

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE WAVENEY, LOWER YARE AND LOTHINGLAND
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2015 AT 2 O’CLOCK AT HADDISCOE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Mr B G Collen (Chairman)
Mr P Cargill (Vice Chairman)
Mr R Basey-Fisher
Mr H Budgen
Mr J Brown
Mr H Carrie
Mr M Caston
Mr R Cundy
Mr M Gooch
Mr C Mutten
Mr I Vincent
Mr D Watson
Mr B Lawn (Great Yarmouth Borough Council)
Mr T Andrews (Great Yarmouth Borough Council)
Mr C Gould (South Norfolk District Council)
Mr J Savage (South Norfolk District Council)
Mr G Nurden (Broadland District Council)

In attendance: Mr B Blower (Clerk)

Apologies: Mr D Burroughs
Mr N Dodd
Miss R Hipperson
Mr W Slater
Mr B Bernard (South Norfolk District Council)
Mr K Patience (Waveney District Council)

18.1 Presentation

The proposed presentation by Neil Punched of the Broads Authority on the “slow the flow” project referred to in the Agenda did not take place as Mr Punched had not been able to arrange the facilities he needed to make the presentation.

18.2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 5th February 2015 were unanimously approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

18.3 Matters Arising

Minute 17.5.1 The Clerk reported that following the meeting on site to inspect the problems with the Carlton Beck no progress had been made with the Environment Agency to agree a revised contribution towards the cost of pumping Highland Water. A revision was needed because the removal of the board referred to in the previous Minute meant that there was less water discharging by way of the tidal flap direct into the River and more water coming to the Board’s pump. This therefore needed to be progressed.

Minute 17.5.2 The Clerk reported that no progress had been made in dealing with the problem with the overtopping at the St Olaves boatyards. Further discussion was needed with the Environment Agency/BESL to ensure that they addressed this.

Minute 17.5.3 The Clerk reported the response he had received from BESL to the report of the overtopping at the Reedham Ferry on the south side of the River. He said that BESL did not consider that work required to raise the height of the road could be justified. Board members disagreed with this assessment and pointed out that additional tarmac had been added some 12 to 13 years ago to raise the height of the road and there should be no reason why that should not be done again now.

Minute 17.5.4 Mr Gould reported that the Wherryman's Way footpath along the River was closed because the path itself was in a perilous state and he queried whether this was anything to do with the BESL works. The Chairman pointed out that the status of footpaths was not strictly within the Board's remit.

Minute 17.5.5 The Clerk reported that he had some difficulty establishing exactly what the current position was with the penstock through the new cross wall connecting Peto's Marsh to the remainder of the Board area. Pressure should be kept on the Environment Agency/BESL to update the Board as to progress of the works and effect a handover of control of the penstock. In the same area Mr Gooch confirmed that the bank raising works adjacent to White Cast Marshes had been satisfactorily completed and this just needed re-establishment of the vegetation. As a general point it was noted that BESL are not dealing with their cutting obligations on the river walls as they should particularly on recently completed works which allows excessive weed growth thus hindering re-establishment of the grass sward.

18.4 Approval Of The Accounts

Copies of the accounts for the Board for the year ended 31st March 2015 had been circulated with the draft Annual Return as completed by the internal Auditor with a summary of the comparisons between estimated and actual expenditure for each level. Board members had considered the figures and it was unanimously agreed that the accounts be approved.

18.5 Annual Return For The Year Ended 31st March 2015

The Board considered the Annual Return and in particular the Annual Government Statement in section 2. It was unanimously agreed that the content of the Annual Return be approved and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign them.

18.6 Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor's Report had been circulated and the Clerk invited the Board to consider the recommendations and the following matters were discussed:-

- 1 It was agreed that the register of members interests would be reviewed. The Clerk would circulate with the Minutes of the meeting the interest forms completed on the last occasion so that Board members could make any changes. Those Board members who had not declared their interests would do so.

- 2 It was noted that the main bank account is in fact reconciled at least quarterly and a note recording this would be made to provide evidence of that reconciliation.
- 3 The tendering process was reviewed and the Clerk read out the relevant extracts from the Financial Regulations (last reviewed in February 2015). It was agreed that the current policy was working satisfactorily. It was agreed that it is not practical to obtain tenders for all work. Neither is it practical to obtain a maximum price for dyke work as suggested by the auditor because different dykes and locations produce a very different result. It was far more efficient and cost effective to use a well known contractor who is familiar with the relevant area. It was noted that most surveyors are rate payers on their relevant level and this alone ensured that they made absolutely certain that best value was being obtained. The present practise of the Board's Chairman and Clerk checking the prices where appropriate for particular jobs works better than any tendering process could. The only concern surrounded work on pump equipment where the number of contractors available with the relevant expertise was strictly limited. It was agreed that an enquiry might be made of the Association of Drainage Authorities to see if they have any recommended contractors or rates. If the opportunity arose and the circumstances were suitable it might be beneficial to seek a quotation from an alternative contractor to Hunts from time to time just to check that his prices remain competitive.
- 4 The process of the surveyors checking and approving all invoices before payment was made was reviewed and it was agreed appropriate that the Clerk could use discretion where the invoice was for less than £100.00 and pay these without needing to refer the invoice for approval. The Clerk would know that the work had been carried out and for routine jobs this was agreed to be a sensible compromise.

18.7 Barnby North Cove Pump Scheme Update

The Clerk reported on the progress with the scheme. Some of the equipment had been ordered and some had been delivered. Site clearance at Share Mill has been completed and UKPN have upgraded the pole mounted transformer. Work on the pump installation is expected in August/September. The Clerk reported on the continuing local opposition to the scheme which principally appeared to arise from concern over whether it would work. A meeting between the interested parties and the Board consulting engineers had taken place on Tuesday of this week and following that meeting while some reservations remain there had been acceptance from all parties that the scheme must proceed. Current projections suggest that at net cost to the Board of the scheme after grant will be in the region of £61,000.00 but there is still some concern over further refinements required by the Environment Agency in respect of compliance with the eel regulations.

18.8 Askews/Pettingills Pump

The Clerk had circulated the report prepared by Rossi Long which presented various options for the Board to consider. It was agreed that a working group should be set up to meet with Rossi Long to discuss the options and make a decision as to how the Board should proceed. The working group should comprise Mr Collen, Mr Carrie, Mr Cargill, Mr Gould and a representative of the Askews Partnership plus (if she wished) Rachael Hipperson. It was agreed essential that a representative of the Askew Marshes Partnership who is authorised to make decisions should attend the meeting. If the Askew Marshes Partnership is not interested in pursuing the new single pump option for the

Island then the Board should concentrate on the straight replacement of the Askews pump to serve the same area as currently drains to the Askews pump.

18.9 Review Of Policy Statement

The Policy Statement of the Board was reviewed. It was agreed that as further details of the catchment areas became available these should be added.

18.10 Health And Safety Report

Mr Mutten said that there had been no reported accidents or near misses. He was continuing his inspections and checking that all works that he had recommended had been carried out. Some minor modifications were required in some cases and these were being implemented as he progressed with the inspections.

18.11

The Clerk reported that Board elections were due to be held in September 2015 and enquired whether all members wished to stand for re-election and whether there were any other recommendations for appointment to the Board. Mr Vincent indicated that Art Kerkhof was interested in putting his name forward and he would be sent a nomination paper. If there were more nominations than there are places on the Board then it would be necessary to hold elections.

18.12 A.D.A. Eastern Branch Meeting

The Chairman informed members that there would be an A.D.A. branch meeting held on the 4th November 2015 at which all would be welcome. Further details would be circulated nearer the time.

18.13 Any Other Business

18.13.1 In the light of the comments about the requirements for a fish friendly pump at the new Barnby pumping station Mr Brown enquired whether other pumping stations would need to be upgraded. The Clerk advised that the Environment Agency 's current requirements were that all pumps should be made fish friendly by 2027 but that three pumps, that is Haddiscoe, Raveningham and Langley Double need to be fish friendly by 2021. This may change because the Environment Agency are still reviewing the regulations. As to the grant position the present thinking is that 100% grant should be available for work required to comply with these regulations but where there is an improvement in the Board's position consequent upon the work being carried out (ie a new pump replaces one that is say 10 years old) then the Board was likely to be required to make a contribution to reflect that improvement. The Clerk had been advised that the existing pumps were likely to have scrap value only. Board members expressed their extreme concern at the cost of carry out these works and the question was raised as to why Haddiscoe, Raveningham and Langley Double had been identified as requiring action sooner than the others.

18.13.2 It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be 4th February 2016