

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 6th February, 2020 at The Pines, 50 Connaught Road, Attleborough, Norfolk at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Mr D Stammers (Chairman)
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)
Mr A Bingham (Board Engineer)
Mr H Beevor
Mr I Walker
Mr P Lee
Mr T Jolly

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Mr A Southgate, Mr P Hall, Mr S Askew and Mr A Thornton

2. Minutes of Meeting of the 31st May 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the 31st May, 2019 having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman, proposed by I Walker and seconded by T Jolly

3. Matters Arising

A. Attleborough Southern Urban Extension

Discussions have continued between the Board and Attleborough Town Council. Attleborough Town Council are keen to own and manage the site through a community interest company. The IDB will sit on the board with Attleborough Town Council. A scheme will be agreed with the developers, which will include attenuation basins. The Town Council does not want to have any potential liability. The IDB will not have any liability. Further details will be brought to the Board as and when they emerge.

B. Developments within the Board

Mr Bingham reported that he was finalising the agreement and commuted sum payment with Taylor Wimpey. Other new planning applications within the Board Area within the last 6 months did not need our consent. On a site between Blackthorn Road and the bypass, Mr Bingham had had a lot of correspondence and had recommended refusal of permission. This had now been refused by Breckland Council.

C. Development Charges

A new method of charging has been devised by the Water Management Alliance, which involves a new method of calculation of the charges. It was proposed by H Beevor and seconded by P Lee

that the Board adopt the new method of charging and this was carried unanimously.

D. Norfolk Water Management Partnership

There have been no meetings this year but the Clerk will attend any called in the next year.

E. CAMEO Partnership

This is run by Anglian Water and is in respect of water resources. Mr Bingham said that he attend the meetings relating to the Little Ouse, The Lark and the Thet. Discussion ensued on how greater access could be made to the Thet for members of the general public. Mr Bingham said that the Board needed to look at the existing footpaths and how they related to access to the river. When the new Land Management Scheme comes into force this may assist with such a project. Mr Beevor said he was in principle in favour of such access through his land. Mr Bingham said he would approach a consultant to see how assistance could be obtained and at what cost.

F. GIS Database

Mr Bingham said this is proving more difficult than at first thought but he felt it would need a consultant to make progress. He will investigate the cost.

4. Conservation Issues

All Drainage Board work has been done in accordance with the Policy Statement and carried out environmentally sensitively.

Mr Bingham said that the Board had been using willow to stabilise the banks at Pilkington's.

The Board need to review the Biodiversity Plan and this was discussed.

It was suggested that the Board approach Norfolk Wildlife Trust to see if they will put a representative on the Board. The Clerk agreed to do so.

Board member training and governance was discussed, and it was agreed that the Chairmen would go on a training course.

5. Board Member Reports

Mr Jolly reported there were no problems in his area.

Mr P Hall said no problems reported in his area.

Mr I Walker reported that there were a couple of branches down downstream of Ellingham bridge, but this was not too drastic.

Mr P Lee reported that there is quite a lot of blockage and as a result the stream is flooding back. There are problems beside the Mere where water is being pushed back into the wood. It is clear from the Monastery bridge to the Eccles- Harling Road, then back upstream it is quite bad. It is bad at the back

of Overa Farm Cottages. Mr Bingham proposed that the Board purchase a weed rake This was proposed by Mr Lee and Seconded by Mr Walker and carried unanimously. It was also suggested that the Board purchase a digital camera, but after discussion it was agreed that the cameras on phones were sufficient.

Mr Beevor reported that there were no problems within his area.

Mr D Stammers reported that Tuzzy Muzzy needs work on some trees.

6. Election of Officers

- a) It was proposed by Mr Stammers and seconded by Mr Jolly that Mr Ian Walker be chairman and this was carried unanimously.
- b) It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Beevor that Mr Philip Lee be Vice Chairman and this was carried unanimously.

It was agreed that there should be principle that the Chairman should serve for only three years.

7. Approval of the Payment of Accounts

The Board members considered the payments made and income received over the last year and considered the position in respect of outstanding rates. After due consideration and discussion, it was proposed by Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Walker that the accounts be approved.

8. Write Offs of Rates Under £5

It was proposed by Mr walker and seconded by Mr Beevor that the accounts less than £5 be written off.

9. Financial Position of the Board

The Clerk reported the current financial position of the Board. The Board members had received details of the accounts to date and budgets for the coming year. The accounts are healthy at the present time and after discussion there were no further questions raised.

The Clerk raised the issue of non payment of rates by the following:-

Watling – It was agreed that the problem complained about was a highway problem. This had partly been fixed but the culvert needed to be desilted. Mr Bingham will chase and the Clerk will write accordingly.

Lewin – The rate arrears have been paid but not the current year.

Garrod – Always pay just before the end of the year.

Klinger – Discussed Mr Klinger's contention that he should not be paying rates as his land is not used for agriculture. The Clerk explained that there was no exemption for this and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to him setting out the legal position and saying he must pay the rates.

10. Wages and Salaries

Mr Bingham and Mr Wright left the room. On their return, Mr Stemmers said that the Board were appreciative of the efforts of both Mr Bingham and Mr Wright. It was agreed that Mr Wright and Mr Bingham should receive a 2.5% increase in salary. It was agreed that Mr Stemmers should receive the sum of £630 for Chairman's Expenses.

11. Fixing of the Rate

The financial position of the Board was discussed going forward and it was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Lee that the rate for the coming year be fixed at 10 pence in the pound and this was carried unanimously.

12. Advertising of the Rate and Service of the Special Levy

It was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Lee that the special levy be served on Breckland Council and it was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Jolly that the rate be advertised.

13. Any Other Business

- (a) GDPR. The Clerk said there were no issues with GDPR.
- (b) Mr Stemmers said the job of Chairman had been an enjoyable one. It had been rewarding and he had got to know many new people as a result. He wished Mr Walker well for the next three years.
- (c) Mr Walker thanked Mr Stemmers for all his work for the Board as Chairman for over 20 years.
- (d) The AGM was arranged for the 4th February, 2021.
- (e) There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.