

**AT A MEETING of the NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD
held at the AMETHYST HOTEL, EAST HALTON
on TUESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2016 at 2.30pm**

Present *Elected Members* :

Julian Hargreaves (Chairman), Lionel Grooby
(Vice-Chairman),

John Dodds, John Finch and Ted Shepherd

***Council Appointees* :**

North East Lincolnshire Council -

Councillors Iain Colquhoun, Ray Sutton and
Alderman Peter Mills.

North Lincolnshire Council -

Councillor Peter Clark.

In Attendance: Jane Froggatt
 Chief Executive, Witham Group of IDB's

1 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman introduced Jane Froggatt the Chief Executive of the Witham Group of IDB's who will be taking over the management of the Board from the 1st April 2017.

He then welcomed Councillor Ray Sutton to his first meeting representing North East Lincolnshire Council and he suitably replied.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Hoyes, Ian Pickersgill, George Turner and Councillors Margaret Cracknell, Henry Hudson, Jane Hyldon-King, Tim Mickleburgh, Bill Parkinson and David Wells.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes (as circulated) of the Meeting of the Board held on the 17th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4 COUNCIL APPOINTEES

The Clerk reported as follows:

(a) North East Lincolnshire Council

At the annual meeting of the Council held on the 26th May the following members were appointed onto our Board for 2016/17.

Councillors Iain Colquhoun, Margaret Cracknell, Henry Hudson, Jane Hyldon-King, Tim Mickleburgh, Bill Parkinson, Ray Sutton and Alderman Peter Mills.

The only change from last year is the appointment of Councillor Sutton who replaced Terry Thurogood.

(b) North Lincolnshire Council

The Council have appointed Councillors Peter Clark and David Wells as their representatives for 2016/17. Once again they have only appointed two members out of their entitlement of three.

5 RATES AND FINANCE

The Clerk stated that our Internal Auditor had instructed that our report to the Board was presented to the end of a month in order that he can check this against Bank Reconciliation.

As these papers were despatched before the end of August our report is up to the 31st July 2016.

(a) Collections -

(i) Rate Income :

Rate demands for 2016/17 were despatched towards the end of May and collections to date total £247,876 which represents some 60% of the rate levied.

(ii) Other Income :

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|------|------------------|-----|
| Immingham 50-00 | Industrial | Estates | - | Consent | Fee |
| Able UK Ltd 5,057-50 | | | - | Consultants Fees | |
| | Barclays | | | | - |
| Loyalty Bonus 50-00 | | | 9-20 | | |
| | Construction Marine Ltd | | - | Consent | Fee |

(b) Financial Statement -

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| General Account | £ | 1,744-02 |
| Disbursement Account | £ | 2,122-79 |
| Deposit Account | £ | 380,698-19 |
| Deposit (Conoco) Account | £ | 279,697-36 |

(c) The accounts paid net of VAT (27th April, cheque no. 102909 to 31st July 2016 (cheque no. 102872) together with direct payments totalling £156,008-37 were considered by the Board. The Clerk's action in drawing orders on the Board's Bankers in respect of the amounts paid was approved.

(d) Drainage Rates - Able (UK) Ltd

At the last meeting it was reported that the Chairman had written to Peter Stephenson detailing the drainage rates outstanding but had received no response.

Since that last meeting he had discussed the issue with Neil Etherington, Able's Group Developer Director but despite assurances payment had not been received.

The total was just under £3,000 and the Members considered that in view of the Internal Auditor's recommendation and the duty to other ratepayers court proceedings to recover the debt should commence as soon as possible.

The Clerk stated that in order to include the correct year's rates proceedings should commence in November of this year.

RESOLVED that court proceedings for the recovery of the outstanding rates do commence in November of this year.

6 ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2016

The Clerk referred to the last meeting when the Board formally approved the accounts for 2015/16 and on the 20th May these together with supporting documents, were sent to Littlejohns (appointed by the Audit Commission).

The accounts were advertised for public inspection between the 6th June and 15th July 2016 and no enquiries were received.

The external Auditors (Littlejohns) report on the accounts was awaited.

7 MANAGEMENT OF THE BOARD

(a) Witham Group

Jane Froggatt introduced herself as the Chief Executive of the Witham Group of Boards and thanked the Members for allowing her the opportunity to attend this meeting. She thanked the Board for taking the decision to join the three Witham Boards as an equal partner and realised the very difficult decision the Board had to make.

She was very conscious that Trevor will remain at the helm as Chief Executive and that there will be a period of transmission over the next few months to ensure a smooth handover on the 1st April 2017. Trevor and I had built up a relationship over the 4½ years that I have worked in drainage boards and over the last eighteen months I have got to know your Chairman and Vice-Chairman. I am impressed that your Board have considered the options available in such detail. Jane summarised the five options that she considered were available to the Board, as follows:

(i) No change

Trevor and Chris Noble both to retire so this was not an option.

(ii) Replace Trevor Vessey

Trevor has worked for your Board since 1986 and is a jack of all trades. There aren't people around you who can be an accountant, engineer, environment officer and who can deal with things that modern day drainage boards are required to do.

As you look at the other options, there are probably three. Witham Group who have worked together since 2009, Lindsey Marsh and the Shire Group (JBA).

I do not need to know the reasons why you decided not to go with them but am pleased that you have taken the leap of faith to join us. Each of our three Boards, Witham 1st, Witham 3rd and Upper Witham have all their own distinct personalities and what we have in common with you is that each of the Boards likes it's own independence and their own way of doing things and I hope that this has been attractive to your Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive.

Jane explained that the Witham Group employed twelve officers, some of which were part time and try to give each Board the service they want. She then passed around an Organisation Structure Chart and explained the role of all the employees. There will be no additional posts created when your Board joins

the group.

I also want to reassure your Board that you will not improve on Trevor but you have taken the brave step to join us and we won't let you down and will provide a good service. She then handed out leaflets which set out factual information about each Board the Chairman thanked Jane for her presentation.

(b) Staff

The Chairman stated that Trevor Vessey would retire on the 31st May 2017 but had stated that he will always be available to discuss any issues.

As such our Works Supervisor/Pump Attendant, Darren Scott's role will have even more importance and he will be dealing with new mowing contractors next year. He proposed, therefore, in order to recognise the above Darren's salary be increased from Grade 7 - Point 29 (£35,685) to Grade 8 - Point 32 (£39,600) with effect from the 1st April 2017. Point 32 was the top of Grade 8 so there would be no further increment increases unless a re-grading was approved by the Board.

RESOLVED that Darren Scott's salary be increased from Grade 7 - Point 29 (£35,685) to Grade 8 - Point 32 (£39,600) with effect from the 1st April 2017.

(c) Joint Services Committee

Jane Froggatt explained that the above committee met three times a year and made recommendations to each of the Boards. The next meeting of that committee would be held in Lincoln on the 5th December 2016.

It would now be an appropriate time for North East Lindsey to become part of this committee and attend the above meeting. In line with the other Boards our representatives would be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other.

The Vice-Chairman proposed Philip Hoyes as the third representative and this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Philip Hoyes do represent the Board on the Joint Services Committee.

(d) Witham Group Offices

Iain Colquhoun considered that it would be useful for Members to visit the Witham Group offices and see the set up.

Jane Froggatt stated that a Members Training Day would be held on the 8th

December (pm) and the Members could attend and tour the offices in the morning.

RESOLVED that arrangements be made for Members to attend the above on the 8th December.

8 KILLINGHOLME MARSHES

The Clerk reported as follows:

(a) Able UK Ltd

A letter had been sent to Martin Vickers MP registering the Board's concerns at the lack of progress with regard to the Marine Energy Park (See Minute No. 9b of the last meeting).

A response dated the 19th July was received from Martin as follows:

"Dear Julian and Trevor

Thank you for your letter of 17th May, my apologies for the delay in replying. I have however, spoken to a number of people about the Able Development and what the future may hold for the site. Alas, I have not been able to determine what the future may hold.

That said we are fortunate that the new Environment Secretary is Andrea Leadsom who, as the previous Energy Minister is very familiar with the Able development. I have taken the opportunity of writing to her in the hope that we can resolve your issue and determine the future of the development as a whole.

I will contact you again when I hear from her.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Vickers

Member of Parliament for the Cleethorpes Constituency"

On the 9th August Dong Energy announced that they were withdrawing from the Able Marine Energy Park. They were expected to use the Park as a hub for their offshore wind operations but have said that they no longer believe it was cost effective.

The Chairman emailed Martin Vickers MP on the 10th August, as follows:

"It appears that our worst fears have now been confirmed and Dong have pulled

out of ABLE's site.

This now leaves a huge question mark over the future development of the whole project. Without any guaranteed investment, it is unlikely that ABLE will continue work (beyond government funded enabling works) on the site.

As you know, Trevor Vessey and I wrote to you, on behalf of the Drainage Board, expressing our concerns. This letter was to be passed onto Andrea Leadsom in her capacity as Energy Minister. She has now been moved to DEFRA and I can only imagine that the letter has been lost in the melee of government reshuffles.

Our concerns still remain and following yesterday's announcement, are even greater. We now have a significant area of land that has been rendered semi-permeable and presents a real threat to those businesses that are adjoining this development. Furthermore, whilst ABLE's consultants are working on the pumping station designs, there are no guarantees that construction will start anytime soon.

Given the degree of funding already invested in this site, I think that the Government needs to adopt a "hands-on" approach to this project ensuring, in the first instance, that all necessary infrastructure is in place to secure from flooding, this site and the surrounding area and businesses."

Martin replied on the 23rd August, as follows:

"Thanks for your message. As you say it confirms what we had been expecting and is one of the reasons I initiated my Adjournment Debate earlier in the year.

I have already followed up on your letter to Andrea by speaking to the Office of her successor and will get the reply to you a.s.a.p.

I'm hoping to meet with the new Sec of State Greg Clark early next month - at least he is familiar with the Humber region following on from his previous role.

The Government funding arrangement will have a claw back built into it if the project doesn't go ahead.

I'll get back in touch in the near future."

On the 23rd August our Consultants Peter Brett and Associates met with Able and their Consultants, NIRAS, to discuss the additional information required to progress the pumping station/channel design.

The cost involved is some £20,000 and details have been forwarded to Able for an

order confirmation to proceed.

(b) North Lincolnshire Council - European Regional Development Flood-

Funding Bid

North Lincolnshire Council submitted a funding bid on the 8th April in respect of both the Killingholme Marshes Scheme and the East Halton Flood Defences. Although a decision on the applications was expected by mid June no decision had yet been made.

9 MARSH LANE, KILLINGHOLME - Car Storage

The Clerk stated that on the 3rd June an email was received from SLR Consulting stating that they had been appointed by Able UK Ltd to prepare a flood risk assessment and storm water drainage design for a new car storage facility on land off Marsh Lane. The site extends to an area of 38.23 hectares.

SLR were advised that as these proposals were in advance of the main drainage scheme suitable attenuation arrangements must be made which limit run-off to a rate not exceeding 1.4 litres/per second/per hectare. The attenuation system could be removed if the pumping scheme could be amended to take account of direct run-off from this site but only after the scheme was commissioned and an appropriate contribution to the scheme made.

SLR had requested data from the original strategic report and latest modelling from our Consultants. They had been informed that the Board's Consultants will expect their reasonable costs to be covered in collating and issuing data on behalf of the Board. Their estimate of £750 was sent to Able on the 11th July but to date no reply has been received.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

10 MIDDLE DRAIN CATCHMENT

The Clerk reported as follows:

(a) Peter Brett & Associated - Catchment Study

At the last meeting we stated that Peter Brett's had been instructed to carry out a study of the Middle Drain at an estimated cost of £10,000 which would be met from the Developer Contributions Account. The results of the study had now been received.

The study looked at proposed development of 65 hectares of direct run-off and what impact that would have on watercourses to Middle Drain Pumping Station. Of particular concern to us was the culvert and flood relief channel beneath North Moss Lane having sufficient capacity to adequately control flows during a 1 in 100 year rainfall event.

We are pleased to report that the conclusions of the study are as follows:

- (i) The North Moss Lane culvert is adequate to accept the flows but work is required to formalise the flood relief channel above the culvert to protect the bed from erosion ; and
- (ii) Increase the size of the culvert at Ephams Lane to improve conveyance to the pumping station, but this will only apply to development upstream of it's location.

The results are pleasing in that the works required at (i) are minor and the culvert replacement at (ii) will only apply if there is substantial development upstream.

RESOLVED that the Catchment Study carried out by Peter Brett and Associates be approved and accepted.

(b) North East Lincolnshire Council

It was mentioned at the last meeting that the Council are planning a commercial development on land adjacent to the A180/Stallingborough Interchange and they asked if the Board could accept a direct discharge and if so what contribution rate the Board would charge.

I asked the Council for details of the phasing of the works together with the direct discharge requirements.

By letter dated the 24th June the Council responded as follows:

Phase 1 : Years 1 - 5 9.8 hectares

| | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Phase | 2 | : | Years 5 - 10 | 4.5 hectares |
| Phase | 3 | : | Years 10 - 15 | 28.3 hectares |
| Phase | 4 | : | Years 15 - 20 | <u>41.4</u> hectares |

TOTAL **84 hectares**

At the moment they estimate that approximately 50% of each phase will require a free discharge into the Middle Drain system. Assuming 90% impermeability of these areas this gives a total of 37.8 hectares.

The Board levy a development charge of £20,000 per impermeable hectare in areas where a direct discharge is acceptable. The Middle Drain pumping scheme was carried out between 1973 and 1975 to provide a direct surface water run-off facility for 560 hectares of land allocated for industrial development. The scheme was 25% funded by the Cleethorpes and Grimsby Borough Councils. A third pump was added in 1980 and released a former 225 hectares for development. This pump was funded by Cleethorpes Borough Council.

In view of the above it is considered that in this case a development charge of £5,000 per impermeable hectare would be appropriate (25% as above) payable prior to the development of each phase.

RESOLVED that the above report be accepted and that a Development Charge of £5,000 per impermeable hectare be levied on this development.

(c) Paragon - Car Storage

Phase 1 of the car storage site had now been completed and the £176,000 development charge received.

The contractors had, however not observed the Board's Byelaws distance from Middle Drain and at a meeting held in August it was agreed that the gates etc. would be moved accordingly within six weeks.

Paragon wish to discuss Phase 2 of the development but this will only commence when the above works are completed.

(d) Development Charge

In view of the balance held in this account it was considered appropriate to set

out the current position.

The balance held in the account at the 31st March 2016 was £289,477-81.

The estimate income and expenditure during 2016/17 is estimated as follows:

Although the balance may appear high it should be borne in mind that the fund is not just for current requirements but the long term maintenance/replacement of pumping station equipment etc., and as such the balance held is not considered to be unreasonable.

RESOLVED that the present position be noted and accepted.

11 CONISTON CRESCENT - HUMBERSTON SCHEME

At the last meeting it was reported that North East Lincolnshire Council had presented a business case to Anglian Water in respect of the above scheme and highlighted the contributions offered by the Board (£30,000) and the Environment Agency.

Anglian Water had now approved a contribution of £60,000 and the scheme would now be presented to the Environment Agency for grant approval.

It is envisaged the scheme would be completed by the end of this financial year.

12 IMMINGHAM MOTOR CYCLE TRACK

It was reported at the last meeting that North East Lincolnshire Council would be discussing the future of the project at the end of May. They would either continue or withdraw and clear the site to the Board's satisfaction.

The Council had now confirmed that they were hoping to have the track up and running by this summer. However, a local plant hire company who have offered to 'redevelop' the track free of charge cannot start work until later in the year both due to their availability and the presence of protected newts in the area. Work was ongoing to clear the site throughout this summer and the Council were in the process of purchasing new motorcycles through an insurance claim following the theft of the original bikes from a store off-site.

13 NEATGANGS LANE, GOXHILL

The Clerk stated that for a number of years we had experienced problems with bank slips on our watercourse alongside Neatgangs Lane, Goxhill. The on-going problem was a result of the weight of lorries travelling to and from the tile yard and North Lincs Council have been approached regarding a contribution towards the cost of repairs.

The necessary work would include:

Remove and burn 285 metres of hedge and one tree (hedge removal approved by the Council). Clean out 285 metres of watercourse.
Re-batter field side of the bank and spread spoil in adjoining field.

A quotation has been submitted by Braders Land Drainage in the sum of £1,609 and the Council had agreed to contribute 50%.

In addition there will be compensation payable to the adjoining landowner for land loss and the Chairman will discuss this with him and suggested a one off

payment of £250.

The works had now been completed satisfactorily and an invoice would be submitted shortly to North Lincolnshire Council in respect of 50% of the total costs.

14 FAR INGS DRAIN, BARTON UPON HUMBER

The Clerk stated that the Board's Far Ings Drain is together with the Nature Reserve classed as a site of Special Scientific Interest and as such we are very sensitive to our maintenance regime.

The watercourse is covered with a floating weed called Azolla which is an invasive species and not acceptable in a watercourse classed as SSSI. The weed thrives in stagnant water or watercourses with very little flow.

The problem has existed for a few years now and we did effectively spray four years ago but there is no longer a licence for spraying and the only effective treatment is the weevil beetle. The beetles are released into the watercourse and they only feed on Azolla.

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has obtained a price for treating 1200m² of watercourse and the cost for seven large packs is £2,690.

The Trust has asked if the Board have any funds available towards the treatment which would be carried out next spring.

The Vice-Chairman suggested that the Board offer a contribution of £2,000 from their Conservation Account and hoped that the treatment would be effective for between three and five years.

If the Board agreed he would ensure that we obtained some good publicity for the works.

RESOLVED that a contribution of £2,000 from the Conservation Account be made towards the cost of treating the Azolla in our Far Ings Drain.

15 PUMPING STATION WORKS

The Clerk reported as follows:

(a) Immingham Pumping Station

We have a permanent skip at the pumping station into which the automatic weedscreen cleaner deposits all rubbish. Periodically the skip had to be sorted by the pump attendant using a ladder.

This presents a Health and Safety risk and as a result we have had two platforms fabricated and galvanised by T. & J. Fletcher at a cost of £1,400 each. This will enable a much easier and safer access to the skips.

One of the platforms is at Immingham and the other at Mawmbridge where a similar arrangement exists.

RESOLVED that works carried out be approved.

(b) Little Buck Beck Pumping Station

The above pumping station adjoins Cleethorpes Golf Club but there is no access to the course from the station. Watercourse maintenance necessitates the excavator being dropped off by low loader and after completion of the work the machine has to track back to be picked up. This is not an ideal arrangement, particularly on a golf course.

Little Buck Beck is an open watercourse but the downstream 100 metres is culverted before entering the pumping station. Maintenance of the grid on the culvert involves a lengthy walk on the golf course.

To resolve both the above problems T. & J. Fletcher are installing gates which apart from easy access for the pump attendant will also enable access for the contractors excavators.

The pumping station fencing is also in a poor state of repair and Fletcher's will renew this together with new hand rails at the screen.

The total cost of all the works detailed will be £3000 - £3,500.

In addition to the above the Chairman has authorised the re-pointing of the brickwork.

RESOLVED that the works be approved.

(c) Mawmbridge Pumping Station

The Board annually allow £10,000 in the rate estimates for pump servicing and this year one of the units at Mawmbridge is knocking and in need of a service and probably the impellor replacing.

The pump has been removed by Perrys Pumps of Lincoln and is currently at their workshop.

As mentioned under the Immingham Pumping Station a skip platform has also been installed at Mawmbridge.

There are two grids at the pumping station, one on the gravity outfall and the other on the seaward side of the pumped outfall. On both structures the bars are rotten and need replacing at an estimated cost of £7,000.

RESOLVED that the works to the grids be approved.

(d) Middle Drain Pumping Station

The Environment Agency have confirmed that repairs to the leaking sea doors both here and New Holland will be carried out by the end of September.

In view of this and the Catchment Study results we will be looking at carrying out major sludging works to Middle Drain in order that the flow of water to the pumping station is improved.

Discussions will need to take place with landowners regarding the disposal of spoil before we obtain quotations for the work.

16 MOWING CONTRACT

The Clerk reported that Beaverbridge Plant commenced with the final year of the

current contract on the 15th July and work was progressing well.

Tenders for the 2017-2019 seasons would be invited later this month.

17 ROSPER ROAD PITS PROJECT

The Vice-Chairman stated that the current balance in the project account stands at £12,329.

Dredging and re-profiling works will be carried out later this month on a daily rate basis by Bicker Contractors and he envisaged that the cost of the work will be some £9,000.

RESOLVED that works proposed for the pits be approved.

18 CONSERVATION MATTERS

The Vice-Chairman stated that he had reported on most matters during the meeting but wished to mention the Barn Own project which had been a great success in the Board's area. We erect three barn owl boxes per year which are positioned through the district.

19 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A schedule of planning applications and replies were circulated to all Members and approved.

20 ADA CONFERENCE

The Clerk stated that the ADA Conference would be held in London on Thursday 17th November 2016 and the Board were invited to send delegates.

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Iain Colquhoun, Peter Mills and the Clerk be authorised to represent the Board.

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the AGM on Tuesday 8th November 2016 (2.30pm) at the Amethyst Hotel, East Halton.

The Clerk stated that as the three Witham Boards had fixed their 2017 meetings it was important that our meetings were also arranged.

RESOLVED that the dates for the 2017 Board Meetings be fixed, as follows:

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Tuesday | 24 th January | (2.30pm) | Rate Estimates |
| Tuesday | 23 rd May | (2.30pm) | |
| Tuesday | 12 th September | (2.30pm) | |
| Tuesday | 14 th November | (2.30pm) | AGM |

All the meetings will be held at the Amethyst Hotel.

22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Northern Powergrid

The Clerk reported that whilst carrying out routine bottom cutting works on the Board's watercourse, Station Road, North Killingholme, our contractors Beaverbridge Plant damaged an electricity cable.

The damage was discovered on the 12th November 2015 but it was June before Northern Powergrid wrote to Beaverbridge with a claim for damages as some £36,000. Beaverbridge denied liability and passed the claim to their insurers who denied liability.

On the 23rd July the Board received a letter from Northern Powergrid indicating that the Board would be held responsible and that an invoice would be submitted shortly.

I wrote to Northern Powergrid on the 26th August as follows:

"I refer to your letter dated the 23rd instant. My Board are the public body responsible for land drainage and flood protection in an area extending from Barton to Humberston. We maintain over 100 miles of watercourses that are annually maintained by our mowing contractors.

At this particular location our contractors were carrying out the annual cutting works using a weed cutting basket (not digging with a bucket).

The cable in question was below water level, unmarked and totally exposed (no ducting) and covered over by weed growth. Neither the Board or its contractors

were aware of the cables in close proximity to the drain. As such the Board deny any liability for the damage caused.

The report prepared by P. Jones attached to your letter of the 6th July confirms the above comments under Section 13.

The Board have photographic evidence of the cable condition and position. If you intend to pursue with legal proceedings please advise accordingly in order that we are in a position to instruct solicitors and insurers accordingly."

A reply dated the 1st September stated that they would be taking instructions and revert back to us in due course.

RESOLVED that the present position be noted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.20pm.

Chairman