

UPPER WITHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held at the Executive Lounge, Lincoln City Football Club, Sincil Bank Stadium, Lincoln, LN5 8LD on Friday, 7th May, 2010.

PRESENT Mr. F.H. Myers – Chairman.
 Mr. R.H.J. Ballerini – Vice Chairman.
 Mr. R.J. Phillips – Vice Chairman.
 Mr. M.J. Arnold.
 Ms. P. Isaac.
 Mr. P.J. Roe.
 Mr. J.R. Scarborough.
 Mr. P. Wright.

In Attendance Chief Executive.
 Engineer.

1. APOLOGIES.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Craft, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Hollis, Mr. Parker, Mr. Skelton, Mr. Smith and Mrs. Woodman.

2. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/8 and 2008/9

The Chief Executive reminded members that his predecessor had prepared the 2007/8 accounts under the impression that the accounts were subject to a limited assurance audit. The Board had been informed subsequently that a re-classification of status had resulted in a requirement to a more stringent financial regime which his predecessor had sought to address by re-formatting the accounts for 2007/8. He had prepared the 2008/9 accounts using a similar format but without the benefit of any advice from the external auditor. As a consequence, the draft audit reports for the two years in question which had been previously circulated, were critical of many aspects for the accounts and the Board's systems of financial reporting.

A long discussion ensued on the practical aspects of the inclusion of pumping station values in the Board's accounts which would result in a budget valuers fee in the region of £50,000, which had not been budgeted for in the current years estimates. The members analysed the reports and recommendations at great length and RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Board confirm the 2007/8 and 2008/9 accounts; accept the report of the auditors and commit to implementing as many of the recommendations suggested within the forthcoming two years excepting the requirement to revalue pumping stations. The members were prepared to accept a qualification on the Board's accounts in respect of that item.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009/10.

The members examined the Risk Management Paper, which had been previously circulated, and RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Board that the paper was relevant to the 2009/10 accounts.

The Chief Executive agreed to undertake a fundamental review of the strategy with a view towards strengthening the strategy and reviewing the updated strategy with the relevant Board Committee at least every six months.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORTING.

The Chief Executive confirmed that Board members should have greater involvement in the Board's strategic and financial planning than had been the case in previous years.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be convened on a regular basis to manage risk, audit and financial reporting.

5. OPERATIONAL STAFF.

The Engineer reported that the Board's lorry driver/flail operator had recently passed away and that he wished to replace the position with a flail/mini excavator driver.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Engineer and Chief Executive be delegated authority to replace staff whenever necessary to ensure the efficient working of the Board.

6. LOGO.

The Chief Executive reminded members of a recent debate on the formulation of a Board logo.

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Chief Executive be authorized to approach the Lincoln College of Art to facilitate a competition amongst students to produce a logo with a token awarded to the successful designer.

7. PAY AND CONDITIONS.

The Chief Executive outlined current rates of pay amongst the operational staff which were not compliant with the Lincolnshire Pay and Conditions Committee recommendations (the White Book).

It was RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that subsequent appointments be made on "White Book" pay rates.

It was further RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Board implement the pay award agreed by the employers and employees should the ballot prove favourable. The deal on the table was a three year deal of 90% of average earnings index (currently 1.44% in the current year) or 1% if this was rejected.

8. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITYTIES EXHIBITION AND A.G.M

It was agreed to support any member wishing to attend the exhibition and A.G.M. but not to support members attending the gala dinner.

9. VISIT TO JCB FACTORY.

The Engineer confirmed that a small group of members had been invited to visit the factory on June 8th.

10. LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW.

In response to a members question, the Engineer confirmed that the Board would be participating in the Lincolnshire A.D.A. exhibition at the forthcoming show.

..... Chairman. .. Date

