

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board
held at the Offices of the Board on Wednesday
4th November 2009 at 2:30pm

Members

Chairman - * Mr M J Scott

* Mr W Ash	* Cllr R Austin
* Mr J F Atkinson	* Cllr P Bedford
* Mr V A Barker	* Cllr J Blaylock
* Mr K C Casswell	* Cllr M Brookes
Mr J Fowler	* Cllr D Dickinson
* Mr F W C Holmes	Cllr D Owens
* Mr R Leggott	Cllr A Puttick
* Mr P Robinson	* Cllr B Russell
* Mr M Rollinson	* Cllr R Singleton-McGuire
* Mr J R Wray	* Cllr D Witts

* Member Present

In attendance: Mr S M Hemmings (Chief Executive)
Mr D Withnall (Finance Officer)

658 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

On The proposition of Mr V A Barker, seconded by Mr D Dickinson it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr M J Scott be appointed Chairman of the Board for the next three years.

659 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

On the proposition of Mr J F Atkinson, seconded by Mr R Leggott it was unanimously RESOLVED that Mr K C Casswell be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board for the next three years.

The Chairman welcomed Mr W Ash and Mr M Rollinson to their first Board meeting and he hoped they enjoy their time on the Board.

660 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Fowler, Cllr A Puttick and Cllr D Owens.

661 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on 3rd July 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received and adopted.

662 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Azolla - Minute No 605(a)

The Chief Executive stated that the Azolla weed which had grown in large areas of the North Forty Foot Drain last year has not re-established itself and the situation is still being monitored.

(b) National Fraud Initiative – Minute No 605(c)

The Finance Officer stated that he had received data information from the Audit Commission identifying 37 matches which had been checked. These were all satisfactory invoices and there were no matters for concern.

(c) Plant Replacement Fund – Minute No 605(d)

The Chief Executive stated that the Works Manager was looking into the replacement for the JCB 160 and proposals will be tabled at the next meeting of the Board.

(d) South Forty Foot Drain – Minute No 609

The Chief Executive reported that AECOM, consultants to the Environment Agency, had completed the updated computer model predicting water levels in the South Forty Foot Drain and its tributaries. He had given AECOM an order to carry out additional work using this model. This entailed modelling the effect of switching off pumps and utilising storage areas in the west of the Board's area. The cost of this work will be £4,400 and the results will be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

(e) Biodiversity Action Plan – Minute No 613(e)

The Chief Executive stated that the first draft of the plan had been received and was in the process of being reviewed by Mr Harpley. The final plan will be available for approval at the next Board meeting.

(f) Fens Waterways Link – Minute No 613

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the EA have not yet appointed a consultant for the appraisal of the next stage of the link. Discussion took place on the possible renaming of the South Forty Foot Drain as the Black Sluice Navigation.

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(g) Flood and Water Bill – Minute No 618

The Chief Executive stated that delegates who attended the ADA Conference in September had been informed that a very much shorter bill was to be placed before parliament in the Queens speech later in November. There will be no reference to IDB's in the bill which will concentrate on legislation to give upper tier Councils the powers to be the lead local authority to be responsible for surface water management.

663 MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2009 copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received and adopted.

664 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Drayton – Minute No 629(a)

The piping costs have risen to £71,000 after the reinstatement of ■■■■■ garden which has cost more than anticipated.

(b) Damford Pumping Station - Minute No 629(b)

The Chief Executive stated that the total cost was £15,000 over budget because the full price of the weedscreen cleaner from EIMCO had not been allowed for in the budget price.

(c) Swineshead Pumping Station – Minute No 629(h)

A report has been received from the Board's consultants, J A Services, which states that there are insufficient benefits to support expenditure in reconstructing the weedscreen cleaner. Therefore it seems not to be possible to obtain grant aid for this project. It was AGREED that the Northern Works Committee should consider this at their next meeting.

(d) Proposed Desilting Programme – Minute No 629(m)

The Chief Executive has investigated the cost involved in removing the silt from the New Hammond Beck Drain, which is estimated at £29,000. He recommended that this expenditure should be budgeted for in 2010/11 and paid for from the development account.

665 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman presented the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th September 2009, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received and adopted.

666 MATTERS ARISING

(a) Lease of Offices and Storage Areas to EA – Minute No 634(d)

The Chief Executive reported that the Executive Committee had received a report on this at their meeting earlier in the afternoon. The Committee had AGREED that the basis of any agreement should allow for the cost of the construction of the building and hard standings to be recouped over a fifteen year period, and the Board should take out a loan to finance the work.

(b) Banking Arrangements – Minute No 637

The Finance Officer reported to the Board that the new accounts with NatWest have now been put in place and a gradual process to transfer the account from the Lloyds TSB had begun and would be completed by 30th April 2010.

(c) Purchase of Photocopier – Minute No 639(a)

The Finance Officer reported to Board that the new photocopier has now been purchased and installed at a cost of £4,150.

667 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman presented the minutes of the last meeting held on 25th September 2009, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be received and adopted.

668 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

669 REPORT ON AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09 – Agenda Item 7

The Chairman stated that the basis on which the accounts had been presented was the same as the last few years. However this year Grant Thornton had been appointed by the Audit Commission to undertake the work. Grant Thornton had not had any experience of drainage boards, and had required the accounts to be dramatically altered. Most of the changes had been technical accounting issues. The Finance Officer had made every effort to accommodate these changes, even though the Executive Committee didn't agree with them, in order to receive an unqualified set of accounts.

669 Cont.....

However the Board were the only large Board to have their accounts signed off before the due date of 31st September 2009. ADA has written to the Audit Commission expressing their concern that all fourteen large Boards had experienced significant problems with the first audit carried out by Grant Thornton, and setting out the major points of contention.

The Chairman said that the accounts were still qualified because of value for money issues, which the Chief Executive and Finance Officer would be working to resolve over the next few months.

With reference to the pumping station values Mr V A Barker commented that as the pumping stations had been constructed in the 1960's they should all be fully depreciated now.

Cllr J Blaylock asked how the depreciation would be handled in the accounts and the depreciation would be set against the reserves.

670 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE – Agenda Item 8

The Chairman recommended that the Board should establish an Audit & Risk Committee to consider internal and external audits and look into details of the management risk policy.

The Board approved the formation of the Audit & Risk Committee all AGREED.

671 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Agenda Item 9

The Chief Executive explained that the amendments to the constitution of the Executive Committee were required because the Finance and General Purposes Committee now did not exist.

The Board approved the amendment to the criteria all AGREED.

672 TO APPOINT BOARD MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO CONSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES – Agenda Item 10

The Chairman stated that the Chairmen and Committee members of the Northern and Southern Works should bring forward names of possible Co-Opted members from local people whom might have an interest in being members of the relevant committees.

Appointed to Executive Committee

Cllr P Bedford
Mr R Leggott

Cllr M Brookes
Mr M J Scott

Mr K C Casswell
Mr J R Wray

Appointed to Northern Works Committee

Board Members:-

Cllr R Austin	Cllr P Bedford	Cllr J Blaylock
Cllr M Brookes	Cllr D R Dickinson	Mr J G Fowler
Mr F W C Holmes	Mr R Leggott	Cllr D Owens
Mr P C Robinson	Mr M A Rollinson	Cllr D Witts
Mr M J Scott	Cllr R Singleton-McGuire	

Co-opted Members:-

Mr S Bartlett	Mr E Bettinson	Mr R Needham
Mr J Pocklington	Mr R Welberry	Mr G S Woodward

Appointed to Southern Works Committee

Board Members:-

Mr W Ash	Mr J F Atkinson	Mr V A Barker
Mr K C Casswell	Cllr A Puttick	Cllr B Russell
Mr J R Wray		

Co-opted Members:-

Mr C A Fretwell	Mr P S Harborow	Mr A H Proctor
Mr C M Smith		

Appointed to Environment Committee

Mr J F Atkinson	Mr V A Barker	Cllr J Blaylock
Mr K C Casswell	Cllr D R Dickinson	Mr C A Fretwell
Mr F W C Holmes	Mr R Leggott	Mr P Robinson
Mr M J Scott	Mr R Welberry	Mr J R Wray

Appointed to Audit & Risk Committee

Mr W Ash	Cllr M Brookes	Cllr J Blaylock
Mr J G Fowler	Mr R Leggott	

The Board all AGREED to these appointments.

673 TO APPOINT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEES – Agenda Item 11

The following members were duly elected to be Chairman of the following Committees;

- Northern Works Committee - Mr R Leggott
- Southern Works Committee - Mr K C Casswell
- Environment Committee - Mr J R Wray
- Audit & Risk Committee - Cllr M Brookes
- Executive Committee - Mr M J Scott

The Board all AGREED these appointments.

674 POLICY STATEMENT ON FLOOD PROTECTION AND WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT – Agenda Item 12

The Chief Executive informed the Board that this document should be reviewed every five years and it was last reviewed in 2003. He recommended to the Board that members should approve this revised document and copies be sent with appropriate authorities.

The Board approved the amendment to the policy all AGREED.

675 REVISED RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY – Agenda Item 13

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the Risk Management Policy was due for review by the board and recommended approving this policy. He recommended that it should be referred to the Audit & Risk Committee for further additions and amendments.

The Board approved the current policy and referred it to the Audit & Risk Committee all AGREED.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

676 REPORT ON FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RATING – Agenda Item 14

The Finance Officer presented his report to the Board. There were no matters arising.

It was agreed that the rateable value of Assessment No (3391) 19010095 should be reduced from £3,544 to £1,932 with effect from 1st April 2009.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and adopted.

677 ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY – Agenda Item 15

The Chief Executive presented to the Board the Annual report on Health and Safety. The Chairman requested that the Board's Health and Safety leaflet be circulated to all Board members on safety at work. This was AGREED.

It was RESOLVED that the Health and Safety Report be approved and adopted.

678 MINUTES OF MEETINGS – Agenda Item 16

(a) ADA Lincolnshire Branch Meeting – 1st October 2009

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the ADA Lincolnshire Branch held at the Bainland Country Park, Woodhall Spa on 1st October 2009, copies of which had been circulated.

(b) River Witham Catchment Coordination Committee – 22nd October 2009

The Chairman presented a verbal report on the recent RWCCC meeting. He reminded members that the Committee had originally been set up as a result of the IDB review to promote closer working between Boards in a catchment. The Committee had agreed to now meet annually unless there were any issues, particularly regarding the proposed Lincolnshire Framework, before this.

(c) ADA Lincolnshire Environment Committee – 29th October 2009

The Chief Executive presented a verbal report of the meeting and highlighted to the Board the appointment of new Chairman Mr Brian Bowles with Mr J R Wray as the Vice Chairman.

679 REPORTS – Agenda Item 17

(a) Monthly Accounts

The Board's monthly accounts which included June 2009 – September 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were AGREED.

(b) Schedule of Consents

Schedule of consents for Bye-Law Relaxations, Culvert Consents, Development Contributions and Tile Drainage Consents issued from July 2009 – October 2009 were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

(c) Rainfall

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

680 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2010 – Agenda Item 18

The following dates were proposed for meetings in 2010:

Executive Committee	Wednesday, 13 th January
Risk & Audit Committee	Wednesday, 20 th January
Board	Wednesday, 3 rd February
Northern Works Inspection	Wednesday, 3 rd March
Southern Works Inspection	Wednesday, 10 th March
Environment Committee	Wednesday, 19 th May
Board Meeting and Inspection	Wednesday, 7 th July
Board	Wednesday, 3 rd November

The Board all AGREED these dates.

681 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Stock Fences

Mr V A Barker said he wanted to draw attention to the number of stock fences that were being erected alongside Board's drains. He stated that these should have consent, and he would like confirmation that consent had been given in all cases for these fences.

He recommended that a suitable paragraph should be included in the next Rating Brochure. It should explain that access was required to carry out annual maintenance.

(b) Rate Increases

Cllr R Austin requested that the Board look carefully at any proposed increase of the rate for 2010/11 as this had an effect on the finances of Boston Borough Council. He stated that the increase in the rate support grant was small and he considered the Boards increase should reflect this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3:50pm.