

**AT A MEETING of the
NORTH EAST LINDSEY DRAINAGE BOARD
held at the AMETHYST HOTEL, EAST HALTON
on TUESDAY 12th May 2015**

Present *Elected Members* :

Julian Hargreaves (Chairman), Lionel Grooby
(Vice-Chairman),
John Finch, Ian Pickersgill, Ted Shepherd and George Turner

***Council Appointees* :**

North East Lincolnshire Council -

Councillors Iain Colquhoun, Bill Parkinson and Terry Thurogood

North Lincolnshire Council -

Councillor Peter Clark

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Kit Read and Councillor Jane Hyldon-King.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes (as circulated) of the Meeting of the Board held on the 3rd February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 ELECTION OF MEMBERS 2015

The Clerk stated that the Board was due to be re-constituted for a three year period on the 1st November 2015.

The Register of Electors had been prepared in accordance with the Statutory Provisions and the prescribed notice would be advertised in the Telegraph during June.

The Notice of Election has to be advertised between the 7th and 15th September and include the date of the poll which must be between the 24th October and 1st November.

As a result of the death of Alec Archer we still have a vacancy in the Waltham area and it would be beneficial if we could find a suitable replacement before the election procedure began.

It should be noted that the above procedure only applied to the elected members and not Councillors who are nominated by the Unitary Authorities.

RESOLVED that if a poll is necessary the date be fixed as the 27th October 2015.

4 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The Clerk reported that despite our best efforts both Unitary Authorities had still not taken up their full allocation of representatives on the Board.

We have stressed that the appointments need not be Councillors but officers or anyone with an interest although it still appeared to be politically based. An example was Peter Mills, long serving Councillor and Board Member. Peter had now retired as a Councillor but was an Alderman and had expressed an interest in continuing on the Board, but this was not a straight forward procedure.

The present position is:

North East Lincs Council	-	(8 seats)	-	Members appointed
6				
North Lincs Council	-	(3 seats)	-	Members appointed
2				

In respect of North East Lincolnshire council, Councillor Iain Colquhoun stated that

the Conservative Group would be appointing himself together with Bill Parkinson and Peter Mills. The other parties would also submit their nominations in due course.

John Wardle had not stood for re election as a Councillor for North Lincolnshire Council and would not, therefore, be continuing as a Member of the Board.

Councillor Peter Clerk said that he would discuss the position with the Leader of the Council and report back to the Board.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that the position be noted and ;**
 - (2) that on behalf of the Board the Clerk do write to John Wardle thanking him for his service and interest on the Board.**

5 RATES AND FINANCE

The Clerk reported that the position as at the 24th April 2015 was as follows :

(a) Collections -

(i) Rate Income :

Rate demands for the current year were being prepared and would be dispatched shortly.

(ii) Other Income :

HM Customs & Excise	-	¼ VAT Refund to 31/12/14	17,235-00
Network Rail		-	Wayleave
50-00			

(b) Financial Statement -

General Account	£	944-89
Disbursement Account	£	
1,263-26		
Active Saver Account	£	138,204-71

The Chairman referred to Minute No. 6 of the last meeting and stated that a sub-committee comprising of himself, the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk had met to discuss what arrangements could be put in place should the Clerk suffer long term absence.

It was considered that in the short term the services of another Lincolnshire Board may be the most suitable option and an approach was made to Jane Froggatt the Clerk of the three Lincoln Boards. After discussing the request with her Chairman, Jane confirmed that they would be prepared to offer an administration service to the Board should the need arise.

RESOLVED (1) that in principle the Board agree the short term arrangements proposed ; and
(2) that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk do arrange to meet the Lincoln Boards with a view to setting up suitable arrangements .

10 INSURANCE PREMIUMS

The Clerk stated that notification had been received from our brokers, Towergate, that the insurance premiums for 2015/16 would total £16,679-18, an increase of £432 on last year.

The increase was considered to be reasonable and had been accepted.

RESOLVED that the action taken be approved and confirmed.

11 MOWING CONTRACT

The Clerk reported that Beaverbridge Plant had requested a 1% increase on the 2015 contract. This would result in an additional £800 which had been allowed for in the 2015/16 Rate Estimates.

A discussion followed on the request and it was **RESOLVED** that a 1% increase on the 2015 Mowing Contract be approved.

12 KILLINGHOLME MARSHES

The Clerk reported as follows:

a) Associated British Ports

At the last meeting it was reported that ABP had lodged a request for a Judicial Review and a High Court Judge would decide whether or not there was a case to answer.

That request was rejected in February and this appears to remove the final obstacle in the development of the Able Marine Energy Park.

b) Humber Sea Terminal

The Chairman, David Noble and myself met with Mike Lewis, the Director of HST and the Port Manager, Hugh Gates on the 11th February 2015.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the HST development and the options available for consenting their surface water disposal arrangements.

Our interpretation of the meeting was that HST still preferred to be a contributor to the scheme (£401,000) rather than make alternative on-site storage arrangements, subject to:

- (i) the pumping station being adopted by the Board or North Lincolnshire Council
- (ii) an assurance from the Board that all flows into North Killingholme drain can be accommodated : and
- (iii) that HST's contribution to the scheme will only be requested as and when the scheme works commence.

Mike Lewis responded to my email on the 25th February as follows:

“From our side the meeting was important with respect to obtaining an update on the various project options which we now need to discuss internally before replying to you with our position.”

RESOLVED that the present position be noted.

c) Able/North Lincolnshire Council

Apart from the enabling works we have had no contact with Able or the Council regarding the scheme since September last year, and on the 14th April I emailed

Peter Stephenson, as follows:

“We have recently met with representatives of Humber Sea Terminal regarding the surface water disposal arrangements from their development and the temporary arrangements that are in place.

In order to progress the matter with them we need to discuss and agree with you the way forward and timescales involved.

Now that the issues with ABP appear to have been resolved the Chairman considers that the time is now right to arrange a meeting with you when you are next in the area and perhaps you could let me have a few alternative dates please.”

A reply dated the 23rd April had been received from Peter stating that he would contact me the next time he was down on the Humber.

13 ROSPER ROAD PITS -Environment Agency

The Clerk referred to the last meeting when it was reported that the Agency had agreed to transfer the actual pits (17 acres) to the Board but insisted on retaining the 8 acres at the north east corner of the site as mitigation for costal squeeze.

The transfer documents were signed by both parties on the 7th May and submitted to the Land Registry.

In effect the Board now own the Pits and a meeting with Tom Jeynes (ABP) and Roger Wardle (Environmental Consultant) with a view to setting up the Conservation Project would be arranged shortly.

The Vice-Chairman was of the opinion that the 8 acres retained by the Agency would be a great benefit to the project and asked that we approach the Agency with a view to the land being leased to the Board whilst they retain ownership.

RESOLVED that the position be noted and that an approach be made to the Environment Agency regarding a lease to the Board on the 8 acres of land they have retained.

14 SOUTH HUMBER BANK MITIGATION PROPOSALS

The Clerk reported that for some time now Natural England, RSPB and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust had been concerned at the rate of development on the South Humber Bank which was a European Recognised Area of Special Interest. Winter Birds were losing their roosting sites and North East Lincolnshire Council

had to identify and implement suitable sites for Golden Plover, Lapwings etc. If these sites were not progressed with some urgency then Natural England and the RSPB would strongly object to all future planning applications on the Humber Bank.

The Council had already approved £2 million towards land purchase etc. and engaged Roger Wardle (Environmental Consultant) to design four wetland areas located between Mawmbridge and Middle Drain Pumping Stations.

The total area of the four sites is 114 hectares and we have inspected the four sites with Roger Wardle and water samples had been taken.

We awaited further developments.

RESOLVED that the present position be noted and that the Board be kept informed of progress.

15 HUMBER WORKING GROUP

The Chairman stated that at the last meeting of the East Halton Skitter Group held on the 15th January 2015 it was agreed to extend the Group to include all Humber related matters.

At the request of Mark Adams, the Environment Agency's Senior Coastal Advisor on Flood Risk Management a meeting was held on the 20th March at the Amethyst

Hotel.

The purpose of the meeting was to look at all Humber Estuary Outfalls using East Halton Skitter as a template. It is important that all outfalls are properly considered in the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy which was in the process of being updated. The group were asked to build up a strategy and then a programme of works and identify the risks posed by predicted sea level rises and increased flows to these outfalls. A further meeting is fixed for the 15th May 2015.

The meeting was well attended and involved representatives from the EA, Natural England, NFU, ABP, NE Lincs Council and landowners.

Before the meeting to be held on the 15th May the Group would only be convened as and when there were specific items to be discussed. He was of the opinion that the Group should be addressing all short term issues, e.g. leaking sluice gates and not just long term strategies.

John Finch asked if the proposed re-alignment of sea defences at Goxhill would be discussed at the meeting on the 15th May as affected farmers in the area were extremely concerned.

The Chairman stated that he would speak to Mark Adams on the 15th with a view arranging a meeting specifically for those affected by the re-alignment proposals and the Board would offer to set up the meeting if he so wished.

16 HUMBER STRATEGY STEERING GROUP

The Vice-Chairman stated that he represented the Board at a meeting of the above group held at Water's Edge Centre, Barton on the 24th April 2015.

Twenty two people attended the meeting and covered a wide range of interests including Local Industry, Conservation Bodies, Environment Agency and IDB's. The Chairman of the Group is Philip Winn of the EA.

Items discussed and of interest to this Board included:

- The Environment Agency had commissioned a business case review to assess the jurisdiction for enhanced Humber Estuary flood protection.
- The proposed managed re-alignment of the sea defences at Goxhill was in its early stages and the target date for completion was 2025.
- The Environment Agency reported that some 35 kms of flood bank around the Humber had been surveyed to assess their integrity and included Barton and Goxhill.
- The Environment Agency had funded a project called 'Dynamic Humber' which is being undertaken by Hull University and is studying the morphodynamics of the Humber Estuary and the implications for flood defence and the water storage potential of managed re-alignment projects.
- The Environment Agency were monitoring the dramatic erosion of the channel to the south of Read's Island.
- The Group had an inconclusive discussion on how best to inform the public about flood risk issues and what is being done to address these.

The Vice-Chairman considered that it was important for the Board to be represented on this group and he offered to attend whenever possible.

17 PLANNING CONSULTATION

The Clerk referred to the last meeting, when it was reported that Drainage Boards had not been included as statutory consultees within a draft paper on the changes to Planning Application arrangements. ADA had responded accordingly and we await a response from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The proposal was to make Local Lead Flood Authorities (Councils) the Statutory Consultee in relation to surface water disposal but limited to major developments.

I am pleased to report that following a meeting with North East Lincolnshire

Council they will consult with the Board on all applications irrespective of size and they accept that with smaller developments there is a risk that cumulatively the large number of developments below the threshold will lead to increased surface water and sewer flooding.

At a meeting held on the 28th April North Lincolnshire Council Planning Department also agreed to deal with future applications in the same manner.

RESOLVED that the position be noted.

18 NEWARK WALK, IMMINGHAM

We continued to receive requests from Immingham Town Council to remove rubbish from the Board's watercourse to the rear of Newark Walk, Immingham.

I wrote to Dave Jackson, the Clerk of the Council on the 24th February as follows:

"I refer to our recent discussions re rubbish dumping and your meeting with my Works Supervisor, Darren Scott.

I write to confirm that the Board closely monitor the accumulation of rubbish in the main drain and will remove when the flow is obstructed. The removal and disposal is a very costly exercise and we do of course have to limit the amount of

times this operation can be carried out.

The Board do not own any land and indeed the watercourse itself is not owned by the Board but we have an obligation to maintain as an ordinary watercourse. The land adjoining will be owned by either riparian owners or another party. Some years ago the strip adjoining the drain was cleared of rubbish by Shoreline so they may have some involvement.

Under the Board's Byelaws a 7 meter strip adjoining the drain is left clear of any obstruction and this is required for access and maintenance by excavator and this is why any fencing is set back. The Byelaws apply throughout the drainage district whether it be housing or industrial development and you will always see boundaries 7 metres from a main watercourse. I confirm, however, that this strip remains as the owners responsibility and not the Board's.

I raised our concerns at the continual rubbish dumping at Newark Walk and at recent North East Lincs Council Flood Group Meeting. Steve Coe - the Council's Lead Flood Risk Officer thought that the Council may be able to assist with CCTV and is pursuing the matter with the fly tipping team. It may be worth you having a word with him.

It is important that we continue to work together and try and solve this problem. Last week a freezer and fridge made its way down to the pumping station and they had to be manually removed and disposed of. I can continue to assure you that whenever there is an accumulation of rubbish in the watercourse that may increase the risk of flooding the Board will always act responsibly and remove as and when they consider necessary. If however, some party did accept responsibility for the adjoining land and removed rubbish on a regular basis this would prevent most of it ever getting into the watercourse itself."

19 CONSERVATION MATTERS

The Vice-Chairman, Lionel Grooby reported that it was a late spring this year and a long time before the Sand Martins came in.

Azola, an invasive weed, was now present in Far Ings Drain and a serious problem for Drainage Boards nationwide. It last appeared in the drain three years ago and was sprayed but as a result of current regulations this was no longer an option.

The Wildlife Trust and the Board had worked together at Killingholme Wader Pits . A lot of reeds had been cut to create more mud for wading birds and Natural England were paying for this work. They had also agreed to let the Trust organise the bulldozing of the Pits to re-arrange the levels so the area would be water with more mud. This cannot take place, however, because a large area

of reeds had been cut and soil samples had been taken from Killingholme Pits and there are heavy metal pollutants in the sediment which cannot be disturbed. There were three theories as to how this came about.

1. When the Humber was more polluted heavy metals were allowed to come in and be deposited.
2. A railway line between the two pits which serviced a World War One bunker complex could have dripped deposits.
3. An old coal tip in the area could have blown all the dust around and left sediment.

Lionel announced that he would be retiring from the Wildlife Trust after 29 years service at the end of May but would continue to be involved and serve on the Board.

20 ADA CONFERENCE - 12th November 2014

The Vice-Chairman apologised for not presenting his conference report at the last meeting which was as follows:

The Board represented by Lionel Grooby, Iain Colquhoun, Peter Mills and the Clerk.

The Chairman, Henry Cator, gave a fluent speech and addressed the following issues:

1. Much of the nations water level management infrastructure was ageing and required stable long term funding for maintenance. Maintenance was just as important as capital spending.

2. The DEFRA priority scoring system promotes proper maintenance where a river runs through an urban area but not rural ones, leading to 'bottle-necking' in stretches along its length.
3. New and costly environmental regulations should not be instigated to the detriment of flood defence.
4. There had been much debate about whether to call dredging "dredging" or "de-silting". What matters is that a channel full of silt comes less water.
5. Currently any event of 40mm of rainfall in a 24 hour period causes flooding somewhere. This is not a lot of rain and it is concerning that systems are so precarious.

President's Address

The President, Lord be Ramsey thought that the media were becoming more interested in the environment and because of this ADA were able to get the IDB message through to the politicians and the public.

The guest speaker was Albert Vermue, the Director General of the Dutch Association of Water Authorities and he addressed the Conference on the complicated system of control in the Netherlands and the concerns at the potential effects of climate change.

21 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND WORKS TOUR

**RESOLVED
Members**

(1) that the following arrangements be made for a

Tour on the 1st September 2015

Works Tour (am) : 20/24 Seat Coach

Buffet Lunch :

Board Meeting : 2.30pm

inform (2) that the Clerk do arrange the tour itinerary and

Members in due course.

23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Environment Agency - Main River

The Clerk reported that an email dated the 11th May had been received from Kevin Abbott, the Environment Agency's Asset Performance Advisor as follows:

"The Environment Agency are working towards a de-main of rivers that do not meet the criteria to be maintained by us. In principle is it likely that the Board would accept them as non main river and maintain them in the future.

The three watercourses were:

<i>Brocklesby Beck</i>	<i>(1200 metres)</i>
<i>Budforth Drain</i>	<i>(900 metres)</i>
<i>Lacey Beck</i>	<i>(2200 metres)</i>

An inspection of the watercourses would be made to assess their condition and access for maintenance.

RESOLVED (1) that following an inspection of the watercourses a report be presented to the Board at the next meeting ; and (2) that a response to the Environment Agency be deferred until after the next Board Meeting.

2. WORKS SUPERVISOR VEHICLE

The Chairman stated that the Board's Pump Attendant/Works Supervisor used his vehicle on the Board's business and was paid the appropriate allowance.

In his opinion it would be far more professional for the Board to have their own 4 x 4 pick up suitably signed.

The last time a comparison of costs was carried out it was cheaper for the Board to use the Pump Attendant's own car but cost should not be the only consideration.

RESOLVED that the Clerk do investigate the costs associated with purchasing a suitable vehicle and report thereon at the next meeting.

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

Chairman