

# WITHAM FOURTH DISTRICT INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

## MINUTES

of the proceedings of the **Works Committee** at a Meeting held at 47 Norfolk Street on Wednesday  
**15 November 2023**

Present: P. Richardson (Chairman)

Messrs: P. Bedford	R. Hall-Jones
C. Crunkhorn	A. Harrison
(Vice-Chairman)	A. Saul
S. Evans	K. Smith
C. Hardy	J. Woods
A. Hall	

1. **J.E GRANT**

The Chairman confirmed that he was sure all Committee Members had heard the very sad news of James' passing and advised that one minute silence would be held at the next Board Meeting as a mark of respect.

2. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for the meeting.

2. **CHIEF ENGINEER'S ESTIMATES 2024/2025**

2.1 **Weed Control Estimates**

The Chief Executive confirmed for the new Committee Members that the Maintenance Estimate covered everything other than pumping costs.

The Chief Engineer presented his estimates to the Committee and confirmed that the main reasons for the increase were as a result of the anticipated pay increase, the reduction in some plant recovery rates and the increase in others: -

**Weed Control**

Description	Movement	Estimate 2024-25	Approved Budget 2023-24
	£	£	£
W.Con. - Works Supervision	10,027.00	94,986.00	84,959.00
W.Con. - Spraying	(1,555.25)	4,236.00	5,791.25
W.Con. - Flailing Drains	11,421.50	66,310.50	54,889.00
W.Con. - Flailing Sewers	45,098.27	256,615.41	211,517.14
W.Con. - W/basketSewer	(35,050.40)	394,747.60	429,798.00
W.Con. - W/basketDrains	(9,914.50)	112,057.25	121,971.75
W.Con. - H/Roding Sewers	825.26	8,113.42	7,288.16
W.Con. - General	-	5,500.00	5,500.00
W.Con. - Weed Boats	(4,447.03)	14,825.24	19,272.27
W.Con. - Transport Plant	1,616.00	19,834.00	18,218.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,020.85</b>	<b>977,225.42</b>	<b>959,204.57</b>

## Cleansing

Description	Movement	Estimate 2024-25	Approved Budget 2023-24
	£	£	£
C. - Works Supervision	9,732.00	45,423.00	35,691.00
C. - Sewer/Imp/Cleansing	1,535.00	81,938.00	80,403.00
C. - Drains/Imp/Cleansing	27,522.00	92,832.00	65,310.00
C. - Sewer Imp/outfalls	37,618.84	65,203.00	27,584.16
C. - Vermin Control	-	-	-
C. - CowBridge Lock/sluiice	-	4,200.00	4,200.00
C. - Slip Repairs	39,489.50	127,898.04	88,408.54
C. - Surveys	-	2,525.00	2,525.00
C. - Bushing	(460.56)	36,478.98	36,939.54
C. - Faggot Making			
C. - Drain Access Works	56.25	15,794.25	15,738.00
C. - Transport Plant	484.80	6,270.20	5,785.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,977.83</b>	<b>478,562.47</b>	<b>362,584.64</b>

The Chief Engineer went through the figures and confirmed that the increases were a true reflection of the work required in the District for the forthcoming year. A recent review of the plant recovery rates for the year so far has shown some plant items were over recovering, and some plant rates have been amended.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the increase in the cleansing budget allowed for additional cleansing work, collapsed outfall structures and slip repairs to remediate damage caused by recent weather events.

The Chief Engineer confirmed that based upon all the estimates it was suggested that the committee recommend the approval of the £1,455,758 estimate for Channel Maintenance Activities and Improvements for the years 2024/2025.

A. Hall recommended that the Channel Maintenance Activities and Improvements Estimate 2024-2025 be adopted. C. Hardy seconded the proposal and the show of hands was unanimous.

Following these discussions it was:-

### **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

That the 2024/25 Channel Maintenance Estimates for Weed Control and Cleansing Improvements be approved by the Board.

*A. Saul - asked if Lincolnshire County Council paid a 50% contribution towards the costs of the various slip repairs? The Chief Engineer confirmed that they did but that it was growing increasingly more difficult to extract funds from them. Unfortunately, the recent slips have not been on roadsides.*

*R. Hall-Jones - asked if Thorpe Drain was being treated as a priority? The Chief Engineer said all the drains would be surveyed and cleansed on priority. Additionally, the telemetry was showing that the Fodderdyke was the slowest but he appreciated that all the East Fen catchment required some work.*

The Chief Executive added that the EA had been approached regarding a highland water claim which included a bid for dredging. The Chief Engineer confirmed that a very strong case will be put forward to the EA for the improvements to be made.

*K. Smith - was interested to learn that the Fodderdyke was the slowest drain. The Chief Engineer confirmed that the EA structure had been opened and Anton's Gowt had been open but the main issue was people taking matters into their own hands, which had caused the Board additional issues.*

*R. Hall-Jones - stated that weather events that were claimed to be 1 in 100 years now appeared to be happening every couple of years!* The Chief Engineer confirmed that at the new Hobhole Pumping Station 5 pumps would be installed in 6 bays. The additional bay allowed for extra capacity if needed.

*R. Hall-Jones - asked if the old Hobhole Pumping Station would be retained?* The Chief Engineer confirmed that it needed to come out to enable the new one to proceed.

3. **Asset Improvement Programme**

The Chief Engineer confirmed the details of the estimate for asset improvements for 2024-25:

Description	Movement	Estimate 2024-25	Approved Budget 2023-24
	£	£	£
Watercourse Assets/Urban	9,930.00	50,000.00	40,070.00
Watercourse Assets/Ordinary	4,290.87	25,000.00	20,709.13
Bridge Repairs	0.00	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,220.87</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>60,779.13</b>

The Chief Engineer confirmed that the increase of £14,220.87 was made up of £9,930.00 to allow more jetting and CCTV inspections of pipework in urban areas and £4,290.87 in respect of jetting and CCTV inspections of pipework in rural areas.

The Chief Engineer therefore asked the committee to approve that the estimate for Asset Improvements in 2024-25 be approved.

A. Hall recommended that the Asset Improvement Programme estimate be adopted. C. Hardy seconded the proposal and the show of hands was unanimous.

Following these discussions it was:

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND**

That the 2024/25 Asset Improvement Programme be approved by the Board.

4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 2.55pm.

**Chairman**