

Minutes of the meeting of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board held at Deeping House, Welland Terrace, Spalding on Thursday, 7th February 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| * G R Aley | Mrs C J Lawton |
| * H J W Bingham | Mrs A Newton |
| * A J Branton | * T C Purllant |
| * W D Branton | G W Sly |
| * M H Bratley | * Mrs J Smith |
| * R Broughton | * Mrs E J Sneath |
| * A Casson | * B Tidswell |
| * M Cooper | * Mrs R Trollope-Bellew |
| * P Coupland | * J Ward |
| * P Dilks | * P N Watts MBE |
| * S J Dobney | E J Whitfield |
| * T W Franks | * Ms S Wray |
| * J F W Holdich OBE | |
| * Present | |

In Attendance:	Mrs K Daft	Chief Executive
	N Morris	Operations Engineer
	J Boden	Assistant Engineer
	Mrs J Picking	Secretary

01/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Lawton, Councillor Newton, Mr Sly and Mr Whitfield.

02/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Watts declared an interest in planning applications H03-0876-18 and H03-0876-18 (Additional Information) detailed in the Engineering Report on pages 19 and 22 respectively.

Mr Bingham declared an interest in planning application H15-1207-18 detailed in the Engineering Report on page 26.

03/19 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th October 2018, a copy of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

04/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

04/19/01 9m Byelaw Contravention: Pennygate Pump Drain – Planning Application H14-0156-14 – Larkfleet Homes, Pinchbeck – 169 Residential Dwellings

The Chief Executive advised that progress was slow and there was nothing new to report on the matter.

05/19 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2018

05/19/01 Tracked Excavator

The Chief Executive reported to Members that the proposed purchase of a Liebherr Tracked Excavator, reported in minute number 05/18/03/01, had had to be scrapped due to Liebherr no longer manufacturing the machine. A British-made JCB Tracked Excavator (previously considered alongside the Liebherr) at a purchase price of £139,208 is now being ordered.

05/19/02 Drainage Rates

The Vice Chairman explained to Members that, where possible, money has been saved by the Board. Nevertheless, he felt that an increase of 2.40% on drainage rates was necessary (as reported in minute number 05/18/04/04).

05/19/03 Confidential Item

The Vice Chairman requested the Chief Executive, the Operations Engineer, the Assistant Engineer and the Secretary leave the meeting to enable the matter to be discussed. Members of staff withdrew at 11:05 p.m.

Members of staff were requested to return to the meeting at 11:13 p.m.

The Vice Chairman reported the recommendations, as contained in the 'Confidential Item' were accepted.

06/19 TO SEAL THE RATE FOR 2019/20

It was RESOLVED that the rate be set at 11.72p in the pound (2.40% increase).

07/19 TO RECEIVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Operations Engineer advised members that the Board has continued with its proactive approach to health and safety training. The following training and/or refresher training courses had taken place:

- Site Managers' Safety Training Scheme refresher (SMSTS)
- Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines training
- NEBOSH Environmental Management course
- Asbestos Awareness training – refresher training

The Operations Engineer also reported that, working alongside Stone Asbestos Ltd (company based in Donington), a review of the management of asbestos in Board's properties and premises is currently taking place.

The Board's Fire Risk Assessments are being updated by the Operations Engineer and the Assistant Engineer, who are NEBOSH qualified, with the help of MB Fire Training.

08/19

TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING REPORT

The Operations Engineer and Assistant Engineer presented the report to the Board.

Matters arising from the report:

08/19/01 General District

Overhanging trees and bushes have been cut back to preserve machine access on a number of drains throughout the district. Larger sections have been completed with the assistance of sub-contractors.

Roding and flailing is continuing. Machine cleansing has now started in the selected drains for this year, with good progress being made along the 6km stretch of the New River.

Improvement works have been completed along Raisens Drain.

Weedboats have completed their cutting programme.

Flailing has been undertaken alongside the Vernatts, North and South Drove Drains, Counter Drain and the Delph.

Machine cleansing is about to commence at the Pode Hole Basin and the North and South Droles, using Phil Wright's hired long-reach machine and ADC's silt pusher boat to reach the wider sections. Work will start shortly after on the Five Towns Drain with another long-reach machine and silt pusher, then moving on to the Risegate Eau. The Board's own workforce are being used as drivers of the hired machines.

08/19/02 Workshops and Plant

Workshop plant and equipment, including tractors, weedboats and trucks have all been maintained throughout the autumn and winter period.

Repair and maintenance work has been ongoing to the weedscreen cleaners at various pumping stations.

08/19/03 Special Matters – Riddingtons Pumping Station

Rainfall during December put some water into the Pinchbeck Marsh drainage system and enabled the new inverter drives installed on the submersible pumps to be fully tested. Both pumps ran well with no issues and much lower amps.

As originally planned, Riddingtons Pumping Station has now been made the 'duty' station, with the 1953 Pinchbeck Marsh Pumping Station acting as 'back up'.

The Operations Engineer thanked the Board for their support in finally getting this pumping station fully operational.

08/19/04 Special Matters – Scraggs Dyke Re-lining Work

Work started at FreshLinc's depot, which sits adjacent to Scraggs Dyke pipeline, on Monday, 12th November, consisting of site set-up and preparation with the area fenced off and isolated.

Insituform arrived on site on Sunday, 18th November and were ready to insert the first liner on Wednesday, 20th November. By Sunday, 25th November the 75 metre second section that carries the drain to the Blue Gowt Drain was ready to be installed. Insituform left site by the end of that week; our workforce then spent the next few days clearing up before handing back to FreshLinc.

08/19/05 Special Matters – Pode Hole Electric Pumping Station

The motor on Pump No 2 has been removed for repair after it failed on amp overload. Fenflow Ltd investigated and it was found the bushes were sticking, causing them to arc onto the bottom slip ring. Refurbishment has been carried out and the motor was reinstalled in November. The motor was run during December for extended periods and ran perfectly.

08/19/06 Special Matters – Risegate Eau Pumping Station

Costs are currently being finalised for the re-lining of the first discharge pipe under the Tidal River Welland Bank.

As the pipes are only 750mm diameter, it has been determined that an ultra-violet light cure can be used; this will save time as the liner cures much faster.

08/19/07 Special Matters – Locks Mill Bridge

On Saturday, the 20th October 2018, the Operations Engineer had been contacted by a local resident advising of damage to Locks Mill Bridge which is located alongside New River Drain. A site visit on that day revealed damage to both headwalls and the parapet wall. It transpired that a local haulage company had been carting sugar beet off the Cowbit Wash. This route should not have been used as it a bridleway, and is not meant to withstand the weight of a heavily loaded trailer.

The Operations Manager contacted the hauliers and they verbally admitted the damage. Cost estimates in the region of £8,000 (£4,500 of which was for the scaffolding fees) were sent to the company and they requested an invoice be sent. However, FreshLinc have reneged on their verbal agreement and have advised the claim is to go through their insurers.

08/19/08 Special Matters – Five Towns & Risegate Eau Tidal Sluices – FDGiA Bid

The submission of the Board's Outline Business Case for funding of the repair/refurbishment of these two structures, originally planned for January, has been put back a few weeks. If the bid is approved, this will then go straight to Full Business Case approval.

If approval is given, the Environment Agency have advised they are keen to release the funds before April. Grant in Aid will almost fully cover the costs of this scheme.

If Full Business Case approval is received, the Operations Engineer requested the Board delegate powers to the Chairman and Vice Chairman in order to approve the costings. Approval of this request was given by the Board.

08/19/09 Conservation

After receiving approval from Natural England, de-silting work was carried out on the Counter Drain which is adjacent to Baston Fen SSSI. It is hoped this will now allow the spined loach to return.

After a meeting with Dr Mike Polling (the Board's sand martin recorder), preparation has begun to re-profile the sand martin cliffs at Vernatts Bank.

With Dr Polling's advice and technical expertise, it is hoped to build a permanent sand martin nesting site at Vernatts Bank. Therefore, if the weather damages the natural faces there will always be a secondary site in which to nest.

08/19/10 Press/Publicity

The ongoing issue with travellers and their vehicles on the South Drove gravel heaps near Pode Hole is proving to be a difficult situation to resolve quickly.

The Chief Executive and Operations Engineer will be attending a final possession hearing on 21st February at Boston County Court.

Councillor Smith requested to leave the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

09/19 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT ON THE REVISED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME IN DEEPING FEN

Results of the trialled new maintenance programme for the 2018/19 cutting season were presented by the Chief Executive.

The maintenance season commenced in Deeping Fen on the 9th July 2018. Tractor and flail attachments removed a large amount of vegetation grown on bank sides prior to the excavator and weedcutting basket removing growth in the bed of drains.

Progress during the season went well and works were completed by the end of November 2018. The vast majority of works avoided crops by working on tracks and cleared crops. A total of 4,350m of standing crops were travelled through, which represents less than 2% of the total length of drains in Deeping Fen.

It is proposed to commence maintenance at a later date in the year, around 1st August.

A number of drains in the Deeping Fen catchment had been categorised as 'Conservation Drains' by the Board in 2004-2005. The plan is to be updated and brought to the May 2019 Board meeting.

A few minor issues have been identified on some drains that restrict flow. In conjunction with landowners, the Board are carrying out small improvements (if practicable).

Raisens Drain has recently undergone deepening and widening, and a number of redundant culverts have also been removed to further increase flow.

The Chief Executive informed Members that a letter had been received from certain Deeping Fen and surrounding catchment farmers, calling for a meeting to discuss the future maintenance, drainage and irrigation policy for the Deeping Fen area. The meeting was called for the 6th December 2018.

All attendees had had the opportunity to add agenda items prior to the meeting. On the whole, the meeting confirmed that problems experienced were due to irrigation issues and not maintenance.

It was established that the peak time for irrigation in Deeping Fen is from the month of June.

The Vice Chairman has provided the farmers with large scale maps of Deeping Fen in order for them to highlight 'pinch points' in the system. The drains would then be reviewed to see if there were any options for improvement.

A Deeping Fen Irrigation Committee is to be formed, which will consist of Deeping Fen and surrounding catchment farmers and selected Board Members. Meeting at the latest in January in any year, this will serve to identify which drains will have the largest demand for irrigation in the coming season. Any drains identified for needing early cutting would be identified by irrigators by the end of February in any year. Extra works identified for irrigation would be fully rechargeable by the Board.

Once works have been identified it will be the irrigator's responsibility to obtain permission from any neighbouring farmers to travel through crops.

Once the routes are agreed, maintenance is to take place in two phases: flailing in April, followed by weedcutting in a two week slot prior to the end of May. By following this cutting regime, it is hoped that any clashes with conservation issues will be avoided.

Availability is to be on a 'first come, first served' basis due to the Board having limited resources at this busy time of year.

To aid communication as to when Board's machinery will be operating in the area, it is proposed to trial a 'Deeping Fen WhatsApp Group': this would be available to all Deeping Fen ratepayers.

10/19 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MIDDLE DISTRICT RATEPAYERS' MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2018

Details of items covered at the meeting held on 6th December 2018 are outlined in minute item 09/18.

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

11/19 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Executive presented the Finance Report for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st December 2018.

It was RESOLVED that the Finance Report be adopted.

12/19 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE RISK REGISTER

The Chief Executive presented the Risk Register and advised that the only change to the document was on page 6, amending the date "31 March 2019" to now read "31 March 2020".

It was RESOLVED that the Risk Register be adopted.

13/19 ADA UPDATES

The Chairman reported to Members that:

- Technical & Environmental Committee and Policy & Finance Committee meetings had been held in January and February.
- David Sisson, previously the Engineer at Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board until his retirement, is now contracted one day a week for ADA. Mr Sisson also sits on the Policy & Finance Committee.
- 2019 will see the launch of the Association of SUDS Authorities (ASA). ADA will assist with the provision of membership administration services from April onwards. It is hoped that collaboration will encourage closer working between local authorities and IDBs for wider public benefit.
- The Floodex UK trade event is to be held on the 27th and 28th February 2019.
- ADA are running two workshops, "Good Governance for IDB Members": 19th March at Kings Lynn and the 28th March at Peterborough.

14/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive advised Members:

- A new Grenadier/Driver General Operative is to commence employment on Monday, 11th February.

- The new Junior Engineer has been with the Board for three months and is doing well.
- Business Rates demands for the Board's Pinchbeck Engine Museum have been received from South Holland District Council for the first time. The Chief Executive was unaware as to why these have been received as the museum does not charge an entry fee and is only open for three days a week during June to September. Councillor Coupland mentioned he would make enquiries with South Holland District Council's Business Rates Department.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12:39 p.m.

Chairman