

**MINUTES OF THE 26TH MEETING OF THE WAVENEY LOWER YARE AND LOTHINGLAND
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2019 AT 2 O'CLOCK AT HADDISCOE
VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Mr B Collen (Chairman)
Mr H Carrie (Vice Chairman)
Mr R Basey-Fisher
Mr J Brown
Mr P Cargill
Mr M Caston
Mr M Gooch
Mr D Watson
Councillor M Fairhead (GYBC)
Councillor J Knight (SNDC)
Councillor K Patience (ESDC)
Councillor G Nurden (Broadland)

In Attendance Mr B Blower (Clerk)

Apologies Mr R Beevor
Mr H Budgen
Mr D Burroughs
Miss R Hipperson
Mr C Mutten
Mr W Slater
Mr I Vincent
Councillor C Annison (GYBC)
Councillor B Bernard (SNDC)

26.1 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7th February 2019 were unanimously approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

26.2 Matters Arising

Minute 25.1.6. The Clerk reported that he had provided a lot of information to Mr Camamile about the way in which the Board was organised. He had spoken with Mr Camamile on the morning of the meeting who had confirmed that the WMA remain enthusiastic about the possibility of the Board joining the Consortium. Mr Camamile had indicated to the Clerk that proposals would be forthcoming from the Consortium within approximately two weeks. When received the Clerk would convene a Meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and they would decide an appropriate way of taking matters forward.

Minute 25.17.4. The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Mr Mutten had indicated that he thought that £100.00 for a gift to mark Mr Archer's long service was perhaps too low and he had suggested the purchase of a bench which might be acquired for about £250.00. After some discussion Board members thought a bench was not an appropriate item. The Clerk said that he had suggested some engraved glassware and

Board members were happy with that and directed that he should organise this and should keep as close to the original £100.00 allocated as possible.

26.3 Accounts

The Board's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019 were considered, copies having been circulated to Board members prior to the meeting. The accounts were approved unanimously.

26.4 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19

The Board considered the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

26.4.1 The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed and unanimously approved and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign this.

26.4.2 The Accounting Statements 2018/19 were then considered and unanimously approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign this.

26.5 Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor's Report dated 4th June 2019 had been circulated and the Report was considered and was unanimously accepted. The Clerk reported that he had reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit which he had found to be satisfactory.

26.6 Health and Safety

The Clerk reported on the ongoing inspection of the pumping stations being undertaken by the Board's Consultants. New booklets were being prepared for each pumping station which would shortly be issued to pump attendants/surveyors. As yet there were no particular matters that had been raised by the Consultants which needed to be brought to the attention of the Board save their recommendation that pump attendants should be required to attend a course run by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents on "Safety at Inland Water Sites". A course could be arranged in Great Yarmouth for fourteen people at a price of £850.00 plus VAT (with possible additional charges for travel expenses etc. for the person running the course). It was agreed that arrangements should be made for as many pump attendants as possible to attend this course at the Board's cost and in addition the Board would pay for each pump attendant's time for attending the course. Where pump attendants were unable to attend the possibility of the relevant surveyor attending should be considered so that the appropriate training could be given to the pump attendant.

Mr Gooch expressed concern at the amount of weed having to be cleared from the screen at Share Mill and it was agreed that if the opportunity arose for grant aid then the Board should look into the installation of an automatic weedscreen cleaner at this site.

26.7 Maintenance

26.7.1 Hardley Mill Road. The Clerk reported that following maintenance work undertaken last winter there was a deficit on the Hardley Mill Road repair account of £1,532.85. It was agreed to ask those who contributed to the road repair fund to increase their annual contribution from £100.00 to £200.00 and it was agreed that the

Langley Pumped Level should pay into the road repair fund the amount required to clear the deficit.

26.7.2 Share Marsh Road. The Clerk reported that the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had approached the Board with a request that the Board should cease to use the existing access track to Share Mill pump for vehicles but instead use a new road constructed by the Trust alongside the original road. The intention of the Trust was to preserve the condition of the existing track so that it remained passable by walkers throughout the year. In addition the Trust had asked whether the Board would contribute to or pay the Trust's legal costs that would be incurred in granting the Board a new legal right of way over the new route in place of the existing right of way. After some discussion it was agreed that Mr Watson and Mr Collen would meet with the Trust on site to inspect and they would then make a decision as to how to proceed.

26.8 Capital Schemes

The Clerk reported that Karen Thomas who had been leading this project on behalf of the Board had now left her employment with Water Management Alliance and was now working for Coastal Partnership East. Although she hoped to continue to be involved with the project, Giles Bloomfield of Water Management Alliance would now be leading it on behalf of the Board. At present Jacobs are continuing the work required to develop the outline business case and are looking at the options with a view to coming up with a firm proposal. There would be further consultation with landowners later in the year particularly over what levels of flooding might be tolerable. From the Board's perspective the most important issue for consideration was whether the new pumping station and other assets would be vested in the Board and become its responsibility. If that were to happen then it would be necessary to secure additional sources of funding other than the rating income. At this stage it is unclear whether the Agency will insist upon the new assets becoming the responsibility of the Board or whether they would continue the current arrangement with the Agency having primary responsibility. The fact that the Board was taking the lead in devising the Scheme reflected only the fact that this meant that better funding was available and it should not be assumed that this meant that the new pumps and other assets would belong to the Board. This would need to be considered very carefully as the Scheme develops.

26.9 Arrears

The Clerk reported on the current arrears of rates (other than the rates payable for the current year) and the report is attached.

26.10 Any Other Business

26.10.1 Concern was expressed by Mr Carrie over damage being done to Board maintained dykes by a large number of horses that were currently on the Haddiscoe Marshes. This would result in dykes having to be re-profiled and he queried whether there was anything that the Board could do to prevent this damage. The Clerk said that he thought that the Byelaws would cover this and he would provide Mr Carrie with the information required. It was also suggested that if this is becoming a problem, consideration might be given to de-maining some dykes although it was agreed that this could present other difficulties.

26.10.2The Clerk reported that Mr Kerkhof had resigned his position on the Board which meant that there is a vacancy and that the Board could co-opt a new member. The Clerk was directed to consider what areas were not currently represented from which it might be appropriate to seek new members.

26.10.3The Clerk informed Board members of the need to respond to the consultation on the draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England and he was asked to send to all Board members a link to the online consultation.

26.10.4The Association of Drainage Authorities Eastern Branch AGM Meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on 2nd October 2019 at Kessingland following which the opportunity will be provided to inspect the proposals for the Benacre Scheme.

26.10.5The Clerk reported on the need to remove from rating assessment number 2/0421 as the land in this assessment (on the Waveney Valley level) had been split up resulting in the separate ownerships now being valued at less than £25.00. It was agreed to remove this from rating.

26.10.6The Clerk reported on the need to apply for an abstraction licence in respect of any intake of water operated by the Board into the Board's system from main river. He explained that there was a complicated form to complete which would involve estimating the quantity of water used over the past seven years so that the annual licence amount could be specified. This is work that will need to be undertaken with the relevant fees paid to the Environment Agency before the 1st of September.

26.10.7The next meeting of the Board would be held at 2 o'clock on 4th February 2020 at Haddiscoe Village Hall.

Arrears as at 7th February 2019

Blundeston

15/011/025	Mr P Girling 1.60 ac. Av. £44.00	£20.80 -	Current (previous w/o) W/O
15/011/040	Mrs P Cook	£31.72 -	Current

Lothingland

16/11/047	Mr T C Crick	£1554.84 -	Current PAID
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Gillingham

19/305/013	R & J Morton	£88.38 -	Current
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Geldeston

19/306/007	Mrs M Harrison	£74.53 -	Current PAID
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Remainder

19/307/009	Gillingham Estate & Farms	£12.54 -	Current (previous w/o) W/O
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Haddiscoe

20/31/066	Mr MacCallum 2.50 ac. Av. £80.00	£44.00 -	2017/2018 (previous w/o) W/O
20/31/078	Mr and Mrs B C Macro	£24.00 -	2017/2018

Langley Pumped

12/083/006	Mr and Mrs P Remblance	£18.00 -	Current PAID
12/087/008	Mrs C Gardner	£86.64 -	2017/2018

Waveney Valley

22/0021	Mr R Seppings	£23.80 -	2016/17
22/0287	Mr J Gallo	£6.44 -	Current PAID
22/0297	The Otter Trust	£66.50 -	2017/2018 PAID
22/0346	Mr S McClellan	£5.28 -	Current
22/0367	Mr and Mrs P Murton	£63.70 -	2010 PAID
22/0375	Mr P A & Mrs K A Crotty	£13.96 -	Current
22/0406	Mr A G Driver	£6.12 -	Current PAID
22/0430	Mr D Jay	£5.80 -	Current PAID