

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Special meeting of the Board (the 65th meeting) held at Wellington House, Manby, on Tuesday, 27th July 2010, at 1.00 p.m., to discuss the Public Interest Report.

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| * Messrs M. Clark (Chairman) | * Cllrs H. Marfleet (Vice-Chairman) |
| * G. Billings | G. Allan |
| W. Cooper | D.G. Andrews |
| * G. Crust | S.W. Eyre |
| * T.H. Heys | * G.M. Gooding |
| * J.M. Mowbray | * A. Howard |
| * R.H. Needham | R.J. Palmer |
| P.W. Pridgeon | * W. Parkinson |
| * D.R. Tagg | * M. Preen |
| * R.A.D. Unsworth | * R.B. Shields |
- * Present
- * Messrs A. McGill (Clerk and Chief Executive)
- * D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- M. Mitchell (Director of Technical Services)
- R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- * S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- * In attendance

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs W. Cooper, P.W. Pridgeon, Cllrs D.G. Andrews, S.W. Eyre and R.J. Palmer.

2 PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT (PIR)

The Clerk explained that this meeting had been called to discuss the Board's formal response to the PIR (attached as item 2 on the agenda for the Board meeting at 2.00 p.m.). It was noted that the Auditor (from Grant Thornton) would be at the Board meeting to formally present the report which would then be posted on the Audit Commission's website. It was the Clerk's intention that the PIR would also be posted on the Board's website together with a statement from the Board.

The Clerk read the recommendations falling from the PIR and action taken by the Board in response to these. It was noted that one of the strongest criticisms was that the minutes had not represented a full record of discussions at meetings. The Clerk understood that this had arisen as the Board faced competing demands of keeping personnel issues confidential while recording sufficient detail to satisfy audit and, although comprehensive information had been presented to the Board and discussed in detail, this information had been given verbally rather than in a written report. This had been addressed by the introduction of the 'pink paper' system for any sensitive matters not for the public domain. The Clerk confirmed that the Board would in future be advised on any matters regarding terms and conditions of senior staff by an external consultant who had already been employed to undertake a performance appraisal and a review of senior staff terms and conditions.

Cllr W. Parkinson arrived.

Members stated that the public must be made aware that the Board had received a clean bill of health for its statement of accounts and that there had been no misuse of public funds.

Minutes of a Special Board meeting of the Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board held on 27th July 2010 to discuss the Public Interest Report

Cllr R.B. Shields understood the need for detailed record keeping but requested that reports should be short, simple and to the point, not reams and reams of paper. The Clerk confirmed that reports would be concise.

Cllr M. Preen arrived.

The Clerk reported that a review of Governance procedures was also being undertaken by an external consultant and once all the relevant procedures had been reviewed/put in place they would be available to members for guidance. Mr G. Crust understood that it was necessary to employ external consultants to satisfy the auditors, however, he was concerned about the cost to the Board.

Mr D.R. Tagg expressed concern about what the public would think when reading 1.5 'Increased Salary'. Cllr H. Marfleet suggested that a formal response should be made to the comments made by Grant Thornton, confirming that the Board had compared the salaries of similar posts and taken into account the 18 years service of the postholder, before deciding on an increase in salary. It was also noted that any employee who had a personal interest in a discussion at a Board or Committee meeting, left the room whilst the matter was discussed.

Some minor amendments were made to the DRAFT report submitted for consideration by the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED

that the attached report as amended be adopted by the Board.



CHAIRMAN