

Minutes of the meeting of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board held at Deeping House, Welland Terrace, Spalding on Thursday, 23rd May 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

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

In Attendance:	Mrs K Daft	Chief Executive
	N Morris	Operations Engineer
	J Boden	Assistant Engineer
	M Henfrey	Foreman
	N Abbott	Internal Auditor
	Mrs J Picking	Secretary

The Chairman welcomed the councils' representatives back to the Board; official notification has yet to be received from their respective councils.

The Chairman advised that there will be one new Councillor sitting on the Board representing South Holland District Council.

Mr Aley had been appointed by South Holland District Council, although he is no longer an elected councillor.

The Chairman also welcomed Mr Abbot, attending on behalf of the Board's internal auditor, TIAA Ltd.

15/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Bingham, Councillor Broughton, Councillor Dilks, Mr Dobney, Councillor Newton and Councillor Smith.

16/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Vice Chairman and Mr A Branton declared an interest in planning application PL/0039/19 – Section 1 of the Spalding Western Relief Road.

17/19 TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

Mr Abbott ran through the internal auditor's report dated the 4th March 2019 and concluded that the Welland & Deepings IDB is a well-run drainage board with good accounting practices.

One minor recommendation had been raised within the report, in that the policies 'Whistleblowing – Confidential Reporting Code' and 'Fraud & Corruption', last reviewed and adopted in 2007, be reviewed and updated. This recommendation is covered in agenda items 13 and 14 (minute references 26/19 and 27/19 respectively).

It was RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

18/19 TO APPOINT INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2019/2020

It was RESOLVED that TIAA Limited be appointed as the Board's internal auditors for the financial year 2019/20.

19/19 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 7th February 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

The Chief Executive reported that there had been no progress since the last Board meeting. A meeting with the Board's solicitors is to be arranged to progress the matter.

19/19/02 Special Matters – Locks Mill Bridge

The Chief Executive reported that Freshlinc had now paid half of the repair costs.

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for his efforts in negotiating with Freshlinc to settle the matter.

19/19/03 Press/Publicity

The Operations Engineer reported that he and Lincolnshire County Council's Travellers' Liaison Officer, together with a legal representative, had attended Boston County Court on the 21st February. A possession order to vacate the site was granted and the travellers finally left on the 28th February. The Operations Engineer commented that the travellers had left the site in good order.

19/19/04 To receive the report on the Revised Maintenance Programme in Deeping Fen

The Chief Executive informed members that a further meeting with Deeping Fen irrigators is to be arranged for later this year. As reported at February's Board meeting, maintenance of the Board's drains is to commence at a later date (around the 1st August).

The Chief Executive reported that a 'Deeping Fen WhatsApp Group' is being set up, with updates to be sent out to group members on irrigation and maintenance. Board members were asked to contact the office if anyone was interested in joining the group.

20/19 TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) PART 3 SECTION 1 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

The Chief Executive presented Part 3 Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and it was RESOLVED that this be approved. The document was signed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

21/19 TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) PART 3 SECTION 2 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2019

The Chief Executive presented Part 3 Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and it was RESOLVED that this be approved. The document was signed by the Chairman.

22/19 TO RECEIVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Since the last Board meeting in February, the Board has continued with its proactive approach to health and safety training.

New starter induction training has been undertaken with our Grenadier tractor driver.

Our employees have also received the following training and/or refresher training courses:

- Emergency First Aid at Work refresher
- Safe Use of Cranes – five-yearly refresher
- 4 x 4 and off-road training
- Chainsaw refresher
- Confined Spaces refresher
- Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP) refresher
- Signing, Guarding & Lighting on the Highway
- 360 Grenadier and Mini-Digger refresher
- Trailer training

Recommendations suggested in the Fire Risk Assessments are also being implemented at various premises.

A review into how asbestos is managed in Board's properties and premises has been undertaken. Stone Asbestos Ltd, a local independent asbestos consultancy, reviewed and provided updated site surveys and additions to our management plan. Where feasible, asbestos was removed from certain sites.

23/19 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING REPORT

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

Matters arising from the report:

23/19/1 General District

Board members were updated with details of general maintenance works carried out in the general district.

Early season flail mowing and hand roding has commenced.

The Assistant Engineer advised members that he and the Operations Engineer had visited the orchid and Deptford Pink sites; the orchids are starting to come through as quite small plants but they seem to be a little behind this year.

Risegate Eau and Five Towns drains have both had some attention towards the outfall.

The Board's museum curators are busy getting the museum ready for the summer season which commences on the 1st June and runs until the end of September. The new pile hammer, built by Board's staff, has been set up in the grounds.

Further works levelling and reforming the bank tops along the Counter Drain, adjacent to Willow Farm Tree Fen Nature Reserve, have been carried out. During the levelling works, a leak was found in the bank of the Counter Drain, allowing water into a drain in the Reserve. The leak was subsequently repaired earlier this month. The Assistant Engineer mentioned this leak/repair had been situated very close to Cadent's gas main.

Maintenance work has been carried out on the weedscreen cleaner at Kirton and Frampton Pumping Station.

A new crane pad has been constructed on the Vernatts Drain at Flint's Farm, enabling the launch of the weedboat.

23/19/2 Workshops & Plant

Maintenance has been carried out to all plant and machinery.

23/19/3 Special Matters – Risegate Eau Pumping Station

The first of three discharge pipes through the Tidal River Welland bank was relined by iLine Technologies Ltd on the 17th April. This work involved

internally sleeving the existing degraded steel pipe with a structural GRP (glass reinforced polymer) liner. Work was carried out between the tides.

Fenflow Ltd have also been engaged to fabricate some new steel pipes to replace the degraded internal discharge pipes which are located within the pumping station building.

23/19/4 Special Matters – Five Towns & Risegate Eau Tidal Sluices – FDGiA Bid

Full Business Case approval from the EA for the FDGiA bid was received on the 25th March, and payment of £400,000 has been received.

As reported at February's Board meeting, delegated powers to the Chairman and Vice Chairman were given by Members to approve the costings. The Chairman was satisfied with the quotation of £630,000 received and recommended that this be approved by the Board. Full Board approval was received.

Martin Childs Limited, who had previously worked on the Vernatts Sluice refurbishment in June 2016, are planning to commence works in July and hope to complete the project by September.

The Operations Engineer mentioned that he hoped to arrange a site visit for Members once works were underway.

23/19/5 Special Matters – Deeping House

Remedial works, as identified by an Electrical Installation Condition Report, have been carried out by C A Browne Electrical. The final report has yet to be received.

The Board's electrician has carried out recommended remedial works at Pode Hole Pumping Station, Pode Hole Depot and Pinchbeck Engine Museum.

23/19/6 Special Matters – Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA) Works

The Operations Engineer explained to Members that this agreement provides arrangements for the Environment Agency and an internal drainage board, lead local flood authority, district council or other risk management authority to deliver flood risk maintenance works and similar activities by a partnership approach. On a 'not for profit' basis, the agreement places both parties on a sound legal basis to deliver work as agreed – either party may undertake work for the other.

In late April, we were approached by the Environment Agency to see if we could assist them with some animal damage repair works on the River Glen bankside, adjacent to Willow Tree Fen Nature Reserve. As the structural integrity of these banks is key to keeping our drainage district dry, we were keen to assist. The Board's role has been to provide administrative support and supervision to the project.

23/19/7 Special Matters – Pinchbeck Engine Museum

As part of the 'Pump, Grind and Smith' series of sculptures, funded by the Arts Council and created by Jeni Cairns (a local artist), the piece, 'Pump', is due to be installed at the Board's museum. The official unveiling is planned for Saturday, 8th June; Councillor Sneath advised she would be in attendance.

23/19/8 Conservation

The Sand Martin nesting sites at Vernatts Bank have been reprofiled in readiness for the forthcoming nesting season.

A site meeting has been held with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Natural England and Board's staff to consider the planned maintenance work on the Deptford Pink site adjacent to the Risegate Eau at Gosberton Bank. An increase in plant numbers has been noted. A census on final numbers is due to be carried out in July by Jeremy Fraser, LWT's Wildlife Sites Officer.

The Environment Agency has undertaken some fish netting surveys on North and South Drove Drains and Vernatts Drain to check fish stocks.

Water vole mitigation works have been carried out on behalf of a developer looking to cross one of the Board's drains to develop land for residential use at Deeping St James. These works were carried out on a rechargeable basis.

A joint proposal with two other IDBs had been submitted to Defra for their Environment Land Management testing trials. If we do not get approval, we will still carry out the work.

This year's Conservation Liaison Group meeting will be held on Thursday, 6th June.

23/19/9 Press/Publicity

During February the Board were involved in some filming work with the BBC as part of a planned BBC2 programme entitled "A Wild Year", due to air in 2020. We demonstrated weedcutting with excavator and weedbasket and also de-silting works with a long reach machine at Pode Hole. Some filming work inside Pode Hole Diesel Pumping Station has also recently take place.

24/19 TO RECEIVE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY 2019

The Chief Executive presented the Management Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019.

25/19 FINANCIAL REPORT FROM 1ST APRIL 2019 TO 30TH APRIL 2019

The Chief Executive presented the Finance Report for the period 1st April 2019 to 30th April 2019.

26/19 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE 'WHISTLEBLOWING – CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING CODE' POLICY

The Chief Executive reported that the only amendments made to this policy were updated contact details to the independent charity 'Public Concern at Work' and the date.

It was RESOLVED that the updated 'Whistleblowing – Confidential Reporting Code' policy be approved and adopted.

27/19 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE 'FRAUD & CORRUPTION' POLICY

The Chief Executive reported that the only amendment made to this policy was the date.

It was RESOLVED that the updated 'Fraud & Corruption' policy be approved and adopted.

28/19 ADA UPDATES

The joint ADA Lincolnshire and Welland & Nene meeting was held on the 25th April at Boston Country Club.

ADA meetings:

Policy & Finance Committee meeting – 4th June

Technical & Environmental teleconference – 5th June

A 'Water Vole Ecology and Surveying' course, organised by ADA Lincs Environment Committee for Lincolnshire IDBs, is being held at the Board's offices on the 20th June. The Board's Foreman and Assistant Foreman will be in attendance.

29/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

29/19/01 Waterway Maintenance Machinery trip to Germany and the Netherlands

The Chief Executive, Vice Chairman and Board's Foreman, along with other Lincs IDB members, attended a Waterway Maintenance Machinery trip to Germany and the Netherlands on the 15th and 16th May.

Travelling on the 15th May, the following day comprised of a visit to the Berky factory in Haren in Germany where a wide-range of water maintenance machinery from weedboats and harvesters to amphibian weedboats and dredgers to self-propelled ditch cleaners/flail mowers were exhibited.

The party then travelled to Hobelman-Halle in the Netherlands where they inspected some specialised Hooby excavators and narrow-tracked excavators especially adapted for ditch cleaning.

The Board's Foreman gave a slide show of the trip; afterwards the Chairman and Members thanked him for preparing an excellent presentation.

The Chief Executive reported that the trip had been very successful.

29/19/01 Lincolnshire Show 2019

The Lincolnshire Show is to be held on the 19th and 20th June. As in previous years, ADA Lincolnshire Branch will be manning a stand entitled "It will all come out in The Wash".

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.46 p.m.

Chairman