

MINUTES OF THE 30TH MEETING OF THE WAVENEY LOWER YARE AND LOTHINGLAND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD HELD ON 5th November 2020 AT 9.30am via ZOOM

PRESENT:

- Mr B Collen (Chairman)**
- Mr H Carrie (Vice Chairman)**
- Mr R Basey-Fisher**
- Mr H Budgen**
- Mr R Beevor**
- Sir Nicholas Bacon**
- Mr W Slater**
- Mr P Cargill**
- Mr C Mutten**
- Mr M Gooch**
- Mr D Watson**
- Councillor M Fairhead (GYBC)**
- Councillor K Patience (ESDC)**
- Councillor G Nurden (Broadland DC)**
- Councillor B Bernard (SNDC)**
- Councillor J Knight (SNDC)**
- Councillor J Savage (SNDC)**

In Attendance

- Mr B Blower (Clerk)**
- Mrs D Lovegrove**
- Mr M Rymarz**

Apologies

- Mr I Vincent**
- Miss R Hipperson**

30.1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23rd June 2020 were unanimously approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

30.2 Matters Arising

Minute 29.3 The clerk reported that Giles Bloomfield had been to see Mr Potterton over the problem at Dickleburgh and had persuaded Mr Potterton to engage WMA to install a new pump and provide temporary pumping all at the expense of the Otter Trust which would hopefully resolve the flooding.

Minute 29.10 The chairman asked the Clerk to update the Board on the Benacre scheme expressing his grave concern about the perilous state of the beach and the immediate threat to the pumping station. The clerk outlined the financial projections revealed to date by the Outline Business Case studies and the possibility that the funding gap may be filled from the "Other Government Departments Fund". Mr Budgen reported on the beach protection work being undertaken by the Benacre estate. It was noted that further discussions are in progress with the Environment Agency on all aspects of the scheme but most particularly over the imminent threat to the sea defences.

Minute 29.10.2 The clerk reported that £100,000 grant funding had been approved for the preparation of the Outline Business Case for Norton with a view to preparing a scheme ready to start next spring/summer.

30.3 Administration arrangements

Prior to the meeting all Board members had received a memorandum from the chairman explaining the reason for calling this meeting and a background briefing note from the clerk. The chairman explained that he was concerned that the Board should have the opportunity to reconsider the decision taken on 1st October 2019 to join the Kings Lynn Consortium given that Mr Mark Rymarz of Nicholsons had indicated his willingness to take over as clerk in place of Mr Blower.

Councillors Fairhead and Nurden declared their interest in this matter, their interest being that they are each appointed by their Councils to the Broads IDB which is part of the Consortium administered by Water Management Alliance. It was unanimously agreed that they should both be allowed to participate in the discussion and to vote on any resolution.

The clerk suggested that the Board might consider two possible resolutions as follows:

- A.** To appoint Phil Camamile of the Water Management Alliance (“WMA”) as clerk to the Board with immediate effect on the understanding that WMA will take over routine administration of the Board from 1st April 2021; or
- B.** To give notice to Kings Lynn Consortium withdrawing the Board from the Consortium Agreement as soon as reasonably practicable and to appoint Mr Mark Rymarz as clerk to the Board in place of Mr Blower with immediate effect.

There followed a general discussion on the alternatives and all members had the opportunity to express their views on the options available and to put any questions to the clerk and to Mr Rymarz. On conclusion of that discussion Mr Rymarz was asked to leave the meeting so that a resolution could be proposed and voted on.

A resolution (proposed by Cllr Nurden and seconded by Mr Watson) was put to the Board in the form set out at **A** above and a vote taken. Cllr Savage and Mr Slater abstained but all other members approved the resolution which was duly passed.

Mr Blower said that he & Mrs Lovegrove would now make arrangements with Mr Camamile to ensure as smooth a transfer as possible. Members expressed the wish that if a means could be found to secure Mrs Lovegrove’s services following the transfer then that should be pursued.

Board members thanked Mrs Lovegrove warmly for the work she has done for the Board over the years recognising her extraordinary abilities which have been the mainstay of the proper and efficient running of the Board’s business.

30.4 Any Other Business

The clerk reported that since the last meeting Mike Caston had handed over responsibility for surveying duties on the old Lower Yare Second levels after many years’ service. His contribution to looking after this district was much appreciated.