

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on 8th February 2011 at The Pines, 50 Connaught Road, Attleborough, Norfolk at 11.00am.

Present: **Mr D Stammers (Chairman)** **Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)**
 Mr J Salter **Mr A Southgate**
 Mr R Thornton **Mr P Drake**
 Mr S Askew **Mr J Nelstrop**
 Mr H Beevor **Mr A Bingham (Engineer)**
 Mr J Cantrill (Strutt & Parker)

1. The Chairman welcomed Mr Askew to his first Internal Drainage Board Meeting
2. Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Hainsworth, Mr A Southgate, Mr P Lee.
2. Minutes of the meeting of the 17th June 2010, which had been previously circulated, were approved and this was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Salter.

3. Matters arising

a) Developments within the Board

It was reported by Mr Bingham that Norfolk Homes had made planning application in Carvers Lane and that he had been dealing with drainage aspects of this and there may well be a commuted sum payment due in due course. He reported that he had also been dealing with an application in Slough Lane and again, consideration of whether a commuted sum payment should be made would take place in due course. It was agreed to write a letter to Breckland Council to confirm the need for them to consult with the Drainage Board on all properties within the Drainage Board. It was noted the position in respect of the proposed 4000 new houses in Attleborough and that this is still in the consultation process but has been included in the Local Development Framework Plan for approval.

b) Amalgamation of Drainage Boards

The Clerk reported that this had not moved forward during the year, for two reasons. Firstly, with the General Election, the new Government position was somewhat different from before and there was a bit of a wait and see as to whether Boards were going to continue to be forced to amalgamate and secondly, the sudden death of Ross Chilvers, the Engineer to the Ely Group of Boards. The Water Management Partnership continues and attendance has been maintained at those meeting.

c) Enmainment of River Thet

It was reported that the Environment Agency was now piloting certain projects for enmainments of rivers to Drainage Boards and Mr Wright said that he had proposed that the River Thet be one of their pilot projects. It looked as though unfortunately, that this was unlikely but he would continue to pursue the matter.

d) **Website**

The website has been updated and is currently up to date.

4. **Conservation Issues**

Chris Hainsworth had written to report that there was very little on conservation issues to report. He reported that there had been some consultations on houses in East Harling and he had some concerns over increased abstraction on the water levels on fen sites in the area but the Environment Agency were considering the impact of the abstractions. Mr Bingham said that we now needed to implement some of the proposals in the Biodiversity Action Plan and it was agreed that he would speak to Simon O'Malley about that.

5. **Board Member Reports**

Roger Thornton

There is not much to report in my area but some trees have been pulled out of the river where required.

Peter Drake

No problems – I have spoken to Peter Chapman and he has no problem. Peter Hall is not happy in his area but I do not think it is a problem. The hold up could be in the area of Pilkington's.

James Nelstrop

The stretch at Roudham is ok. I am carrying out raking at Harling Mill which removes the debris there.

Steve Askew

Not aware of any issues.

J Salter

Not aware of any issues.

Hugh Beevor

There is one large tree across a stream which needs to be dealt with.

Jason Cantrill

The Quidenham Estate are carrying out some work above the Board area which should resolve problems.

J Cracknell's Area

It has been reported that there are problems at Old Buckenham Fen and Andrew Bingham is keeping an eye on this.

Philip Lee

There is debris in the stream above the sewage outfall which will need to be cleared.

Andrew Bingham

There is some pollution at Queens Road in Attleborough with the sewers discharging into the stream and Anglian Water have been out to inspect. There is a broken manhole and sewage is still discharging and he will keep on at Anglian Water about this. There are also problems with drainage on the

other side of the A11 and this has been reported to Anglian Water who again are looking in to it.

D Stammers

The stretch from Wretham to Larling is ok. There are however some fallen trees which Simon will deal with.

6. Election of Officers

Chairman – D Stammers. Proposed by Mr Drake and seconded by Mr Nelstrop and carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman – Mr Alan Southgate. Proposed by Mr Nelstrop and seconded by Mr R Thornton and carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Payment of Accounts

After the accounts had been circulated and the opportunity had been given to Board Members to raise any questions, it was proposed by Mr Nelstrop and seconded by Mr Thornton that the payment of accounts be approved. This was carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Drake the write-off of small accounts be approved and this approved unanimously.

8. Financial Position of the Board

The Clerk gave a review of the current position and discussed with the Board the budget for the coming year. It was noted that Mrs Tigue is now five years in arrears with her rates and it was agreed to pursue this through the Magistrates Court. It is now felt necessary to have a GIS Digital Mapping System which the Environment Agency will provide free of charge. However, there is a one-off cost of £1,750.00 for the software and a licence fee of £300.00 per annum. It was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Drake that the software be obtained and the licence fee be paid and this was carried unanimously. It was agreed that the software would be held on the engineers computer but would be available as required by the Clerk.

9. Wages and Salaries

After discussion, it was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Salter that Mr O'Malley be given a rise of 3%.

In the absence of Mr Wright and Mr Bingham, it proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Nelstrop that they should be given a 3% rise and this carried unanimously. It was also proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Nelstrop that the Chairman's expenses should be increased by 3% and this was carried unanimously.

10. Fixing the Rate

After discussion it was proposed by Mr Nelstrop and seconded by Mr Drake that the rates should remain at the current level and carried unanimously.

11. Advertising Rate

It was proposed by Mr Nelstrop and seconded by Mr Thornton and carried unanimously that the rate be advertised. It was also proposed by Mr Thornton and seconded by Mr Beevor that the Special Levy be raised on Breckland Council and this was carried unanimously.

12. Any Other Business

It was proposed by Mr Nelstrop that there should be a retrospective bonus for Mr O'Malley for the year the 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011. Equivalent to a bonus of 2% and this should be paid in bonus vouchers. This was seconded by Mr Askew and carried unanimously.

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