

BLACK SLUICE

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD



Northern Works Meeting

Wednesday, 1st March 2017 at 3:30pm

Station Road, Swineshead, Lincolnshire PE20 3PW

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

I M Warsap
Chief Executive

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Our Ref: IMW/DPW/B10

Your Ref:

Date: 22nd February 2017

To all Northern Works Committee Members

Dear Member

Northern Works Inspection and Meeting

Please find enclosed the papers for the Northern Works Committee Meeting to be held after the Inspection of the northern area on Wednesday 1st March 2017.

We shall depart at 8:30am from the Boards Offices and arrive back for the meeting around 3:30pm.

Tea/coffee and bacon rolls will be provided from 8:00am onwards, drinks and a lunch will be provided.

Please wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for walking and possible trailer rides.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive and if correct sign the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Joint Works Committees held on 12th October 2016 (**pages 1-13**)
3. Matters arising.
4. To discuss the Inspection (this will be in the form of the Inspection Booklet handed to you on the day, please bring this to the meeting).
5. Rainfall (**page 14**)
6. Any other business.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Northern and Southern Works Committee

held at the Offices of the Board on
12th October 2016 at 2pm

Northern Works Members

Chairman - * Mr P Holmes

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| * Cllr R Austin | * Cllr P Bedford |
| * Cllr C Brotherton | Mr S Bartlett |
| * Cllr M Brookes | * Mr D Casswell |
| * Mr J Fowler | * Cllr Mrs J Harrison |
| * Mr R Leggott | * Mr J E Pocklington |
| Mr R Needham | * Mr P Robinson |
| Cllr C Rylott | * Mr N Scott |
| * Cllr P Skinner | * Mr R Welberry |
| Cllr N Welton | |

Southern Works Members

Chairman - * Mr M Rollinson

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mr W Ash | Mr J Atkinson |
| Mr V A Barker | * Mr K C Casswell |
| Mr J Casswell | Cllr R Clark |
| Mr R Dorrington | Mr P S Harborow |
| * Mr A Mair | Mr M Mowbray |
| * Mr M E Richardson | * Cllr B Russell |
| * Mr J R Wray | |

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr C Richards (Pump Engineer)
Mr J Mitchell (Technical Engineer)

1018 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Southern Works Committee: Mr J F Atkinson, Mr W Ash, Mr V A Barker, Cllr R Clark, Mr P S Harborow, Mr J Casswell, Mr R Dorrington and Mr M Mowbray.
Northern Works Committee: Cllr C Rylott, Mr R Needham and Cllr N Welton.

The Chief Executive stated that he has spoken with Simon Bartlett, who has offered his resignation from the Northern Works Committee as he has relocated employment outside of the catchment area. Mr Barlett said he has enjoyed his

time with the Black Sluice. The Chief Executive will be writing to Simon Bartlett on behalf of the Board Members to thank him for his efforts over the past years.

1019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr J Pocklington declared an interest in minute no 1023(b).

1020 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Southern Works Committee held on 2nd March 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Southern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record with the following amendments;

- a) Minute 906(f) - Mr R Leggott referred to "folly", asking if this should be "outfall". The Chief Executive confirmed that Mr V Barker had referred to the headwall as a "folly", and therefore the paragraph was not amended.
- b) Minute 906(m) - The Chairman of the Southern Works expressed the Works Inspection had been very successful. He highlighted that Mr G Playne had attended as a guest, and although he had a few issues with the Drainage Board, he thoroughly enjoyed the inspection and understood far better as to how an IDB works. He met with the Board's Officers, who were able to resolve his issues very quickly, and he concluded that if any Members knew anyone from their respective areas or ward that were aware of any problems or issues, then you could let the Chairman and/or the Officers know in order to solve it in an amicable manner.

There were no matters arising.

1021 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Northern Works Committee held on 16th March 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were considered by the Northern Works Committee Members and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record with the following amendments;

- a) Minute 913(a) – fourth paragraph; remove "contravention" and replace with "condition".

Mr R Leggott asked if any further progress has been made with Lincolnshire County Council regarding directing the local planning committees to propose conditions regarding safeguarding flooding? The Chief Executive answered no, other than the Drainage Group meetings and redirected the question to Councillors from Boston Borough Council who responded no. The Chief Executive concluded that he would take it back to the Lead Flood Authority Committee.

There were no matters arising.

1022 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING WORKS REPORT - Agenda Item 6

The Operations Manager presented the Report on Engineering Works:

2016/17 Defra/EA Funded Grant In Aid Schemes

(a) Graft Drain Northgate - Scheme 2086

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the works which have been completed. The grant was 50% less than asked for, hence why the works completed are 50% less. The Operations Manager stated that he does not believe, even though he has tried, that any grant in aid money will be forthcoming for this project, but he suggested there may be other avenues that can be investigated through Local Choices and LEP funding.

(b) North Forty Foot Drain

The Operations Manager presented a slide for Members information. He reported that he is currently in discussion with the Environment Agency to have their consultants progress these schemes, this being one of them. A lot of work has been done on this scheme already, but it is has not reached the stage to be granted any funding.

(c) Langrick Road, Boston Drain 12/2 - Scheme 2071

The Operations Manager stated there was another scheme within the same area as the North Forty Foot which is a continuation of the piping works done in 2011. He presented a slide showing this, and he has suggested to the Environment Agency that these schemes be re-profiled and packaged together, as they are both in same benefit area for works into this year, but this may not happen due to the lateness of the Environment Agency scheme year.

The works on the Langrick road pipe line is not straight forward, and the Operations Manager pointed this out on a slide plan, which showed an open section to the garden of a property which it is believed has a garage built on the top of the pipe line. He pointed out that access will be difficult and it will be dependent on the condition of the pipe, he added that those two schemes have been re-profiled and they are now going to be presented as one scheme.

Cllr Bedford added there is also a new development being worked up in the area of Julian's yard and the Ingelow Avenue playing field, and suggested that the Officers talk to the planning department to see how this is progressing.

(d) Donington Malting Lane - Scheme 2098

The Operations Manager stated that this item is for Members information and has been previously discussed. He stated that over the year's certain sections of pipeline along Malting Lane have been replaced. He highlighted on the screen a section of the pipe which is due to be replaced, and he added some of these sections are under discussion with LCC Highways, and the best option would be they are lined. The other sections which are the Boards responsibility are proposed to be replaced to include construction of a new manhole chamber. Funding is available for this

scheme and these works will be started end of November or early December 2016.

(e) Sempringham Fen Pumping Station - Scheme 2096

The Operations Manager stated that this scheme has been pushed back due to problems with the grant in aid report detailing the cost benefits gained and/or realising what benefits there are in this catchment due to its remoteness.

He pointed out that a similar scheme at Horbling Fen was agreed under different terms (i.e. health & safety) which ticks different boxes around the grant approval. The Environment Agency have changed the way that these schemes are profiled, which means no qualification through the health & safety view point. This scheme has been referred to the EA consultants.

(f) Kirton Meeres Drain 7/11 Culvert 2716 Replacement - Scheme 2087

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing a long pipeline. He stated that due to the problems achieving funding, a lot of work has been done on this scheme and it is now presented as an "in year opportunity". It does not have an allocation for funding in any particularly year, but if there are schemes which are at this stage, they may be considered for funding by the EA and they class them as an "in year opportunity". He explained that there are two options for this scheme, which are an open cut replacement or lining. He suggested to line this pipe and replace the headwalls.

(g) Damford Ground Pumping Station - Resilience

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing Damford Ground pumping station which was visited on the inspection tour. These works are to provide resilience to the control panel and the motor, and to build a wall around the pumping station to provide resilience from a breach of the bank of the Kyme Eau.

He stated that these resilience works have been on the medium term plan for 3 or 4 years. This scheme has been brought forward to the EA Consultants and has been split-funded over this year and next in order to develop the grant in aid report.

(h) Helpringham Fen weedscreen cleaner

The Operations Manager presented this scheme, which has similarities to Sempringham Fen, although the dump area has already been completed. This scheme has been referred to the EA Consultants to progress, the Operations Manager attending a second meeting with them on 10th October 2016.

The Operations Manager referred Members to an additional sheet presented at the meeting, detailing the updated figures in replacement of the original issued in the agenda.

He explained that all risk management authorities are asked and advised to have schemes "ready to go", but that is a difficult position to be in because

the most difficult part in any scheme is getting the grant in aid report approved for funding.

It would be an ideal situation to have future grant in aid schemes approved ready, in case funding then becomes available so these schemes can be realised.

The Chairman clarified that it is time well spent forward planning, and it is something we have to continue to do to be able to take advantage of the funding available.

2016/17 BSIDB Funded Capital Schemes

(i) Clay Dyke

The Operations Manager presented a slide detailing the cleansing of Clay Dyke to be started in January 2017. He added that further discussion with landowners regarding access is still ongoing, and this work will be finishing in March 2017.

(j) Morley Lane, Bicker

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the works at Morley Lane, Bicker completed in May 2016. He stated that additional works on a section around School Lane were also able to be completed within the budget for the scheme.

The photographs showed revetment works with timber along both sides of the channel. Mr Holmes asked what life span was on the timber; the Operations Manager answered that the original boarding was replaced in the early 1990s, and that other comparison materials increase the costs substantially, therefore to get 20+years' life is very worthwhile.

(k) Donington Wykes Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented a photograph showing the completed pump replacements works at Donington Wykes pumping station. The Pump Engineer stated that both pumps had completed 35 years of life before they were renewed and modified. He indicated on the screen a photograph of the sleeve which was placed into the suction bay tube to allow the new pump to be fitted as the new pump was slightly smaller. He added that the new pump has the same capacity and it runs slightly faster.

The Chief Executive reiterated that these are submersible pumps made by Flight who are market leaders in this operation, and he stated that the Board only has three pumping stations in which these submersible pumps are installed; Donington Wykes, Bicker Eau and Allan House.

Mr K Casswell asked how old are the pumps at Bicker Eau pumping station; the Pump Engineer answered these were replaced last year, with a slightly smaller pump, but still made by Flight.

(l) Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing eleven culverts in total which have been identified for possible replacement, some of which are long pipeline lengths.

He added that following on from the recent culvert surveys, accessible sections of the long pipe outfalls were inspected and they were found to be in poor condition. Therefore, the assumption is that the rest of the pipeline is of a similar condition. A survey will need to be carried out to find the condition which will cost around £1,000 per day for jetting and CCTV works.

- No 1253 Horbling Fen 40m x 0.6m - £8,000(estimate)C
- No 1283 Aslackby Fen 12m x 0.6m - £5,000(estimate)C
- No 755 South Kyme 12m x 0.9m - £7,000(estimate)C
- No 1959 Gosberton 15m x 1.2m - £10,000(estimate)C
- No 1795 Kirton/Frampton 12m x 0.6m - £1,500 (estimate)C
- No 2928 Kirton/Frampton 12m x 0.6m - £1,500 (estimate)C
- No 2880 Kirton/Frampton 4m x c1.2m - £2,000 (estimate)C
- No 2296 Kirton/Frampton 12m x 0.6m - £1,500 (estimate)C
- No 2878 Kirton/Frampton 11m x 0.6m - £1,500 (estimate)C
- No 2882 Kirton/Frampton 8m x 0.6m - £1,500 (estimate)C
- No 3817 Kirton/Frampton 18m x 0.6m - £20,000 (estimate)C

(m) Completed culverts

The Operations Manager presented photographs showing two of the completed culvert works, using kerb headwalls.

Proposed Works 2017/18

(n) Swaton Drain 36/2

The Operations Manager presented a slide viewing works carried out to improve the drain by reducing the gradient of the banks from a 1.5 to 1.0 to a 2.0 to 1.0. Unfortunately, even with the rock armour revetment the bank has continued to slip. A budget of £18,000 has been allocated to complete potential bank stability works.

The Operations Manager is aware that the Environment Agency are considering a scheme to slow the flow within the Swaton catchment to reduce the impact of any heavy rain within this catchment and along this watercourse. He proposed the budget is used in conjunction with the Environment Agency to assess the works proposed and potentially for the Board to assist in delivering some of the work.

The Chief Executive added this is going to be a project leader towards possible future catchments. The EA have already identified up to 90 separate water retaining locations for which they are in negotiation with landowners. Some of these water retention areas will benefit the Board and therefore we should be working in conjunction with the EA by offering some financial contribution. He recommended the Committee back this proposal to the Board for approval.

The Operations Manager added that the Environment Agency are seriously looking at this scheme with a £900,000 grant application.

The Chief Executive asked for the Committees agreement to recommend for approval by the Board.

Mr Leggott proposed to recommend to the Board all AGREED.

(o) Scredington North Beck

The Operations Manager presented a slide with a view of the North Beck which is a highland carrier near Aswarby. Following attending on-site with Mr G Playne, some remedial works have been carried out. The original slips were blocking the watercourse and there was virtually no channel, and the water had made its own route by digging into the banks to find its own way. Although there still are slips that require work done, the remedial works have improved the drain.

(p) Gosberton Pumping Station

After the Operations Manager asked members to refer to the expenditure sheet, he detailed the refurbishment of the weedscreen cleaner. The Pump Engineer stated that the weedscreen was installed in 1994 and the structure is in good condition. The trolley and winch assembly, which is the hub of the machine, are to be refurbished similar to those completed at Holland Fen. The Pump Engineer added that the cost is based on the Board's workforce doing the installation.

Mr Holmes asked as we replace these weedscreen cleaners, are we standardising them in that we can build a bank of parts by salvaging as much as we can? The Pump Engineer answered if a machine is dismantled, anything useable is kept as spares, the machines are Bosker machines and agreed they are the most reliable.

(q) South Kyme Pumping Station

The Operations Manager reported that the control panel will be replaced at South Kyme pumping station. The Pump Engineer added that it will be using the most up to date panel sections.

The Chairman asked how long are the pumps down whilst the panel is being replaced? The Pump Engineer answered 1.5 days adding that the pump has a dual drive gear box which can be driven using a tractor if required.

Drain Maintenance

(r) Annual maintenance summer cutting/flail mowing

The Operations Manager presented a photograph with the new Hitachi ZX210 with its long reach arm, adding that so far the machine operators have given good reports.

The Operations Manager then presented a map showing a screenshot of the summer cutting as at 7th October 2016. He explained what has been completed and where some areas have been flailed and are awaiting cutting.

Mr Richardson asked how was the performance of the Energreen; The Operations Manager answered that the Officers are not happy with the performance due to the number of faults, and they are investigating the option of a resale value for this machine.

The Chief Executive stated this machine was purchased from Energreen UK Limited, who no longer exist. It was purchased with a 35% buy back option within 5 years. This agreement is due to expire in a few months, and therefore he contacted Energreen Europe. An offer for the Energreen has been received circa £15,000 below the buyback amount, but he has since received notification from Energreen Europe stating they will honour the buyback agreement.

Mr Richardson asked if Energreen were going to reimburse the extra contractors expenses from this year whilst it was out of action; the Chief Executive answered no.

The Operations Manager reported that more money has been spent on cutting this year as works had started early. More flail mowing was completed earlier than last year, plus additional costs have a large element associated with alternative bank flailing and cutting. These bank cuts include working from the roadside which requires flag man and the correct signage. This takes additional time to perform this process, especially in certain areas where the road is not very wide, and the direction of traffic slows the process considerably.

The Operations Manager stated works are currently on programme and the large Hitachi machine has a small amount of work to complete then the rest of its programme is works for the Environment Agency where orders have been received.

Mr Wray asked does the works adhere to the alternate banks, because on some banks bushes have turned into trees; the Operations Manager responded stating the difficulty is, for the bigger machines especially, to identify long enough runs to make it a viable process, because if we move the machine in and cut a short length and then move it to the other side of the drain, the cost increases. The Officers are looking at the areas identifying where we can comfortably put a machine in to complete alternative banks cuts. The Officers are aware that if we don't alternate every year or at least a three-year basis, those bushes are too out of control to be maintained by a flail. The additional costs this year has included programme runs using the larger machines, which has a time and cost.

Cllr Austin asked are road closure sometimes an option and is that a difficult process? The Operations Manager answered yes, this has to be an option, and notification has to be given in advance unless it is emergency works then these can be carried out quite swiftly. Generally, we like to work with highways, and work with flagman and specific signage or works with traffic lights which are all additional costs.

(s) Proposed Cleansing works 2016/17

The Operations Manager presented a slide outlining the areas identified for cleansing which is circa 90,000m compared to the previous year of 60,000m. There is a programme in place to complete these works.

It was RESOLVED that the Engineering Works Report should be received and adopted.

1023 PROPOSED LARGE DEVELOPMENTS

(a) Q1 Development

The Chief Executive stated that he has had a meeting with Chestnut Homes regarding a change to the way they would be discharging surface water from the Q1 development site. The green field run off rate where there is no development contribution required is 1.4 litres per second per hectare.

Chestnut Homes are requesting a proposal to discharge at 10 litres per second per hectare. Chestnut Homes requested to split the site into three areas with the appropriate discharge into LCC Highways watercourse and Board-maintained watercourses. They have also asked how we are going to utilise this fund.

Chestnut Homes have requested the Boards approval and backing for those discharge amounts in order for them to progress with their plans and acquire the appropriate LCC Local Flood Authority permission.

The Chief Executive clarified the full design criteria will be brought to the next Board meeting.

(b) Proposed development Punchbowl Lane, Boston - B/16/0315

Mr J Pocklington declared an interest in this item.

The Chief Executive presented a slide showing the proposed development and reminded Members this development borders on to the future works discussed on Drain 12/2. He pointed out the proposed outfall discharge point which will flow into a riparian drain then into the Board maintained watercourse. He concluded this is a large development with the proposal to discharge at 1.4 litres per second per hectare with no development fee.

(c) Proposed development Malting Lane, Donington - H/04/0244-16

The Chief Executive firstly presented a slide showing a map of how complex this site is with the outfall into a Board maintained watercourse number 2/38. He stated the developer has not fully outlined his planned development and Officers are still in ongoing discussion as to where the surface water will be discharged. He concluded that this is to make Members aware, but until construction drawings are received the Officers will not be able to develop their thoughts and calculations.

The Chairman reported he had attended a Parish Council meeting and they are very concerned because they don't want any more surface water discharging into Malting Lane due to long term issues. The Chief Executive stated there is no known connection between this site and Maltings Lane.

Mr Leggott asked in calculating development discharges, it appears the information is provided by the developers. Are these calculations accurate?

The Chief Executive answered generally these calculations are correct; in this case, due to the complexity of the site, we do not have the expertise internally to check the calculations.

Therefore, once all the information is received from the developer, it will be sent to an external consultant to assess the calculations.

1024 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

(a) Boston Barrier

The Chief Executive stated the Transport & Works (Applications and Objections procedure) Act has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He announced the documentation received is located in the Boardroom should any Member be interested in viewing it.

The Chief Executive remarked he had attended with the Chairman the 250th anniversary of the opening of the Boston Grand Sluice. He presented a slide photograph taken near to the site of the proposed barrier, which gives an idea how close the barrier is to the Black Sluice Pumping Station.

Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Group has pushed for a de-silting regime for the South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) following the full survey completed by the EA.

The Chief Executive reported details from this survey quoting the quantity of silt in the SFFD for the full 31 kilometres, in relation to the original design bed level, is 277,000 cubic metres of silt. At 2 tons a cubic metre, that is over half million tons of silt in the SFFD today. This is displacing the capacities and reducing flows, and the Officers have expressed concerns, as well as the lack of bushing works which Members have seen on the Works Inspections.

He remarked that there is an indication from the EA that they may be looking to de-silt a 6.5 kilometres section of the SFFD from the Black Hole Drove to Sempringham Pumping Station which requires 18,000 m³ of silt to be removed. The process the Board are proposing is a silt cutting and pumping device to pump water and silt away to field lagoons. The silt can be pumped up to 5km from source.

The Chief Executive added that the Officers are in the process of approaching landowners/ratepayers along both sides of this 6.5 kilometre section.

David Casswell asked does the silt contain any contaminates and is classed as waste? The Chief Executive answered it is not classed as waste because it is deposited adjacent to a watercourse. The silt has previously been tested and it has always been not contaminated. A re-test will be requested.

(b) Water Resource East Black Sluice Case Study Group (WRE)

The Chief Executive reported on the WRE whose members comprise of;

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Natural England
BSIDB
Welland & Deeping IDB
Lincolnshire County Council
The Greater Lincolnshire Enterprise Partnership
The Fens Agricultural Water Group
NFU
UK Irrigation Association
Anglia Water Service

The WRE are organising a case study workshop to be held on 25th November 2016 at Springfields Centre, Spalding and invited all Members to attend. He asked if Members could please indicate if you are able to attend and leave details at the end of the meeting.

Anglia Water are looking for this project to guarantee c150 million litres of water a day, either from or transported through our catchment.

(c) EA/BSIDB Public Sector Collaborative Agreement

The Operations Manager continued by showing a slide of the completed works for the Environment Agency. He stated that one of the watercourses has not yet been completed due to a badger set in the raised banks, which is a health & safety risk due to instability of the bank.

He added that some additional bank top cuts have run into problems due to non-receipt of orders for the programmed work. These works should have been started in April 2016. Due to the delay and reaching site May/June, the vegetation was over 1.0 metre high. The bank top cuts being for health & safety reasons, and due to the late receipt of orders and length of vegetation, only one of the two programmed cuts were able to be completed.

The Operations Manager indicated that orders with the Environment Agency will be look to be received earlier in the programme, and have requested a more fixed long term continuity agreement be received. Unfortunately, the EA are not aware of their budgets until the start of April of the current financial year, which impacts on their spending which in turn creates problems for us as a contractor trying to deliver the work when they want the work done.

1025 WATERCOURSES TO ABANDON OR COMMENCE FUTURE BOARD MAINTENANCE - Agenda Item 7

The Chief Executive reported that the Board spends £700,000 on our drain maintenance budget to service 755 kilometres of watercourses. In theory, through legislation within the Land Drainage Act, there is a possibility we could stop maintaining approximately 10%, which could be a saving of £70,000 which could be moved to other important works.

The Technical Engineer has prepared, as a desk top exercise, a map indicating potential sections of watercourse which either serves only one land owner or

where it is not in the interest of the Board to carry on maintaining these watercourse end runs and small lengths.

The Officers believe, for various reasons, that these particular drains could be given up, as there appears to be no benefit for the Board to continue to maintain these drains.

The Operations Manager presented three slides of basic examples. He requested that Members indicate how they wanted the Officers to investigate potentially giving up some of these smaller sections, which are located at top ends of watercourses serving no purpose, as well as a few long runs alongside additional maintained watercourses.

Mr Holmes explained that often land runs off into riparian drains before out falling into Board maintained watercourses, and as landowners they have an obligation to maintain these.

Mr Leggott expressed he would not be in favour of drains being given up solely on the basis of it servicing one landowner as other factors should be considered alongside, factors like type of land, and the knock on effect on drainage.

Mr Scott expressed that if it is a rule under Law then we should adhere to it. The Finance Officer clarified the Land Drainage Act states as an IDB we do not have an obligation, but the Board can decide not to maintain a drain where it does not serve more than one landowner. However, if the Board decides it will benefit the whole catchment, then it can decide to maintain those drains.

The Chairman stated that if some of these drains have received requests by the landowner to give them up, then those can be dealt with in the first instance.

The Operations Manager showed a slide detailing Drain 31/4 at Quadring Fen, with a request to give up. Mr Casswell informed him that this land has now been sold.

Mr Fowler expressed that he is in this situation. In some ways he would welcome taking back control some of these drains because he believes that he would carry out the same maintenance and would incur cost savings by not having the Board impinging their own maintenance programme. He believes there is a case for some landowners wanting to take ownership back.

The Chairman rounded off this point by stating that letters will be sent to landowners in the first instance. If the response is they agree, then these can be the initial ones given up. Other more difficult proposals would then be reviewed and consulted upon. The general consensus Members agreed, including that any drains given up should be in good maintained order.

1026 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 8

The rainfall figures were presented, copies of which had been circulated. They are now available on the Board's website.

1027 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 9

(a) Plant Incidents

The Operations Manager reported that our latest Twiga became inverted in a drain recently, but nobody was in it at the time. It happened in the last week of August after heavy rain fall.

The Operations Manager then presented a photo slide and pointed out the bank top. The driver could not travel forward or backwards and realising this he called for assistance from the Unimog. The Unimog could not move it, so an excavator tracked to his position. Unfortunately, in changing the chain over onto the excavator, tension was lost and the Twiga lost its centre of gravity and went over into the drain.

The Operations Manager stated that an assessment for repair has been received for circa £52,000, and this has been relayed to the insurance company. The larger part of the cost is the damage to the cab at £36,500.

The Operations Manager also clarified that whilst visiting Energreen in Italy, they had asked if the wheel and tyre configuration on this machine was correct for tracking along bank tops and Energreen had confirmed yes.

The Operations Manager then reported another accident which occurred last week. The driver has worked for the Board since 1983, and has an unblemished record. He retired in June 2016 and comes back on a requirement basis. The driver was working on 6th October 2016; he did his usual checks and tracked the machine towards a culvert to continue working, but he was momentarily not looking where he was going and tracked straight into the drain. Unfortunately, on this occasion this driver was injured, sustaining a broken wrist and shoulder.

The machine was recovered within a few hours and has been assessed for damage, the quotation for repairs being c£9,000. The Operations Manager stated that on the following Monday morning all the workforce received a toolbox talk and recap on safe working practices.

(b) Swineshead Silt Pit

The Operations Manager explained that they have been approached by Swineshead Parish Council to clean out Mackays pit, Swineshead. After visiting the Floodex show, a company who provide a mud pump which pumps up to 100 metres, agreed to demonstrate this pump at the pit free of charge.

The Operations Manager presented slides showing photographs of the works stage by stage and perhaps it achieved 70% of the task. Cllr Brookes added that there was a lot more silt in the pit than was expected.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:40pm.

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD Rainfall at Swineshead Depot

MONTH	Rainfall		Actual / Average
	Actual	25 Year Average	
	mm	mm	%
Feb-16	28.4	34.9	81.38%
Mar-16	57.5	35.5	161.97%
Apr-16	55.2	42.7	129.27%
May-16	37.4	49.5	75.56%
Jun-16	80.4	52.7	152.56%
Jul-16	34.2	65.5	52.21%
Aug-16	66.2	66.7	99.25%
Sep-16	44.7	47.2	94.70%
Oct-16	53.2	62.5	85.12%
Nov-16	41.2	56.0	73.57%
Dec-16	17.8	51.0	34.90%
Jan-17	39.6	51.0	77.65%
Totals	555.8	615.2	90.34%

