

Minutes of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at The Pines, 50 Connaught Road, Attleborough, Norfolk at 11.00am.

**Present:** Mr D Stammers (Chairman)  
Mr I Walker  
Mr P Drake  
Mr A Bingham (Engineer)  
Mr J Nelstrop  
Mr P Lee  
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Southgate, Mr H Beevor, Mrs E Plumb, Mr S Askew, Mr A Thornton.
2. Minutes of the meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 having been circulated were approved and this was proposed by Mr P Drake and seconded by r Lee.
3. **Matters arising**
  - a) The Clerk produced the revised form of financial regulations and after discussion and consideration, it was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Drake and carried unanimously that the new financial alterations be adopted.
  - b) Mr Bingham reported the meeting he had with Simon O'Malley, the Board employee. Simon O'Malley acknowledged that the system could be improved. He has suggested that he would like to become self-employed and carry out the work to be carried out for the Board by contract. This would mean that he could do the majority of work in summer and extend his hours to do so if he chose and would not be wasting his time in winter. It was agreed that if he went self-employed we would need all the correct paperwork to ensure that he was correctly covered to do the contract work. He would also need to continue to carry out inspection work throughout the area and obviously this would be part of the contract with him. After discussion, it was agreed to aim for change over the 1<sup>st</sup> September and this was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Drake.
  - c) Mr Bingham confirmed that the Public Service Corporation was still proceeding but had been delayed by the Environment Agency employee being on holiday for an extended period of time.
  - d) **Developments**

Mr Bingham reported that **Tingdeen** were proceeding with their application and will be discharging them to the Board's area at the Oak Tree caravan site on Norwich Road. This would result in a payment for the commuted sum to the Board. Gladedale Homes application has been considered by Mr Bingham and he has raised objections and is waiting for Gladedale's response. In respect of the Taylor Wimpey London Road site, the development has started and Mr Bingham is waiting to hear from them in respect of their surface water proposals but the commuted sum will be due

from them. In respect of the Stepford Homes site on New Road, this is discharging into a ditch which is outside the Board's area and going into an existing Anglian Water sewer so it would appear that the Board cannot charge commuted sum.

**e) Commercial premises**

The Clerk explained that when a new premises or an existing premises converted commercial came out of the agricultural rates and moved into special levy, this was the reason for the increase in special levy because of the change of status of Swallow Aquatics and the Whiskey Distillery. It was noted that next year the Long Street nurseries which have now become a care home would also move into special levy. Mr Nelstrop raised a question of a building at Mr Osbourne Roudham and whether this was now commercial and commercially rated and this would be investigated to see if it needs to move into special levy. The clerk asked Board members to keep vigilant as to whether any other premises became commercial or new commercial premises ?? the Board so that the Board did not miss out on special levy.

4. a) The Clerk went through the accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and after due consideration and discussion it was proposed that these be approved by Mr Nelstrop and seconded by Mr Drake and carried unanimously.

b) The Clerk went through the annual governance statement and after due consideration it was proposed by Mr Nelstrop and seconded by Mr Drake that the annual governance statement be approved.

**5. Any other Business**

a) Mr Walker said he had been approached by a Mr Watling because there is a problem with the coal amount under the A11. It is not the Board's responsibility but they are getting nowhere with the Highways Agency or Norfolk County Council and Mr Bingham said that he would pursue it.

b) Mr Drake asked how the situation with Mr Pilkington had been resolved and Mr Bingham said he had spoken to him and was looking at the stream which would be cleared in the autumn. There appeared to be no more problems with Mr Pilkington.

c) Mr Nelstrop raised the question of the Thet and that the concerns of the lack of flow between East Harling and Thetford. Mr Bingham said that if the Board took over responsibility for the Thet, there was a possibility that it might take over responsibility for the part between East Harling and Thetford as well.

d) Mr Nelstrop said that he had decided that he would resign as a Board member. The Clerk said that the Board appreciated greatly all the efforts that Mr Nelstrop had put in for the Drainage Board over the years and how hard and tirelessly he had promoted the Board's work. He will be sorely missed as a Board member.

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