

**MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE WAVENEY, LOWER YARE AND  
LOTHINGLAND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
2020 AT 2 O'CLOCK AT HADDISCOE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

- Mr B Collen (Chairman)**
- Mr H Carrie (Vice Chairman)**
- Mr R Basey-Fisher**
- Mr H Budgen**
- Mr J Brown**
- Mr D Burroughs**
- Mr P Cargill**
- Mr M Gooch**
- Miss R Hipperson**
- Mr C Mutton**
- Mr O Scott**
- Mr D Watson**
- Councillor M Fairhead (GYBC)**
- Councillor J Savage (SNDC)**
- Councillor C Hudson (SNDC)**
- Councillor K Patience (ESDC)**
- Councillor G Nurden (Broadland)**

**In Attendance:**

- Mr B Blower (Clerk)**
- Mr Steven Hall and Mr Peter Roberts (WMA) (For part of the meeting)**

**Apologies:**

- Mr R Beevor**
- Mr M Caston**
- Mr W Slater**
- Mr I Vincent**
- Sir Nicholas Bacon**
- Councillor J Knight (SNDC)**

**28.1 Barsham Puddingmoor**

The Chairman asked the Board to consider the Barsham Puddingmoor matter (Item 5.3 on the Agenda) first so that Messrs Hall and Roberts who were attending for that purpose only could then leave the meeting. Board members had considered Version 1.2 of the Report prepared by Mr Roberts dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 which had been circulated with the Agenda and the Chairman invited Mr Roberts to speak about his Report. He explained the need to find a solution to the continuing flooding problem on the Puddingmoor level given the failure of the existing gravity outfall. He explained that the cost of replacing the outfall on a like for like basis was prohibitive. He explained that since preparing the Report he had met with Steven Hall and acknowledged that the pump serving the Barsham level was probably under-capacity and that this meant simply discharging the water from Puddingmoor to Barsham via a penstock on its own would not be a satisfactory solution. There appear to be three possible solutions to the problem, the construction of a new gravity outfall immediately upstream of the existing one, the installation of a new private pump on the Puddingmoor level to be operated by the Council or an upgrade of the Barsham pump with the installation of a penstock through the cross wall. If the latter turned out to be the best solution then the cost of the upgrade would need to be funded by the Council/Anglian Water and there would need to be a mechanism in place whereby the cost of pumping the additional water from Puddingmoor could be ascertained and charged. It was agreed that the Board would co-operate in being part of the

correct solution but would not compromise its position to give way to the easiest solution.

Mr Hall explained the lack of reservoir capacity within the Barsham pumped district caused by a number of landowners requiring high water levels throughout winter under HLS Schemes. He also highlighted the difficulty of obtaining access for the purposes of carrying any maintenance on the existing river wall on the Puddingmoor Level because of garden extensions taken down to the river.

Messrs. Roberts and Hall then left the meeting.

## **28.2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 were considered and were unanimously approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them. There were no matters arising.

## **28.3 Health and Safety**

The Clerk reported that the Board's consultants were continuing their review of health and safety practices and policies and their inspections. Their recommendation to arrange a course for pump attendants on working adjacent to water was discussed. It was noted that the original date for this had had to be cancelled because the consultants had booked the course for the wrong day. It was suggested that in view of the difficulty of arranging such a course enquiries should be made as to whether similar training could be provided in paper form or online.

## **28.4 Risk Register, Financial Regulations and Asset Register**

These documents were reviewed and approved.

### **28.5.1 Dickleburgh**

The problems with flooding at Dickleburgh Moor were discussed, Mr Thomas's Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 having been circulated to Board members. The Clerk advised that there had been a breakdown in relations arising from the refusal of the Otter Trust to acknowledge either the Board's Byelaws or the consequences of the breakdown of the Otter Trust's private pump. It was noted that significant local publicity was being given to the problem and the Board was being blamed for causing or exacerbating the flooding and none of these claims were true. The Clerk reported that Mr Thomas had undertaken very thorough surveys and investigations to confirm that the Board was not at fault here. Mr Gooch offered to meet with representatives of the Otter Trust in order to try to restore relations and stem the flow of misinformation. Although it seems unlikely that enforcement action would be appropriate, the reinstatement of the pump being a private matter, this question should be left to Mr Thomas' discretion.

### **28.5.2 Norton Pump House**

Mr Wright's report into the movement of the Norton pump house and the leaking flap valve was considered. It was agreed that steps should be taken to remedy the leaking flap as quickly as possible, the desired solution most likely being the installation of a new discharge pipe over the top of the river wall. The movement in the pump house should continue to be monitored but no further action would be taken on this for the time being.

### **28.5.3 Somerleyton Pump**

The Board considered the request made by Savills on behalf of Lord Somerleyton that the Board should consider adopting the Somerleyton pump. The Clerk reported that he had spoken with Board member Richard Beevor prior to the meeting and explained that there was some doubt as to whether Savills' assessment as to the catchment of the pump was correct. It was thought that most of this area discharges to the river via the Blocka Run and that the pump served a relatively small area of marshland around it most of which was owned by the Somerleyton Estate. It was not therefore considered appropriate that the Board should take the adoption question any further. In any event it was agreed that the Board would not consider any application for adoption of any assets unless they were in first class order prior to adoption.

### **28.6 External Auditor's Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

The Board considered the Report and Certificate from PKF Littlejohn LLP for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. It was noted that there were no matters arising.

### **28.7 Benacre Scheme**

The Clerk updated the Board on the current position with the Benacre Scheme. Progress was being made by Jacobs in developing the outline business case and it was hoped that a full report would be available in the Spring with an analysis of options. There were still grave concern about both the capital cost and future running costs.

### **28.8 Water Management Alliance**

The Board had considered the draft Consortium Agreement circulated with the agenda that the Clerk had agreed with the other Boards. He drew the Board's attention to clause 3 of the draft Agreement which provided that Mr Camamile would be appointed Clerk (Chief Executive Officer) of the Board in place of Mr Blower. He explained that this was not something upon which the other Consortium members had insisted but Mr Blower explained that he took the view that it was better to have consistency here as the Consortium had agreed that all responsibilities and work for the time being would be delegated to Mr Blower or his firm so that in practical terms there would be no change to the administrative arrangements. Mr Blower highlighted the cap on the WMA charge (clause 4.2.2 of the draft Agreement) at £5,000.00 per annum. Concern was expressed particularly at Mr Blower relinquishing the Clerkship and what this might mean for the Board and the Board considered that Mr Blower should have some title or specific role and he was directed to raise the possibility of being appointed Joint Clerk. Mr Blower advised that he considered that the appointment of Mr Camomile with formal engagement terms between the Board and his firm would be perfectly satisfactory but he would make further enquiries.

Notwithstanding the concerns just expressed the Consortium Agreement circulated was approved unanimously and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign and complete this.

### **28.9 Contractors Rates**

The Board considered the table of contractors rates circulated with the Agenda. It was proposed that rates be increased by 1.8% being the figure midway between the annual percentage increase in the RPI and the CPI according to the latest published figures (2.2% and 1.4% respectively).

## **28.10 Approval of Estimates and Rates for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

The Clerk's estimates for the expenditure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 had been considered by Board members prior to the Meeting. Having considered the figures the Board approved the following rates:-

Waveney Valley – 8p in the £  
Geldeston 1 – 11p  
Geldeston 2 – 24p  
Barsham 1 – 26p  
Barsham 2 – 40p  
Remainder – 4p  
Gillingham – 9p  
Worlingham – 40p  
North Cove/Barnby – 53p  
Long Dam – 47p  
Short Dam – 61p  
Blundeston – 54p  
General – 7p  
Caldecott - £1.00  
Belton – 5p  
Burgh St Peter – 61p  
Wheatacre – 35p  
Haddiscoe – 29p  
Askews – 70p  
Island – 78p  
Pettingills – 80p  
Fringe – 37p  
Powells – 13p  
Ravensingham – 52p  
Norton Low – 46p  
Norton – 58p  
Limpenhoe – 56p  
Langley Pumped – 40p  
Claxton Gravitation – 14p  
Burgh Castle – 3p  
Lothingland – 23p

## **28.11 Special Levy**

It was resolved to make the following special levies:-

Breckland District Council - £742.15  
Mid Suffolk District Council - £14,544.31  
East Suffolk Council - £29,356.52  
South Norfolk District Council - £114,625.95  
Broadland District Council - £2,164.08  
Great Yarmouth Borough Council - £70,990.63

## **28.12 Investment Strategy and Deposit Balances**

The Board's Investment Strategy was considered and approved.

The Clerk reported on the deposit balances as at 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

Barclays Bank - £252,000.00 (0.99%) matures 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
National Counties Building Society - £220,638.68 (1.25%) matures 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
National Counties Building Society - £223,987.73 (1.15%) matures 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Nottingham Building Society - £314,014.42 (0.90%) matures 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Barclays Business Premium and Current Accounts - £208,185.22

### **28.13 Arrears**

The Clerk reported that the arrears outstanding were as set out on the sheet attached to these Minutes. The following write offs were approved:-

Assessment 15/011/025 - £20.80  
Assessment 19/307/009 - £12.54  
Assessment 20/31/066 - £22.40  
Assessment 22/0375 - £22.20

The Clerk was directed to commend and thank Mrs Lovegrove for her diligence in collecting the rates and keeping the arrears to a minimum.

### **28.14 Expenditure Report**

The summary of expenditure incurred as attached to these Minutes had been circulated with the Agenda and the expenditure list was approved.

### **28.15 Any Other Business**

**28.15.1** The Clerk reported on the creation of Water Resources East and the request made by the Association of Drainage Authorities to contribute towards WRE expenditure (via the appointment of an ADA Director to WRE). The Board's contribution requested was £99.27 which was approved.

**28.15.2** The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 at 2 o'clock at Haddiscoe Village Hall.

Arrears as at 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Blundeston

15/011/025	Mr P Girling 1.60 ac. Av. £44.00	£20.80 -	Current (previous w/o)
15/011/040	Mrs P Cook	£63.44 -	2018/19

Remainder

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

20/31/054	Mr J Farman	£24.08 -	Current
20/31/066	Mr MacCallum 2.50 ac. Av. £80.00	£22.40 -	Current (previous w/o)
20/31/071	Mr and Mrs I Curl	£72.24 -	Current

Langley Pumped

12/081/028	Mrs D Linder	£26.80 -	Current
12/087/008	Mrs C Gardner	£132.24 -	2017/2018
12/087/014	Mr and Mrs T Conlin	£140.00 -	Current

Waveney Valley

22/0021	Mr R Seppings	£38.08 -	2016/17
22/0375	Ms W J Chaundy	£12.70 -	Current
22/0375	Mr P A and Mrs K A Crotty	£22.20 -	2018/19 <b>TO BE W/O</b>
	<b>Mr P A and Mrs K A Crotty sold to Ms W J Chaundy - Crotty's divorced and moved away</b>		
22/0390	Mr R A Porter	£5.70 -	Current

