

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board held at Deeping House, Welland Terrace, Spalding on Thursday, 7th December 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

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| * Mr G R Aley | Mrs J Smith |
| * Mr W D Branton (Chairman) | * Mr B Tidswell |
| * Mr J F W Holdich OBE | * Mr J Ward |
| * Mrs C J Lawton | * Mr P N Watts MBE |
| * Mr T C Purllant (Vice Chairman) | |
| * Present | |

In Attendance:

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|-------------|---------------------|
| Mrs K Daft | Chief Executive |
| Mr N Morris | Operations Engineer |

01/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Smith.

02/17 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2016, a copy of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed: Mr Aley, seconded: Mr Holdich.

03/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

03/17/1 Estimates 2017/18

The Operations Engineer explained that the majority of non-routine maintenance operations included in the Estimates had been completed. These included:

- The continued programme of installing rain gauges linked to telemetry at remote pumping stations.
- Lifting and service of both pumps at Pinchbeck Marsh (1953) Pumping Station.
- Lifting of pump to carry out repairs and resilience measures at Kirton & Frampton Marsh Pumping Station.
- Lifting and service of pump at Fosdyke Marsh Pumping Station.
- Other works undertaken included lifting the pumps at Maxey North Fen Pumping Station and repairs to pump No 2 at the site.

- Drainage improvement schemes at Grange Farm Extension, Sutterton, and Allotment Dyke No 2 at Bourne.

The Operations Engineer reported that the works to repair and paint the flood wall at Pode Hole Depot have been deferred until the summer of 2018 as quotes were not received back in time to proceed during the summer months.

04/17 TO REVIEW FINANCE REPORT 2018/19

The Chief Executive presented the Finance Report to Members. Matters arising:

04/17/01 Surfleet Reservoir Plots

The Chief Executive advised that total income from the nine plots owned at the Reservoir will be £27,160.

No increase for 2018/19 is recommended.

04/17/02 Arable Rents

The Chief Executive advised that annual income from arable rents will be £10,027.

No increase for 2018/19 is recommended.

04/17/03 Grazing Rents

The Chief Executive advised that annual income from grazing rents will be £9,500.

No increase for 2018/19 is recommended.

04/17/04 Miscellaneous Rents

The Chief Executive advised that the Board has a small number of miscellaneous rents, ranging from small amounts of land that run over pipelines to various licences for access over Board's property. The majority of these are invoiced annually, with a small number of agreements being invoiced five- and ten-yearly. Annual income is £1,945.

No increase for 2018/19 is recommended.

04/17/05 Residential Properties' Rentals

The Chief Executive explained that the Board has four residential properties which are let through a residential letting agent. A change of agents during 2017, from Pygott & Crone to Longstaff & Co, has resulted in a small saving of £240 per year on management fees.

04/17/06 Development Reserve – Administration Contribution

The Chief Executive explained that contributions were taken from developers who wish to put additional surface water into the Board's system, and monies were then credited into the Development Reserve.

It was RESOLVED to recommend a contribution of £30,000 be taken from the Development Reserve towards administration costs for 2018/19. Proposed: Mr Purllant; seconded Mr Watts.

It was RESOLVED that the Finance Report be received and adopted.

05/17 TO RECEIVE ESTIMATES FOR 2018/19

The Chief Executive and Operations Engineer went through the proposed estimates for 2018/19 in detail. The various activities and priorities of the Board for the coming year were explained.

It was RESOLVED to recommend an increase to the rate to 11.45p, which represents a modest increase of 1.33%. Proposed: Mr Holdich, seconded: Mr Tidswell.

05/17/01 Income

Income, excluding grant aid and development income, is expected to be similar to current year.

05/17/02 Maintenance

In addition to routine maintenance, the following projects have been included for 2018/19:

- Fourth District Pumping Station
Reburbishment of building including new windows
and internal works Cost: £10,000

- Risegate Eau Pumping Station
Repairs to discharge pipes Cost: £10,000

- Bourne South Fen
Replacement weedscreen cleaner Cost: £35,000

05/17/03 Capital Works

It is planned to purchase a replacement weedscreen cleaner trolley for Pode Hole Pumping Station. Cost will be £35,000 and is to be funded from the Fixed Plant Reserve.

The future Capital Works programme was discussed at length.

05/17/04 Employees

The Chief Executive advised Members that the public sector pay freeze is still in force. Whilst some IDBs have paid more than the 1% at their own discretion or by pre-existing formulae, this Board will continue with 1%.

A 1% increase has been included on all employees' salaries from the 1st April 2018. A further 2% on payroll has been included in the estimates to be available to further increase employees' salaries should the public sector pay freeze be lifted during 2018/19.

Any future increase above 1% would be subject to Board approval.

05/17/05 Capital Expenditure on Plant and Machinery

It is proposed a new flail tractor with the addition of front and rear flails be purchased. Approximate costings are in the region of £143,000.

It was RESOLVED to recommend the purchase of a new flail tractor with front and rear flails. Proposed: Mr Ward, seconded: Mr Aley.

06/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

06/17/01 Rainfall

A question was raised with regard to pumping costs and if they were lower due to this year's dry weather. The Operations Engineer explained costs were currently down but that the money had been utilised on pump inspections and necessary repairs.

The Operations Engineer reported that rainfall to the end of November 2017 was 17.3 inches; the usual annual total to the end of December would be expected to be 23.5 inches so the year had been dry to date.

07/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 6th December 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 3:34 p.m.

Chairman