

# **BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**

## **MINUTES**

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the  
Northern Works Committee

held at the Offices of the Board on  
1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 at 2pm

### **Members**

Chairman - \* Mr R Leggott  
Vice Chairman - \* Mr P Holmes

* Cllr P Bedford	* Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr S Bartlett	* Cllr M Brookes
* Mr K C Casswell	Mr D Casswell
* Cllr D R Dickinson	* Mr J Fowler
* Cllr Y Gunter	* Cllr A Lee
* Mr J E Pocklington	Mr R Needham
Mr P Robinson	Mr M J Scott
Cllr Singleton-McGuire	Mr R Welberry
* Cllr S Woodliffe	

(\* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)  
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)  
Mr P Nicholson (Operations Manager)

### **593 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Scott, Mr R Needham, Cllr R Singleton-Maguire, Mr P Robinson, Mr D Casswell. Mr R Welberry did not attend.

### **594 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **595 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were considered and it was AGREED the Minutes should be signed as a true record.

### **596 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **(a) Proposed land drainage improvements - Punchbowl Lane, Brothertoft**

The works to resolve the land drainage problems at the junction between Punchbowl Lane and Langrick Road have now been completed. Working in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council, who assisted with the road closure, the total cost c£12,500 against a budget of £19,600.

596 (a) Cont.....

Following a 2 year maintenance period the asset will be transferred for future ownership to H Robinson & Son.

(b) Riparian Drainage Issues

The Chief Executive presented a slide outlining the current position of all land and property on the south east side of Station Road, Hubbert's Bridge.

Within the terms of the Lincolnshire ADA Enforcement and Consent Concordat agreement, letters have been sent to residents of Station Road, Hubbert's Bridge. There has been a positive response from residents and landowners with some works being carried out. Some have not taken appropriate action and the Lincolnshire ADA Concordat states that identification of a "nuisance" in the form of water backing up at their property due to heavy rainfall, is required before further action can be taken.

(c) Boston Tidal Surge and Flooding Event

The Chief Executive stated that he is attending a meeting next week to agree protection works to the historical brick arch culvert. It was discussed that works had commenced by the EA to raise the existing bank to a minimum 7.3m ODN with a minimum 4.0m bottom bank width. There is a £500,000 FDGIA allocation for the bank from Slippery Gowt to the barrier site.

Witham 4<sup>th</sup> IDB are reviewing the Northern bank with the EA and how they can tie in a 7 metre bank up to Hobhole.

597 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING WORKS REPORT - Agenda Item 4

The Operations Manager presented the Report on Engineering Works:

(a) Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station resilience works

The Operations Manager presented slides of the before and after photographs of the pumps and panel at Wyberton Marsh Pumping Station. These works were completed prior to the tidal breach and these pumps came into use to evacuate the water.

The photograph shows that these pumps and panel are situated above the lowest point of the secondary bank and the new non-return valves fitted protected the station from the high level sea water syphoning back into the pumping station.

(b) Kirton Marsh Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented additional slides for Kirton Marsh Pumping Station showing the works similar to Wyberton Marsh but on a smaller scale. The flap valve open section of the drain was fitted with a plastic valve which due to its weight was easier to fit.

The Chief Executive also highlighted that an inflatable air bag was fitted within the pipe with a compressor to hold back the water whilst work was carried out, an extremely effective piece of engineering.

(c) Syphon Guard Protection

The Operations Manager presented a slide of the newly fitted syphon guard at Little Hale, he stated that hand rails are due to be fitted around the top as a Health and Safety requirement.

(d) Wyberton Marsh Catchment Improvement Study

The Operations Manager stated that the Consultants are to provide an appraisal of the conveyance of water from Marsh Lane Industrial Estate to the drain and whether improvements and/or options are feasible.

(e) Cooks Lock & Chain Bridge Pumping Station Eel pass flap valves

The Operations Manager stated that an allocated £80,000 has been ring fenced for this year and the flotation valves have been sourced.

(f) Swineshead Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager stated that an application for these culverts is currently at the first stage and will lead into next year.

(g) Kirton Meeres Culvert Replacement

The Operations Manager stated that this has not progressed any further with the Environment Agency as we are having difficulty getting approval for "moderate schemes" it is challenging to identify the benefits.

(h) Eel Passability Studies

The Environment Agency have identified 71 pumping stations in the Anglian region 18 of which are Black Sluice's in a category (a) or (b).

The allocated £5,000 for each pumping station study is being progressed and by December of this year the proposals will be put forward for review.

(i) Defective Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager presented a slide of defective culvert conditions which are evident along the water line. The Officers are trying to complete the culvert inspections in Swineshead. In the Northern Works area only two culverts have been identified of which one has been replaced within this year's budget. As the surveys are carried out there maybe some more fall into the Catagory A which would require replacement.

(j) Defective Culvert Replacements

		Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Remove	Removed	Replaced	Contribution
Damford	18	0	3	13	2	0	0	
South Kyme	36	3	6	19	4	1	3	3
Trinity	15	0	1	13	1	0	0	
Horbling	30	0	3	27	0	0	0	
Dowsby	37	1	7	26	0	2	1	1
Rippingale	19	0	0	19	0	0	0	
Swineshead	359	3	22	218	6	0	0	
Helpringham	55	0	10	45	0	0	0	
	569	7	52	380	13	3	4	4

In Swineshead there are 110 to be inspected.

(k) Completed Culverts in Northern Area

The Operations Manager presented slides with before and after photographs of completed works. He highlighted the broken kerb head walls construction around the end of the pipe.

(l) Helpringham Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that the new motor control for the Helpringham Pumping Station is currently being installed.

(m) Swineshead Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented a slide which showed the view of the three pumping bays behind the weedscreen which have been modified. Whilst the water levels were reduced it became apparent that a lot of the bolts on the pumps needed replacing. The chambers have been desilted and the software for the weed screen has been updated.

(n) Ewerby Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented pictures of the process during the refurbishment of the pump.

(o) Bicker Eau Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that the pump delivered had been the wrong size therefore the supplier is organising a replacement.

(p) Development Fund

The Operations Manager stated that replacement of the 1200mm pipe with a 2000mm pipe at Wyberton Marsh Roads has been approved by the Board. The works are being programmed for later this financial year.

(q) Environmental Works

The Chief Executive stated that the study tour to Bourne Fen Borrow Pit had been very successful. Included in the Engineering Report are four environmental schemes.

(r) Drain Maintenance

The Operations Manager stated that a contractor had been hired in for a 12 week period with a 13 ton excavator. With 71% of the mechanical works done and 78% of the flailing completed at the end of August.

The Summer cutting commenced three weeks early on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014, high profile watercourses are constantly being monitored to determine whether a second flail and/or cut is required.

(s) Proposed Desilting, Bushing and Cleansing Works

The Operations Manager stated that letters have been posted and discussions have commenced with landowners regarding the cleansing programme for the winter months. This is in line with the 1 in 10 year programme. Scarborough Nixon will carry out the pre survey and post survey on drains with identified environmental issues.

(t) Pumping Station Maintenance

The Operations Manager stated that at the end of August there is an over spend against budget, the budget has been reviewed and for the second half of the year adjusted to align before the year end.

(u) External Recoverable Works

The Operations Manager stated that c£40,000 has been recovered for external works to date. The priority is not to increase external income but to complete the Boards works.

(v) Health & Safety

(i) Cope Safety Management

The Operations Manager stated that Copes have been appointed as the Health & Safety consultants for a 5 year period commencing May 2014.

It had been decided to increase the security of service and to build up a relationship over a longer term contract, offering increased confidence and continuity.

(ii) Lone Worker

The Chief Executive stated that he and the Finance Manager had met with Peoplesafe to discuss a mobile phone indicator/logging on system which will indicate green, amber or red to a remote station 24/7.

A finish time can be input and whilst the amber mode reports every ten minutes if more hazardous the situation it goes to red then an exact satellite position with alarm to respond in 60 seconds. The device identifies gradient and has to be kept in a vertical position. The water service companies have adopted this system

The Committee discussed and felt that a report of the staff's opinion of this device would be a recommendation.

(w) Plant

(i) JCB JS145HD

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing damage which had occurred following an incident to the JCB JS145HD. He stated that a qualified operator employed for 9 weeks was not injured. The Landowner had removed a side drain culvert because it had collapsed and the arisings were spread on his side of the field and could not be seen by the operator.

NFU have suggested we move the JCB JS145HD to Peterborough as it has been 3 weeks since the machine was taken to TC Harrison who have not yet given a quotation for the work required to repair the damage.

Upper Witham IDB have fortunately got a 16 ton machine which is on the market for sale, we have hired it to continue our works. The cost will be £360 per week, the insurance will not pay the hire costs.

(ii) Near Miss Reports

A member of the Committee asked if near misses were documented as part of the reporting policy. A potential near miss of an accident can often be very useful to highlight any dangers. It was AGREED that it would be a good point to raise to the Board.

598 BYELAW MATTERS

(a) Sidebar Lane, East Heckington

The Operations Manager presented a slide which had photographs of a structure spanning the Drain 9/7 at Sidebar Lane. Notice was served and the structure was removed by the Board on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The Owner has been informed of the procedure to apply for consent and to date no application has been received.

(b) Deldale Road, Wyberton Towns Drain

The Chief Executive stated that a resident at Deldale Road has requested replacement of the fence. He stated that when the land was purchased for access in 1960, the deeds state that "the Black Sluice are to erect and forever maintain a concrete post and chain link fence".

He stated that a section of the fence was replaced at No Deldale Road, the Committee AGREED that this fence could be extended across No Deldale Road and transfer ownership of the fence to the Resident.

It was recommended to carry out a detailed survey to identify where the 6 metre markers are. The Committee members recommended that the Board take legal advice.

599 PROPOSED LARGE DEVELOPMENTS

(a) Q1 Development, Wyberton

The Chief Executive stated that the SUDS directive has been delayed. There has been a change in the planning and therefore a review of the site and costs involved discharging into the Boards watercourses.

The Chief Executive stated that whilst the Board has agreed in principle to the realignment of the Wyberton Towns Drain, the applicant has yet to address the issues regarding the 9m byelaw distance with the existing overhead power lines.

(b) Broadgate Homes Development

The Operations Manager stated that the development at Boston West Primary School, west of Peter Paine sports field has been approved.

600 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

(a) Public Sector Co-operation Arrangement (PSCA)

The Operations Manager presented a slide of a map detailing the cutting works performed under the PSCA for the Environment Agency. The slide shows the lengths completed, 4.5 km at Swaton Eau and South Beck.

(b) Boston Barrier

The Chief Executive stated that Mott MacDonald have been appointed as the design consultants. He has met the team at a recent meeting.

(c) Black Sluice Catchment Strategy

The Chief Executive also added that the Environment Agency have appointed Mott MacDonald as their consultants on this strategy. Mott MacDonald's officers and EA members have attended a meeting at the Board's offices for an introduction to the Board's operations and catchments.

(d) Fens Waterways Link

The Chief Executive stated that due to financial constraints these works have currently been suspended.

601 Entry Level Schemes (ELS) and Higher Level Schemes (HLS)

The Chief Executive stated that the guidance leaflet is in the process of being prepared by ADA. It is proposed that the following information be placed on the Board's website:

- *Ditches managed by IDB's are not eligible for the EB6 Ditch Management option.*
- *Putting an ELS or HLS option alongside an IDB maintained ditch does leave the agreement holder exposed to a risk that the IDB will breach the rules of the scheme through their normal duties.*
- *Cross Compliance rules; it is the farmers responsibility to apply to the RPA for an exemption where they believe a body that has a legal duty to carry out work will do so (e.g IDB's covered by the Land Drainage Act 1991).*

*A 'Ditch Management Guidance' leaflet is being prepared by ADA (currently in a draft form), this will be published on the web site.*

The Committee members discussed this issue on the understanding that use of the margins for maintenance is acceptable if not used regularly. There are new Greening rules whereby you can have these margins alongside watercourses.

602 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON INCOME & EXPENDITURE - Agenda Item 5

The Finance Manager presented a slide detailing figures to the end of August. The Collection of drainage rates are £77k ahead of budget. There is an overspend of £55k on drain maintenance primarily due to works in schemes that could not be completed at the beginning of the year. The forecast for the end of the year is a small overspend.

The Finance Manager stated that the Environment Agency have changed the budgeted scheme works and approval will be sought at the next Board meeting in November to re state the budget and forecast.

603 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 6

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



604 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 7

(a) Proposal to Amalgamate Southern & Northern Works Committee Meeting for an Autumn Report Meeting only

The Chief Executive proposed that the Southern & Northern Works Committee hold a joint Autumn meeting as most of the information for the two committees is the same, it would be cost effective and Works Committee Members would see works from both areas. The Members discussed and agreed that the timing of the meeting could be later on in October and would recommend the proposal to the Southern Works Committee.

(b) Solar Panels on Swineshead Office Roof

The Finance Manager stated that the solar panels have been fitted to the office roof. The feed in tariffs have generated, in just short of two months, an income of approximately £3000.

(c) Environmental Tour of Bourne Fen Borrow Pit

Mr K Casswell commended the recent tour of the Bourne Fen Borrow Pit, he highlighted the quality of water at Pode Hole which runs into the Willow Tree Conservation area.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 4pm.