documents had been released. In the absence of this guidance, Officers had undertaken a critical review of the other Risk Management Authorities (RMA) policies and charging sheets (Drainage Board and Local Authorities) and had prepared the Draft Planning and Byelaw Policy (including development control charges and fees) document.

Planning, consenting and development control had a significant resource requirement and current administration cost far exceeded revenues from development charges. All additional costs associated with increased run-off into the land drainage network were met by the Board which meant that over time, the increased volumetric discharge from developments reduced the standard of protection provided. The charges set out in the draft policy were intended to support the additional investment needed to main the current level of service.

Summary of the proposed charges:

- (a) **Application fees** - All Byelaw, Section 23 and Development Control applications to the Board would now be subject to a fee. The minimum fee was £100 with £200 charged for surface and treated foul water discharges (previously most applications were exempt from fees and the maximum fee was £50).
- (b) **Inspection fees** - Where consent was granted and an inspection required to ensure that works were undertaken in accordance with the conditions and to record pertinent data for the Board's records, an inspection fee would be charged.
- (c) **Consultation fees** - Application advice, Flood Risk Assessments and significant development would now be subject to some basic fees or where appropriate recharged on an actual cost basis.
- (d) **Surface Water Development Charges** - These were a charge to developments where there was an increase in drained impermeable area. Developments where practical would still be limited to 1.4l/s/ha but even this restriction could result in the Board receiving more water by volume. A charge was recommended for this service.
- (e) **Commuted Maintenance Fees (Culverts)** - A one-off charge for new culverts in the Board's network to support the future maintenance cost of ensuring continuity of flow. This included the option for the applicant to offset some costs if redundant access culverts were removed from the Board's network.
- (f) **Biodiversity and Habitat Mitigation** - Developments within the Board's area that disrupted the local biodiversity within the land drainage network must be mitigated for by the Developer. Should the Developer be unable to provide mitigation on site a contribution for biodiversity improvements would be required for the Board to invest within the district.
- (g) Inspection fees, consultation fees, surface water development charges and commuted maintenance fees would be index linked and increased at the start of each financial year commencing April 2021. A detailed review of all fees and charges would be undertaken in March 2023 and then subsequently on a five-year basis.

- (h) Where the Board administered applications in an extended area on behalf of a Lead Local Flood Authority, the fees set out under Items (a) to (d) above shall apply.

Officers confirmed that should ADA release guidance on fees and charging before the 2023 review, the Board's policy would be reviewed, and any recommendations brought back to the Board.

RESOLVED

That the attached Planning and Byelaws Policy which included development control charges and revised fees be adopted by the Board.

17. DELEGATED MATTER - 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/2020/024 Installation of a new water pipe for 100 metres of the Board Maintained Morton Hall Feeder at national grid reference 487754-363553 to 487666-363460 in the parish of Swinderby.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/026 Install a new watermain 1m under the bed of the Board Maintained Mill Dam at national grid reference 488413-363047 In the parish of Swinderby.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/044 Discharge from a packaged sewage treatment plant into a riparian watercourse within the Boards area at national grid reference 480069-368402 in the parish of Normanton on Trent.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/048 Excavation within 2-3 metres of the Board maintained 'The Gutter' for the purpose of laying a new low pressure gas main at national grid reference 474605-340416 in the parish of Aslockton.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/049 Excavation within 2-3 metres of the Board maintained Kingston Brook for the purpose of laying a new low pressure gas main at National grid reference 475502-365415 in the parish of East Leake.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/050 Surface water discharge into the Board maintained Brotts Road Drain at national grid reference 479379-368625 in the parish of Normanton on Trent.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/054 Cross existing culvert with a new high voltage underground cable on the Board maintained Water Drain at national grid reference 466565-342336 in the parish of Shelford.

17:2 Section 23 Applications

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

TVIDB/LDC/2020/041 Installation of culvert and two catchpit chambers in a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 489077-362767 within the parish of Witham St Hughs.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/042 Installation of a 45 metre culvert into a riparian watercourse within the Board's area between national grid reference 483473-361464 to 483450-361422 in the parish of Collingham.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/043 To discharge surface water into a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 481062-338396 in the parish of Bottesford.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/051 Repairs to existing culvert within a riparian watercourse within the Boards area at national grid reference 486300-363900 in the parish of Swinderby.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/052 Repairs to existing culvert within a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 464938-343695 in the parish of Burton Joyce.

TVIDB/LDC/2020/053 Repairs and upgarde to provide better access to an existing culvert within a riparian watercourse within the Board's area at national grid reference 480975-376395 in the parish of Laneham.

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

RECEIVED

17:3 Planning Applications.

The Engineer reported that 72 planning applications had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting and appropriate comments made.

RECEIVED

18. STAFFING

The Chief Executive confirmed the Consortium was in the process of recruiting a Mechanical and Electrical Field Engineer and virtual interviews were scheduled for the end of January. The new Data Entry Assistant had joined accounts.

The Corporate Services Manager reported that ADA Lincolnshire Branch Pay and Conditions Committee had met and discussed the following:

- (a) 2021 Pay Award - the agreed formula resulted in an increase of 4.1% (the Committee had previously agreed the formula with the Unions for a three-year period). Although there was a general feeling that this was particularly high in the current economic climate, the Committee felt that the Agreement should be honoured.
- (b) Proposal to reduce the DLO's weekly hours from 38 to 37 - this had been considered and rejected.
- (c) Clarification of Covid-19 absences - the Committee had confirmed that periods of self-isolation should be paid inline with the Board's sick pay policy. However, no payment would be made for isolation due to returning to the UK following holiday.

The Corporate Services Manager asked the Board to consider the 4.1% increase. She commented that in making the decision the Committee had also considered the difficulties in recruitment and also the overtime worked by staff during periods of adverse weather.

Following discussion, members agreed to the 4.1% increase, however, Officers were asked to circulate details of the formula to members so that they could consider at the March meeting whether they wished to give notice to withdraw from the agreement.

RESOLVED

The Board approve the 4.1% increase recommended by the Pay and Conditions Committee.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised the Board that Mr J. Pask had resigned from the Board and he thanked him for his hard work. Members were asked to let the office know if they knew of anyone who may be interested in filling the vacancy.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Doncaster East would be joining the Consortium from 1st April 2021.

Water Resources East

The Chairman advised the Board that Water Resource East (WRE) was an organisation looking to utilise water more efficiently by diverting into areas of need. The Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) was a member and had a seat on the Board at a cost of £15,000 per annum. ADA recharged this to its members on the same percentage used to calculate subscriptions, however, there was a general feeling in the Consortium that this was not fair as some boards would benefit much more than others. Trent Valley's contribution would be £1,668.00 on top of ADA subscription fees which were already in the region of £7,000. It was noted that if the £15,000 was split equally between all IDBs, the cost would be £300 per board. Although members supported the work of WRE in principle, recognising that there would be some useful information in the future regarding integrated water resource management, bearing in mind the feedback to date from WRE, members did not feel that this offered value for money for the Board. It was noted that the Board could become a member of WRE for a cost of £1.00.

Mr W. Staunton and Mr T.H. Farr agreed to take this up with ADA.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN