

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 the
16th March 2016 at 4:30pm

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 N Scott	Cllr P Skinner
* Mr R Welberry	Cllr N Welton

(* Member Present)

In attendance: Mr I M Warsap (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Manager)
Mr M Rollinson (Chairman Southern Works Committee)

Additional attendees on Inspection:

Mr M Needham (Guest)
Mr J Rodgers (Environment Agency – Black Sluice Pumping Station)
Mr T Dean (Guest)
Mr R Emerson (Guest)
Mr P Brookes (Lincolnshire County Council)

The Chairman thanked the Officers of the Board for a well conducted Inspection tour.

909 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence at the meeting were received from Cllr P Bedford, Cllr M Brookes, Cllr Mrs J Harrison, Cllr C Rylott, Cllr P Skinner and Cllr N Welton. All had attended the Inspection tour.

910 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

911 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - Agenda Item 2

The Minutes of the last Meeting regarding the Northern Works Committee at the Joint Works Committee held on 7th October 2015 copies of which had been circulated were considered and it was agreed the Minutes should be jointly signed as a true record.

912 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 3

(a) ELS Buffers - Minute No 820(y)(iii)

The Chief Executive reported that the Boards critical watercourses have been identified and 100 landowners were contacted in November 2015 to obtain their views regarding the proposed scheme for the Board to lease grass margins alongside these watercourses.

A total of 48% of landowners responded in varying levels with relevant reviews, concerns and issues. The Chief Executive stated that he had sent out a letter on 21st December 2015 thanking landowners for their responses and that the Board will not be progressing with the grass strips option due to amongst other issues the RPA permanent pasture ruling.

(b) Great Hale Pump Drain - Minute No 820(dd)

The Operations Manager stated that a slip had occurred since the completed revetment works, he has attended on site and the machines are scheduled to return to repair the bank by pulling the toe boards back into line - estimated cost is c£2,000.

(c) Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group - Minute No 823(c)

The Chief Executive stated that it was unfortunate that the Chief Executive of ADA was unable to attend the Inspection today. He stated that Mr Innes Thompson would like to attend a future meeting of the newly formed Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group. The main purpose of this group is to prepare plans over the next 2 years as to how the Board can secure the income to maintain the current EA main river assets. At the same time analyse our own management systems and resources in order to confirm we are capable of completing these maintenance works and asset management of the current EA main rivers and the Black Sluice pumping station.

The Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group which is chaired by Mr Robert Caudwell and made up of representatives from LCC, BBC, EA, GLLEP plus ourselves. So far we have had the first meeting and a number of action points are due to be reported back at the next meeting on 14th April 2016.

The Chief Executive commented how useful it has been to go along the South Forty Foot drain on the tour today which highlighted the low bank locations and gave an insight into the maintenance works required to bring the South Forty Foot drain back into a condition it was originally designed to. The Chief Executive will be reporting back to the EA regarding the condition of some of the banks, low level spots, badger setts and rabbit holes photographed. Members raised concerns that if high water levels were held up in the South Forty Foot Drain (i.e. no pumps running at Black Sluice Pumping Station) then the current banks would have an increased threat of being breached due to their current condition.

The Chief Executive added that last week during the heavy rainfall, many of the Boards Pumping Station pumps were pumping into the South Forty Foot drain. The Environment Agency Black Sluice pumping station ran both their pumps for three consecutive days pumping water into the Haven.

913 TO RECEIVE INSPECTION WORKS BROCHURE - Agenda Item 4

The Operations Manager presented the Inspection of Works:

(a) Abbey Road, Swineshead - Riparian Drainage Issue

An issue regarding the ownership and maintenance of a riparian watercourse between two new developments and an adjacent landowner has been ongoing with the Board acting as a mediator. The landowner has also raised the issue of the maintenance of the remaining watercourse between his land, Cragg Close, and the new developments.

It appears that the original developer has not fulfilled the requirements in their own maintenance statement. In addition, the new developer is currently constructing an extended development and, despite advice given by the Board, has also failed to adequately maintain their section of the watercourse. The Landowner has a consented overflow plan to pipe into the 4/37 drain, but has not progressed to installation without the developer's financial assistance.

The Chief Executive stated that in this instance we are in process of contacting all relevant parties regarding this issue, reminding those parties involved of their riparian ownership and maintenance responsibilities. This will be extended to include all riparian landowners within the Boards area.

The wider issue was discussed regarding agreements for future maintenance of riparian drains. It was suggested that it should be issued as a contravention of their planning permission by the local authority.

Mr Leggott stated that Lincolnshire County Council as the Lead Flood Authority should direct the local planning committees to safeguard flooding by adding covenants to propose conditions during planning consent regarding maintenance, drains, dykes and culverts accessing and vacating surface water.

The Committee discussed whether the Board should take over this drain. The Operations Manager stated that there is no access to maintain this drain from Cragg Close therefore it will have to be hand roding which would incur additional cost. They agreed that relevant parties be contacted regarding their maintenance responsibilities and any enforcement action consequences should the Board be required to cleanse this drain.

(b) Proposed Bushing Works – Coupledyke Lane, Kirton

The Operations Manager presented a photograph of trees at the corner of Coupledyke Lane, Kirton on the 7/2 Drain. These trees are obstructing access for the machinery to maintain this watercourse. The Committee AGREED that these trees should be removed.

(c) Access Issue Drain 7/8 – Proposed development land off Horseshoe Lane, Kirton

The Operations Manager outlined the history of this development proposal in the Inspection booklet. The Committee agreed that Officers should have further discussions with the developer to gain the necessary access required.

(d) Proposed large scale bushing works – London Road, Kirton

The Operations Manager presented photographic slides detailing drain 5/17 aside of London Road, Boston which requires large scale bushing works for machinery access. This section did not have any water in it during the heavy rainfall on the 9th March 2016. The Committee agreed for the Officers to investigate the option of giving up this watercourse.

(e) Proposed large scale bushing works – Town Drain, Frampton

The Operations Manager presented a map detailing proposed bushing works and poor culvert which is unsuitable for vehicles. To enable the machinery to gain access on the east side a number of trees need to be removed. The Committee agreed that the trees be removed.

(f) Q1 Development Update - Realignment of Wyberton Towns Drain and Access

The Operations Manager presented a map showing proposed works on the Wyberton Towns drain. In conjunction with these works, it was proposed that a bypass pipe be installed parallel to the existing layby pipe to compensate for the loss of storage for a proposed culvert extension north of the Q1 A16 roundabout. Funding to be obtained from the Development Account.

(g) High Water levels – land off Boardsides, Boston 9/10 March 2016

The Operations Manager presented photographic slides which showed the high water levels on the Boardsides on the 9th & 10th March 2016.

(h) Claydike Bank – Cleansing Works & Access Issues

The Operations Manager presented a map showing the details of this access issue which was viewed on the inspection tour. The issue of access to the Claydike bank drain for maintenance has been a long ongoing process of negotiation.

Regarding the low overhead wire, Weston Power will relocate the pole but the landowner did not want to site it within their boundary. Could the pole be realigned within the 9m access route. The Committee agreed for the Officers to progress this further by meeting with the occupants.

(i) Heckington Cemetery – Drainage issues & possible drain re-adoption

The Operations Manager reported that Heckington Cemetery had requested assistance due to flooding, although this is not within the Boards area. The cemetery is historically low level and have tried to alleviate the problem by installing an outlet pipe into a riparian watercourse. The Committee agreed for the Officers to approach the riparian owners and the Parish Council for bushing works to be completed at their expense to ascertain if flow could be increased.

There was also noted a pollution issue which will be relayed to the Environment Agency for their action.

(j) Damford Grounds Pumping Station

The Operations Manager offered this slide for information regarding the resilience works which includes raising of the panel and pumps at the Damford pumping station. Currently Grant in Aid bid for funding has been progressed.

(k) Bushing works - Hammond Beck, Bicker Gauntlet

The Operations Manager presented a slide which showed a long line of planted trees alongside the Hammond beck, Bicker Gauntlet. The machinery cannot maintain along that side of the drain and ideally it would be beneficial to operate from both sides. The Committee recommended that the Officers approach Mr R Firth.

(l) Bushing works - School Lane & Morley Lane, Bicker

The presented photographs of the bushing works being carried out at School and Morley Lane, Bicker.

(m) Culvert Surveys

The Operations Manager stated that due to staffing issues and long term sick the culvert inspections have not been progressed. These are being planned to be carried out.

Consenting and Byelaw Issues

(n) Marston Public House

The consent has been signed for the above new development with an agreed development fee of £21,200.

913 (n) Cont.....

Cllr R Austin reported that the developers have decided to name the new public house "The Chain Bridge".

914 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 5

The rainfall figures at Swineshead were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

915 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 6

(a) Pumping Station Roadways

The Operations Manager presented photographic slides showing the access roadways to some of the Boards pumping stations, some with deep pot holes, Dunsby roadway has a raised middle section which is unsuitable for cars.

The Members agreed for landowners to be contacted with the offer of assistance using Boards machinery.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6:20pm.