

Minutes of the meeting of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board held at Deeping House, Welland Terrace, Spalding on Thursday, 3rd October 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

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|-----------------|-----------------------|
| * G R Aley | * J F W Holdich OBE |
| * 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 |
| H T Drury | E J Whitfield |
| * T W Franks | |
| * Present | |

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

The Chairman welcomed Mr Aley back to the Board.

The Chairman advised Councillor H Drury had been confirmed as a Board member.

30/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Dobney and Mr Whitfield.

31/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cooper declared an interest in agenda item "To discuss amalgamation of Boards proposed by Black Sluice IDB".

Mr Watts declared an interest in planning application H03-0781-19 (Full) - Erection of pair of semi-detached houses - Deeping Fen Farm, Baston Outgang Road, Baston, PE6 9PU.

32/19 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Vice Chairman pointed out that item '23/19/1 General District "Willow Farm Nature Reserve" should read "Willow Tree Fen Nature Reserve".

Apart from the above minor amendment, the minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd May 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

32/19/1 9m Byelaw Contravention: Pennygate Pup Drain – Planning Application H14-0156-14 – Larkfleet Homes, Pinchbeck – 169 Residential Dwellings

The Chief Executive reported that the situation was ongoing.

32/19/2 To receive the report on the Revised Maintenance Programme in Deeping Fen

The Chief Executive advised that a meeting with Deeping Fen irrigators will be arranged before this year's Finance Committee meeting in December.

32/19/2 Special Matters – Deeping House

The Operations Engineer advised that the final report on remedial works on the electrical installation condition at Deeping House had been received.

32/19/3 Special Matters – Pinchbeck Engine Museum

The Chairman commented that there had been good attendance at the official unveiling of the series of sculptures 'Pump, Grind and Smith'.

The Chief Executive mentioned that there had been a few issues with the 'Pump' installation at the Board's museum, and that the sculpture would be repaired by the artist, Jeni Cairns, over the winter months.

32/19/4 Lincolnshire Show 2019

The Chairman advised members that due to the heavy rainfall event and staff having to be out in the field, the ADA Lincolnshire Branch's stand had had to have left been unmanned.

The Assistant Engineer commented that by having to leave the stand unattended had highlighted the positive work that IDBs do and the Lincolnshire Show committee have offered the stand at half price next year.

33/19 TO RECEIVE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

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

New starter induction training has been undertaken with our replacement general operative.

Our employees have also received 4 x 4 vehicle/off-road Lantra training at Rockingham, near Market Harborough. All who took part thoroughly enjoyed the course.

Other training had been planned for June but was postponed due to the very wet weather and the commencement of the Board's cutting season. This training will be picked up later in the year.

The review into how asbestos is managed in the Board's properties and premises has been completed. Where feasible, steps are being taken to remove the identified asbestos from certain sites.

The Operations Engineer reported he had also completed a 'Duty to Manage Asbestos' course on-line.

The Chairman commented that the ADA health and safety survey, completed by the Operations Engineer last year, had highlighted a number of items within certain IDBs that needed addressing. Another survey/questionnaire by ADA is planned for next year.

The Chairman also mentioned that ADA were hoping to arrange a seminar for IDBs to meet a representative from the Health & Safety Executive.

34/19 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING REPORT

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

Matters arising from the report:

34/19/1 General District

Board members were updated with details of general maintenance works carried out in the general district; these works included hand roding, grass cutting and spraying at stations.

Machine cleansing, re-profiling and piling will be carried out as listed in the minutes.

Weedboats have started their cut.

The Museum has now closed for the winter.

Maintenance to Board properties has continued through the summer.

Fire risk assessments have also been completed on the operational buildings, with the domestic properties' assessments starting shortly.

It is planned that all weir boards will be out and slackers closed by the end of this week.

A new culvert has been installed along Woods Lane in Surfleet to protect the Board's machines from the high-pressure gas line and the logistical problems that are caused as health and safety policy changes with the gas suppliers.

34/19/2 Workshops & Plant

Vehicles, plant and machinery have all been serviced and maintained, along with test certificates and successful MOT tests.

A number of new gates have been installed at various locations to improve access for Board equipment and to reduce machine moves with the low loader.

A new bench, made by one of the Board's employees, has been installed at Surfleet Sluice, replacing the old rotten bench.

34/19/3 Special Matters – Risegate Eau Pumping Station

The newly-fabricated steel pipes, to replace the degraded internal discharge pipes located within the pumping station building, are due to be installed shortly. Whilst the pipework was out, the opportunity was taken to lift and overhaul one of the pumps.

It is intended to test run this pump with the newly re-lined discharge pipe prior to commencing the next pump pipework renewal.

34/19/4 Special Matters – Surfleet Village Pumping Station

It had been reported by the ground maintenance team that a hole, measuring a cubic metre, had appeared in the compound at the pumping station. The Operations Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Foreman investigated and found that a section of Armco pipe had rotted through thus allowing water to wash away the surrounding ground when the pumps were activated.

Original drawings indicated that the discharge pipe from the pump was concrete. Therefore, it was concluded that the Armco pipe was part of the earlier structure. Upon further investigation, it was found to be the main discharge pipe and in urgent need of replacement.

C G Godfrey Ltd were employed to carry out the emergency repair of the pipe.

34/19/5 Special Matters – Five Towns & Risegate Eau Tidal Sluices – FDGiA BID

Work has started on the FDGiA-funded sites at both Five Towns and Risegate Eau Tidal Sluices. When the work is completed, the sea doors and land doors at both sites will have been replaced, along with the operating mechanisms which will be motorised. The old walkways will become redundant and are to be removed.

Brickwork has been repointed where necessary and the quoins all checked and found to be in particularly good condition at Five Towns.

Unfortunately, progress has been delayed: this is due to either high winds affecting the crane or high tides.

34/19/6 Special Matters – June Rainfall Event

During May and the early part of June, discussion had been around the shortage of rainfall with advice from the Environment Agency (EA) about conserving stocks. Boards throughout the county then received severe weather warnings from the EA for the next few days. By the end of June, Pode Hole Pumping Station had received 6.6 inches (167.6 mm) of rain, the

highest rainfall since Board records began in 1829. Water levels were the highest in the Gosberton Risegate area.

Pode Hole diesels were operational and Riddington's Pumping Station ran continuously for three days.

During the event, action was taken to remove growth in affected drains to encourage water movement and, as a result, the early season cut has been extended. Other options are also being explored.

Staff members worked at the Command Centre in Lincoln to assist with the flooding events and particularly the breach at Wainfleet. The command centre was operational for 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the duration (each shift being eight hours during the day or night).

Drone footage was shown revealing the extent of the heavy rainfall experienced within the Board's area.

34/19/7 Special Matters – Public Sector Cooperation Agreement (PSCA)

PSCAs are used between Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency to undertake works between Flood Risk Management Authorities on a 'not for profit' basis.

The current PSCA has expired and new draft agreements have been issued by the EA. The new terms and conditions within the revised document have raised some issues. ADA and IDBs are currently trying to resolve these.

34/19/8 Conservation

The method in which the EA implements the Eels Regulations is changing. The Changes to Eels Regulations Process (ChERP) will deliver a new regulatory process that will benefit eels without unreasonably impacting operators such as the Board. Some of the study work the Board have assisted with Hull University at Five Towns Pumping Station and Pode Hole Pumping Station is helping to shape this process.

Osprey platforms located near to the Board's Stowgate Drain in Deeping Fen were not used by any osprey during the last spring/summer. However, a good number were successfully raised in Rutland Water this year.

The Board's ecologist carried out some tree surveys prior to trimming various trees around Pode Hole Depot and Pumping Station.

34/19/9 Press/Publicity

On the 8th August, the Board's museum's curator, Mr Graham Morfoot, and the Operations Engineer showed Dr Jane Rowling from Hull University around the museum and Pode Hole Pumping Station. Dr Rowling is working on a project for Hull University entitled "Past Floods Matter". Mr Morfoot subsequently had found a video clip called "Ice in Cowbit 1947", and this was shown to members at the meeting.

A presentation on the work of the Board was given by the Operations Engineer to Pinchbeck Parish Council on the 19th August.

A journalist from 'The Spalding and South Holland Voice' newspaper had made enquiries with regard to heavy rainfall over the previous week. The Operations Engineer replied to the queries and an article entitled "Spalding and The Deepings receives almost double the expected September rainfall" quoting the Operations Engineer had been published on-line the following day.

34/19/10 Water Resources Licensing – New Authorisations

As previously reported, new Water Resources Licensing regulations came into effect from 1st January 2018 which have removed most previous exemptions to abstract water without a licence.

The regulations, however, include a two year transitional period in which applications for new authorisations can be made. As an IDB the Board were previously exempt to abstract water into our internal drainage district.

New guidance from the EA had recently been received which stated that if the river from which abstraction occurs fell within the IDB district then a new authorisation was not required. The Chief Executive and the Operations Engineer checked the Board's definitive maps and it was noted that all the relevant abstraction points are within the Board's drainage district. Therefore, the Board is not required to apply for any new authorisations.

35/19 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Arising from the report:

35/19/1 Drainage Rates

Sixteen ratepayers with debts in the region of £11,500 will be summoned to appear at Boston Magistrates Court on the 11th November 2019.

35/19/2 Controlstar Systems Ltd

Controlstar Systems Ltd, the provider of the Board's telemetry system and a supplier to the Board for over 20 years, went into voluntary liquidation during August; unfortunately, the Board were not informed of this directly. Following enquiries at the beginning of September it was discovered that auctioneers in Kingston upon Hull were disposing of the company's assets by auction on the 22nd September.

Extensive work has been undertaken with other affected IDBs to try and secure the software. The Chief Executive advised members that an ex-employee of Controlstar Systems Ltd, who is an electrical engineer, has now been employed by the Board. He will also undertake work for other IDBs on a recharge basis.

The Chief Executive advised that other suppliers were being looked at with a view to having industry-standard software. Certain aspects of the current situation have been salvaged and are working independently.

35/19/3 ELM Scheme

Although the joint bid with Middle Level Commissions and York Consortium was unsuccessful, it is planned to continue to plant up the six and a half acres of Board's land located by the Pode Hole Depot with wildflower/pollinator mix.

36/19 TO RECEIVE THE EXTERNAL AUDIT OPINION FOR 2019/2019 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Chief Executive presented the External Audit Report from PKF Littlejohn, the Board's appointed External Auditor. The Audit Report received an unqualified opinion.

37/19 TO APPROVE PLANT PURCHASES FOR 2020

The Chief Executive explained to members that plant purchase has been separated from the estimates and has been brought to this earlier Board meeting. The approval of plant purchases at the February Board meeting has meant the late placement of orders in delivery of plant machinery. Approval of plant purchases for 2020 at this meeting will allow orders to be placed earlier and ahead of any 1st January price increases.

37/19/1 Tracked Excavator – Long Reach

The Liebherr, purchased in 2010, has currently 10,800 hours on the clock and is due for replacement in 2020. Estimated cost of a replacement is £150,100.

Details of the three machines being considered are:

37/19/1/1 Liebherr

Awaiting confirmation whether a long reach machine will be manufactured.

37/19/1/2 JCB

The 2019 machine which was ordered in February has been delayed and is due for delivery in mid-October. JCB have advised that because of the delay experienced, a quote for a further machine would be held at the same price as 2019. The Chief Executive mentioned that the new machine would need to be evaluated before making any decisions.

37/19/1/3 Atlas

Arrangements are being made to view this bespoke machine.

37/19/2 Tractor and Flail

It is planned to replace the Case 110 tractor with a new tractor for flailmowing; Holland and Case models are being priced at present. A figure of £80,000 or below is anticipated.

37/19/3 Herder Front Flail

The price of a Herder front flail for the new tractor is £16,000.

37/19/4 Herder Basket

The price of a Herder weedcutting basket is £7,000.

37/19/5 Trailer

The price of a Bailey trailer is £12,340. A second quotation is to be sought.

37/19/6 Buckets

The cost of a set of Geith buckets comprising three sizes is £2,286.

It was RESOLVED that the above plant be purchased.

38/19 TO ARRANGE MEETING DATES FOR 2020

The dates for the Board's meetings in 2020 will be:

6 th February	Board Meeting
21 st May	Board Meeting
4 th June	Conservation Liaison Meeting
1 st October	Board Meeting
10 th December	Finance Meeting

39/19 TO DISCUSS AMALGAMATION OF BOARDS PROPOSED BY BLACK SLUICE IDB. RESOLVE IF TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER OR TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION.

The Chief Executive reported that she had been approached by Black Sluice IDB with a proposal of the potential amalgamation of the Welland & Deepings IDB and Black Sluice IDB.

The Chairman advised that he had then spoken with Black Sluice IDB's Chairman and agreed to add the matter as an agenda item at this meeting.

Full and lengthy discussion of Board members took place regarding the proposal. The overriding belief of all members was that the Welland & Deepings IDB was meticulously operated and that the matter should not be taken further.

It was unanimously RESOLVED that no further investigation into a possible amalgamation with Black Sluice IDB take place.

40/19 ADA UPDATES

The ADA Conference this year is to take place on Wednesday, the 13th of November.

Next year's Floodex trade event is to take place on the 26th and 27th February.

41/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chief Executive advised that a training day for members regarding 'Members and Staff Development' was being held by Lincolnshire IDBs on the 27th November.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.59 p.m.

Chairman