

WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Plant & Pumping Stations Committee** at a Meeting held at 47 Norfolk Street on **Wednesday 16 November 2022**

Present:- C. Crunkhorn (Committee Chairman)

Messrs: P. Bedford
B. Bowles
J.E. Grant
F. Pickett
P. Richardson
(Chairman)
A. Saul
K. Smith
J. Ward

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from T. Ashton. No apologies were received from N. Hastie.

2. **CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATES 2023/2024**

2.1 **Plant Replacement Programme 2022/23 – Current Year Update**

Purchase	Replacement	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Delivery
		£	£	
CAT 380e Excavator	Takeuchi TB290-2	75,000.00	74,450.00	Apr-22
Isuzu Dmax Pick-up	Toyota Hilux Icon	25,000.00	26,013.00	Nov-22
Toyota Hilux	Toyota Hilux Active	25,000.00	20,203.00	Nov-22
Alpego Off-set Flail	TCM Cancela	15,000.00	9,995.00	Dec-21
Tirsan Low Loader	Nooteboom	60,000.00	63,725.00	Nov-22
Weed Baskets	Herder 3.0m and E & H 3.75m	12,000.00	13,930.00	Jun-22
Pump Engineer Van	N/A	14,600.00	15,545.00	Mar-22
Pile Compactor	Yet to tender	30,000.00		
	Total	256,600.00	223,861.00	

The Chief Engineer read through the details of plant replaced in 2022-23, the difference between the estimates and the actual costs and confirmed that except for the Hilux pick-ups the Board had taken delivery of all items. One Hilux was due this week and the other on 16th December. The delay in delivery had been as a result of flooding in the South African factory. The pile compactor had yet to be tendered for as at present the Board was testing how timber steels fared as bi steel piles were only required on projects such as The Gride.

3 **Plant Replacement Programme**

The Chief Engineer referred Committee Members to the full list of plant assets at the back of his report. The report gave a detailed breakdown of each item of machinery including the hours worked, depreciation and estimated life expectancy. This time last year, the Chief Engineer had been asked for a vehicle schedule for the fleet of vans. All details were included at the end of his report and the replacement was based upon 10 years or 90k miles whichever was sooner.

J. Grant -queried if the vans with higher mileage was because the drivers live outside the district? The Chief Engineer confirmed it was but that the staff do look after the vans and ensure they are serviced etc on time.

4 **Plant Replacements 2023-24**

The Chief Engineer referred Committee Members to his report and the items which needed to be replaced in the next year.

4.1 **JCB JS145 Excavator**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the machine had been purchased in 2015 and had completed 9,356 operation hours to date. The estimated hours at the time of trade in (next year) will be 11,000 hours. The Board's policy is to change hydraulic excavators after 8 years' service.

Therefore, based on the information detailed above it is suggested the committee recommend to the Board the approval to purchase a replacement excavator complete with buckets and a steel wrist option at a net estimated cost of **£150,000.00 plus VAT.**

J. Ward -asked what a steel wrist option was? The Chief Engineer confirmed that it enabled a bucket to turn when on the machine. They were expensive (approximately £25k) but would definitely be beneficial. The Chairman added that it could be used on more than one machine.

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 replacement excavator, complete with buckets and steel wrist option at a net estimated cost of **£150,000.00 plus VAT.**

4.2 **Toyota Hilux Pick-up**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the Toyota Hilux Pick-up purchased in 2015 has completed 102,763 miles to date, its estimated miles at date of actual trade in 2023 will be approximately 115,000 miles

This vehicle is utilised by the West Fen Works Supervisor around the district for supervision of work, and is designated as Emergency Response Plant, considered critical in times of emergency in the district. As of 1st April 2022, the vehicle has a net book value of £399.00 to the Board.

Therefore, based on the information detailed above it is suggested the committee recommend to the Board the approval to purchase a replacement 4x4 at a net estimated cost of **£30,000.00 plus VAT.**

A discussion followed and there was a show of hands. 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 replacement 4x4 at a net estimated cost of **£30,000.00 plus VAT.**

4.3 Claas Arion 650 Tractor

The Chief Engineer confirmed this vehicle was purchased in 2015 and has completed 6,635 operating hours to date. It's estimated hours at the trade in date (2023) will be 8,000 hours. It is the Board's policy to change flail tractors after 8 years' service. The machine has a net book value of £1,092 to the Board as of 1st April 2022.

The Chief Engineer has been looking at an alternative tractor as extra carrying capacity is required. The Board had recently had a Valtra as a demonstrator and all the staff were happy with it and feedback had been good. The Board had been offered the opportunity to purchase this demo machine, with only 300 recorded hours, at a reduced price of £128,500.00. The machine would be £150,000.00 new.

M. Leggott -asked if an extended warranty had been negotiated. The Chief Engineer confirmed the warranty agreed was 5 years or 5000 hours whichever was the sooner.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that an e-mail had been sent to all members of the Plant & Pumping Stations Committee to ask for their approval to purchase this ex-demo machine at the reduced price. The Chief Engineer believed that there may have been an issue with J. Ward's e-mail address as the e-mail had bounced back undelivered.

A discussion followed and there was a show of hands. 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 replacement tractor at a net estimated cost of
£128,500.00 plus VAT.

4.4 Herder Cavalier Flail Mower

The Chief Engineer confirmed the Herder Cavalier flail mower was purchased in 2015 and has completed 6,635 operating hours to date. It's estimated hours at the trade in date (2023) will be 8,000 hours. It is the Board's policy to change flail mowers after 8 years' service. The machine has a net book value of £1,293 to the Board as of 1st April 2022.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that at present the Board ran 2 x SPVs, 2 tractors and 1 combination tractor so 5 vehicles with mowing capacity. Long term it was his intention to reduce the units from 5 to 4. The other tractor should need reviewing next year but the Chief Engineer was minded to defer that decision for 12 months to see how this new machine coped.

A discussion followed and there was a show of hands. 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 replacement flail mower at a net estimated cost of
£90,000.00 plus VAT

4.5 Weed baskets

The Chief Engineer advised the 5.5m weed basket was purchased in 2018 and has completed over five years work. The machine is utilised yearly throughout the district carrying out channel maintenance operations. This machine is now in very poor condition and requires replacement.

It was suggested the committee recommend to the Board the approval to purchase a replacement weed basket at a net estimated cost of **£12,000.00 plus VAT.**

After discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Board purchase: a replacement weed basket at a net estimated cost of **£12,000.00 plus VAT**.

5. **Additional Plant**

The Chief Engineer confirmed that he would like to ask support from the Committee for the purchase of the following items:-

5.1 **Vortex Jumbo Frontline 150 Flail**

The Chief Engineer would like to purchase a front mounted flail mower for mounting on the front linkage of the Claas Arion 650 tractor and run-in combination with the new Herder Cavalier fail mower requested in 4.4 above.

It is suggested the committee recommend to the Board the approval to purchase a Vortex Jumbo Frontline 150 Flail at a net estimated cost of **£17,500.00 plus VAT**

After discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Board purchase: a Vortex Jumbo Frontline 150 Flail at a net estimated cost of **£17,500.00 plus VAT**

6 **Pumping Stations Estimate 2023/2024**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the increase in the estimate reflected the anticipated cost of increase in salary costs, insurance premiums and telemetry running costs. There would be no increase in electricity costs as the Board was tied into a fixed rate tariff until 2024.

- A. Saul - asked if *Wrangle Pumping Station* would save costs? The Chief Engineer confirmed it would because the electric pumps cost less to run although there would be no saving next year. The existing pumping station would be run until it was demolished in 2024.
- J. Ward - asked if there was a danger of *Grant in Aid* being withdrawn in the *Autumn statement*? The Chief Engineer confirmed funds would not be withdrawn and the Chief Executive confirmed that the funds were committed.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Chief Engineers estimate of £598,897.00 (2022/23 £565,874.82) be approved.

7 **Depot Estimate 2023/2024**

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

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Chief Engineers estimate of £43,500.00 for 2023/24 (2022/23 £46,000) be approved.

8. **Wrangle Pumping Station Approvals**

Committee Members are aware that this project is largely funded by flood defence grant in aid. However a contribution of £25,000 was required from the Board. Additionally, a small area of land was required to enable the work.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND That the Board approve the purchase of the land required. That the Board approve the £25,000 contribution from the Pumping Station Renewals fund.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business, and the meeting was closed at 2.35pm.

Chairman