

UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board held on Monday, 15th March, 2010 at Skellingthorpe Community Centre.

PRESENT	Mr. F. Myers - Chairman. Mr. R.J. Phillips – Vice Chairman. Mr. R.H. P. Ballerini – Vice Chairman. Mr. A. Bradley. Mr. G.S. Christie. Mr. N. Craft. Mr. R.J. Epton, M.B.E. Mr. J.R. Hansard. Mr. R. Hills. Mrs. S.K. Howe. Ms. P. Isaac. Mr. S. Kinch. Mr. D.R. Knight. Mr. K. McCartney. Mr. R.W. Parker. Mr. G.E. Porter. Mr. P.J. Roe. Mr. J.R. Scarborough. Mr. I. Stokes. Mr. I.G. Smith. Mr. B.F. White. Mr. S.H. White. Mr. P. Wright. Mrs. P.A. Woodman, M.B.E.
In Attendance	Chief Executive. Engineer. Finance Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Arnold, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Hollis and Mr. Kirby.

22.10 WELCOME

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr. S. Kinch and Mr. I. Stokes who were attending their first Board Meeting since their appointments by West Lindsey District Council and South Kesteven District Council respectively.

23.10 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Council appointees Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Woodman of North Kesteven District Council; Mr. Craft and Mr. Stokes of South Kesteven District Council; Mr. Hills of Lincoln City Council; Mr. Kinch of West Lindsey District Council and Mr. Phillips of Lincolnshire County Council declared interests in matters appertaining to their respective Council.

24.10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 18th January, 2010 were confirmed.

Matters Arising.

25.10 SHARPE WALK BALANCING LAGOON (08.10)

It was reported that there had been no progress on negotiations for a commutation payment.

26.10 BOUNDARY REVIEW (13.10)

The Chief Executive reported receipt of correspondence from West Lindsey District Council confirming acceptance of the Board's stance and supporting a comprehensive review.

27.10 AUDIT (15.10)

It was reported that the Board's Internal Auditor had decided to retire following completion of the 2009/10.

It was further reported that contact had finally been made with the external auditors, Grant Thornton, who had indicated that their reports on the 2007/08 and 2008/09 accounts would be issued in the near future.

28.10 SHIRE DYKE (17.10)

The Chief Executive read a letter received from the Environment Agency in response to his complaint. The Agency confirmed that the watercourse had been designated as low priority and as such would be maintained only if funds became available.

A discussion ensued on the effects of reduced maintenance by the Environment Agency, the impact upon the Board's infrastructure and the options available to the Board. It was agreed to inform the relevant District Council of the implications of reduced Environment Agency maintenance.

29.10 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN.

The Engineer introduced the final draft of the Board's Biodiversity Action Plan, which had been previously circulated and is attached as Appendix A to these minutes and sought members views on the detail within the plan. Members suggested a number of minor amendments which the Engineer agreed to incorporate within the plan.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the plan and members instructed the Engineer to issue a press release and arrange for the plan to be incorporated within the Board's website.

30.10 LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK.

The Chief Executive referred to the County Council's proposals, which had been previously circulated, in response to the proposed Flood Bill.

It was RESOLVED to support the framework should the Bill receive Royal Assent.

31.10 ENGINEER'S REPORT No.572.

The Engineer's Report No.572, which had been previously circulated and forming Appendix B to these minutes was received.

The Engineer expanded upon aspects in his report relating to the telemetry upgrade and Boultham Pumping Station refurbishment. He reported that an operator remained on long term sick leave and explained the current situation. The members requested that an appropriate letter be forwarded.

Members sought clarification on the Board's stance on Norton Disney Quarry which was upstream of the Board's drainage district. The Engineer confirmed that he had been in correspondence with a number of parties involved in the proposal.

The Engineer's recommendations within his report were approved.

32.10 TENDERS FOR EXCAVATOR REPLACEMENT.

The Engineer referred to his report, which he had circulated prior to the meeting and forming Appendix C to these minutes confirming the results of the Tenders which had been opened by Vice Chairman, Mr. Ballerini, in the absence of the Chairman, and the Chief Executive.

The Engineer confirmed that the Tenders were in accordance with the Plant and Vehicle Replacement Programme and that the Tender of T.C. Harrison JCB, being the lowest received, was under the budget.

It was RESOLVED to accept the Tender of T.C. Harrison JCB to replace the Board's JS130, with a JS145LC TAB excavator at a net cost to the Board of £55,450.

