

# **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  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 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 K C Casswell |
| * 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 M J 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 M J Scott      | * Mr J R Wray     |
- (\* Member Present)

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

The Chairman of the Northern Works Committee welcomed Cllr C Rylott to her first meeting. He explained that this meeting is a trial Joint Works Committee and Members will be asked for their views later in the meeting.

### 816 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Northern Works Committee: Cllr C Brotherton and Cllr N Welton.

Southern Works Committee: Cllr R Clark, Mr J Atkinson, Mr J Casswell and Mr R Dorrington.

817 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

818 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Northern Works Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 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. There were no matters arising.

819 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Southern Works Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 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. There were no matters arising.

820 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING WORKS REPORT - Agenda Item 4

The Operations Manager presented the Report on Engineering Works:

**2015/16 Defra/EA Funded Grant In Aid Schemes**

(a) Graft Drain Northgate - Scheme 2086

The Operations Manager presented a slide of a map detailing the 30 culverts crossing this drain at Northgate. So far approximately seven culverts will be lost from dual access to fields. Some negotiating is still ongoing over other access points on either removal or a joint culvert.

Mr V Barker proposed the Culvert & Bridges Committee review the culverts to ascertain whether others could be removed.

(b) North Forty Foot Cleansing/Revetment Works

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the completed revetment works plus the section which had the gabion baskets and bank revetments completed in 2013/14. Desilting works need to be progressed working back to Cooks Lock pumping station. There is restricted access on the west side and no access on the east. The section from A52 Sleaford Road to Cooks Lock pumping station had been stoned along the bed and revetments completed to both sides in 1996/97 allowing easier access in order to clear the bed.

Mr P Robinson questioned the un-consented platforms along the drain, the Operations Manager stated that letters have been sent to residents and the works will include removal of these platforms.

The Operations Manager stated there is potential for some of the silt to be spread where possible, once dried onsite, but the remainder will need to be removed from site.

(c) Donington Malting Lane - Scheme 2098

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the information from surveys completed identifying the materials used and conditions of this length of pipe. The remaining sections which were constructed with concrete (ogee) pipes will be replaced first including replacement and new manholes as required following PAR approval for this scheme.

(d) Sempringham Fen Pumping Station - Scheme 2096

The Operations Manager presented photos of completed works at Horbling Fen pumping station to give a visual idea of the works to be completed at Sempringham Fen with a new weed screen cleaner being fitted. Funding being split originally over two years.

(e) Swineshead Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager stated that the first four culverts are to be replaced with second year funding for the scheme. The Swineshead area has 350 culverts in its catchment.

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

This culvert to be replaced is in an area where the ground conditions are not very good. Following results of the CCTV survey, it may be possible to line this culvert using ultra violet as previously used at Wyberton. A £15,500 (estimate) with a further £14,500 (estimate) in 2015/16, subject to identifying suitable benefits following PAR approval for this scheme.

(g) Eel Passability Studies

The Environment Agency have identified 18 Pumping Stations in the Black Sluice's IDB area 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.

(h) Wyberton Chain Bridge & Cooks Lock Pumping Station

The eel pass flap valves were fitted at Wyberton Chain Bridge and Cooks Lock pumping stations at a completed cost of £52,404.63 (estimate £73,000).

The Operations Manager presented a slide photograph showing how the eel pass flap valves work allowing the gate to be left open at high level. Mr R Welberry asked had any eels been seen recently on the CCTV, the Operations Manager responded that none had been seen.

(i) Wyberton Catchment Tidal Surge

Wyberton Catchment tidal surge recovery works £459,000. This scheme received grant approval in January 2015, such was the scale of the event which damaged drains and identified problems in the Wyberton area, works were not completed until the end of June 2015.

Improvement works to drains and culverts as shown in the slide presented showed culverts 1562 and 132 replaced and Lincolnshire County Council culverts lined using the ultra violet cured liner.

**2015/16 BSIDB Funded Capital Schemes**

(j) Leaves Lake Drove

The Operations Manager presented a slide detailing the capital scheme works proposed to divert existing flow to the South Forty Foot Drain. The scheme includes a culvert replacement for access to a field and a LCC culvert under the road which is to be relined using the ultra violet cured liner.

(k) Bourne Fen New Dyke

These revetment works were due in part to a burst water main. Repairs to the drain and desilting has been completed. Anglian Water has made full settlement of the costs associated with these repairs. Some re-instatement of remaining slips is required to complete these works.

(l) Culvert Replacements

The Operations Manager presented a slide detailing defective culverts replaced in the 2015/16 budget. Also those proposed for replacement in 2015/16. Out of the eight culverts identified for replacement five require contributions from the landowner and future responsibility for these will be signed over once completed.

(m) Holland Fen Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the Holland Fen PS weed screen cleaner which was one of the first ones installed, it is due a major refurbishment.

(n) Black Hole Drove Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the new roof at Black Hole Drove pumping station.

(o) Dowsby Lode

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the existing roof.

(p) Chain Bridge Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that repairs to the pumps in the form of balancing work have now been completed.

(q) Donington Wykes Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that these pumps are now obsolete and cannot be replaced as originally intended, due to the age and unavailability of like for like replacements. An estimate of an additional £15,000 has been received to adapt existing for fitting of new pumps.

**Proposed Works 2016/17**

(r) Helpringham Fen Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing the previous works on the completed dump area. This will be suitable to accept weed from the new weed screen cleaner.

(s) Clay Dyke

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing mapping of proposed cleansing works at Clay Dyke, a watercourse which has not been cleansed for 9 years. The section in front of the pump will require a hired machine to clean out. Discussions have not yet taken place on how the machines will access, extra costs may be involved.

Mr R Leggott raised concerns regarding the butterfly Wildlife Sanctuary and properties alongside School Lane. The Finance Manager stated that costs could be ascertained for discussion.

(t) Morley Lane, Bicker

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing drain bed/bank revetment required along the length of Morley Lane. Accessing this section will require road closure to replace existing timber post and board revetments.

(u) Swineshead Pumping Station

The Operations Manager presented a slide of Swineshead Pumping Station and discussed the extensive works to the three suction bays at this pumping station. The three bays now adapted to receive all flows the next stage being the proposed replacement of the weed screen cleaner c£85,000.

(v) Donington Wykes Pumping Station

The Operations Manager stated that replacement of the two pumps b/f (£25,000 from 2015/16 budget plus £15,000 from 2016/17).

(w) Environmental Works

The Operations Manager stated that environmental works detailed in the report as previously agreed. The budget of £30,000 is representative of BSIDB commitment to their Biodiversity Action Plan.

Cllr R Austin enquired about the Owl boxes which are doing a splendid job. The Chief Executive stated that the Environment Committee had agreed to replace/repair three owl boxes.

(x) Drain Maintenance

The Operations Manager stated that at the end of August 2015 (Period 5) the budget for maintenance works is £130,544 with the actual expenditure being £111,802 (£76,606 maintenance works and £35,746 electricity costs) resulting in a current under spend of £18,742.

The Operations Manager presented a slide of the summer cutting, 75% roding is now completed, 70% flail mowing is now completed. 50% of the Environment Agency rechargeable works is completed. Some of the main water carriers cut early in July 2015 will be looked at again to be cleared for winter, as part of the critical watercourse maintenance.

(y) Summer/Winter Crop Loss – Damage Compensation

(i) Holland Fen

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing slight damage to irrigation pipes at Holland Fen. These obstacles can damage the BS equipment and are virtually hidden.

(ii) Daffodil Crop

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing a daffodil bulb crop which has been reported after a wheeled flail mower worked along the drain side. The field looked like set aside but it contained bulbs, the farmer claims £900 damage to crop.

The Committee discussed and raised the following points;

- The programme for cutting is on the BS website and drainage rate brochure. Landowners are aware that at some point a machine is going to come down the drain side to cleanse.
- Alternating bank sides are used to cleanse over previous years
- Daffodil bulbs are very resilient they are left for 2/3 years
- The crop loss figure requested of £900 incorporates 6 rows which equates to 20 nets per row, Golden Ducat retails at £450 per ton.

The Committee RESOLVED to await the crop yield in April 2016 and make an assessment of the state of the flowers cropped.

The Committee also highlighted that landowners are utilising different crops to increase the value the workforce should be made more aware of alternative crops.

(iii) ELS Buffers

The Committee highlighted the ELS buffers which will be taken back into the field by landowners. Could consideration be given to investigation into a compensation rate to leave the buffer/grass margin for the machines to run along. Could the BSIDB approach landowners to see if important watercourses margins could be kept.

(z) Proposed Desilting, Bushing and Cleansing Works

The Operations Manager stated as outlined in his report and presented in a slide showing the proposed cleansing works for 2015/16.

(aa) Pumping Station Maintenance

At the end of August (Period 5) the budget for maintenance works is £130,544 with the actual expenditure being £111,802 (£76,606 maintenance works and £35,746 electricity costs) resulting in a current under spend of £18,742.

(bb) External Recoverable Works

Current external recoverable income is £91,807 for rechargeable works.

(cc) Plant

A new Spearhead Twiga SPV2 was purchased which arrived in June 2015.

The Operations Manager reported that following the EA/BSIDB meetings outlining a large portion of EA maintenance works to be completed. The Energreen is now fitted with a Kverneland Pro 2.35m front mounted flail mower to complete the bank top cuts required for this contract.

(dd) Great Hale Pump Drain 10/2

The Operations Manager presented a slide showing reported slips in the Great Hale Pump Drain. Previous revetments works were carried out in 2012. Further investigations are required to clearly view the problems and it will require damming to reduce the level of the water, initial costs are c£25,000 (estimated).

He added that there are questions regarding stability of the ground in this area due to very silty soil. The Committee reviewed the investigations required and AGREED to the works being carried out.

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

## 821 BYELAW MATTERS

### (a) 81 Wyberton West Road, Boston – 9m Byelaw

The Chief Executive presented a slide mapping out a proposed new dwelling with an outfall pipeline to the South Forty Foot drain. The pipeline does not have a consequence to the BSIDB system, upon enquiry Anglian Water show this as their pipeline therefore the application will have no judgement.

## 822 PROPOSED LARGE DEVELOPMENTS

### (a) Punchbowl Lane, Boston

The Chief Executive presented a slide of a proposed development at the first stage of planning for 100 houses. The eastern boundary runs alongside Drain 12/2.

### (b) Proposed Public House – Drain 5/2

The Chief Executive presented a slide of the drawings for a new public house, trees will block access and the applicant has been informed.

## 823 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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

The Operations Manager outlined in his report the potential maintenance works contracts agreed with the Environment Agency are c£90,000. The Chief Executive added that allocated resource is costed to these works and this is not affecting the BSIDB maintenance works.

### (b) Boston Barrier

The Chief Executive stated that there is an open invitation for anyone to attend a weekly information forum at the Boston Barrier Hub off Marsh Lane, every Wednesday afternoon. Cllr P Bedford added that the EA will arrange a private group out of hours if sufficient numbers and enough interest is generated.

### (c) Black Sluice Catchment Strategy

The Chief Executive stated that the public consultation has now ended, 180 people attend the sessions. The Environment Agency are reviewing the responses and will discuss with the IDBs and the review will be posted on the website.

The Chief Executive stated that today Mr V Barker made him aware of two Environment Agency pumping stations in Cheshire which have gone on the market for sale.

The Environment Agency has given permission for the specialist pump contractor to visit and assess the Black Sluice pumping station damaged pumps.



824 DRAIN AND PUMPING STATION SCHEME EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2015/16

The Operations Manager presented a slide with the updated Schemes Expenditure Budget 2015/16 proposing recommendation to the Board. All AGREED.

825 DRAIN AND PUMPING STATION SCHEME EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2016/17

The Operations Manager presented a slide with the recommend Schemes Expenditure Budget 2016/17 proposing recommendation to the Board. All AGREED.

826 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 7

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

827 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 8

(a) Joint Works Committees

The Chairman of the Northern Works Committee and Southern Works Committee agreed that there is common ground across the two Committees and attendance levels at works meetings are very good. Members All AGREED to continue this format.

(b) Spring Works Committees

The general consensus all Members AGREED that today's Joint Works Meeting was very advantageous. The Spring Works Inspections could be held on the same day albeit with one tour and meeting in the morning, then lunch and a further tour and meeting later in the afternoon.

(c) Solar Panels/Alternative Energy

Mr V Barker asked the Committee and Officers if this could be further reviewed as the subsidy on renewable energy rates will be ending in December 2015.

The Chief Executive responded that ADA Technical Committee are reviewing alternative water generated power.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1615.

