

Minutes of the meeting of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board held at Deeping House, Welland Terrace, Spalding on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

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

In Attendance:                      Mrs K Daft                      Chief Executive  
   N Morris                      Operations Engineer  
   H Sharman                      Junior Engineer

**29/17            APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr R Clark, Mr P Coupland, Mrs A Newton and Mrs J Smith.

**30/17            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr K Casswell declared an interest in '22/17/4/6 Special Matters – Sutterton Grange Farm Dyke Extension' on page 5 of the Engineering report.

Mr K Casswell declared an interest in planning application no H15-0672-16 on page 23 of the Engineering report.

Mr W D Branton and Mr A Branton declared an interest in planning application no H03-0555-17 on pages 26 and 27 of the Engineering report.

**31/17            TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record; with one amendment made to the date of the ADA Conference being held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and not the 8<sup>th</sup> November as recorded.

**32/17            MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**32/17/01            Special Matters – Sutterton Grange Farm Dyke Extension**

The Operations Engineer advised that works were now complete with just the spoil generated left to be spread.

### **32/17/02 Special Matters – Conservation**

The Chief Executive advised that it had been agreed with the Environment Agency that the Board would pay £1,000 towards funding of the eel study work, and an invoice had been received this week. The work with Hull University was still ongoing.

### **32/17/03 Special Matters – Bell Tunnel Drain, Cowbit Wash**

The Operations Engineer advised that South Holland IDB are keen to progress the works and that further discussions will take place in the near future.

### **32/17/04 ADA Updates**

This year's ADA Conference is to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November and not the 8<sup>th</sup> November as recorded at June's Board meeting.

## **33/17 TO RECEIVE THE HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT**

The Operations Engineer presented the report to the Board. Matters arising from the report:

### **33/17/1 Training**

It has been agreed that all employees, apart from office support staff, were to receive Overhead Cable Awareness training. SHOC Consultancy had been to deliver their annual refresher course.

CPC is continuing for the HGV-trained employees.

Three new employees have started working at the depot. All have been given their 'New Starter' inductions and one of them has already received his SHOC training.

The Operations Engineer informed the Board that all boat operators were now required to hold an Inland Watercourse Boat Handling qualification from the RYA. Our crews undertook this training at Lincoln in the Brayford Pool and along the Fosse Dyke.

Conver (who manufacture our weedboats) will be carrying out specific weedboat training and our crews will be attending at the Pode Hole Depot.

The Operations Engineer attended the Site Managers' Safety Training Scheme's ('SMSTS') two day refresher course in June.

The Junior Engineer attended a five day Site Managers' Safety Training Scheme ('SMSTS') course in July.

The Assistant Engineer is to start his 'NEBOSH' National Construction Certificate course day-release training this month.

**TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING REPORT**

The Operations Engineer and Junior Engineer presented the report to the Board. Matters arising from the report:

**34/17/1 General District**

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

The Berky Spider had been progressing well this season, completing its early season cut. However, while working on the second full cut of the Fantail Drain, the Spider suffered a catastrophic failure of its chassis. The matter of the Berkenheger Spider is to be covered under agenda item 11.

Slides were shown of the Board's weedboat cutting the Vernatts and Counter Drain along both the channel and sides.

Slides were shown of the Maxey North Fen Pumping Station intake basin's cleansing works carried out by ADC using a 'Truxor' machine.

**34/17/2 Workshops & Plant**

Board members were updated with details of general maintenance works carried out to plant and workshops.

The Operations Engineer advised that our trailer had failed its recent inspection, one fault being excessive rusting. However, it has stood us in good stead, being that it was 14 years old and had been second-hand when we bought it. A new trailer has been purchased, and we received a sum of £5,000 for 'trade in' on our old trailer.

The new trailer was collected on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, at a purchase price of £34,500.

A slide was shown of the new Godwin 6" portable pump. The Operations Engineer explained that this new pump was very quiet to run.

**34/17/3/1 Special Matters – Riddington's Pumping Station**

As suggested by the Board's pump advisors, Shoebridge Engineering, modifications have now been installed and have helped in slightly reducing the running amps of the pumps. However, there are some issues with vibration that are currently being investigated, and these findings will be reported at the next Board meeting.

**34/17/3/2 Special Matters – Pode Hole Deeping St Nicholas (Diesel) Pumping Station**

The steel stop logs fabricated by our workshop were inspected by South Lincs Consulting and were found to be structurally sound and able to withstand the pressure from the depth of water at Pode Hole.

It is now planned to carry out an inspection of Pump No 2 by installing the stops in the intake bay to dewater. Once this inspection has taken place, a decision will be made as to the next course of action.

Structural calculations on the existing overhead crane situated in the pump building at Pode Hole have been carried out by South Lincs Consulting to ensure it complies with current lifting requirements. The crane, installed in 1965, was originally rated for 12.5 tonnes; however, current regulations stipulate this figure should be 10 tonnes max lift capacity.

### **34/17/3/3 Special Matters – Kirton & Frampton Marsh Pumping Station**

The Operations Engineer advised that a pump inspection had taken place in June and, due to the particularly aggressive water environment at this site, severe corrosion had been revealed. A complete repair has now been undertaken and it has been decided that this pump will be lifted every three years to check its integrity.

The pumping station is supported by interlocking steel piles and again, due to the aggressive water environment, thickness testing has taken place. Drake Towage, specialist marine contractors, visited the site and carried out thorough tests. Remedial work was then undertaken which should increase the piles' lifespan by 15-20 years.

The Operations Engineer further advised that flood resilience measures for the pump control building are being investigated.

### **34/17/3/4 Special Matters – Fosdyke Marsh Pumping Station**

A full inspection revealed all was acceptable and in good order.

### **34/17/3/5 Special Matters – Pinchbeck Marsh (1953) Pumping Station**

Shoebridge Engineering lifted and inspected both pumps as part of planned maintenance work, and it was revealed all was acceptable and in good order.

### **34/17/3/6 Special Matters – Wygate Park Re-lining Work**

The Operations Engineer advised that the fifth and sixth phases of works on the Pennygate Drain re-lining at Wygate Park are due to start on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, with an anticipated completion date of the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

A letter-drop has already taken place, advising local residents as to where the road is to be fully closed and where traffic lights/diversions are likely to be found.

The Operations Engineer also advised the Board that this final phase had been accelerated, with additional Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid funding by the Environment Agency agreed.

A site visit is to be organised for any interested Board members who wish to see 'first-hand' what the works entail.

### **34/17/4 Conservation**

The Operations Engineer updated the Board with details of the bat surveys that had been organised by Mrs Annette Faulkner of the Lincolnshire Bat Group during the summer around the Vernatts Drain and Tidal River Welland.

Towards the end of August, Bob Shepherd from the Wildlife Conservation Partnership visited a number of the Board's owl boxes. Results at Fourth District, in particular, proved to be encouraging with five new owls being ringed; Mr Shepherd's highest number so far this year.

The Environment Agency are preparing a report/study on badgers in the River Glen banks between Pode Hole and Thurlby area.

The Board has been asked to supply any records we have of badgers within our drains in this area. Our ecologist is compiling the information.

### **34/17/5 Press/Publicity**

The Operations Engineer informed members that Councillor Coupland had recently written an article published in the Spalding Guardian, highlighting the important conservation work carried out by local drainage boards. The Operations Engineer asked for his thanks to Councillor Coupland for promoting the Board's profile be recorded.

### **34/17/6 CCTV Cameras at Pumping Station Sites**

CCTV installations have now been completed, with just Vernatts Sluice and Fourth District to be installed later in the year.

### **34/17/7 Other Meetings Attended**

As well as the meetings listed in the Engineering report, the Operations Engineer mentioned that he and the Assistant Engineer had attended a meeting with Mott MacDonald who are working with the Environment Agency on packaged schemes for Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid.

They will be looking at our proposed refurbishment works on the tidal sluices at both Five Towns and Risegate Eau Pumping Stations.

It is hoped that this will lead to some grant monies for both sites.

## **35/17 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORT**

The Chief Executive presented the Finance Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

Arising from the Finance Report:

### **35/17/1 Drainage Rates**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, drainage rates in the sum of £59,212 were outstanding; however, as at today's date, a total of £20,000 had been

received, leaving the amount of £39,000 unpaid. Court proceedings for outstanding accounts will take place in November/December.

### **35/17/2 Rental Income**

The Chief Executive advised members that Longstaffs Property Agents have been appointed as the Board's residential property managing agents; this has resulted in a saving in management fees.

### **35/17/3 Museum**

The Chief Executive advised that there had been a good attendance at the museum during the 'Heritage Weekend'.

It was RESOLVED that the Finance Report be adopted.

### **36/17 TO RECEIVE EXTERNAL AUDIT OPINION FOR 2016/17**

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

### **37/17 REVIEW OF RESERVES POLICY**

The Chief Executive advised members that the Board's Reserves Policy dated October 2014 has been updated. The only change made was to the 'Development Reserve' section, in particular the reference to SUDS on major development sites.

It was RESOLVED that the updated Reserves Policy be adopted.

### **38/17 REVIEW OF LAND DRAINAGE BYELAWS**

The Chief Executive informed members that Defra are looking to drainage boards to update byelaws to the latest model byelaws.

Proposed by Mr George Sly and seconded by Councillor John Holdich, it was RESOLVED that the Byelaws be adopted by the Board.

The document was sealed and signed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

### **39/17 PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF DRAINS PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED BY BERKENHEGER SPIDER**

As per minute item 34/17/1 "General District", the Berkenheger Spider (Berky) has suffered a serious failure in the chassis which is beyond economic repair.

Approximately 80 miles of drains within the Board's area have historically been maintained by the Berky, the majority of these drains being situated in the Deeping Fen area.

The Berky is a specialist item of drainage machinery and is manufactured in Germany by Berkenheger. It is driven by two operators and works within the

drainage channel. One operator controls the machine and its cutting knives, the second operator controls the rakes.

The Board's first Berky was purchased in 1988 at a cost of £98,380 and ran until 2011.

In 2011, the Board's current Berky was purchased second-hand from South Holland District IDB at a cost of £22,500.

The Chief Executive advised members that a full internal investigation is to be carried out as to how the drains previously cut by the Berky can be maintained in the future.

The investigation will look at each length of drain individually, taking into consideration access, conservation and other relevant factors. Affected landowners will be contacted and consulted with.

Full costed details of the options available will be presented in a full report to the Board at the February meeting.

#### **40/17 MEETING DATES FOR 2018**

The dates for the Board's meetings in 2018 will be:

1 <sup>st</sup> February	Board Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Board Meeting
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Conservation Liaison Meeting
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Board Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Finance Meeting

#### **41/17 ADA UPDATES**

ADA have recommended that data protection changes will need to be made, in particular with regard to drainage boards' websites.

ADA are planning a seminar in 2018 which will replace the Floodex exhibition. Floodex will return in 2019 and will be run in collaboration with the UK Irrigation Association.

The 2017 ADA Conference will be taking place on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. This date marks the start of ADA's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary when the Association of Drainage Authorities was formed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1937.

#### **42/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.51 p.m.

Chairman