

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Plant & Pumping Stations Committee** at a Meeting held by Zoom on
Wednesday **18 November 2020**

Present:- C. Crunkhorn (Committee Chairman)

Messrs: T. Ashton F. Pickett
P. Bedford P. Richardson (Chairman)
J.E. Grant A. Saul
R. Leggott K. Smith
J. Ward

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

2. **CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATES 2021/2021**

2.1 **Plant Replacement Programme 2020/21 – Current Year Update**

The Chief Engineer showed members some pictures of the new machines purchased.

The Chief Engineer updated the Committee Members on progress in the current year:-

Purchased	Replaced	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Delivery
		£	£	
JCB 150X	Atlas 160LC Excavator	130,000.00	124,500.00	Nov 20
Claas Arion 650 Csi	New Holland Tractor	90,000.00	87,001.00	Jul 20
Herder Flail	Spearhead SPV Flail Head	9,000.00	9,750.00	May 20
	Unimog	131,000.00	Not replacing	
	Bailey Unimog Trailer	20,000.00	Not replacing	
	Total	380,000.00	221,251.00	

3 **Review of Plant already approved for Replacement Programme 2021/22**

The Chief Engineer updated Board members regarding the list of assets for replacement:

Purchased	Replaced	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Delivery
		£	£	
Spearhead SPV	Spearhead SPV	240,000.00	240,000.00	Jan 21
Spearhead SPV	Spearhead SPV	230,400.00	230,400.00	Jan 21
Claas Arion 650CSi	Massey Ferguson	91,000.00	-	-
Herder Cavalier Flail	Bomford B81-81 Flail	80,000.00	80,100.00	Apr/May
Weed Baskets Various	Weed Baskets Various	18,000.00	-	-
		£659,800.00	£550,900.00	

J. Grant - were we happy that the issues with the JCBSPV had been resolved?
The Chief Engineer confirmed he had been assured by Irelands and

other drainage boards already using the machines have confirmed they are better machines. There was improvement in the 4-wheel drive and the diff lock.

R. Leggott - was surprised at the price of the SPVs and understood that there was not much competition but wondered if the Chief Engineer had considered all options and whether there was a cheaper way to do the job. The Chief Engineer confirmed that he had considered the alternatives and looked at a Herder machine which had a similar price tag. Having considered all options, they were not as efficient, so he believed this was the best option.

The Committee Chairman confirmed that these purchases had been looked at very carefully, but all things considered, driver comfort and efficiency made this the best option.

The Chairman added that a Herder head is being used on these Spearheads.

J. Grant - was nervous about the re-sale value of these machines.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the work rate and the versatility of these machines was key as they do approximately 1200 hours per year and are barely parked up, and at that price that is important.

The Chief Engineer moved on to item 3 regarding the replacement of the Unimog fuelling system. We have now progressed enough to realise that we do not need to replace the Unimog as it is more efficient to fill machines from the fuel tank on the Hilux. The refuelling costs this year was £4,000 against £8,000 last year.

J. Ward - asked about the Claas Arion for £91,000 under Item 3? The Chief Engineer confirmed there was no delivery date for this machine yet as it was at tender stage.

K. Smith - queried no date against the smaller weed baskets. The Chief Engineer confirmed they had not yet been ordered.

T. Ashton - agreed it was a significant outlay but that he fully supported the purchase but would like the Board to retain them longer. The Chief Engineer agreed that, subject to reliability, they could run for 9-10k hours.

4 **Additional Plant**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that he would like to ask support from the Committee for the purchase of a front mounted flail mower. The mower would be used on the front of the Claas Arion 650 tractor and would be used to cut down the banks. The mower had a net estimated cost of £15,500 plus VAT.

A discussion followed about all aspects of the flail mower, the driver and its use.

T. Ashton - was happy to support the purchase

K. Smith - added there would be additional costs to the tractor for front linkage possibly £10k? The Chief Engineer confirmed there was additional costs. The tractor quote had been for £95k but some of that cost will be carried forward as trade in value when we come to re-sell.

The Committee Chairman moved the meeting forwards and asked for a show of hands and it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board that this item be purchased.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the Board purchase:

a) Front Mounted Flail Mower at a cost of £15,000 plus VAT

5 **Pumping Stations Estimate 2021/2022**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the increase in the estimate reflected the anticipated cost of living increase in staff wages, due to be applied in April 2021 and an additional £10,000 in respect of the electric pump overhaul at Hobhole Pumping Station.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Chief Engineers estimate of £490,752.13 (2020/21 £478,639.00) be approved.

6 **Depot Estimate 2020/2021**

The Chief Engineer set out this estimate and after discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Chief Engineers estimate of £45,400 for 2021/22 (2020/21 £43,900) be approved.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business, and the meeting was closed.

Chairman