

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the
Southern Works Committee

held at the offices of the Board on the
3rd April 2019 at 16:05pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr M Rollinson

* Mr W Ash	* Mr J F Atkinson
* Mr V A Barker	* Mr K C Casswell
* Mr J Casswell	* Mr R Dorrington
Mr C Dring	* Mr A Mair
* Mr M Mowbray	Cllr B Russell
Cllr S Wray	* Mr C Wray
* Mr J R Wray	

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)
Mr P Holmes (Vice-chair & Chairman Northern Works Committee)

Cllr P Bedford (Executive Committee Member)
Cllr M Brookes (Executive Committee Member)
Mr J Fowler (Executive Committee Member)

Mr R Welberry (Northern Works Co-opted Member)

1414 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies of absence were received from Mr C Dring, Cllr B Russell, Mr J Pocklington and Cllr S Wray.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the Northern Works Co-opted Members and gave the Board's apologies for the oversight of the agenda's that didn't get sent out.

1415 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

(a) MR J CASSWELL - PROPOSED NEW ACCESS ROAD TO DONINGTON NORTHINGS PUMPING STATION

Mr J Casswell noted his interest in this as the landowner.

(b) MR V BARKER - DOWSBY LODGE PUMPING STATION

Mr V Barker noted his interest in this.

1416 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the Joint Works Committee, regarding the Southern Works Committee, which was held on 28th November 2018, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was AGREED that the Minutes should be jointly signed as a true record.

1417 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 4

There were no matters arising.

1418 TERMS OF REFERENCE - Agenda Item 5

The Chairman made reference to the email sent previously to the meeting explaining the mistake in the agenda item. The revised terms of reference were displayed on screen, with the only difference being the number of members / council representatives in the first two paragraphs and the quorum number in the first paragraph of section 2, as follows; *eight* members, *one South Holland* Board member, *one South Kesteven* Board member and a quorum being *six* members.

The Chairman noted that there are only five Southern Works Committee Co-opted Members and so there is availability for three more, further noting that it would be good to encourage younger members.

All AGREED that the Southern Works Committee Terms of Reference be RECOMMENDED to the Board for approval.

1419 DISCUSS THE OPERATIONS TOUR & INSPECTION - Agenda Item 6

The Operations Manager presented the agenda item as follows;

(a) FDGIA WORKS - DRAIN 2/11, MALTING LANE, DONINGTON

These works have been started and are due to be complete within the following few weeks. A total of 80 metres will have been replaced.

(b) PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF A BRICK ARCH TUNNEL FOR THE LANDOWNER CULVERT 1684 - DRAIN 2/37 - MILL DRAIN, DONINGTON

This has been reviewed on multiple occasions over the last few years in relation to a replacement. The current price being offered to the landowner for a 12 metre x 1500mm culvert replacement is C£17,550. The Board could complete this work, if the landowner wanted to use other contractors to complete it then it would still have to be completed to the Board's specification. A response form the landowner is awaited.

(c) PROPOSED NEW ACCESS ROAD TO DONINGTON NORTH INGS PUMPING STATION

There is ongoing negotiation with Network Rail regarding proposed alternative access to Donington North Ings Pumping Station. Currently, the negotiations have not progressed any further than an initial cost for the access.

The Board does not wish to cross the railway line needlessly, there is an alternative, which is currently being discussed in more detail, subject to any compensation that may be available from Network Rail. This is now four years on from the first site visit. Once this alternative has been more established, consultations will take place with the landowner to negotiate access over his land. Mr J Casswell noted that he is happy to discuss with the Board as soon as they are in a position to do so.

The Operations Manager also added that the existing access culvert is not in very good condition and so the new access would remove the use of the current culvert.

(d) RMRN BSIDB ADOPTION OF EA MAIN RIVERS - HORBLING CATCHWATER, TOWN BECK & DIVERSION DRAIN

The Operations Manager made reference to the five previous Environment Agency main rivers that have been taken on by the Board for future maintenance and responsibility.

In reference to Horbling, there are some problems encountered during high flows, with the local farmer taking action to mitigate the possibility of the house flooding. There has been consideration of potential work to increase the capacity at Horbling Pumping Station to try and help resolve these issues.

(e) DOWSBY LODE PUMPING STATION

The roadway is in poor condition and requires repair. The Operations Manager has suggested two options for repair as follows; reclaim existing material or level out the existing material and import new material to level the existing tracks and looking just at the tracks rather than the whole road. A material that can compact would be used, a suitable material will be further reviewed.

The Operations Manager made further reference to a roadway at Bicker Fen, that the reclamation process was used on. It is quite a small outlay, however, it has a short shelf life, being dependent on the existing material in the road.

Mr V Barker mentioned the technique of pitch pointing, which is how the road was originally made.

(f) SOUTH FORTY FOOT DRAIN & SILT LAGOON - BILLINGBOROUGH FEN PUMPING STATION

The Chief Executive acknowledged Mr J Atkinson, Mr M Mowbray and Mr A Mair and posed the hypothetical question regarding if they were to own land adjacent to the South Forty Foot Drain and whether they would be interested in providing land for another lagoon in the section proposed to next be de-silted; to which they all said they would be interested.

Mr V Barker suggested that for the next lagoon negotiation the solicitors are brought in earlier as he felt it was embarrassing that the Board hadn't got everything in place for Royal Smals to start working with the last lagoon. The Chief Executive added that a suitable area has been identified which is privately owned and so will hopefully be privately negotiated, adding that in the last case there were a lot of delays from the solicitors employed by the landowner.

(g) ANGLIAN WATER VALVE - HACCONBY PUMP DRAIN

This is an unconsented site with a concealed valve in the bank. The Board have been working at the site completing cleansing works and it has been supposed that the Board has damaged the valve.

Anglian Water have suggested that they won't look to recover the cost for the damage from the Board if the Board doesn't try to recover the cost of the repair of the bank.

The Chief Executive added that it is believed that the Board didn't actually hit the valve, but that the damage may have been caused by the vibrations from tracking across the bank. There were a few weeks between the Board carrying out the work and the problem being reported.

Mr V Barker noted that there are many Anglian Water pipe crossings etc. and that he suspects very few of them have the Board's consent for. He felt that they should be asked to provide detail of where they are all located.

The Chief Executive agreed, explaining that following the irrigation and abstraction meeting on the 14th May 2019, there will be another meeting with utilities to discuss this matter.

The Chairman added that with the twelve-month amnesty, all of the Anglian Water obstructions also need to be consented.

The Operations Manager continued that the valve was not protected, there was no concrete chamber around it, it was unmarked and not visible. It is believed that a meeting with them is the way to resolve and prevent these issues in the future. At current, the Board have asked for Anglian Water to prove they have consent for the structure to be there which is still awaited.

(h) LAND LOSS CLAIMS DUE TO BOARD WORKS AFTER AWS BURST

With regard to the new dyke at Dyke Fen, the ground is poor, the channel and the gradients of the bank aren't consistent. There have been several bursts along the drain. The Board generally maintain it from the south side. The landowner is concerned that the bank is in such a poor state that he is losing a considerable amount of land that he isn't being compensated for, and so action needs to be taken to ensure that the landowner doesn't lose any more land. The landowner feels he should be compensated for the land lost.

The Operations Manager noted that the benefit to the Board has to be considered if the bank was to be re-profiled, noting that he doesn't believe there would be a great benefit in spending time and money reprofiling it. In the short term, the Board are looking to carry out maintenance from the north side to give the land some respite and allow it to recover.

Mr W Ash noted that there have been numerous bursts in the past and that the soil is not stable, adding that he doesn't believe it is solely due to the Board's equipment.

(i) NEW FIELD ACCESS CULVERT - GRAFT DRAIN, NORTHGATE

The Operations Manager has met with the landowner on a few occasions, he has recently acquired the land and is keen to push this forward. The Operations Manager has agreed the location with the landowner for the placement of the new culvert. There may be an opportunity for the Board to offer a contribution towards it of around £1,000 in respect of the Board using it once / twice a year.

(j) BSIDB SCHEME WORKS - GRAFT DRAIN, NORTHGATE

The Graft Drain works (silt removal, cleansing, replacement / removal of culverts) have now started again, a budget of £20,000 is required to continue these works into 2020/21.

Proposed by Mr V Barker and seconded by Mr K Casswell, the committee AGREED to RECOMMEND a budget of £20,000 for the continuation of the Graft Drain works in 2020/21 to the Board.

(k) DE-SILTING WORKS - HAMMOND BECK, QUADRING FEN

The Operations Manager noted that the same drain is also being worked on at Wyberton within the northern area.

The Chief Executive noted his thanks for the contributions and discussions that took place throughout the day. He also urged committee members to pass the word about the irrigation and abstraction meeting being held at the offices of the Board on the 14th May 2019 at 10:00am, also asking for people to ring the office to confirm their attendance.

1420 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 6

The rainfall figures at Black Hole Drove were circulated. The March 2019 figures were presented on screen and noted that they are now on the website. The committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

1421 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 7

(a) YELLOW FLOWER

Mr J Atkinson made reference to the 'yellow flower' that grows on the banks. He noted that it is now the time of year where it is about to start and questioned if farmer's can mow their own patches if they so wish?

The Chief Executive responded that Black Sluice IDB don't own any of the banks and so farmers can mow should they wish to. Mr P Holmes added that the environment committee encourage landowners, if they feel they can do it themselves and wish to do so, to flail the vegetation themselves.

The Chief Executive further noted that at the next environment committee meeting on the 15th May 2019, the Operation's Manager will be reporting about the yellow flower.

Mr J Atkinson noted that there is tremendous potential for yellow flower at Dunsby Fen along the South Forty Foot Bank and wondered whether the Board or the Environment Agency would be willing to make a contribution and mowing the worst patches? He further noted that it has been so thick in the past that birds aren't nesting.

The Operations Manager responded that it was agreed that some trial sections would be flailed by the Board in May which is being worked towards. It was noted that the length Mr J Atkinson made reference to along the South Forty Foot Bank could be used as a suitable trial area.

(b) INDENTIFICATION OF CONSENTED OBSTRUCTIONS

Mr J Fowler suggested that prior to the irrigation and abstraction meeting on the 14th May, the GIS department look into the use of the 'what three words' app. The app identifies geographical location by giving three unique words of any three metre square area. This would be a simple method for landowners to report the position of obstructions through.

(c) IRRIGATION & ABSTRACTION MEETING 14TH MAY 2019

The Chairman asked committee members to encourage those who should be at the meeting to attend.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:50.