

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Environment Committee** at a Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday
18 November 2020

Present: - B. Bowles (Committee Chairman)
Messrs: T. Ashton
C. Crunkhorn
A. Harrison
P. Richardson (Chairman)
A. Saul
P. Skinner

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:-
N. Jones

2. **ENVIRONMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Chief Engineer (CE) went through the Environmental Report which he would take as read but there were a few things he would just like to mention:-

2.1 **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Update**

The Chief Engineer went through the Board's BAP as set out in the Agenda. Page 4 of his report gave details of the targets and likely costs for the next year.

Page 7 showed some photos of some of the ongoing projects. These are classed as "quick wins" to try and help the Board meet its targets.

B. Bowles -referred to the Otter Holt Construction and asked if there had been any sightings. The Chief Engineer confirmed that a survey had recently been done on the Newham Drain and there was evidence of otters having been there.

2.2 **Eel Monitoring at Hobhole & Lade Bank Pumping Station**

The Chief Engineer informed members that this was the last year of studying the site by Hull International Fisheries Institute ("HIFI"). Last year had basically been a washout but the Board were continuing support for HIFI but with the usual premise that drainage has to take priority.

2.3 **Lade Bank Pumping Station Eel Pass**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that despite no night-time pumping having been completed, this project had not been that successful and that possibly some modifications were required.

CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATES 2020/2021

The Chief Engineer ran through the Environment and Conservation estimate for 2021/22, there was an increase of £13,809.

	ENVIRONMENTAL EXPENDITURE	BAP Ref	Estimate 2021/21	Estimate 2020/21
Item	Environmental Management - % of Workload & Travel Expenses			
1	Chief Engineer (5%)	√	£3,150	£3,000
2	Technical Engineer (25% approx)	√	£6,750	£6,000
3	Engineer/Admin Assistant's (5%)	√	£1,500	£1,500
4	Both Foreman's Workload & Travel Expenses (10%)	√	£22,009	£9,100
5	Related Employer's Superannuation Expenditure	√	£4,000	£4,000
6	Related Employer's N.I. Expenditure	√	£2,700	£2,700
	Totals		£40,109	£26,300
	Conservation Schemes/Wildlife/Environmental Benefit			
7	Bush/Tree Management - 34% of Annual Expenditure deemed to be for Environmental Benefit	H3	£17,000	£18,000
8	Faggot Making - deemed to be for Environmental Benefit	H3	£12,000	£12,000
9	Noxious and Invasive Weed Control	√	£5,000	£5,000
10	Owl & Kestrel boxes, fish conservation, nest surveys, Cowbridge Reel Project, training, Otter Holt/monitoring, miscellaneous.	S5, S8, S11,S13	£6,000	£6,000
11	Eels research support costs 2019/120	S2	£2,500	£1,500
	Totals		£42,500	£42,500
	Saline Water Pumping			
12	Energy and Labour Cost (Installation/removal/maintenance)		£0	£0
13	Replacement Desalination Pumps		£0	£0
	Totals		£0	£0
	Waste Management/Disposal			
14	"Fly Swat"		£3,000	3,000.00
15	Witham Fourth expenditure		£2,000	2,000.00
	Totals		£5,000	5,000.00
	Other Expenditure			
16	Contributions/Memberships (inc. GLNP, Wash EMS)	√	£1,800	£1,800
17	British Water Ways Board – Use of Anton's Gowt Lock**	S2	£6,000	£6,000
18	Insurances		£210	£210
	Totals		£8,010	£8,010
	Total Expenditure for Environment		£95,619	£81,810

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the estimate for 2021/2021 at £95,619 be approved.

3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chief Executive confirmed that last year a 3-year agreement had been reached with the Union regarding the formula used for salary reviews. This would mean that based upon this agreement the salary review in April would be calculated at 4.1% which equated to £57,000 for the Board. The Chief Executive had done some calculations for the actual 6-month figures and this would result in a 3% increase to the rates to remain at our current position. Obviously, there was £10,000 in reserves and a possible £120,000 payment due to the Board for Triton Knoll/Viking Link projects, but he wanted to make Councillors aware of the position.

The Chairman clarified that the 3-year deal ends next year and despite any discussions the Board may have, we have entered into the Agreement and cannot renege on the same. At present, the Chief Executive's figures are just estimated.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the next Board Meeting was due to take place on 16th December 2020 and to stay safe until then.

There was no other business, and the meeting was closed at 3.58pm

Chairman