

UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board held on Monday, 17TH May, 2010 at South Hykeham Village Hall.

PRESENT: F.H. Myers Esq. - Chairman.
 R.H.P. Ballerini Esq.- Vice Chairman.
 R.J. Phillips Esq. - Vice Chairman.
 A. Bradley Esq.
 G.S. Christie Esq.
 N. Craft Esq.
 V.H. Dobson Esq.
 R.J. Epton Esq. M.B.E.
 M.D. Gallagher Esq.
 J.R. Hansard Esq.
 R. Hills Esq.
 J.R. Hollis Esq.
 Ms.P. Isaac.
 G. Kirby Esq .
 G.E. Porter Esq.
 P.J. Roe Esq.
 I. Stokes Esq.
 I.G. Smith Esq.
 S.H. White Esq.
 P. Wright Esq.
 Mrs. P.A. Woodman. M.B.E.

In Attendance: Chief Executive.
 Engineer.
 Administration Assistant.
 Mr. P. Winrow and Mr. N. Caley of Grant Thornton
 and two members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from M.J. Arnold Esq., T. Baxter Esq., Mrs S.K. Howe, M. Jones Esq., S. Kinch Esq., K. McCartney Esq., M.P. R.W. Parker Esq., J.R. Scarborough Esq., R.D. Skelton Esq., B.F. White Esq.,

38.10 WELCOME

The Chairman introduced Mr. Spaight and Mrs. Wilson, Board employees attending their first meeting.

39.10 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman reported that Mr. Karl McCartney, a member appointed by the Lincoln City Council, had been elected as Member of Parliament for the Lincoln constituency. The Chief Executive confirmed that a letter of congratulations had been forwarded.

The Chairman reported that Mr. Kirby was to be elected Mayor of Lincoln at the forthcoming Council Annual Meeting.

40.10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Council appointees Mr. Gallagher and Mrs. Woodman of North Kesteven District Council; Mr. Craft and Mr. Stokes of South Kesteven District Council; Mr. Dobson of Newark and Sherwood District Council; Mr. Hills and Mr. Kirby of Lincoln City Council and Mr. Hills and Mr. Phillips of Lincolnshire County Council declared interests in matters appertaining to their respective Councils as serving Councillors.

In addition, Mr. Phillips declared an interest in a consent application within the Engineer's report.

41.10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08 AND 2008/9.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Winrow and Mr. Caley from Grant Thornton, the appointed auditors. Members referred to the draft audit report for the two years in question and raised a number of issues with the auditors to determine the reasoning behind their qualification of the Boards accounts. The auditors confirmed that the accounts had been initially prepared on the limited assurance regime but the Board had been reclassified after the accounts had been prepared. The requirements of the reclassification had not been met as the relevant accounting standards were much more onerous. The auditors confirmed that they had only recently published a template for Drainage Board accounts.

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts for 2007/08 and 2008/9 and accept the auditors reports.

The Chief Executive reported that the Board had installed a new accounting package with effect from 1st April 2010, but the 2009/10 accounts would be prepared using the old package.

42.10 MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 15th March 2010, which had been previously circulated, were confirmed.

Matters Arising.

43.10 SHARPE WALK BALANCING LAGOON (25.10).

The Chief Executive confirmed that North Hykeham Town Council had not been aware of the commutation requirements and were seeking clarification.

44.10 SHIRE DYKE (28.10).

It was agreed that the Chief Executive contact the Environment Agency once again to re-register the Boards concerns at the lack of maintenance.

45.10 LINCOLNSHIRE FLOOD RISK AND DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT
FRAMEWORK (30.10).

The Chief Executive reported that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 had received Royal Assent shortly before the General Election. As a consequence, the County Council as lead authority had implemented the framework. The Boards Engineer had been appointed to the management group whilst the Chief Executive had been appointed to the Operational strategic group for central Lincolnshire.

46.10 WEBSITE (36.10).

It was resolved to publish the Board's accounts on the website.

47.10 MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7th May, 2010 were confirmed.

Matters Arising.

48.10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS (2).

Members raised a number of questions relating to the valuation of pumping stations, resale value and costs involved in instructing a suitably qualified valuer.

It was RESOLVED to implement the auditor recommendations over the forthcoming two years excepting the requirement to value pumping stations which would result in a qualification on the Boards accounts.

49.10 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009/10 (3).

It was RESOLVED to accept the strategy which had been previously circulated. It was further RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to review the strategy on a regular basis.

50.10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORTING (4).

It was RESOLVED that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be convened as required to manage risk, audit and financial reporting.

51.10 OPERATIONAL STAFF (5).

It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Engineer acting together, to replace operational staff whenever necessary.

52.10 LOGO (6).

It was AGREED to investigate the costs involved in facilitating a competition to produce a logo for the Board.

53.10 PAY AND CONDITIONS (7).

It was RESOLVED that any new appointments be engaged on "White Book" rates.

It was further RESOLVED to implement the 1.44% increase agreement reached by the Lincolnshire Pay and Conditions Advisory Committee.

54.10 ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES EXHIBITION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

It was AGREED to discuss representation at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

55.10 ENGINEER'S REPORT No.578.

The Engineer referred to his report, which had been previously circulated and forming Appendix A to these minutes, highlighting Boultham pump refurbishment, a factory visit to JCB, Norton Disney Quarry and the forthcoming eel and fish regulations.

The Engineers recommendations within his report were approved.

56.10 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS.

The Schedule of Accounts for 1st to 31st March 2010 amounting to £81090.98p and 1st to 30th April 2010 amounting to £79872.94p were approved.

Members sought clarification on a number of items and expressed views on the presentation to the accounts.

57.10 AUDIT CHANGES.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had supplied information to assist the Audit Commission in examining options for changes to audit thresholds.

58.10 MR. G. HIRD.

The Chief Executive reported that Mr. Hird had completed twenty years service with the Board and had chosen a gift in accordance with the Boards long service award scheme.

59.10 NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE.

It was reported that the Board would not be required to participate in the scheme for 2010/11.

60.10 INSURANCE CLAIMS.

It was reported that interim settlements of claims relating to the Depot break-in and theft on 28th April 2009 and Pyewipe pump cable theft had been received.

61.10 INSPECTION OF WORKS.

Members requested that a visit to Pyewipe pumping station be included within the forthcoming inspection of works.

.....Chairman.Date.