

Minutes of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on 3rd February 2015 at The Pines, 50 Connaught Road, Attleborough, Norfolk at 8.30am.

Present: Mr D Stammers (Chairman)
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)
Mr A Bingham (Engineer)
Mr P Drake
Mr I Walker
Mr S Askew
Mr P Lee
Mr H Beevor
Mrs E Jolly (District Councillor)
Mr Tom Charles (Strutt & Parker / Quidenham Estate)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Southgate and Mr A Thornton.

The Chairman then took a minute to record the fact that Jack Salter, past Chairman of the Board, James Nelstrop – Past Vice Chairman of the Board and John Cracknell – a long serving member of the Board had all passed away since the last meeting. The meeting recognised the invaluable contribution that all three had made during their time on the Board to the Board's work.

2. Minutes of the meeting of the 10th June 2014 were approved and this was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Lee.

3. **Matters arising**

- a) Developments within the Board

- (1) A commuted sum payment has been agreed with Taylor Wimpey for their site on London Road Attleborough at approximately £58,000.00 plus works and the draft has been prepared.

- (2) Norfolk Homes in respect of their development in Carvers Lane have an in principle agreement subject to them getting Planning Consent to pay a commuted sum.

- (3) The Tingdene site on Norwich Road is still seeking Planning Consent and a commuted sum payment should be payable there.

- (4) The Gladedale site on Norwich Road again is in the Planning process and would have a commuted sum payment if Planning Permission is granted.

- (5) In respect of the development of the south of Attleborough by Tarmaggon, some discussions have taken place between the Board and the developers agents. The result is that there will be commuted sum payments and they will have to agree a large-scale drainage scheme with the Board. The Board has also discussed this with Breckland Council.

b) Development charges to developers

The commuted sum payment rates produced by Mr Bingham were approved allied to the rates of discharge. It was noted that once commuted sum payments have been made and the developers have carried out whatever works have been required, that future responsibility passes from Developers to the Board. The development charges were approved by the Board, the proposal being proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Walker and carried unanimously.

c) Norfolk Water Management Partnership

Mr Wright reported that he was still attending the meetings and progress was being made albeit slow.

d) De-enmainment of the River Thet

Once again slow progress is being made on this.

e) Public Sector Co-operation Agreement

Mr Bingham explained that the Agreement had now been entered into which would mean that the Board with the consent of The Environment Agency could carry out work on the River Thet. This may be a half-way house on the way to having the Thet de-enmained. Additionally, if The Environment Agency have an emergency in a different part of the country and their staff are drawn away for that then they can ask us to help out with work on neighbouring areas with our people on a day rate under the Co-operation Agreement. This will work for the mutual benefit of the Board and the Environment Agency. Mr Wright said that he did not think that we will be able to set off any charges for work we did on the Thet out of the precept but we would try to do so.

f) Contractors' Contracts and Terms and Conditions

Mr Wright explained that the Contracts have been drawn up so that all contractors would enter into these either on a day rate basis or a cost per linear metre for the work done. It was proposed Mr Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Askew that these terms and conditions be adopted. Mr O'Malley has formed a company and has resigned from the 31st December. His company will contract with the Board on a day rate currently of £180.00 per day and otherwise at a cost per linear metre for each part of the streams that maintenance is carried out on. He will agree the work schedules in advance with Mr Bingham and contracts will be provided for each set of work.

4. Conservation issues

It was noted that there was once again non-attendance from Natural England which was a shame as under the Water Framework Directive, the Board has to comply with certain conservation requirements. Mr Wright and Mr Bingham had recently met with the Environment Agency to discuss the Board area and how to categorise channels within the Board and improve them. Unfortunately, there are 2 sewerage treatment plants within the Board area which results in bad discharges and it is unlikely because of the huge capital

cost for Anglian Water that these would be improved in the near future. There will be an ongoing dialogue with The Environment Agency in respect of the Water Framework Directive. The Chairman raised a question of whether a bucket could be used for clearing water courses instead of a weed rake. Mr Bingham said that there is little weed growth on sand and gravel beds, however, where there is a silt bed, if a bucket is used the water course would get deeper and it doesn't create the right environment under Water Framework Directive. Weed clearing with a weed rake leaves silt in the river which is good for both fish and eels and some weed in the river does not affect the flows. It does not look as clean and tidy as with a bucket but that is not the purpose of the Water Framework Directive.

5. Board Member reports

Mr Bingham produced a report by Mr O'Malley that had been carried out in January the whole of the Board's area. The report was considered by the Members and each of them confirmed that their area was satisfactorily covered by the report.

The Chairman said that there is silt from the A11 which needs to be cleared on one of the water courses in Larling from the A11 Junction and this needs to be looked at after harvest. Mr Charles representing the Quidenham Estate said the Quidenham walkway was under a foot of water and Mr Bingham said there had been a normal amount of rain but that rather than the water rising, the walkways were sinking and the fishing club should perhaps consider raising the walkways.

6. Election of Officers

It was proposed by Mr Askew and seconded by Mr Walker that Mr Stammers be elected Chairman for the coming year and this was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr Drake and seconded by Mr Beevor that Mr Alan Southgate become Vice Chairman for the coming year and this was carried unanimously.

- 7.** The Clerk reported that elections will be coming up in July and that Board Members would need to have themselves proposed and seconded to come back on the Board. It was noted that there was one Board vacancy and it was thought that Mr Tim Jolly, who farms in the area that Mr Nelstrop farmed, would be a suitable replacement.

8. Approval of Payment of Accounts

The Clerk went through the details of the Accounts which were circulated to the Board Members and after consideration and a few questions, it was proposed by Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Walker that the Payment of Accounts be approved. Mr Beevor suggested that it was time that the accounts be put on a spreadsheet through a computer and that rate demands should include the IDB's bank account details as most people dealt with payments by bank transfer these days. The Clerk agreed to look into this.

9. Financial Position of the Board

The Clerk outlined the current position and the forecasted position to the end of the year where it would appear that the income and outgoings would balance with the budget and with each other. Questions were raised and answered. It was proposed by Mr Drake and seconded by Mr Beevor that the write offs of demands under £5.00 be made and that £62.67 be written off in respect of Mr Pooley's rates as it is now being moved into in part special levy as there is an industrial building on the land and the remainder will be charged to the current land owners. This will increase the special levy requirement. The Clerk reported the current outstanding accounts and two of the rate payers normally pay at the end of the year and the Chairman agreed to chase one of the other outstanding rate payers. The Clerk reported the bank account balances.

The Clerk produced the budget for the year commencing 1st April 2015 which the Board duly considered and after discussion approved. This was proposed by Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Walker and approved unanimously.

10. Wages and Salaries

As Mr O'Malley has resigned and is now working on a Contract basis for the Board, the only matters to be considered were the payments to the Clerk and to the engineer. In respect of the Clerk, after discussion in his absence, it was proposed by Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Walker that the Clerk's salary be increased by £1,000.00 per annum on the basis that he would seek to modernise the accounts system and Mr Bingham's rates for the current year were also approved.

11. Fixing the Rate

After much discussion and due consideration, it was proposed by Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Beevor that the rate be increased to £0.13p to the pound for the coming year.

12. Advertising the Rate

It was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Askew that the rate be advertised and that the Special Levy on Breckland Council be issued.

13. Any other Business

- a) Mr Walker asked if Mr Bingham had been able to get anywhere with Norfolk Council in respect of the culbert at Besthorpe. He reported that he had been in touch but had not yet got any sense out of the Council.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting.