

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Works Committee** at a Meeting held at the Board's Offices, 47 Norfolk Street,
Boston on Wednesday **21st November 2018**.

Present: P. Richardson (Vice Chairman)

Messrs: C. Hardy A.Harrison
P. Bedford K. Smith
B. Bowles R. Leggott
P. Skinner B. Bowles
J. Woods

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:-

Messrs: J.E. Grant
A. Saul
R. Hall-Jones
C. Brotherton

2. **CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATES 2019/2020**

2.1 **Weed Control Estimates**

The Chief Engineer presented his estimates to the Board:-

Weed Control			
Item		2019/20	2018/19
1	Works Supervision (Sewer Spraying in previous estimates)	£35,900.00	£35,000.00
2	Roundup	£21,200.00	£21,000.00
3	Drain/Sewer Flailing	£242,000.00	£240,000.00
4	Drain/Sewer Cutting	£417,000.00	£418,000.00
5	Cotting	£14,580.00	£19,500.00
6	Hand Roding	£6,050.00	£6,000.00
7	Weed Boat Cutting	£27,500.00	£18,000.00
8	General	£1,040.00	£1,000.00
9	Transport Plant	£27,500.00	£27,500.00
	Total	£792,770.00	£786,000.00

The Chief Engineer confirmed that there were changes to the Channel Maintenance Estimate with the titles being changed to Works Supervision. Transporting of plant has been included to show a more accurate cost of the moving of Board's plant around the district.

2.2

Cleansing/Mudding Estimates additional costs

	Cleansing		
10	Works Supervision (General in previous estimates)	£53,300.00	£52,000.00
11	Sewer/Improvements	£96,000.00	£95,000.00
12	Drains	£50,400.00	£67,900.00
13	Revetment	£9,150.00	£9,000.00
14	Vermin Control	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
15	Cowbridge Lock	£4,010.00	£4,000.00
16	Slip Repairs	£44,100.00	£43,900.00
17	Surveys	£1,010.00	£1,000.00
18	Bushing (65% of cost)	£31,200.00	£18,000.00
19	Faggot Making (50% of cost)	£12,200.00	£12,000.00
20	Transport Plant	£7,700.00	£7,700.00
21	Drain Access Works	£25,075.00	£0.00
		£335,145.00	£311,500.00

The Chief Engineer informed members that there had been an increase to the Bushing estimate for 2018/19. The Board have annually approved £36,000.00 for Bushing work on Drains and Sewers they maintain, however, due to the volume of Bushing to be completed to get the problem under control, the estimate needed to be increased. Therefore, it was recommended that these funds would be reallocated from within the overall Channel Maintenance Estimate and not an increase in the drainage rate.

The Chief Engineer informed members of the reasoning behind the inclusion of Drain Access Works in the Channel Maintenance Estimate. The Chief Engineer informed the committee that the 2018/19 weed cutting season was the first year that the Board had weed cut all the Drains maintained by the Board. With this it has meant that a number of side dykes have to be crossed. In most cases these are open dykes out falling into the Drain, with no means of crossing with the machines. This has resulted in the excavators either tracking around the dyke or the Board's HGV moving them. Either way this has proved time consuming and costly. It was suggested that the committee recommend the Board that £25,075.00 be allocated to this work in the estimate, it was confirmed that these funds would be reallocated from within the overall Channel Maintenance and Asset Improvement Estimates and not an increase in the drainage rate.

A.Harrison asked if it would take a few years to complete these works. The Chief Engineer confirmed it would be an ongoing investment of 4 to 5 years. The Chief Engineer also confirmed that gates would have to be erected where constructing these culverts caused a security issue to third parties.

P.Bedford asked if a list of locations could be produced detailing the location of these culverts. The Chief Engineer confirmed that the Foreman were already collecting this information.

3. **Asset Improvement Programme**

The following section details the estimate for asset improvements for 2019/20:

	Assets	2019/20	2018/19
1	Improvements - urban watercourses	£30,075.00	£50,000.00
2	Improvements - ordinary watercourses	£20,050.00	£20,000.00
		£50,125.00	£70,000.00

There has been a reduction in the urban watercourse budget. The money required for camera work and jetting has now been used which now frees up £20,000 to be moved to the Channel Maintenance Estimates. The ordinary watercourses have remained the same.

4. **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY/ CO-OPERATION WORKS**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the Boat cutting on the Maud Foster was complete. Stonebridge drain was 75% complete but DO levels had stopped work. East Fen/and West Fen was 75% complete again DO levels had stopped work. Hydraulic weed cutting was complete. Raised embankments had only one cut as time ran out. The Chief Engineer was happy with all the work completed and would be happy to undertake the work again.

P.Richardson asked about the boat expenditure. The Chief Engineer said there was 362 hours on each boat of EA work and 300 hours on each boat of our work.

A.Harrison asked if it was a justified expense. The Chief Engineer said yes definitely it was a good investment having both boats. The Chief Executive said if we do the EA work next year, it will more than likely be easier and quicker as the route will be known and the operators will be more efficient. The Chief Engineer added that would depend on the growth.

B Bowles was concerned the Badgers would be moved on as they are getting out of control. The Chief Executive and Chief Engineer both suggested any concerned members speak to the EA. EA policy is that Badgers are not allowed on the raised banks and would be moved. The EA contact is Mr Peter Riley, Operations Manager.

	Estimate inc 10% admin	Estimate less 10% admin	Expenditure to date	Remaining Balance	% work complete
Boat Cutting Maud Foster Drain	£20,988.00	£18,889.20	£10,812.44	£8,076.76	100%
Boat Cutting Stonebridge Drain	£29,576.00	£26,618.40	£16,768.65	£9,849.75	75% (no further works)
Boat Cutting East Fen Catchwater Drain	£16,209.60	£14,588.64	£7,823.50	£6,765.14	75% (no further works)
Boat Cutting West Fen Catchwater Drain	£10,722.80	£9,650.52	£5,610.93	£4,039.59	75% (no further works)
Boat Spraying	£3,300.00	£2,970.00	£3,960.93	-£990.30	100%
Flail Mowing Maud Foster	£1,567.20	£1,410.48	£2,128.34	-£717.86	100%
Flail Mowing Banks	£14,973.31	£13,475.98	£11,529.85	£1,946.13	100%
Hydraulic Weedcutting	£30,457.94	£27,412.15	£15,947.58	£11,464.57	80%
Flail Mowing Raised Banks	£5,294.40	£4,764.96	£2,111.93	£2,653.03	10% (no further works)
Total	£133,089.25	£119,780.33	£76,694.15	£43,086.18	

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

Following these discussions it was:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the 2019/20 estimates for Weed Control, Cleansing and Asset Improvements be approved by the Board.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

The Vice Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Vice Chairman