

Minutes of the meeting of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board held at Deeping House, Welland Terrace, Spalding on Thursday, 6th February 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

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

01/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Dobney, Mr Sly and Mr Whitfield.

02/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Vice Chairman declared an interest in Alteration Consents, “infilling of redundant ditch (as part of wider farm drainage scheme) – Spalding” on page 20.

Cllr Drury declared an interest in planning application “H08-0878-19 (Reserved Matters) – Erection of 4 dwellings – outline approval H08-0755-18 – Land rear of 33 Lowgate, Gosberton, Spalding, PE11 4NL – Kirk Homes Ltd” on page 22.

Mr Watts declared an interest in planning application “H03-1119-19 (Conditions 4, 6, 7 & 10 of H03-1291-16) – Details of surface water drainage, external materials, doors and windows and car parking and access) – Vine House Farm Bird Foods, Vine House Farm, Main Road, Deeping St Nicholas, PE11 3DG – Mr & Mrs N Watts” on page 27.

03/20 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 3rd October 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

04/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

04/20/1 9m Byelaw Contravention: Pennygate Pup Drain – Planning Application H14-0156-14 – Larkfleet Homes, Pinchbeck – 169 Residential Dwellings

Cllr Coupland requested further information on the progress of this matter.

The Chief Executive recapped that residential dwellings had been built within the 9 metre byelaw zone. Larkfleet Homes (building as Allison Homes Ltd), being aware of the restriction, continued to build and sell a number of properties without disclosing this information to purchasers.

The Chief Executive further informed members that purchasers had also used the builders’ recommended solicitors which was a blatant conflict of interests.

Mr Bingham advised that he had recently spoken with one of the property owners who had asked if the Board could advise on the situation. The Chief Executive agreed to meet with the homeowner.

The Chairman commented that resolution of this matter is likely to take a long period of time.

05/20 TO RECEIVE THE HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

The Operations Engineer advised members that the Board has continued with its proactive approach to health and safety training.

New starter induction has been undertaken with the Board’s Electrical Engineer.

Contractors have also received safety briefings and site inductions prior to undertaking works at Board’s pumping stations.

The training programme will recommence in the spring.

Accidents logged from the 1st September to 31st December 2019:

Minor injuries	1
Over seven day injuries	0
Near misses	0
Serious incidents	0

The review into how the Board manages asbestos in its properties and premises is continuing.

The Board’s employees have been briefed via toolbox talks of the dangers of overhead powerlines and also works in proximity of heavy plant. The subjects had been brought to the fore by two serious incidents in the county and outside of the Board’s area.

The Chairman commented that the health and safety of Board’s employees was a top priority.

06/20 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2019

06/20/01 Rate Estimates 2020/21

The Vice Chairman reported to members that the cost of the three major rainfall events had significantly increased direct costs associated with extra pumping and labour. Expenditure is anticipated to remain high for the remainder of the financial year.

With the above in mind, the Vice Chairman stated it had been agreed at the Finance Committee meeting held on the 5th December 2019 to recommend a rate increase of 5% for 2020/21, increasing the rate to 12.31p in the pound.

[Mr Watts joined the meeting at 10.59 a.m.]

06/20/02 Employees

It was recommended to increase the salaries of the Foreman and the Planning & Enforcement Officer by one grade to Grade 8 and Grade 5 respectively.

It was RESOLVED to regrade the above two posts with effect from 1st April 2020.

06/20/03 Telemetry

The Chief Executive advised that a new supplier had been sourced and the Board's telemetry system will be fully operational within the near future.

07/20 TO SEAL THE RATE FOR 2020/21

It was RESOLVED to increase the rate by 5% to 12.31p in the pound.

08/20 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING REPORT

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

Matters arising from the report:

08/20/01 Rainfall & Water Levels

2019 had proved to be an extraordinary year for rainfall, with 30.90 inches (784.8mm) being recorded at the Board's Pode Hole depot.

08/20/02 Special Matters – Risegate Eau Pumping Station

Pump No 1 has been lifted and overhauled, and the discharge pipe has been re-lined. The pump has been run and tested, and all appears to be satisfactory. As soon as the tidal sluice refurbishment works have been completed, work on renewing the pipework of Pump No 2 will commence.

08/20/03 Special Matters – Five Towns & Risegate Eau Tidal Sluices – FDGiA Bid

Work has continued at Five Towns tidal sluice, although progress has been hampered by poor weather conditions. The old land door has been removed and the new three-leaf gate has been fitted. The new gate is electrically-operated, thus removing the need for men to be handling timber stop logs.

08/20/04 Special Matters – Pode Hole Pumping Station – No 3 Diesel Engine

At the end of October a problem with the smaller diesel engine was reported. Lincoln Diesels Ltd carried out investigations and the issue was found to be the water pump which required new bearings, seals and gaskets. Remedial work has been carried out and the engine is now back in service.

08/20/05 Special Matters – Bourne South Fen Pumping Station – Replacement Weedscreen Cleaner

The replacement weedscreen has been installed and commissioned.

08/20/06 Special Matters – Crowland & Cowbit Pumping Station

During a routine inspection it was noticed that the motor on Pump No 2 was making a “squealing” noise. Fenflow Ltd, specialist engineers, have been engaged to investigate and details of the inspection report are awaited.

08/20/07 Maxey North Fen Pumping Station

During a regular pumping station check, an issue with the motor on Pump No 2 was identified. The Board’s electrician and plant fitter removed the motor and transported it to Fenflow Ltd’s workshop for assessment. The issue was identified and the fixed motor has been refitted; the pump is now back in operation.

08/20/08 Press/Publicity

Details of rainfall data were supplied to the local press for inclusion in an article on last year’s wet weather, in particular the very wet autumn.

08/20/09 Pending Consents

An application for a relaxation of the 9 metre byelaw to 5.1 metres has been made by Oakwood Homes to allow the erection of a new dwelling situated at Park Avenue in Spalding.

The Operations Engineer explained to members that the Board’s Park Road sewer bounds the western side of the site. This drain serves as the main outfall for a large area of Spalding, including Winfrey Avenue bus station, Holland Market and Park Road.

Problems have previously been experienced with the Park Road sewer and extensive re-laying and relining work has been undertaken.

Past applications for relaxation of the 9 metre byelaw in this vicinity have been refused.

It was unanimously agreed by the Board that the application for a relaxation of the 9 metre byelaw to 5.1 metres be refused.

09/20 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MIDDLE DISTRICT RATEPAYERS' MEETING HELD ON 5TH DECEMBER 2019

The Chairman advised that the second meeting of the Middle District Ratepayers had proved extremely worthwhile and gave those who attended an opportunity to give their feedback on the Board's decision to effect a new system with tracked machines on previously Berky-maintained drains, amongst other issues raised.

The meeting also gave Middle District ratepayers a chance to flag any issues to the Board that had been experienced by them during 2019.

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

10/20 TO RECEIVE THE RECONSTITUTION OF BOARD REPORT

The subject of reducing the size of the Board was briefly discussed at October 2019's meeting and it was agreed this would be an agenda item for today's meeting.

The Chief Executive stated that she was considering options to reconstitute the size of the Board downwards, albeit slightly, and presented the report.

Much discussion then followed, with the majority of members not being in favour of the Chief Executive's recommendation.

A motion was proposed by Cllr P Dilks and seconded by Cllr J Holdich to reduce the size of the Board to 19 members. The motion failed by seven votes to 11.

A substantive motion was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Casson for the size of the Board to remain at 25. The motion passed by 11 votes to seven.

It was RESOLVED that the size of the Board remain at 25 members.

11/20 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Chief Executive presented the Finance Report for the period 1st April 2019 to 31st December 2019.

It was RESOLVED that the Finance Report be adopted.

12/20 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 2020" to now read "31 March 2021".

It was RESOLVED that the Risk Register be adopted.

13/20 ADA UPDATES

The Chairman reported to members that:

- Both the Technical & Environmental Committee and Policy & Finance Committee meetings had been held on the 8th January 2020.

14/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Lawton requested that the Board papers for the seven members appointed by South Holland District Council be hand-delivered to the council offices to save on postage costs. All South Holland District Council members were present at the meeting and agreed. The Chief Executive confirmed Cllr Lawton's request would be effected.

The Chief Executive advised members that the Floodex UK exhibition is taking place on the 26th and 27th February at Peterborough Arena. Members were requested to contact the office if they wished to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.45 p.m.

Chairman