

Minutes of the 54th meeting of the Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board held at Great Carlton Village Hall on Tuesday, 25th November 2008, at 2.00 p.m., being the annual general meeting.

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Messrs M. Clark (Chairman) | * Cllrs H. Marfleet (Vice-Chairman) |
| G. Billings                  | G. Allan                            |
| * W. Cooper                  | * D.G. Andrews                      |
| * G. Crust                   | C.J. Davie                          |
| R.J. Epton                   | * S.W. Eyre                         |
| * T.H. Heys                  | * C. Finch                          |
| * J.M. Mowbray               | * G.M. Gooding                      |
| * R.H. Needham               | D. Hornby                           |
| N. Pike                      | * A. Howard                         |
| * P.W. Pridgeon              | * P. Leivers                        |
| D.R. Tagg                    | * R.J. Palmer                       |
| * R.A.D. Unsworth            | N.L. Pimperton                      |
| vacancy                      | M. Preen                            |
|                              | * R.B. Shields                      |
- \* Present
- Messrs C. Hinchcliffe (Clerk and Chief Executive)
- \* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- \* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- \* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- \* In attendance

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

RESOLVED

that the Engineer be appointed Chairman pro tem to conduct the election of Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Engineer reported that it was the Board's practice to ask for nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman prior to the annual general meeting. He reported that two proposals had been received (from Cllr C.J. Davie and Mr G. Billings) for Mr M. Clark to be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year (these had been seconded by Cllr G.M. Gooding and Cllr R.B. Shields).

There were no further proposals and it was RESOLVED unanimously

that Mr M. Clark be elected Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

*Mr Clark took the chair and thanked members for their vote of confidence.*

### 3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported that he had proposed Mr H. Marfleet as Vice-Chairman and this had been seconded by Mr T.H. Heys.

A further proposal that Mr G. Billings be elected Vice-Chairman had been received from Cllr R.B. Shields and the Chairman asked for a seconder. Cllr Shields reported that he had visited Mr Billings who was now recovering at home and despite his accident was very keen to be involved with

the Board. Cllr Shields stated that Mr Billings' knowledge and experience was extensive. Mr R.A.D. Unsworth seconded Mr Shields' proposal.

The Chairman reported that he had also discussed the matter with Mr Billings. He further reported that, at the moment, Mr Billings was not able to take on the duties of Vice-Chairman and it would probably be another six months before he had made a full recovery. Mr Billings had, therefore, stated that he would stand down as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year if a suitable candidate was willing to stand.

Members asked the Engineer to send their best wishes to Mr Billings.

After discussion and a vote it was RESOLVED

that Mr H. Marfleet be elected Vice-Chairman of the Board for the ensuing year.

4. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs C. Hinchcliffe, R.J. Epton, N. Pike, D.R. Tagg, Cllrs G. Allan, D. Hornby and M. Preen.

The Engineer reported that the Clerk was off work with a badly broken arm and would probably not return until after Christmas. It was, however, noted that the Clerk was being kept up to date with all matters concerning the Board and was in regular contact with other officers. Members asked the Engineer to pass on their best wishes to the Clerk.

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5. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr R.A.D. Unsworth reported that the historic land drainage demonstration had been postponed until 2010.

The Chairman wished to advise the Board of the contents of a letter he had received from a ratepayer and it was agreed to discuss this under any other business.

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6. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 599 to 615)

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 30th September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record subject to an amendment in item 1; D.G. Andrews, not D.J. Andrews.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7:1 Minute 4:3, Page 600 - Bridge Over Mablethorpe Cut - Thacker Bank, Theddlethorpe

The Engineer reported that the formal inspection report had still not been received but Lincolnshire County Council had informed him that the weight limit on the bridge would be 40 tons. The Engineer confirmed that none of the Board's machinery would exceed this limit. Mr T.H. Heys stated that it was very unlikely that any farm equipment using the bridge would exceed 40 tons.

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7:2 Minute 7:3, Page 602 - Rates of Compensation 2008/09

The Engineer reported that compensation rates would be considered by the Plant and Compensation Committee in February 2009. In response to Cllr G. Crust, the Engineer stated that a report on rates of compensation paid by other boards would be included.

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7:3 Minute 10:5, Page 605 - Flooding at Rose Cottage, Asserby

The Engineer reported that this matter would be discussed under the capital works report. He confirmed that a letter had been sent to Mr Allis reminding him of his responsibility for maintenance of the downstream culvert.

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7:4 Minute 10:6, Page 606 - Flooding at Coppins Cottage, Habertoft

The Engineer reported that this item would also be included in the Capital Works Report.

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7:5 Minute 16:1, Page 610 - Barn Owl Boxes

The Engineer reported that a press release had been prepared and consideration was also being given to submission of an entry by Lincolnshire internal drainage boards to the Lincolnshire Environmental Awards 2009 - contribution to biodiversity.

The Chairman queried the press release, stating that the Board had been erecting owl boxes for some time. The Director of Operations confirmed that Alford Drainage Board had starting erecting owl boxes in the area in the mid 1990s working with the Hawk and Owl Trust.

RESOLVED

that the press release be amended to show that the Board had been undertaking the work since the mid 1990s.

7:6 Minute 20, Page 612 - Development Charge

The Engineer reported that six of the seven invoices for development charges had been paid in full. He stated that an offer of £50 made by Mr Hobbins in full and final settlement of his invoice in the sum of £74.03 had been refused and the Board's Rating/Land Officer was pursuing collection of the balance outstanding.

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7:7 Minute 22:1, Page 613 - Health and Safety - Overhead Line Strike

The Engineer reported that the outcome of the Court hearing would be given under item 23 on the agenda.

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7:8 Minute 25, Page 614 - Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) Lincolnshire Branch

The ADA Lincolnshire Branch meeting had taken place on 3rd October 2008 at Horncastle and Mr P.W. Pridgeon, the Chairman, Engineer and Clerk had attended.

Regarding the Environment Agency precept, the Engineer reported that a small working group had been formed and some progress had been made but he hoped to receive an update at the Welland and Nene Branch meeting on Monday, 1st December 2008, which Mr J. Harvey (Environment Agency) would be attending.

The Engineer reported that the River Basin Management Plan was out for consultation on 22nd December. The consultation period was for six months and a full report would be presented to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

The Engineer also reported that the Branch had employed a firm of solicitors to update the Wages and Salaries and Conditions of Service booklet for employees.

The Publicity Committee had recommended that the Branch consider a presence at the 2009 Lincolnshire Show and the Clerk would be preparing a report on this for consideration at the February meeting.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon reported that Mr M. Shilling (Environment Agency) would be leaving his current position as Asset Manager North to take on a new role created by the Environment Agency's new responsibility for fen coastal erosion risk management.

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7:9 Minute 11(e), Page 559 (8th April 2008) - Great Carlton Drainage Relief Scheme

The Engineer reported that a letter had been received from Great and Little Carlton Parish Council thanking the Board for meeting with the residents to discuss the flooding problems in the village and for undertaking the relief scheme to alleviate the flood risk.

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7:10 Minute 17(a), Page 579 - Direct Labour Organisation - Mr Stephen Paul Campling

The Engineer reported that in May 2008 the Board had approved Mr Campling's request to join H.M. Maritime and Coastguard Agency Search and Rescue. A letter of thanks had been received from the coastguard stating "The conduct of Mr Steve Campling is exemplary and brings credit not only to yourself but to H.M. Coastguard and the public he assists. I realise that in the current climate it is difficult to release staff for external duties. However H.M. Coastguard is a volunteer rescue service and without the community spirit exhibited by Mr Steve Campling and yourself as his employer the service would be unable to operate and provide the first class service the public have come to rely on."

It was noted that adequate procedures were in place to minimise disruption to the Board's works.

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7:11 Minute 9:2, Page 604 - Byelaw Application - Stamford Homes North Ltd

The Engineer reported that he had informed Stamford Homes North Ltd that the application had been refused and he was expecting an appeal against the decision.

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7:12 Minute 10:2, Page 604 - Strategy Studies - Boygriff Catchment Detailed Appraisal

Cllr R.B. Shields referred to a recent meeting that had been held to discuss the water storage system at Acre Gap and queried why he had not been informed. The Engineer confirmed that he had been invited to attend a neighbourhood management meeting with the liaison panel but this had not been a public meeting. Cllr D.G. Andrews (ward member for Sutton-on-Sea) had also not been informed about the meeting. Cllr Shields asked to be kept informed as the drainage board representative for this area. The Engineer asked whether the Board would like to arrange a liaison meeting and invite members of the public to attend. Bearing in mind how much money had been spent in this area recently and the fact that the area had now been adopted by the residents, Cllr Shields thought it would be a good idea to hold the meeting in order to keep people informed.

RESOLVED

that, prior to any works commencing, the Engineer arrange a public meeting to discuss the proposals for Acre Gap.

7:13 Minute 14, Page 608 - Regional Catchment Consultative Committees

Mr P.W. Pridgeon expressed concern about the last sentence in paragraph 1 stating that he did not see amalgamation as the view of the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) and did not want this to frighten the smaller drainage boards. The Engineer confirmed that this was the Clerk's view and that the position of ADA regarding regional catchment consultative committees was that they could provide a forum for drainage boards to talk to each other where they did not already. The Engineer stated that each individual area should consider the proposals and find the best way forward.

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8. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Engineer presented the attached minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2008.

In response to a query from Mr R.A.D. Unsworth, the Director of Operations confirmed that the sums shown for purchases in 2009/10 were list prices and tenders would be sent out to several suppliers to hopefully get a cheaper price. The Director of Operations also confirmed that, although trade-in prices would be obtained, the vehicles would probably be sold by tender in order to get a better price.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon enquired why the Board was making provision to spend £50,000 on the depot before a decision had been made to proceed. Mr T.H. Heys reported that he had visited the depot and work was required. Mr Heys stated that, even if the Board did not decide to proceed with the alterations, general maintenance work was urgently required. He further reported that altering the old office building to provide offices for the Works Supervisor would free up space in the hanger to store items such as the new pumps which were left outside. The Chairman reported that the Environment Agency's decision to share space at the depot may affect the Board's decision but the aim must be to have all equipment under cover.

Regarding the Environment Officers recommendation to use Glyphosate to control oil seed rape, Mr J.M. Mowbray stated that this would cause more harm to other plants and may not kill the rape. In response to Mr R.A.D. Unsworth, Mr T.H. Heys confirmed that there had been less rape on the trial site at Theddlethorpe following the early cutting over the last two years.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2008 be noted,
- (b) that the plant purchases/sales for 2008/09 be approved in the sum of £321,620,
- (c) that an allowance of £186,500 be made in the estimates for plant purchases during 2009/10,
- (d) that the Board continue with investigations into ways to prevent the spread of oilseed rape, and
- (e) that £50,000 be allocated in the estimates for 2009/10 to make alterations at the Strubby depot.

#### 9. STAFFING AND RESOURCES MINUTES

It was noted that Cllr R.B. Shields had been present at the meeting.

Mr R.H. Needham enquired whether the inflation increase for services to the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board would cover the Board's costs. The Engineer reported that this figure was for day to day management only and any extra works, i.e. for capital schemes, were charged separately so all costs were covered.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) that the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing and Resources Committee held on 3rd November 2008 be approved,
- (b) that £741,435 be allowed in the estimates of income and expenditure for 2009/10 for support services, and
- (c) that Pieter Buitelaar's salary be increased by one spine point to £24,351 per annum with effect from 1st April 2009.

#### 10. MEETING DATES

##### 10:1 Board Meetings

The Engineer reported that it was the Board's practice to hold meetings on the last Tuesday of every other month with an additional meeting to consider estimates held at the beginning of December. He further reported that all but the July and September meetings were held in the afternoon, however, at the last Board meeting it had been agreed that consideration should be given to altering the time of the July meeting due to harvest.

In response to Mr R.H. Needham, the Engineer reported that it would not be possible to hold meetings on the second Tuesday of the month because this was when the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board held their meetings. Cllr S.W. Eyre stated that it was pointless arranging a meeting in July for those members involved in agriculture. Cllr Eyre stated that it was essential to have a balance of both agricultural and council members at all meetings.

After discussion it was RESOLVED

- (a) that the 2009 Board meetings be held at 2.00 p.m. on 27th January, 31st March, 26th May, 24th November and 8th December (special meeting to consider estimates),
- (b) that the date and time of the July and September meetings be considered at a future meeting.

