

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

held at the Offices of the Board on
8th February 2017 at 2pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr K C Casswell

* Mr W Ash	* Cllr R Austin
* Mr J Atkinson	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr V Barker	Cllr C Brotherton
* Mr J Fowler	* Cllr M Brookes
* Mr P Holmes	* Cllr R Clark
* Mr R Leggott	* Cllr M Cooper
* Mr P Robinson	Cllr Mrs J Harrison
* Mr M Rollinson	Cllr C Rylott
* Mr N J Scott	* Cllr B Russell
* Mr J R Wray	* Cllr P Skinner

* Member Present

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

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming Cllr M Cooper who joins the Board as a representative from the Boston Borough Council replacing Cllr N Welton. He informed the Board that Cllr Cooper also serves on the Boards at Witham 4th IDB and Welland & Deeping IDB.

1072 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Brotherton, Cllr Mrs J Harrison and Cllr C Rylott.

1073 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

(a) South Forty Foot Drain

A declaration of interest was received from Mr V Barker with regard to Minute 1083(g).

1074 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last meeting of the Board held on the 2nd November 2016, copies of which had been circulated, were considered. It was agreed that they should be signed as a true record.

1075 MATTERS ARISING - Agenda Item 4

(a) ADA Pay & Conditions Committee - Minute 1031(d)

The Finance Manager stated that the newly formed ADA Pay & Conditions Committee had their first meeting on the 17th January 2017.

The Chairman informed Members that the Finance Manager has taken the role of Secretary on this Committee and the Committee Chairman has yet to be decided.

(b) Drainage Rate Account 2781 - Minute 1033(a)

The Finance Manager stated that payment has been received from Bernard Matthews (new company) and no correspondence has been forthcoming from the old Bernard Matthews.

(c) Insurance Cover for Board Members - Minute 1036

The Finance Manager informed the Board that Allianz Insurance have increased the age limit for the personal accident insurance to 85 years old and there will be no additional premiums.

(d) Towergate Insurance Report - Minute 1040

The Finance Manager reported that the cyber security is the only element that has not been dealt with which will be put together in one report that will be presented to the Audit & Risk and Executive Committee later in the year.

(e) Minutes of the Joint Works Committees - Minute 1046

The Chairman announced that Cllr M Brookes and Mr R Leggott have a report to present to the Board regarding a problem with drain maintenance on a section of drain at Butterfly Farm, Amber Hill.

Cllr M Brookes stated that during the Northern Works Inspection last year Members were taken along Clay Dyke bank to view the route where the Board anticipated there might be problems gaining access to maintain the bank because the residents were claiming 10 years ago the Board did not exercise the right of access. This resident has a butterfly nature reserve, which the Board's machines would be going through. At the Northern Works Committee meeting a decision was made that the Board would exercise the right to go through when the cyclical maintenance work came around and needed to be done, this is now due to happen in the next couple of weeks. The Board has served notice on the Butterfly Farm to inform them drain maintenance will be taking place. Having received that notice the Butterfly Farm have written to the Board objecting. They also contacted Cllr M Brookes as a Borough Councillor, they were not aware that he also served on the Board. Cllr Brookes informed them that he is a Member of the Black Sluice IDB Board representing the Boston Borough Council. He also confirmed that the Board had visited on site last year and the decision was made to carry on with drain maintenance through their Butterfly Farm.

The Chief Executive was having difficulties telling the Butterfly Farm owners that he was only carrying out the wishes of the Board. Cllr Brookes spoke with the Chairman and the Chief Executive and it was agreed that it would probably be a good idea if Cllr Brookes with another Member of the Board visit the Butterfly Farm on site, Mr R Leggott who lives near and knows the owners, therefore both went to visit on site and discuss with the owners. The Butterfly Farm site has a high profile in the community they have a website (www.homeforbutterflies.com) which eludes to the different varieties of butterflies, with the acre plot split up into sections and the different aspects of a butterfly life cycle with different patches supporting different types of butterflies. They also have links with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust who support them.

Cllr Brookes explained that the section of drain that is due to be maintained using tracked machinery has trees planted which support the butterfly during its life cycle and also they have planted a meadow area with different varieties of plants which supports particular species of butterfly. They offered to give the Board a presentation on their work, perhaps this could be for an Environmental meeting.

Cllr Brookes stated after speaking to the Chairman whereby he had made a suggestion that at the onsite meeting with the owners they would be willing to make a contribution toward the Boards extra costs to go around this section of drain. The extra cost for the maintenance work by going around this section has been calculated at £600, there would also be a requirement to erect a couple of gates which would cost £400. Cllr Brookes had presented this to the owners and they were prepared to pay £300 towards the additional costs for the Boards machinery to go around. The owners pointed out that the butterfly species are listed in the Boards Biodiversity Action Plan and this site could be linked into the Boards BAP.

Cllr Brookes made the Members aware that the Boards machinery is currently at Clay Dyke with maintenance works planned within the next two weeks therefore a decision needs to be made today if the Board wishes to exercise the right to access or not. He then asked if Mr Leggott wished to add anything further.

Mr R Leggott added some background, he had the impression that they were going to fight very hard in spite of the fact he had reminded them of being in a drainage board area and their legal solicitor should have pointed this out to them, which they did not deny. Mr Leggott believed this is an amicable way out, and he would back what Cllr Brookes said but it does set a precedent which could be used in the future; not the amount rather the question.

Mr Holmes thanked both Cllr Brookes and Mr Leggott for their report and asked to clarify the payments and the costs to the Board from annual costs and ongoing costs. The Chief Executive responded that £1,000 cost is the desilting works we are about to carry out which is 1 in 10 year. The summer cutting works can be dramatically reduced by undertaking these works off the roadside using temporary traffic lights or off the roadside management whereby LCC would require more of a temporary/permanent traffic management system with the machine sat on the bank desilting.

The Chief Executive stated that the Operations Manager and he had already met with the owners of the property on site just prior to Cllr Brookes and Mr Leggott attending site. The Officers had gone with a firm approach because of the direction that the Board had given, to serve notice to enter their land within the Land Drainage Act. The Officers had already decided to dam down that section to cause less damage and put a dumper in the bottom of the drain to excavate silt into it which then would be driven out to tip, spread and level on agricultural land. As a compromise, the Officers had offered to not place the silt on the owners or the adjacent horse paddock field but clearly, their concern was a large machine coming through this particular butterfly garden.

The Chief Executive responded to Mr Holmes question; £1,000 is associated with this element of work over the next couple of weeks. He added that it is 10 years ago the current Board and Chief Executive went through this scenario and decided not to go on that route, since then the trees have grown and bushes/hedges have been planted etc if we are going to follow that route we need to access through the adjoining field so there are two new gates required so this is a one off fee within that £1,000 of £400. Cllr Brookes stated that the previous Chief Executive had visited on site and the Board did not exercise the access right 10 years ago. Cllr Brookes stated that the owners said the Board did not come through 10 years ago and they had not received any communication since then and therefore they thought they could carry on developing and they have been working on the site over 20 years.

Mr Leggott added that nothing had actually changed and the fact 10 years ago it was still a drainage board area and subject to byelaws which had not changed they should have been well aware of this – he believed they could not say they weren't aware of it. Cllr Brookes said the owners accept that the Board has the right of access and in an emergency, they would have to come through ie if the bankside collapsed, the Board would require access to repair. Cllr Brookes believes if the Board does decide to circumvent this section, we need to make it quite clear that in an emergency situation the Board would access the drain.

The Chief Executive added that at some point in the future the Board will have to work off that bank to possibly attend slips although if the agreement is not to go through this time then the wording in the letter should state the Board has exercised the right and that there is no prejudice for the future.

Mr Rollinson asked if the other £300 could be taken from the Environmental budget. Cllr Brookes stated that it could come out of this budget and the Chairman clarified if it was a proposal. Mr Rollinson added that he was concerned that the Board were setting a precedent in this situation, if they are prepared to pay a sum as long as we make it plain we are not prejudicing any future access.

Cllr Brookes asked if the Environmental Committee could look or the Board would link it into the Boards Biodiversity Action Plan because if anyone sites this as a precedent moving forward if it is in the BAP there is quite clear reasons for the Board having made an exception.

The Chief Executive stated that this is the same scenario that the Board had with the Bombus Ruderatus bee at Gosberton Risegate which was a site incorporated into the Boards BAP and this would be a similar scenario.

Mr Leggott reiterated that this is not a precedent for varying our byelaws; this is a precedent for getting some payment.

Cllr Russell wanted to state that the agro and bad publicity, which could be associated with this, he believed this is a very reasonable way out and would support this suggestion.

Mr Atkinson asked could we ask for an annual payment, as he was not happy with giving in to them and creating a precedent. The Chairman responded that in this case it should be dealt with as a one off.

Mr R Leggott added that it might be difficult to ask for annual payments, as the Board could not know who the owner might be in the future.

Cllr Skinner asked if the planting infringe within 4 metres or was it further. Cllr Brookes responded they have an acre site and planting is within the 9 metres.

Mr Ash asked if it could be worded as rather than a one off payment as "a payment of £300" so that leaves it open for a payment in the future.

Mr Scott expressed that they had developed the site within these 10 years he believed the Board should make it clear and the owners sign to agree that they understand the byelaws and that they won't further develop the site so we don't end up with mature trees and bushes. He has observed a couple of budlier bushes close to the bank which the owners could shift back which would not be too much of an issue. Mr R Leggott added that there are trees on site that 10 years ago you could have pulled out but now they would need to be felled. Mr Scott concluded that perhaps the trees should be removed, as that will impede us for an emergency in the future. Mr R Leggott added that there is also an electricity pole on site as well.

The Chairman asked if members were happy for the Chief Executive to send a letter and reiterate the access may be required in an emergency and exercise the right to access the 9 metres. The Chief Executive clarified that it will be for future essential maintenance. The Finance Manager stated the wording would say "to go through this time for a payment of £300" that means that next year we will have to gain access. Members AGREED.

(f) Dates of Meeting for 2017 - Minute 1053

The Chief Executive stated that the meeting schedule for the Culverts & Bridges Committee on the 5th April 2017, this Committee now called the Structures Committee, have held an extraordinary meeting in time to get the Structures Replacement Policy in the agenda papers for the Board meeting today. It was suggested to call a meeting for the 31st May 2017, both the Finance Manager and the Chief Executive have concerns about this date which would be too soon before the next Board meeting in order for agenda papers to be completed.

Therefore, he will consult with the Structures Committee Chairman and discuss dates following the Board meeting today.

(g) Glyphosate Chemical Withdrawal - Minute 1054(a)

Mr N Scott asked if the Board could write to Matt Warman MP to explain the reasons why the Board would like to keep glyphosate as a chemical for use. As landowners/farmers, we have been asked to contact our local MP to explain their position on glyphosate why they would like to keep it. Mr Scott felt a letter from the Board would be approaching the subject from a different direction and IDB perspective would help. The Chairman thanked him and agreed.

(h) Gosberton Parish Council - Minute 1054(b)

The Chief Executive presented a slide of photographs showing the Board exercising their rights within the Land Drainage Act, to remove three vehicles parked on land alongside a drain. The third party recovered one vehicle from the compound for £275 and the Chief Executive believes the other two vehicles are still there. The Chief Executive directed the question to Mr Barker if any vehicles had returned; Mr Barker responded the car was back in the afternoon and he had informed the Operations Supervisor but it was gone again by nightfall and he had not seen it back. The Chief Executive stated that he has informed the offender the vehicles will be continually removed if they are left there continuously as an obstruction. The Officers are hoping that this is the end to this problem.

The Chief Executive concluded that the cost to the Board was zero, as the recovery centre charge the owner and if the other vehicles are not claimed then the compound will recover the costs by selling those vehicles for costs incurred.

1076 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 5

The Executive Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December 2016, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

1077 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Works Committee Membership - Minute 1057(a)

Mr M Rollinson reported that he and Mr Holmes met to discuss the makeup of the Works Committees. He stated that it was decided, in order to keep it vibrant with people who are interested in drainage, that one member of the Southern Works Committee – Mr P Harborow who has not attended many meetings be replaced with Chris Wray, who is Chairman of the NFU Holland Branch and an additional member Chris Dring onto the Southern Works Committee.

Mr Holmes reported that he had contacted and asked all his co-opted members if they would like to remain in the Northern Works Committee one Member did mention that if they had anyone in mind, that was younger, then he would be quite happy to step down.

Mr Rollinson concluded that they did discuss one or two people who have expressed interest in being co-opted and becoming Members of the Board in the future and so decided to invite them as guests for the inspection tours in March 2017.

The Chairman asked members if they would ratify Mr C Wray and Mr C Dring to be co-opted onto the Southern Works Committee – all AGREED.

(b) Review of Purchases, Upgrades & Contract Renewals - Minute 1057(c)(i)

The Finance Manager reported that the telephone system has been installed and appears to be working well and the entrance signs have been erected.

The Chairman reported that ADA have asked to have a sign erected on the other end of the building saying that it is Black Sluice IDB to help find and view from the A17 the quote for this is £820. The Chief Executive clarified that it will be a similar sign to the one on the front of the building not like the signs at the entrance to the road. Mr Holmes asked that perhaps a certain amount of de bushing would want doing on the side of the A17 for anyone to see it. Members AGREED to the sign being constructed.

(c) Period 8 Management Accounts - Minute 1058

The Finance Manager reported that Mr Rollinson had mentioned a company called Stark who completed meter readings which could be sent to the office. The Finance Manager researched this, Stark is a very similar company to the one we have Green Energy whereby they check the bills and check they are correct although we are having a torrid time with British Gas. The Finance Manager has not progressed this any further as it will be reviewed in May 2017 as the energy supplier contract is up for renewal at which time the Finance Manager will approach Woldmarsh to see what other services are out there which might serve us better than British Gas. He concluded that the news from the brokers on 6th February 2017 was that British Gas are the most competitive in the market at the moment.

(d) 2017/18 Budget and Ten Year Projections - Minute 1059(d)

The Finance Manager reported on the "Rental Income" he has made contact with the relevant company regarding the EE mast and the Board has received an additional rental income of £3,467. Going forward the contract will be at the new rate. In relation to the electricity supply the company have agreed to install a meter and the Board will charge them for actual electricity used when they upgrade to a 4G mast.

(e) Drain Maintenance - Minute 1057(k)

Mr Barker asked about seasonal workers, sometime skilled operators are needed for the Boards machines and wondered if you could get workers from abroad who would come to us for 3 /4 months in a year.

The Chief Executive responded no; he understands where he is coming from but would they want to take our workers back with them. If you felt it was something worth investigating, then we can do. Mr Barker responded that he would leave it with the Executive.

(f) EA Precept - Minute 1059(m)

The Finance Manager explained that the Environment Agency Precept was agreed at the RFCC January 2017 meeting with no increase and it will remain at £276,552.

(g) Administration & Establishment - Minute 1059(n)

The Finance Manager reported that Welland & Deepings IDB have five Union members on their workforce, which is important, as Welland & Deeping IDB have withdrawn from the ADA Pay & Conditions Committee and the pay negotiations. If Welland & Deepings IDB workforce were to have problems involving the Unions, then this could cause some problems for the other Lincolnshire IDBs that are left when negotiating with the Unions from that point of view other members in other IDBs in the County could be called upon to act in industrial action on their behalf.

(h) DEFRA/EA Frontrunner Project – South Forty Foot Catchment - Minute 1061(g)

Mr Barker asked regarding transfer of the Tongue End pumping station on the Bourne Eau; the Chief Executive responded that this pumping station is now part of the negotiations to include this in the asset transfer. He added that as part of the transfer we want to include the Bourne Eau up to and including the pumping station because we feel this is very important in our catchment defences. The EA are reviewing this transfer request, this was one of the pumping stations our previous Chief Executive had discussed with the EA, as the EA at that time wanted to transfer it, subsequently they felt the finance was unavailable.

Mr Barker asked clarifying the Bourne Eau itself with all peat settlements banks; the Chief Executive responded that if we are going to be negotiating to transfer the Bourne Eau pumping station he felt certain and we have encouraged this to increase maintenance and development of the Bourne Eau in its entirety. Mr Barker asked both sides; the Chief Executive responded yes both sides only because we have approached Welland & Deeping IDB and they are not a board that want to develop asset transfer with the EA and the EA would not transfer one bank to us and the other to another IDB. It is something we want to develop to include in the asset transfer.

Mr Barker asked what finances would come to the Board to benefit for the extra; the Chief Executive responded that he has no indication yet of figures or agreement.

(i) Whistleblower Incidents - Minute 1062

Mr Barker wanted to explain more about the whistle blower incidents than were minuted stating that the situation was very concerning. Mr Barker stated that he was approached out of hours by members of the workforce about things which were happening at the Board and there were several items that they were very concerned about. Mr Barker asked these individuals if they knew about the Boards Whistle blower policy; - they said they knew nothing about this policy. Mr Barker agreed to meet them and went through some of the things and showed them the policy, having discussed several things more than is minuted in the Executive Minutes. Mr Barker wanted to apologise to the board, but he felt he needed to ring Mr D Gowing.

He felt that it was the only thing he could do as the Board was implicated as well as the Chief Executive therefore he could only contact Mr Gowing.

He subsequently met these individuals plus some other employees to discuss several items that have not been gone through in the minutes. Mr Barker stated that these employees had a lot of concern for working for the Board. They used to say they were proud to work for the Board and it was a job for life. Mr Barker stated that Mr Gowing came back with his report and told him what he had done and his responses are within the minutes. Mr Barker then received another telephone call from these individuals to say that one of the employees was leaving.

The Chairman then asked Mr Barker if he was happy that the Officers remained to hear what he wanted to say – Mr Barker responded; yes.

Mr Barker said that the Chief Executive might say that it was for “x reason”, and Mr Barker might say it was for “y reason” and it could be for another “z reason”. Mr Barker would like to think that he is proud to be a Member of the Black Sluice Board and would also like to think that the workforce is proud to work for the Board. Mr Barker stated there has obviously been a problem with training and experience that the two are different, putting a workman on a digger who had been on a roding gang even if the workman has a driving car licence does not actually give him the experience of driving along drain banks. When we are putting workmen on machines that are c£200k we are passing a lot of responsibility to them and we need be not just trained but adequately experienced and proud to do their job.

Mr Barker stated that the Board has had an accident recently and whatever the reasons for that accident does not matter but there is going to be some affect to the Boards insurance and requirement that all our training is correct. Mr Barker stated that he has seen two operators working and I could not fault any one of these who have the experience but it is the emergency thing which tests you on the day and the person that has had the experience over a certain number of years along drain banks has got more experience and I think we need to look as a board and the Executive Committee on how we are employing and training this workforce. Mr Barker said it was saddening to think that there are employees that are not happy working for the Board and I cannot say more than that and leave it with the Chairman.

The Chairman explained that there is a scenario that however much training you give people the only way they can get the experience is to drive the machines.

Mr Barker stated that if you recruit people that have been working alongside drains on other implements that helps with the experience and we do have one such employee.

The Chief Executive responded he could only say a few things about these incidents which he has explained to Mr Barker in confidence before the meeting, until an investigation has been carried out. All the workmen were invited into the office on Monday, 6th February 2017 and introduced them to the recently commenced SFFD desilting works and how as employers we will be managing this, the Chief Executive took the opportunity to individually and independently ask questions along the exact lines that Mr Barker has introduced, which is coincidental

although arguably non coincidental, the reasons he did it were for the same reasons Mr Barker is questioning it.

All questions asked were factual answers, there were no misgivings or rumour mill they were yes or no answers and if it was a negative answer it was then "why" or "how". The Chief Executive has spoken with the Chairman in regard to what his plans are going to develop further along the lines he wants to take it; all he can say is that he will instil the confidence of unskilled and untrained operatives as part of a revised training plan and part of this will be to build the low morale of the one or two individuals who have low moral because it is only one or two.

Mr Barker stated that it is more than two;

The Chief Executive stated that the person who was asking the question exercised no peer pressure and I expected a true and honest answer some of them did surprise and shock me so clearly we have to work on that and also in defence we have one or two bad apples in our barrel and he is determined to take things further with them.

Mr Barker stated that they phoned him again saying that one workman was leaving and they were dissatisfied and I said that I could not do anything more and advised them to contact the Union representative or the District Union Secretary as there were things which needed addressing. Mr Barker pointed out to these individuals that he could not do anything more as they seemed to want to use him as a liaison person because they felt they could not talk to the Officers of the Board.

The Chairman believed that it might have been better if Mr Barker had contacted him or a member of the Executive rather than Mr Gowing. Mr Barker apologised but as you saw that the Chief Executive and Board were involved and the policy refers to contact being made with Mr Gowing, he concluded that these individuals had not seen the Whistle Blower policy, they did not know where it was.

The Chief Executive responded that all Board policies are readily available and then explained the situation regarding the individual who has handed his notice in. The Chief Executive stated that he leaves next week, he is an experienced driver and he is leaving because he has been offered £15 an hour plus a company vehicle, when the Officers put it to him, arguably that is £4.50 more than he is paid today and asked him what about the pension enhancements, sick pay and holiday pay he receives and all the added attractions for working for the Board and this experienced individual said he had not looked that far ahead. The Chief Executive concluded that they are purely looking at their net pay packet at the end of the week and the opportunity of getting more money in his pocket than he does working for this Board.

Mr Barker stated they said to me "their take home pay was less than it used to be". Mr Barker asked them "are they doing less overtime, they said not", Mr Barker explained to these individuals there has been a change in the Governments pension policy which is taking more out of their wages – he explained to them that he is not an accountant and could not explain pensions further they needed to see the Finance Manager.

The Chief Executive stated the construction industry is on the upturn and increased wages are being offered, and it would not surprise him if more leave. The workforce Union representative have sat with the IDBs and have agreed a 1% pay rise therefore they know what the rate of pay is going to be and unless this Board comes out of the ADA Pay and Conditions Committee this will not change.

The Chairman clarified that there is a government freeze on the pay.

Mr Barker asked what other sweeteners are there available?

Mr Rollinson stated that he just googled it and the Whistle blower policy is on the Black Sluice website.

The Chairman concluded that after discussion the Executive Committee decided that in some situations rather than involving Mr Gowing it might be better to contact a member of the Executive Committee probably not the Chairman of the Board but perhaps Cllr Brookes could be the first point of call.

Cllr Brookes then stated that to be fair Mr Barker did contact him when he was contacted the third time and he then spoke to the Chief Executive and the Chairman. He reported that all the concerns either have or are being dealt with as there is a limit as to how far we can go because if the concerns are over pay then we cannot pay anymore therefore we have to emphasis the benefits of the working for the Board. The Chairman and Chief Executive may be correct that we have one or two agitators who are stirring things up and not helping.

The Chief Executive concluded that on a later agenda item we might be able to offer a bit of a sweetener regarding net pay this forthcoming year and future years.

(j) 2017/18 Budget - Agenda Item 5(a)

The Chairman presented the 2017/18 budget, which were presented to the Executive Committee on the 14th December 2016 starting on page 33.

Mr R Leggott commented that the size of the font was very small and asked if it could be larger.

(k) Plant Replacement Budget - Agenda Item 5(a)(vii)

The Chief Executive presented on page 45 the Energreen No 1 replacement, the £53,000 relates to the 35% buy back clause, which was negotiated when we first purchased this machine from Energreen UK Ltd in 2011. He then read from an email stating he had dealt directly with Energreen Italy because the UK based franchise no longer trades, Spearhead became the British supplier of the Energreen machines. Energreen Italy initially stated that they intend to uphold the 35% buy back clause, the Board has received three offers for the Energreen machine - first one for £28,000, second one for £39,000 and the third offer received yesterday for £45,459 if we sell it purely as a simple sale. Spearhead Machinery Ltd are prepared to offer an additional £8,022.31 which brings it back to the 35% buy back clause if we go ahead and purchase a new machine.

Fortunately, these figures fall within the budgeted figures so it is really introducing this letter that Spearhead/Energreen are standing by the original 35% buy back clause, which the Officers are pleased about after an interesting few months of negotiation.

Mr Leggott asked does this mean the price we are looking at for the new Energreen is £197,000 the Chief Executive responded no £204,000.

1078 MINUTES OF THE CULVERTS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE MEETING - Agenda Item 6

The Culverts & Bridges Committee Chairman presented the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2017, copies of which had been circulated. The Board RESOLVED that the minutes should be received.

1079 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Structures Replacement Policy – Agenda Item 6(a)

The Chairman of the Board asked the Board to ratify the new Structures Replacement Policy. The Chief Executive stated that it was agreed within these minutes that if the Board proposed to move this policy it will be sent out to ratepayers with their drainage rate letter asking for any comments or feedback. Hence, the earlier decision to delay the next meeting for the Structures Committee in order for feedback to be received and a report to be introduced to the Committee. The Chief Executive reiterated that all Board policies are moving documents as such and acknowledged what an excellent job this Committee had done in reviewing this policy. Proposed by Mr Fowler, seconded by Mr V Barker and all AGREED.

(b) Structures Committee Terms of Reference - Minute 1068

The Chairman of the Board asked Mr J Fowler (Chairman of Structures Committee) regarding the question of an additional member to join this Committee.

Mr Fowler stated that there is a vacancy on the Committee and would welcome any Board Member who may be interested in putting themselves forward by contacting him or the Chief Executive, he concluded that if there is not a volunteer we will look further at the Works Committees to co-opted members to make up the membership of the Structures Committee.

1080 2017/18 FINAL BUDGET WITH 10 YEAR ESTIMATES (AMENDED PENNY RATE) - Agenda Item 7

The Finance Manager stated the second draft of the 2017/18 Budget was presented to the Executive Committee on the 14th December 2016 the reason for that was the timing of the meeting as per the Land Drainage Act 1991 the value for the rate and special levies is to be determined as at the 31st December of the preceding year. The calculation of the values and penny rate was not done until after the budget was put to the Executive Committee and when it was produced it resulted in an additional annual income for drainage rates and special levies of £21,100 therefore instead of re-drafting the budget those figures have been included in the income figures as the final 2017/18 budget and 10 year estimates.

Over a 10 year period £21k becomes £210,000 which has an impact on the percentage of reserves held compared to expenditure at year 10 which is currently showing as 29.47%, of that £19,000 represents special levies and development, £2,500 increase in agricultural land and buildings - as a note to that agricultural drainage rate income is at 50.93% where special Levey income is 49.07% this being almost a fifty/fifty split.

The Chairman concluded that the General Reserve is a little higher than we would like it to be or aim in the past but if we happen to get a wet period this could change quite rapidly, £50,000/£60,000 could disappear to electricity pumping. He then asked if Members of the Board are happy with this budget, we hope to hold the penny rate for 2 years.

1081 PERIOD 9 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS - Agenda Item 8

The Finance Manager stated that on the year to date budget for rating and levies there is a spurious figure, which states £2,067,958 which should read £2,053,347. The period 10 accounts have now been completed but these were not ready in time to go out with the agenda papers. Income is at £1,000 adverse which is a good result when we think that £8,500 of rates have been written off. Expenditure is £22,000 favourable which leads to the Board overall £21,000 favourable at the end of January 2017.

The Finance Manager stated that on page 64 is the balance sheet, and he wanted to draw the attention of Members to the co-op community account which is a savings account with £300,000 placed in it at an interest rate of 1.125%, the Cooperative Bank have written to the Board stating that when this matures they will not be extending the offer.

1082 TO REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER - Agenda Item 9

The Chairman presented the risk register on page 65, highlighting three items in red. He stated that ref 1.6 and 8.5 might be reduced to "3" once the insurance is finalised. The Finance Manager added that the Audit & Risk Committee will be reviewing item 1.5 and 1.6 at their meeting in April 2017.

1083 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON RATIONALISING THE MAIN RIVER NETWORK - Agenda Item 10

The Chief Executive presented this agenda item. He started by stating that Members may have picked up information from the minutes reviewed in the agenda papers where this Board is regarding the ongoing new terminology the main river network. The Chief Executive believes that verbal reports are more beneficial, that the information which can sometimes be received the day before the meeting because things are changing on a daily basis. He stated that if Members have any questions or need more details, to take back to the relevant Councils or ward members or individual practices, please let the Chief Executive know.

He added that the Board is regularly featured in the ADA Gazette, and if you do not receive this please let the Officers know and they will organise a copy delivered.

(a) EA Asset Transfer

The Chief Executive presented a slide regarding the position currently regarding asset transfer.

He presented an email from Gemma Ward (EA Frontrunner Project Advisor) dated 30th January 2017 – this email came about because at the previous meeting in November 2016 there was a clear indication that Ms Ward would come back with figures. We are now into February 2017 and he has not seen these figures and he has challenged the EA and the only indication is in the email Ms Ward said;

"I am able to share with you the front runner project as it transfer costs calculations which is as following the costs of decommissioning, plus three years annual maintenance minus any associated benefits ie land value"

The DEFRA guidelines regarding the monies transferred to this Board if we agree to take on the ownership and running of the Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station. He has no idea what this equates to in values, we were lead to believe it costs c£300,000 a year to maintain the Boston pumping station, and he cannot believe the land will attract any value because of the pumping station that is on it so initially we were talking about £900,000 plus a decommissioning value – the Chief Executive stated that he does not know what they mean by a decommissioning value. The first time this was mentioned was the EA "walk away do nothing to the pumping station" ie moth balling of the Boston pumping station which would cost over £1 million. The Chief Executive stated that until he has figures he could not quote figures because it would have to be brought to the Executive Committee and the full Board.

(i) Gearbox Failure at Sluice Gate, Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station

He presented a slide email received 25th January 2017 from Kevin Abbott Technical Engineer, EA Lincoln; he called the Pump Engineer to say that the gearbox on the automatic sluice gate at the Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station has failed. He said;

"It would take about 2 weeks to repair or replace in the mean time they will be managing the SFFD water levels using the navigation lock which has to be done manually which will only be operated during the day light hours ie only on one low tide per day. So the water level will probably get a bit higher than normal".

The Chief Executive pointed out that this is the exact scenario that if the pumps were not there and the sluice fails, which the EA have stated "can never happen". The Chief Executive read out his response email;

"Hello Kevin thanks for your email giving us a heads up regarding the Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station sluice gate failure we have indeed been recording high water levels along the SFFD which you have obviously stopped the gravitation availability from our catchments. Can you let me know how we are going to go about recovering the additional costs expenditure we are incurring due to the failure ie electricity costs associated with additional pumping could this be completed through our Public Sector Cooperation Agreement. I would be grateful if you could reply before the Wednesday, 8th February 2017."

Following a further 2/3 emails chasing a response the Chief Executive sent a final reminder on 7th February and added that;

"I am also picking up rumours relating to relocation of sluice gate control at Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station can you elaborate or dismiss them".

The Chief Executive presented a slide showing a graph detailing telemetry of four readings; the red reading is the outfall bay at Black Hole Drove, the yellow reading is the Dowsby Fen Pumping Station in the SFFD, the green reading is Quadring Pumping Station and the blue is Chain Bridge Pumping Station. He pointed out the position on the graph when the sluice gate failed, stating it shows that it failed to open this indicates an average line on the low tides which is the average height recognising/recording prior to the failure, following the failure the water only being released once a day during daylight time, it has lifted by 300mm. Chain Bridge Pumping Station is not able to gravitate and is having to pump today as we speak we are using additional electricity through no fault of our own having to pump water out of our catchment into the SFFD. The high peaks on the red line is a sudden influx of water into the SFFD when we are pumping.

The Chief Executive stated that the EA are aware that we have this information and they have also come back to us asking do we want to share this information with them in the future because they want to share their information with us or when we take control of the SFFD do we also want their telemetry – the answer from our Pumping Station Engineer was No.

The email reply from Adrian Clack (EA Assist Performance Local Delivery Lead)

"I am the gravity sluice at the Black Sluice (Boston) Pumping Station is awaiting a replacement gear box which is programmed for completion by the end of next week (the Chief Executive clarified that this will be the third week from failure) operationally we are using navigation lock discharge facility this is being used for our normal winter levels in the SFFD we will operate out of daylight hours as weather conditions dictate. Telemetry indicates that late last night we did react to an increased level and we operated in advance of the forecast rain and our duty team have been instructed to run at the levels below the agreed -1.0 as required so it can pull the levels down at Dowsby from our telemetry levels have been managed within the normal tolerance we will see on the SFFD although elevated due to weather conditions we have hit no operational thresholds the target winter retention levels we operate in the SFFD is -0.3 at Dowsby, -0.6 Black Sluice basin however we are under no legal obligation to maintain this for upstream gravity discharge this is for winter operation in readiness for any increase need for response due to expected weather conditions during the winter period from a flood risk perspective. We obviously appreciated the impact this is having on your own ability to discharge into the SFFD by gravity and I will be working hard to maintain the level.

Conditions we have been dealing over the past week has shown increased levels but this is within the range we would normally expect to manage in the winter period hope this helps clarify where we are and I will keep you informed on the repair programme for the sluice gate.

The Chief Executive then received a further email;

"I am the sluice gate replacement gearbox is due to be fitted next week so returning the gate into operation by the end of next week with regards to the rumour one of the many options being looked at with future plans of the pumping station and instructions we are looking at feasibility of how we would control at an alternative location if we had to this is purely for information only however I can totally reassure you that there are no plans to do this until we have agreed the future plans around the pumping station with yourselves hope this clarifies the position please keep in touch".

The Chief Executive concluded that yes the EA appreciate the levels have increased and they tend to forget we have this level of information to hand and can prove they have increased but it can be very difficult because of fluvial flows. They are also saying that they are under no legal obligation to allow us gravity discharge during the winter months and they are also saying rest assured they are not moving the control mechanism for the gravity gate into the newly constructed small building built when the navigation channel was reconstructed the rumour was that we heard that the gravity control was being moved into that building for our main discharge sluice. He stated that this is our most important partner and there is still an element on both sides of mistrust but the main purpose of this rumour, when the Chief Executive next meets with the EA to assert the importance of those pumps although there are still only two of them working, and he pointed out to Members that as you are aware that there are three others which have not worked since the December 2013 tidal surge. The Chief Executive expressed that the EA will not switch the pumps on even when there is an opportunity to run these pumps and test them perhaps one discharge in the daylight hours and another discharge in the dark hours they can pre-programmed them but they are not prepared to do so. There is going to be interesting negotiations as all these items become part of the catchment negotiation package.

The Chairman asked what would have happened if we would have had 2 or 3 inches of rain in this situation in 24 hours – The Chief Executive responded that he genuinely hopes the answer to that question is that they would have switched the pumps on.

The Chairman further questioned would they have had to man the lock 24 hours; the Chief Executive added that we now have four workmen going in to be trained to be buddied up with the men at the EA operating the pumping stations they are beginning to pick up experience in that building. The simple answer to the Chairman's questions is we do not know what they would do in such a circumstance.

Mr Barker asked do we mean switching the two pumps which we know work; the Chief Executive responded the two that we know work yes.

Mr Holmes asked do you know why they have not turned them on or are they trying to prove that they do not need them.

The Chairman responded that the EA have always affirmed that the sluice could never break down.

Mr Leggott reiterated that the benefits of owning all the parts of this jigsaw are quite great especially for the drainage board he believed it could be down to budgets as to whether they can turn the pumps on as they are trying to save money.

Mr Leggott then asked we've heard some of an indication of the figures regarding a transfer; has the Board done its own figures as he does not believe it comes to £1.9million there was a lot more value than that; the Chief Executive responded that yes we have done our own figures the EA have been given our figures he has regularly complained that as yet no formal response has been received and he will be referring to this in agenda item (j) these figures were requested on behalf of the South Forty Foot Steering Group as well as all figures for all assets in the catchment for maintenance operations for the next 20 years the Officers have put together quite a detailed spreadsheet amounting to £30 million to put the assets back into the condition they should be in order to transfer.

The EA have called a meeting for the Steering Group for the 2nd March 2017 and the Chief Executive is hoping as they have called the meeting that we are going to get something solid from the EA at that meeting.

(b) EA De-Maining

The Chief Executive presented a letter sent to Dr Therese Coffey MP Under-secretary of State DEFRA from Henry Cator Chairman of ADA.

The Chief Executive stated that he has separated each item but these are part of the "jigsaw" and introducing to the Boards de-maining he then presented a map showing lengths of proposed main river that the EA are proposing to de-main, decommission, walk away from, offered to alternative risk management organisations which arguably is only ourselves. The Chief Executive stated that if the Board choose not to take them on and maintain them as our own they will be then pass into riparian ownership. The Officers have taken the decision to take on ownership of these and it is one of the reasons that we are reintroducing it at the up and coming Works Committee Inspection meetings, there are several lower consequence watercourses which the Board maintain which the Board are looking to "de-watercourse" and offer back to riparian ownership, which the landowners questioned are happy to do so, lengths equate that to watercourses are entire lengths or part lengths.

The Chief Executive presented a map showing within these negotiations with the EA the Board are looking for as much money that comes with the Black Sluice (Boston) pumping station as an asset transfer at the same time the EA are going to try to get this Board or other risk management authorities to take off their hands at no cost as many minor rivers, this is all part of the negotiation process.

Mr Leggott stated that those sections of watercourses have changed hands and finished off in the Black Sluice's could they attract any income; the Chief Executive responded no they are all low consequence watercourses and don't attract any income at this moment in time. There may be one or two we are maintaining and find allocated monies for and the EA pay us to maintain.

(c) Boundary Extension

The Chief Executive presented the WFD (Water Framework Directive) who have looked at the whole of Lincolnshire and they have actually produced and sent through to the partnership approach a catchment management to front our area, which is Area 29. He stated that clearly there is some negotiation to be done or agreement to be done to move forward with regards to exact boundaries I believe we will finish off more in line with the boundaries we currently have in our own systems rather than the shaded area on the map.

The Chief Executive stated that he had received an email from DEFRA, regrading IDB Boundary Extensions dated August 2016. In preparation for this meeting, he investigated all the different avenues, then on the 10th January 2017 another email was received;

"DEFRA have become aware of further complications with extending IDB boundaries and therefore national are looking to re issue a revised IDB boundary extension note once it has been agreed by DEFRA. This should provide us and you with a clear note of what can be done in practice. They advise us to take a cautious approach and that the previous note I sent you cannot be relied upon. Will send the new note when I receive it"
– Gemma Ward EA

The Chief Executive stated the Officers are looking at how to increase our income to maintain these additional assets of riverbank as well as the pumping stations – one of the ways is to extend our boundaries and increase our catchment by approximately 40%. The Board recover c£1 million from agricultural ratepayers, the argument about increase/decrease; he believes it will certainly attract an increase in rate so the boundary extension is an important part of the financial scenario moving forward.

Mr Rollinson asked can you expect the upper catchments to pay the same rate; the Chief Executive responded that will be for this Board to decide, he stated that whilst at the public consultations talking to two land owners one was a current rate payer and one was not a rate payer in the upper catchment within the extended catchment they were arguing, the lower catchment said "you need to pay more than me as its your water which causes the problems" the upper catchment said "I don't need to pay more than you I need to pay less than you because we have not got any rivers which need maintaining" there is always going to be a fine balance.

The Chief Executive concluded that this Board would direct and or dictate that rate and value on those upper catchments

(d) Precept Reduction

The Chief Executive presented a slide detailing the two equal instalments paid totalling £276,552 as a precept payment to the EA every year. He explained there is half an argument that money that the EA receive is then paid back in PSCA work, which the Board undertakes. The Chief Executive expects in the negotiations to dramatically reduce that figure because we are carrying out the maintenance ourselves on our own assets contractually through them or because the assets have been transferred. Within the precept, there is also circa 7km of main frontline North Sea defence still maintained by the EA and there will always be an element of involvement of other maintenance work probably on structures or on the South Forty Foot. The Chief Executive has given the EA a realistic indication that he expects to see a £200,000 reduction in the precept figure.

(e) Public Sector Co-Operation Agreement (PSCA)

The Chief Executive stated that the EA have dramatically reduced their own maintenance regime not specially due to finance but their own in house maintenance capabilities, for the last 2/3 years the Board has been cutting and flailing or just flailing top of the banks on some of their main rivers. Virtually all these works are on raised bank rivers which is something the Board are not used to and this is the work that the EA are indicating that they want the Board to undertake this year. This is three times more work than we have carried out for the EA historically. The Boards summer maintenance programme covers 500 miles and to fit both the EA and the Boards maintenance into the same programme the Board will need additional resource of machinery, labour or another view could be to dramatically increase overtime of our current workforce.

The Operations Manager presented a slide and stated that going back to the first large amount of work we carried out for the EA in 2015, cutting a total length of 95 km with some drains outside of the Boards district and some drains that were cut twice on the EAs' request. Last year this work was reduced to cutting 59 km hence there was quite a large reduction in what we needed to do for the EA.

The Operations Manager outlined the requirement to complete a health and safety bank cut up which should start in March because these banks should be cut every month and then this allows the machines a clear view of where they are working. He reported that last year the EA were late with work orders and the Board were only able to carry out one of these health and safety cuts which meant that the grass was above the bonnet of the machines which slowed the process down. The value of all the work completed for the EA last year was £52,000.

The Operations Manager estimates the contracted work to be carried out for this year and ongoing years is in excess of £150,000 but this is only based on the total amount of flail mowing required and total amount of weed control by excavators required.

PSCA Work 2016

- **H&S Flailing – 58.0km (x1 visit)**
- **Flailing – 78.0km (x1 visit)**
- **Weed Cutting – 58.5km (x1 visit)**

Proposed PSCA Work 2017

- **H&S Flailing – 404.0km (x3-4 visits)**
- **Flailing – 252.5km (x1-3 visits)**
- **Weed Cutting – 97.0km (x1-2 visits)**

Within those additional costs, it does not take into account movement of machinery, flagging if there is a requirement, any other requirement ie hand labour and any other access issues. The Operations Manager reported that last year unfortunately due to the problems with the Boards machinery, we were not able to deliver the work in the time scale the EA required and we were still working on some of their systems well into November 2016. He pointed out that any additional works during the cutting season does not affect the Boards own maintenance work and that any additional works can be delivered within a programme and timescale agreed with the EA.

The Chief Executive explained the Board has no financial risk with regard to these contracts the PSCA is a day works contract. The EA have to place a figure on an order then the Operations Manager evaluates the work and sends the EA a quotation. Once an order is received, the Officers place a special costing code to each run and within the Boards management accounts are self-contained calculations of all associated costs with that work. There is a 5% administrative charge so we always recover our total costs.

The Chief Executive stated the reason this has been brought to the Board today is we do not have all the accurate figures and total resources required. He proposes that the Board give delegated powers to the Executive Committee once full details with regards to any future plant purchases from the reserves/plant account plus additional fulltime or seasonal labour employment. The Chief Executive explained that the Twiga machines which are not designed to carry out top bank cutting and the Officers would prefer to use these machines working on drain bank sides where their 9 metre arm is required. Therefore, they are looking to purchase a AEBI Mower which is parked outside for Members to view.

The Chairman asked Members if they agree with the proposal to delegate this to the Executive Committee. Mr Leggott proposed, seconded by Mr Ash and all AGREED.

(f) **Partnership Approach to Catchment Management (PACM)**

The Chief Executive presented 'the partnership approach' with guidelines to enhance negotiations from the EA. This approach is hoping to attract other focus based enhanced contributors to previous unfunded projects.

(g) **South Forty Foot Drain (SFFD) bushing and de-silting works**

Mr Barker declared an interest regarding South Forty Foot Drain.

The Chief Executive stated that this is a large maintenance project which includes bushing, de-cotting and de-silting works which is over a £1 million budget over the 11km between Black Hole Drove PS and the A52 Donington High Bridge. The Chief Executive presented some photographic slides, the biggest problem is due to the lack of maintenance and the high volume of nutrients, which come off the farmland into the SFFD there is a huge amount of cott weed and root growth in the margins. Although the silt cutter will cut through algae those that are familiar with cott will know that once you start pulling it in the lengths and volumes we envisage it never stops and it will block up these 8" or 10" cutting machines so the requirement on us is to remove the cott and root margin growth prior to the de-silting machine arriving onsite.

He presented some before and after photographs of the bushing works.

Cllr Austin asked would there be any environmental issues following the removal of the bushes; the Chief Executive responded we were expecting some but Natural England have stated this would not have been the natural circumstance of a wetland fen habitat. That said the EA have recognised the fact many bushes have been removed and are looking for offers of additional planting areas as mitigation areas.

The Chief Executive stated that work has commenced at the Black Hole Drove end and presented a photo showing the works. We will be looking at every gravity channel and every pumping station for enhancements. The Chief Executive has negotiated a contract and an understanding that the silt cutting/pumping machine is arriving in April 2017 if we can get legal agreements in place regarding the lagoon locations.

The locations we are hoping to secure for the lagoons are alongside of the SFFD and close to a pumped watercourse where the clean water will go straight back into the SFFD. There will be three 10 acres' lagoons leaving them in-situ for up to 5 years, we believe that in all probability the lagoons will be worked back into the landscape in the third year, the de-silting work we did in Swineshead in September 2016 there is a plan in the next few months to work that silt back in so it is just a few months. We will be having an open day particularly for the Board Members, two of the sites are on Crown land. The contractor is Royal Smals and this is the first time they have been to the UK to use this type of machine on an inland waterway and are keen to fly the flag for future work, the EA clearly want to encourage it and the landowners will be proud to stand there and say it's on their land so there will be at least two open events planned.

The Chief Executive stated that Royal Smals have left some brochures if any Members would like to take one.

The Chairman concluded that he hoped all Members found this interesting because it is very important and using machinery (Royal Smals) that has not been used for this type of work before here in the UK.

(h) Slowing the Flow (Swaton Catchment)

The Chief Executive stated that the EA are heading up this work and the BSIDB have offered a contribution.

Mr Barker asked if this went as far as the old railway line; the Chief Executive responded that it is the entire catchment. There will be various meetings, with public involvement to best involve how slowing the flow works, does it mean planting additional woods, clearing out decoy ponds, does it mean v-boards in drains everything is going to come into the equation. Mr Barker asked if the Swaton Flood Warden is associated with this; the Chief Executive responded that he would most definitely be involved with this.

(i) Black Sluice Catchment Water Resource East Project (WRE)

The Chief Executive presented the web page (www.waterresourceeast.co.uk) associated with WRE, the Anglian Water fronted WRE on its web page are the photographs from the first public meeting held at Springfields where a number of us were guest speakers. There are more details within the Executive minutes, the Chief Executive is involved with the Technical Steering Group and has now been requested to represent BSIDB and other IDBs on the Delivery Group.

He explained that It will encourage water retention for irrigation, water retention for environmental futures, water retention for navigation, water source for use in East Anglia because Ofwat have stated that "in 20 years' time the towns and villages of the southern side of East Anglia will be on stand pipes if it cannot get additional water there" and this is the best chain effect of transferring water from the River Trent.

If you have any question and want to know more, please contact the Chief Executive.

(j) Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group

The Chief Executive stated that this is one of the most important groups set up involving the consultations within our catchment. The last meeting was held in June 2016 it stalled because the EA did not attend; therefore, until the EA became involved again there seemed no point in having a further meeting.

The Chairman added that since then the EA have now called a meeting for first week in March 2017 and he is hoping that progress can be made.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the current Chairman of the WRE project is our current ADA Chairman – Henry Cator. The current Chairman of Black Sluice Catchment Steering Group is current Vice Chairman of ADA soon to become in November 2017, Chairman – Robert Caudwell who lives in the Witham 4th district, we have a local close relationship with the two chairmen of the most important groups/projects which is really encouraging.

The Chairman believes personally that if something has not happened by November 2017 on asset transfer to the BSIDB it might not happen, as Robert Caudwell would like to announce something like this at the ADA AGM in November.

(k) Boston Tidal Surge Barrier

The Chief Executive stated that an inspector of the public enquiry has been appointed, Mr Mike Robbins, and the enquiry will start on 19th April 2017 and it will be held at the Boston Barrier Hub over ten days, programmed for each section this week there is a dedicated website created <http://boston-barrier.persona-pi.com/>.

Cllr Russell made a point that a lot of items have been covered in this agenda item and asked would any part of this be placed on the Boards website; the Chief Executive responded that if Cllr Russell or any Member of the Board would like this PowerPoint presentation we can send and there will be information uploaded to the Boards website.

The Chairman concluded that some of these items will be covered again at the Works Committee Inspections taking place in March 2017.

Mr Holmes asked Members for a vote of confidence for the Chief Executive who has lead this new initiative to convince the EA to go in this direction.

1084 REPORTS - Agenda Item 11

(a) Monthly Accounts - Agenda Item 11(a)

The Board RESOLVED that the Board's monthly accounts, which included October 2016 to January 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

Mr Barker asked as members of Woldmarsh many of these items as you do not know what they are should we have an idea of what we are paying for under Woldmarsh; the Finance Manager responded that this would be extremely difficult to split out any further, but if the Board wanted, it can be done for Woldmarsh. The Finance Manager stated that he would not want to set up different Woldmarsh accounts when they are all paid the same way. The Woldmarsh account can provide a breakdown into fuel; tyres and we are looking to include the electricity contract in the future but as it stands now it is generally, the fuel and tyres are the majority of the costs.

(b) Schedule of Consents - Agenda Item 11(b)

The Board RESOLVED that the schedule of consents for Byelaw Relaxations, Culvert Consents, Development Contributions, Land Drainage Consents and Extended Area Consents issued November 2016 to January 2017, copies of which had been circulated, were noted.

(c) Rainfall - Agenda Item 11(c)

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

1085 TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN AND FINANCE MANAGER TO SEAL THE RATE FOR 2017/18 - Agenda Item 11

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Finance Manager be authorised to seal the Drainage Rate and Special Levies for the year 2017/18 as follows:

(a) Drainage Rates

	<u>Estimated Amount</u> <u>Drainage Rates</u> <u>Payable</u>
Sub-District No 1 being so much of the said Internal Drainage District as: Comprises the area of the Borough of Boston as constituted and in existence immediately before 1 st April 1974	6.30p
Sub-District No 2 - Being the remainder of the Internal Drainage District	12.60p
	<hr/> £1,054,549.19

(b) Special Levies

Borough of Boston	£773,179.60
South Holland District Council	£126,086.96
North Kesteven District Council	£60,514.40
South Kesteven District Council	£58,113.22
	<hr/> £1,017,897.17

1086 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - Agenda Item 13

(a) Consent 2016-B14 Byelaw Issue

The Chief Executive stated that there is an issue with a byelaw which was agreed by the Board in June 2016 to consent a 6 metre easement strip with associated forecourts built inside of that but with the construction of the buildings beyond the 9 metre easement. He stated unbeknown to the Board and before it went to the planning office, the planning officers have come back with a re-application for consent for approval on the plans detail in the slide presented.

The planning officer has asked for the combined dwellings to be no closer than 7.3 metres from the top of the bank when before they were 9 metres. Now the access and turning forecourts, which had expressed concern that damage could be caused by the Board's large machinery, are now outside of the 6 metre top of brink.

The Chief Executive explained that it is more beneficial to the Board even though the building is coming closer to the bank now for manoeuvring vehicles. He presented this to the Board to approve and asked if Members have any questions.

Mr Leggott asked when we give these easements do we insist on an indemnity clause if they move it nearer then they cannot claim any damage? The Chief Executive responded that if they move it any nearer it would not be consented.

The Chairman suggested that the houses could be moved down slightly to come within the Boards byelaws; the Chief Executive responded that we could suggest but there is no guarantee they will listen to the suggestion.

Cllr Russell proposed that do this as a first option and then give the Chief Executive the authority to consent. All AGREED.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 16:30pm.

