

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Joint Meeting of the
Northern and Southern Works Committees

held at the Offices of the Board on
28th November 2018 at 2pm

Northern Works Members

Chairman - * Mr P Holmes

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|----------------------|------------------|
| * Cllr T Ashton | * Cllr P Bedford |
| * Cllr C Brotherton | * Cllr M Brookes |
| * Mr D Casswell | * Cllr M Cooper |
| * Mr J Fowler | * Mr R Leggott |
| * Mr J E Pocklington | * Mr R Needham |
| * Mr P Robinson | * Cllr C Rylott |
| * Mr N Scott | * Cllr P Skinner |
| * Cllr Mrs S Waring | * Mr R Welberry |

Southern Works Members

Chairman - * Mr M Rollinson

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

(* Member Present)

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

A minute's silence was observed for the sad loss of Mrs S Knox (Finance Supervisor) and Mr M Richardson (Co-opted Works Member).

Mr P Holmes chaired the meeting.

1360 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Agenda Item 1

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Dorrington, Mr W Ash and Cllr S Wray.

1361 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Agenda Item 2

There were no declarations of interest.

1362 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - Agenda Item 3

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Southern Works Committee held on 7th March 2018, 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 with the following amendment:

- Minute 1244(l) 'Mr Atkinson asked could it be a *slopping* bank...' should be '*sloping* bank...'

1363 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES - Agenda Item 4

(a) Drain 23/1 Dowsby Drain - Minute 1244(l)

Mr Barker questioned where the other 'pinch spots' are located on the Dowsby Lode? It was clarified that the survey has yet to be completed, once completed there will be more detail known.

1364 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - Agenda Item 5

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Northern Works Committee held on 11th April 2018, 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.

1365 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE - Agenda Item 6

(a) Damage to concrete Farm Yard - Claydyke, Holland Fen - Minute 1257(b)

Mr R Leggott noted that he has been approached by Mr Gadd who has expressed he would still like an onsite meeting.

The Chief Executive explained that at the Board Meeting, held on the 7th November 2018, it was agreed that Mr Gadd would have until the commencement of this meeting to accept the current offer of £3000. The Operations Manager has contacted Mr Gadd and explained this to him.

The Chief Executive referred to an email received the previous evening from Mr Gadd expressing his position, he further added that he has responded to this email this morning prior to the meeting as follows:

'In response to your email from yesterday, I can only apologise on behalf of Paul Tame (NFU) who had contacted me back in mid-October to explain he (NFU) was now representing you in these matters.

He stated you had three questions that I answered in my email dated 16 October 2018 (see below), I then also met and spoke with Paul at an Association of Drainage Authorities, Lincolnshire Branch meeting that we were both attending on the 18th October 2018. At that meeting he explained that he would get back to you with my responses to your questions, again I apologise as it looks like he forgot with his upcoming retirement?

Having spoken with Paul Nicholson this morning he will be reporting back to the Joint Works Committee meeting today that you have not taken up the Boards offer.'

The Chief Executive stated that he has had no response and so, as agreed by the Board, the offer is now withdrawn. The Chairman felt that it had been made clear at the time.

Mr R Leggott felt that there have been some problems arisen from the replacement of Mr P Tame (NFU Representative) and the new Officer not being up to date yet. The Chief Executive added that the new NFU Representative is attending a meeting with himself next week at which this matter can be discussed. He further invited opinions regarding the direction to take this in.

The Chairman felt that a fair and reasonable offer had been made, with plenty of time to accept it. He suggested that, as a matter of courtesy, it is extended until the Chief Executive has spoken to the new NFU Representative.

Mr K Casswell further suggested that it is discussed with the new NFU Representative next week with the Chief Executive and if no further progress is made, the Executive Committee draw a line under it at the next meeting on the 19th December 2018. All AGREED.

(b) Drain 5/30 Bank Slippage - Amulree, Kirton - Minute 1257(h)

Cllr S Waring questioned if Option 2 had been agreed with the owner of the land, to which the Operations Manager confirmed that it has been agreed and that he has a meeting with them next week to discuss additional identified works.

1366 TO RECEIVE THE ENGINEERING WORKS REPORT - Agenda Item 7

The Operations Manager presented the Report on Engineering Works, and referred the Committee to the Capital Scheme Budget mentioned within the report:

2018/19 Defra/EA Funded Grant in Aid (GiA) Schemes

(a) Malting Lane, Donington - Scheme 2098

This is a pipe line replacement with the budget of £60,500 still to be spent, the survey has now also been completed. This scheme was presented on screen, with the orange sections identifying the problem areas, which will be the areas that are focused on.

(b) North Forty Foot Drain - Scheme 2103

This scheme involves the replacement/realignment of a long length of existing pipeline exiting into the North Forty Foot Drain under Langrick Road. This section will then be desilted, by suction down to Cooks Lock Pumping Station. Potential sites for lagoons have been identified, but landowners have not yet been approached. The consultants, sourced through the Environment Agency (EA), are working on this scheme.

A cost has been identified for this year's work which will form part of the business case submitted to gain funding. It is hoped that funding will be achieved towards the end of this financial year and there is a programme in place for the following two years.

(c) Sempringham Fen Weedscreen - Scheme 2096

This scheme is for the implementation of a new weedscreen cleaner, which will enable automated removal of weed from the screen as opposed to an employee attending by hand to do the work. It is classified as a 'refurbishment' which will cover other factors alongside the weedscreen cleaner, such as a new roof, repairs to the building, repairs to the outfall and channel etc. The scheme is at a well progressed stage and the realisation of the funds are expected within the following few months, for the scheme to therefore progress, as proposed, next year.

A comparison between Sempringham Fen Pumping Station and Horbling Fen Pumping Station was presented on screen, it being noted that the equipment will be similar to that shown at Horbling Fen. It was also noted that further access will be required around the site, therefore the landowner will be approached about gaining more access – currently there is 2 metres around the site, another 3 metres is looking to be gained.

2018/19 BSIDB Funded Capital Schemes

(d) Swaton Drain 36/2 - Bank Stability - Scheme 2073

A revetment has been put in to try and reduce the bank slippage, unfortunately there is still movement in the bank. The landowner has been approached and it has been agreed that the best way forward for this scheme is to employ land drainage experts to assess the site and discuss options. One of these options could be to introduce a new larger gripped land drainage pipe to secure the bank slippage issues.

(e) Scredington Beck Improvements

The committee were reminded that it was decided to utilise the budget to identify a trial area to try and stabilise the issues. Photos were shown highlighting the seriousness of these problems, that are a result of ground conditions and high flows in the drain.

A possible method previously used by Welland and Deepings IDB was referred to. This method involves vibrating large timber posts into the ground, which are then surrounded by stone to try and stabilise the toe line of the bank. This has not yet been completed due to issues around obtaining the stock, the material has now been purchased, works will now be completed over the following few months.

(f) Donington Northings PS Replacement Weedscreen Cleaner - Scheme 1159

This is a 'like for like' replacement, due to the old unit being at the end of its life.

(g) Mallard Hurn PS New Roof - Scheme 1160

Mallard Hurn Pumping Station has had a new roof, sourced locally from within the board's catchment. This will be something that is rolled out to other pumping stations over time.

- (h) Gosberton Weedscreen Cleaner - Scheme 2187
This has been included due to a slight overspend of £84.
- (i) Graft Drain Improvements - Scheme 2086
A map was presented on screen, the red area highlighting where part funding has been achieved. It is now proposed that the work is continued using the board's own budget, spread over the next few years.
- (j) Jetting to Major Pipelines
Due to the contractors working on Maltings Lane in Donington already, the focus has been in and around the Donington catchment to save on traveling time and expense. A map was presented on screen, highlighting completed works, with identified issues such as an inaccessible site.
- (k) General Culvert Replacement
The three proposed culverts for replacement within the budget were identified. It was further clarified that the estimate cost is the cost that would be incurred if the board were to undertake all of the work, however, the Operations Manager felt there could possibly be a contribution made to the three proposed culverts. He further noted that the landowners will be approached in the near future.

Proposed Works 2019/20

(l) Defra/EA Granted Schemes

- (i) North Forty Foot Cleansing - Scheme 2103 & 2133
Some of the board's contribution towards this scheme has already been spent, it is hoped that the scheme is approved towards the end of this year, meaning the money can be claimed next year and the work completed over the next two years due to the funding having to be spent within two years.
- (ii) Sempringham Fen Weedscreen - Scheme 2096
The funding has been achieved for this scheme in the same way as for the North Forty Foot, the remainder of the funding will be spent next year dependent on when it is released. It was also noted that quotations for the weedscreen cleaner have already started to be obtained.

(m) Board Funded Capital Schemes

- (i) Jetting
The importance of continuing with the jetting of the large pipeline systems to identify problem areas and assess the conditions of the board's assets was highlighted. It was also added that all the jetting is only carried out on board maintained pipelines.
- (ii) Culvert Replacement
The culvert replacement budget has been reduced due to the policy change and that if the board require to use them, then a contribution towards future use will be given.

The following three culverts were referred to and explained that they have been monitored for a while, rather than doing the works immediately as changes meant there might be Grant in Aid funding available, however, the Operations Manager doesn't believe there will be any funding available for this in the near future.

No. 1253	Horbling Fen	40m x 0.6m	£9,524 (estimate)
No. 1283	Aslackby Fen	12m x 0.6m	£5,000 (estimate)
No. 755	South Kyme	12m x 0.9m	£7,000 (estimate)

(iii) Graft Drain Improvements - Scheme 2086

It is intended to use the £40,000 identified over the next two years. A map was presented on screen, with areas of work highlighted - the budget will not cover all of the culverts shown within this area. Two particularly long culverts, which total 90m in length, were introduced, the Operations Manager being of the opinion that the best way forward would be to line those culverts.

Anglian Water have also approached the board regarding a byelaw application for putting in a new main along North Gate Drove so there may be a conjunction of work between the board and Anglian Water, with an expected start date of around April 2019.

(iv) Dowsby Lode

This work was started a few years ago and is hopefully to be completed next year. A map was presented on screen, indicating where a survey will take place to establish the works required.

(v) Wyberton Towns Drain Re-alignment

There have been ongoing negotiations regarding the re-alignment of this drain. Some funds towards the completion of the works have been identified as there are some bank slippage and other issues along the drain. The Operations Manager also felt that there wouldn't be a lot of value to the board in doing lots of remedial works on the section that will not be re-aligned.

An estimated cost is to be provided to Chestnut Homes for the re-alignment works. The Committee were next pointed to the Anglian Water main 4.5m byelaw distance which has been included in the re-alignment shown on the plan. The Operations Manager was of the opinion that the re-alignment should be made as straight as possible.

(n) Pumping Station Schemes

(i) Wyberton Chain Bridge Pumping Station

Due to the catchment that Chain Bridge Pumping Station protects, it does more work and so it was therefore decided that the weedscreen cleaner at Wyberton Chain Bridge would be completed before Great Hale. As part of the cleansing work proposals the Hammond Beck is due for cleansing (the drain Chain Bridge serves). There is a 'duck weed' problem at this Pumping Station meaning that there is quite a large amount collected behind the weedscreen, which will be removed whilst the Hammond Beck water levels are reduced for these cleansing works.

(ii) Dyke Fen Pumping Station

This is the next pumping station on the list for control equipment replacement and will be a similar process to other pumping stations.

Mr V Barker questioned if the whole cabinet of control panels actually requires replacing or if it could just be 'tweaked' inside as required? The Operations Manager acknowledged Mr V Barker's point, but explained that the panels are built to order and so built offsite, it is therefore more cost effective to have the panel built to the specification off site.

Mr V Barker further questioned that at some pumping stations all three pumps are proposed for replacement; he was under the impression that the pump hours were monitored so that all pumps didn't require changing at the same time? The Operations Manager responded that the work is classified as a 'refurbishment' and the condition of the pumps are not known until they are taken out. In theory, the duty pump, that runs the most hours, should be in the worst condition. Even if the pump requires no work doing to it, there is still a cost associated with lifting it out, hence why all pumps will be proposed for 'refurbishment'. It was also noted that only one pump is taken out and refurbished at a time so that there are always pumps on site.

(iii) Pinchbeck North Fen Pumping Station

The next pumping station for a new roof is Pinchbeck North Fen, the same specification will be used as Mallard Hurn Pumping Station.

Drain Maintenance 2018/19

(o) Annual Maintenance Summer - Cutting/Flailmowing

The summer maintenance programme is on schedule, with completion due before Christmas 2018. A catchment map was presented on screen, showing which drains were flailed with each machine – there being an even split between all three Twiga machines.

A similar programme is conducted every year starting at around the same time and aiming to finish around the same. This year mechanical issues have been encountered with the excavators hence the reasoning behind moving the replacement of one forward from 2019/20 into 2018/19.

A second map for summer cutting 2018 was presented on screen, identifying when each machine cuts which section of drain.

The Chairman referred to the hired JCB 131 and noted that usually the two smaller excavators are not particularly active over winter, one of which is due to be replaced, and questioned if it would not be more cost effective to have one owned by the board and the other hired? The Operations Manager felt that it would depend what the programme entailed and that the team try to create a programme that means all the machines are busy at all times of the year. The Chief Executive also made the argument that once the board start replacing their own plant with hired machinery there will be no recovery on hire plant for future plant replacement.

This is the first year that a different contractor has been used for the cutting work due to the previously used contractor being unable to commit to the work and there have been no problems with them.

A map showing the proposed cleansing was presented, with the majority of it being large watercourses, water levels will be reduced in order to carry out the work.

It was clarified that all of the Hammond Beck is being proposed for cleansing.

(p) Prior Notice Given for Cleansing?

Landowners effected by the programme should have received notification via letter.

(q) Summer Crop Loss/Damage Compensation

As much notice as possible is given for access onto land, with the programme not differing much from year to year. The only possible change currently being considered is the alternation of bank cuts which may change the programme timings.

(r) Winter Crop and Land Loss Compensation

It is favourably looked upon that the arisings that are put on the land from this work are managed by the land owner, however, the board will spread if requested as soon as it is dry enough to do so. The programme tries to work around a time that suits both the land owner and board where possible.

(s) Proposed Desilting, Bushing & Cleansing Works

In order for the desilting works to be completed access is required and so the bushing programme is based mainly upon what is proposed for desilting.

Mr R Leggott raised his concern for 'patches' on the North Forty Foot Drain that never seem to get maintained from the machines because of height restriction / overhead wires, and questioned if there was any intention to maintain these areas? The Operations Manager acknowledged this problem, explaining that in other areas where a larger machine cannot do the work, a smaller machine has been sent in, however this is expensive. Ideally, the restriction is removed, for example, getting overhead cables lifted to a higher level or removed completely. The Chairman questioned if the spider machine could assist in this matter? The Operations Manager noted this and will look at a way forward.

Pumping Station Maintenance

- (t) At the end of Period 07 the budget for maintenance works is £196,717 with the actual expenditure being £212,942. Hopefully by the end of the year, the actual expenditure will be close to the budget.

External Recoverable Works

- (u) At the end of Period 07 the recoverable income is £96,236 for rechargeable works compared to £512,476 last year.

Health and Safety

- (v) Next year will be the last year of the five-year period with Cope Safety Consultants. This will be reviewed, with potential continuation with this Consultant. There is good relationship between the board and Cope Safety and they are able to provide the board with what is required.

The Peoplesafe app is still in use, with all Employees provided with a smart phone to use this. This works well in comparison to the previous system.

Planning Information

- (w) The Chief Executive presented on screen the following major planning development matters, as information only. The involvement and significant impact that these developments will have on the board was noted.

Cllr C Brotherton questioned whether the board review any properties that sit lower that could be at risk of flooding, referring to a bungalow at Kirton that often gets flooded. The Chief Executive noted that any identified risks are highlighted to the planning authority.

BBC Application B/18/0385	Land north of Puritan Way, Boston	Construction of an off-site surface water disposal system for a development approved under B/16/0106.
BBC Application B/18/0399	Land west of Fenside Road, Boston	Proposed development of up to 69 dwellings.
BBC Application B/18/0435	Land north of Langrick Road, Boston	Outline application for development of up to 46 dwellings.
BBC Application B/18/0457	Land south of Station Road, Kirton	Erection of 31 dwellings including demolition of existing dwelling.
SKDC Application S18/0904	Manning Road, Bourne	107 dwelling development.

External Partnerships, Strategies & Agreements

Whilst preparing this section, the Chief Executive has been asked to prepare a brief feature regarding the decommissioning of the Black Sluice Pumping Station (Boston) for the ADA Gazette, whilst completing that he also identified some of the other strategies referred to in this agenda item. Black Sluice IDB catchments seems to be a focus area currently.

- (x) Boston Barrier

This is a national priority project; the biggest single Environment Agency project currently being conducted in the country. There will be an opportunity to visit this at the works inspections in Spring 2019 – the committee members expressed an interest in visiting this site.

- (y) EA / BSIDB PSCA

Around 100km of cutting on the main river has been completed, some of which will be reclassified going forward due to the Rationalising of the Main River Network (RMRN).

(z) South Lincs Water Partnership (SLWP)

A leaflet was distributed advertising an event being held on Tuesday 11th December 2018 at Doubleday's, Swineshead, 8:30 - 10:30 am. There will be SLWP updates being discussed at the event, including information regarding water movement, control and how water can be held above / below ground level within the catchment. The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) have also made an application to gain funds to purchase an area of land in Bourne North Fen with the intention of returning it to its natural state of Lincs Fenlands / Wetlands, with the emphasis of holding large quantities of water in the ground. This will possibly enable reintroduction into the water transfer options, which will become a very large project. It has been asked if Black Sluice IDB want to be a Water Resource Management Controller to which the Chief Executive has responded, yes.

(aa) Rationalising the Main River Network (RMRN)

Black Sluice IDB are the first board in the country to have completed the demaining process. The handover packages have all been received and the transfer value will be received on Friday. Discussion has taken place around what to use this money for. The Chief Executive felt that these highland carriers become part of the boards maintenance programme and so there is no need to identify them over others. Mr J Fowler felt that if the finances were kept separate then it would only potentially 'tie the board's hands' in the future.

(bb) Black Sluice Pumping Station

The Black Sluice Pumping Station (Boston) is about to be decommissioned through the Environment Agency's effective initiative project. Black Sluice IDB tried to access funding to take over ownership and transfer of the Pumping Station and maintain it accordingly, however, it was realised that this funding couldn't be gained and so the outcome was collectively accepted by all the partners. Black Sluice IDB have helped to instigate a new discharge system through the gravity sluice and navigation lock and the Environment Agency Pumping Station Manager, who is very knowledgeable, is writing the new operations manual for this. The public drop in sessions are still taking place every Wednesday from 12 midday to 7pm at the Boston Hub. There are also ongoing meetings with Heritage Lincolnshire about possible considerations for future uses of the pumping station.

Mr K Casswell noted that a contingency plan has been requested in the case that any of the assets fail. Van Heck, a company based in Holland, will also be meeting with the Chief Executive on 1st March 2019 to design a disaster recovery plan for the board.

(cc) SFFD Embankment Armouring to 'Low Spots'

The lower end of the Swaton Eau has been completed and the EA are still carrying out surveys along all banks to identify further sections.

(dd) SFFD De-silting

The Cutter Suction Dredger from Royal Smals, used previously, is back in the water, with the heavy vegetation removal having been completed. The only current 'hold-up' is awaiting the final sign off for the leasing of land for the lagoon to then allow pumping to begin.

(ee) Swaton Natural Flood Management

This project is with the EA, however, the Chief Executive believes the board will be invited to undertake some of the proposed works once designed and approved.

(ff) Upper Catchment Natural Flood Management & Control Analysis

The Chief Executive has also applied and been successful in obtaining a grant for £100,000 to employ a graduate Flood Risk Specialist and a Farm Engagement Advisor for twelve months to investigate all of the other upper catchments.

(gg) Grant in Aid Applications Manager

Grant in Aid funding is currently controlled by the Regional Flood and Coast Committee, in which business cases are put forward to them – it is an extremely difficult process. Therefore, a Grant in Aid Applications Manager position is being funded for all board's in the county to use collectively. Black Sluice IDB will be the hosting board, with first interviews of five candidates taken place this week. Three candidates have been selected for a second interview at which other experts will also attend. A Memorandum of Understanding has been put together for all the board's in the county to spread the cost of that position if they under recover, with the idea being that the position will become self-financing – as they apply for a grant they include their own time in that application. The position will hopefully start early in 2019.

Cllr M Brookes questioned whether, as the hosting board, we take any ongoing liability for employing that individual? It was clarified that an agreement has been put in place with all the other IDBs that the liability will be equally shared.

1367 EASY IDENTIFICATION OF CONSENTED OBSTRUCTIONS - Agenda Item 8

The Operations Manager explained that this Agenda Item aims to identify how the board manage consented and unconsented structures, he referred to previous events of hitting structures that can't be seen with board machinery. Whether consented or unconsented, there needs to be some form of identification so that the machine operator doesn't damage the landowner's equipment or the board's machinery.

An internal exercise has been carried out, whereby the workforce have given their input, the Operations Manager felt that there needs to be identification in place, whether it is a permanent or temporary obstruction, it needs to be a uniform approach so that the operators know what to look for. The basis of the proposal is a permanent marker post positioned near the obstruction, that is a clearly visible colour. The landowner who has applied for the structure will be responsible for the marker post. The Operations Manager proposed that for any unconsented structures, the marker post becomes the consent, which will then still give us a data point to put on the map.

It was confirmed that the £50 fee would be per application, so for instance, if a landowner had multiple hydrant running along a watercourse, that would be a collective application, and so one fee of £50.

The Operations Manager explained that it is usually the flail mower that hits unseen obstructions because that is the first machine on site. There needs to be something in place in order to protect the board from counter claims of damage through non-identification of equipment.

The Chief Executive presented on screen more photographs of the damage caused to a machine hitting an air valve, emphasising the safeguarding of both the machinery and landowner's apparatus.

The Operations Manager presented on screen photographs of damage done to an irrigation pipe last year. Consequently, the board then had to go back and repair the damage to the bank and watercourse and looked to recover those costs. The landowner then counter-claimed with their costs for damage to their equipment with the response '*it's been there years*'. The landowner was then met on site, discussing all the locations with equipment within the byelaw distance and trying to come to an agreement around how future damage to this equipment can be stopped.

The Operations Manager continued that the marker needs to remain permanent, initially a post concreted in was proposed, but that comes at a cost. It was then proposed that the terminology 'permanent marker' is used and so if it is the landowner's responsibility it is up to them to ensure that the marker remains permanent and in position. It was also felt that an agreed area around the post needs to be kept clear by the landowner.

Cllr S Waring left the meeting.

Mr C Wray felt it was a good idea as it will cover the board for liability in that if there isn't a post registered with the board marking the obstruction and the board hit it, the board would not be to blame. He also noted that he wouldn't stipulate concrete posts because he felt they are too much effort for landowners to actually complete. He suggested wooden posts that can be pushed in.

The Chairman acknowledged this and felt if the terminology 'permanent marker' is used then it is up to the landowner to define what that means. He also noted the suggested concept of offering an amnesty for identifying unconsented constructions, he felt there should be a time limit placed on this. Mr K Casswell suggested that the information needs to be known by the next cutting season ideally.

It was clarified that these marker posts would be used as data points on the mapping system and so the marker post would not be the only means of identification. The operators shouldn't be completely reliant on them; they should act as a visual aid only.

The Operations Manager presented on screen further instances where obstructions have been hit.

Mr V Barker questioned when consenting started? The Chief Executive explained that there is no defined answer but it was around the late 1990's.

Mr R Leggott felt that the GPS information is essential and that the marker post needs to be a colour that stands out. He also raised concern over marker posts needing to be placed on watercourses near roads, where the highways may remove them.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that it may be that the board aren't allowed to place the marker posts on a highways verge and so it may be that the marker is only placed one side.

Cllr T Ashton felt that the marker post needs to be instantly recognisable that it is relevant to the board.

Mr J Fowler raised the point that a neighbouring board use wooden posts to mark overhead wires and that a lot of them get knocked down each year, he therefore saw wooden posts as a temporary solution until the GPS system can map everything.

Mr N Scott questioned how many events where equipment / machinery is damaged occur per year?

The Operations Manager clarified that he doesn't feel the operatives should be completely reliant on marker posts, but that they should be an additional visual aid to notify the operator.

The Chairman questioned if these incidents have increased as the workforce now has new operatives? The Operations Manager felt that there wasn't a direct link as some of the incidents happened from a seasoned operative that has worked for the board for a while. It still comes down to the fact that if you can't see it you can't avoid it.

The Chief Executive noted that agricultural irrigation will increase in the future and so this problem is going to become more prominent over time.

Mr M Rollinson questioned how accurate the Tom-Tom is? The Operations Manager explained the information is a data point which is a GPS location and so the position is accurate.

The Operations Manager presented on screen various specifications of possible marker posts.

The Chairman suggested having different coloured marker posts to represent different things, such as permanent obstructions, at the start and end of a linear length etc. The Operations Manager noted that it would depend on the length due to the possibility of various machinery access points along that length.

The Chief Executive noted that it could be left with the officers to design a suitable system if the committee wished so. The Chairman suggested that the Officers come back to the committee once they have thought about it more. The Chief Executive further suggested that the officers will identify the most suitable way forward and implement a few to show the works committees whilst on their tours in Spring 2019.

Mr V Barker suggested that if a decision has been made then a flyer could go out with next year's rate demands.

It was generally felt that the onus needs to be on the landowners to identify any obstructions to avoid damage being done to either their equipment or the boards machinery. If a marker post is used, it needs to be a clearly visible colour and permanent, with emphasis on using the GPS system also.

The Officers and Chairmen of the Northern and Southern Works will discuss this matter further and bring it back to the appropriate committee. All AGREED.

1368 TO RECEIVE PERIOD 07 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS - Agenda Item 9

The Board's Period 07 Management Accounts were circulated. The committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

1369 REPORT ON RAINFALL - Agenda Item 10

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were circulated. The Committee RESOLVED that this report be noted.

Mr V Barker stated that 40 - 50% of the water comes from an area outside of the board's control, he questioned should having a rain gauge in that area be considered? The Chief Executive noted that this will come under the process that the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) put together, working with the South Lincs Water Partnership (SLWP) to assess the whole catchment, and arguably beyond.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 16:11.