

BLACK SLUICE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES

of the proceedings of a Meeting of the Board

At a Meeting of the Board held at the Offices of the Board on Wednesday  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at 2.30pm.

Members

Chairman - \* Mr M J Scott

* Mr P H Ash	* Mr R Leggott
Cllr Mrs J M Ashton	Mr E I Needham
* Mr J F Atkinson	* Cllr Mrs A Parker
* Mr V A Barker	Mr J Pocklington
* Cllr P Bedford	Mr A H Proctor
* Mr E Bettinson	Mr M E F Richardson
Cllr M Brookes	* Mr P Robinson
Cllr C Brotherton	* Cllr J Rylatt
* Mr J G Casswell	Mr C M Smith
* Mr K C Casswell	Cllr O Snell
* Cllr A Day	* Mr R J Watts
Cllr D R Dickinson	Mr R Welberry
Cllr C A Fretwell	Mr A S Whitehead
* Mr D J Graves	* Mr G S Woodward
* Mr W E Harborow	* Mr J R Wray
* Mr F W C Holmes	Cllr H Wright
* Cllr J A Kirkman	Cllr Mrs M K Wright

\* Members Present

In attendance: Mr S M Hemmings (Chief Executive)  
Mr M L Mitchell (Senior Engineer)  
Mr S Brown (Senior Finance Officer)

Before commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr P Robinson and Cllr J Rylatt to their first Board Meeting. He informed Members that Councillors Craven, Forster and Gilchrist had not been reappointed onto the Board. Boston Borough Council had appointed Cllr J Rylatt, who was welcomed by the Chairman to his first meeting, and Cllrs H & M Wright who had previously been Board members and were reappointed to the Board.

217 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J M Ashton, Cllr M Brookes, Cllr C Brotherton, Cllr D R Dickinson, Cllr C A Fretwell, Mr E I Needham, Mr J Pocklington, Mr A H Proctor, Mr M E F Richardson, Mr C M Smith, Cllr O Snell, Mr R Welberry, Mr A S Whitehead, Cllr H Wright and Cllr Mrs M K Wright.

218 MINUTES OF LAST BOARD MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006, 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.

219 MATTERS ARISING

a) Pay & Conditions Advisory Committee – Minute No. 177a

Mr Scott reported that the Pay & Conditions Advisory Committee met in March and a pay rise of 3.25% and an additional day's holiday was agreed with the Unions. A ballot of the workforce and staff has been completed and the offer has been accepted.

b) Inspection of EA Banks – Minute No. 177h

The Chief Executive reported that investigative work was being continued and in particular surveying property levels so that more information could be passed on to the Environment Agency. He would also be looking into the possibility of storage areas at Billingham, and would produce a full report on these works at the November Board Meeting.

c) Adoption of Financial Regulations and Standing Orders – Minute 179d

The Senior Finance Officer reported that the amendments to the Standing Orders had been approved by the Secretary of State, and that all members had now been issued with a copy of the Standing Orders.

d) DEFRA Innovation Fund – Minute No. 184

The Chief Executive reported that he had submitted an application DEFRA for the Innovation Fund, but this had been unsuccessful.

e) Board's Bungalow in Hessle Drive – Minute No. 185

The Senior Finance Officer reported that he had received a rental valuation for the bungalow in Hessle Drive, Boston.

The Executive Committee had agreed that the tenants, Mr & Mrs F G H Epton, should pay £58.50 per week as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006, and this rent should be reviewed annually.

f) Trip to ADA Demonstration, Kent on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006 – Minute No. 189

The Chief Executive reminded members about the forthcoming trip to Kent to visit the ADA Demonstration, and went through the itinerary.

220 MINUTES OF SOUTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE – 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2006

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr R J Watts, presented the Minutes of the Southern Works Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

221 MATTERS ARISING

a) Purchase of Land at Six House Bank from Lincolnshire County Council – Minute No. 194

Arising from Minute No. 194, negotiations had taken place with LCC who had agreed that claw back should not be charged on the small areas of garden land involved. The Chief Executive reported that as the sale was moving slowly he had not yet contacted the householders.

b) Malting Lane, Donington – Minute No. 195b

The Senior Engineer reported that the owner had paid 50% towards the cost of a length of pipe reconstruction, and the work was being carried out at the present time.

222 SOUTHERN WORKS AREA REPORT

The Senior Engineer presented his report on the Southern Works Area, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

MATTERS ARISING:-

a) Drain 23/4 Rippingale Fen

It was RESOLVED that the Board gives up Drain 23/4 in Rippingale Fen.

223 MINUTES OF NORTHERN WORKS COMMITTEE – 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2006

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr R Leggott, presented the Minutes of the Northern Works Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

224 MATTERS ARISING

a) Recommendation to Restore Further Piped Lengths of Drain 4/37 at Drayton to Open Drain

The Senior Engineer reported that the farmer was not happy with the Board's proposal to restore further lengths of piped drain to open drain.

He was looking at a number of alternative options which included:-

- Relocating the drain to the opposite side of the A52,
- Reconstructing the whole pipeline,
- Lining the existing pipe.

It was agreed that proposals should be considered by the Northern Works Committee at their next meeting.

225 NORTHERN WORKS AREA REPORT

The Senior Engineer presented his report on the Northern Works Area, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the report be received and adopted.

MATTERS ARISING:-

a) Private Drain, Bungley Lane, Kirton

It was RESOLVED that the Board should adopt 1,000 metres of drain between Willington Road and the downstream end of the Bungley Lane culvert.

b) Proposed Replacement of Silt Pit Lane Culvert, Wyberton Main Drain 6/4

After discussion it was AGREED that the Board should make a contribution towards the extra cost of a replacement 2.0m diameter concrete culvert instead of the 1.2m proposed, and the Senior Engineer should continue to negotiate with Lincolnshire County Council on the contribution required towards the cost.

c) Culvert Application – Drain 6/32, Battery Farm, Boston

The Senior Engineer reported that since writing his report, he had discovered that Forceshift Ltd had already filled in the drain. As an environmental report is now impractical he recommended that a formal Consent to fill the drain should be given to the applicant. This was AGREED.

d) Planning Applications – Affordable Housing Scheme, Rookery Road, Bicker

Discussion took place on the proposal that the Board should construct and in future maintain a new pipeline adjacent to Rookery Road at Bicker to provide a surface water connection to the nearest Board's drain for the surface water from a development of 12 new properties for the Lincolnshire Rural Housing Association Ltd.

It was AGREED that the Board's policy has a preference for open drains, and that the Senior Engineer should have further discussions with the landowner to inform him of this. It was further AGREED that the Chairman and the Chairman of the Northern Works should be given powers to confirm the resolution of this matter.

226 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr M J Scott, presented the Minutes of the Environment Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be received and adopted.

227 MATTERS ARISING

a) Recording of Water Voles, Badgers and Other Species – Minute No. 209

The Chief Executive reported that new software called "Mapmate" to record the results of environmental surveys was now being trialed in the office.

b) Report on Proposed Environmental Survey and Drainworks to be carried out in 2006 and 2007 – Minute No. 210

The Board's environmental consultant, Mr J Harpley, would present a report on changes in biodiversity at the next Environment Meeting.

c) Development of Brochure, and the Environmental Content of the Website – Minute No. 216

The Chief Executive reported that he would prepare a brochure and this could be discussed at the November Board Meeting.

228 TO APPOINT A BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBER ONTO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that Cllr Mrs J Ashton had informed him that she did not wish to continue to be a member of the Executive Committee because of her other commitments.

Proposed by Cllr J Rylatt and seconded by Cllr A Day, it was RESOLVED that Cllr P Bedford become a member of the Executive Committee.

229 REVENUE ACCOUNT AND BALANCE SHEET

The Senior Finance Officer presented the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet should be received and adopted.

230 TO SIGN STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Chief Executive should sign the Statement of Assurance.

231 PLANT PURCHASES

The Chief Executive presented his report on plant purchases, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the report be received and accepted.

Matters arising

a) Trailer and Jetting Tanker

As outlined in the report, because of the uncertainties in compliance with the tractor and trailer legislation, this should be discussed again at the November Board Meeting, and it was AGREED that the Board should continue to hire a jetter tanker and use the old trailer.

232 REPORT ON FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RATING

The Senior Finance Officer presented his report on finance, administration and rating, copies of which had been circulated.

It was RESOLVED that the Report be received and accepted.

233 REPORT ON THE IDB REVIEW BY JEREMY BENN ON DRAINAGE BOARDS AND THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Chairman referred to the review of IDB's which had been carried out by Jeremy Benn Associates, and the recommendations that were now being consulted on by Defra. Most of the recommendations were already being carried out by the Board.

Discussion took place on the recommendation that the maximum number of Board members should be 21. Most members considered that the existing number of 37 was too many and the number should be reduced, and a number voiced the opinion that the electoral district system should be retained.

The Chief Executive informed members that the Defra recommendations would be issued within the next two months. It was AGREED that a full report should be received at the November meeting.

234 LINCOLNSHIRE BRANCH OF ADA AGM

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the Lincolnshire branch of ADA's AGM held at Elme Hall Hotel, Wisbech, on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

He referred to the interesting talk given by Jeremy Benn on the review of Internal Drainage Boards.

235 LINCOLNSHIRE ADA BRANCH MEETING

The Chief Executive presented the Minutes of the Lincolnshire Branch Meeting held at the offices of Upper Witham IDB, 39 St Catherines, Lincoln on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

It was reported that the Senior Finance Officer and Mr R Watts had attended a IDB precept meeting at the Environment Agency offices in Lincoln on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006, at which Boards were requesting that their Precept and the drainage charge should be ring fenced for locally decided schemes. This is at present not EA policy and the above monies are placed in the National Priorities Budget.

236 REPORTS

a) Monthly Accounts

The members considered the Board's monthly accounts which included January – May 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

b) Rainfall

The rainfall figures at Swineshead and Black Hole Drove were presented from June 2005 – May 2006, copies of which had been circulated.

c) Schedule of Consents

Bye-Law, Culvert and Development Contribution consents issued from November 2005 – June 2006 were presented, copies of which had been circulated.

237 REPORT ON THE BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE BOSTON FLOOD DEFENCE AND WATERWAYS STRATEGY

The Chief Executive presented his report on the Board's response to the Boston Flood Defence and Waterways Strategy, copies of which had been circulated, and discussion took place on this.

238 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.23pm.