

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 8 February, 2018 at The Pines, 50 Connaught Road, Attleborough, Norfolk at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Mr D Stammers (Chairman)
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)
Mr A Bingham (Board Engineer)
Mr T Jolly
Mr P Hall
Mr A Southgate
Mr H Beevor
Mr A Thornton
Mr P Lee
Mr J Burton – Attleborough Town Council

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Mr T Charles Mr S Askew and Mr I Walker

2. Minutes of Meeting of the 6th June, 2017

The minutes of the meeting of the 6th June, 2017 having been previously circulated were approved and it was proposed by Mr Southgate and Seconded by Mr Lee that they be accepted as a true account.

3. Matters Arising

A. Developments within the Board

Mr Bingham reported that he was dealing with the Norfolk Homes Application, the Taylor Wimpey Application and the Eastern Tractors Site. There have been other developments on which the Drainage Board have commented and he was not sure whether there was any movement potentially on Mr Walker's land at Attleborough Hall.

B. Development Charges to Developers

There is no proposed change to the current rate.

C. Norfolk Water Management Partnership

Mr Wright said that there had been no meeting this year although he would attend when meetings were arranged.

D. Demainment of the River Thet

This has been put on hold for the moment pending the outcome of the current round of Demainments and may come back once those have been completed. Discussion, however, continued on the Public Sector Co-operation Agreement and contribution from the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency are still prepared to contribute up to £5,000 a year for work on the River Thet that we carry out under the PSCA. Mr Southgate said there were various issues

on the Thet and a blockage on his land. Mr Bingham said that the drainage system has to work within the Water Framework Directive. Mr Bingham gave details of how water flows can be helped by hard levels and meanders. He said the Board would be looking at using herbicide treatment for weed growth and that Simon O'Malley was now trained in herbicide use. The Board is being forced to have Light Touch Management by the Water Framework Directive and by the edicts of The Environment Agency. He said there is an aid to education on the website. He said that Mrs Cracknell had been complaining about the status of the stream through Poplar Farm. There is vegetation growing and sections do get choked up but she wants to see a digger on site and a clean stream. This will not be possible although the vegetation will be dealt with from time to time.

E. Public Sector Co-operation Agreements

This was covered in the previous paragraph. Mr Bingham said he would like to get a similar agreement in place with Breckland Council but it is very difficult to make progress with them.

F. Changes in Working Practices

The Board member visit had been good for members to see how a Lighter Touch Management System could work. Mr Lee Pilkington was aware that the Board were proposing a similar light touch to The Mermaid at Cranberry Rough and he was in favour of the work being carried out in this fashion.

G. Southern Urban Extension

Mr Wright reported that he and Mr Bingham had met with the Town Council and this has been successful. It had been agreed that the Town Council and the Drainage Board would work together to provide a Park Area and Drainage Areas. It was agreed that the Drainage Board could provide services through a separate company if that was required. Mr Burton said on behalf of the Town Council that he was pleased that there would be co-operation with the Internal Drainage Board and would like to see this continue.

H. IDB By-Laws

These have been brought up to date. The Committee would meet again to go through these before they would be finally approved. It was the aim to approve them at the June Meeting. Points to be noted were cattle drinking from streams and contamination and whether there was any interest from the Canals and River Trust.

I. CamEo Partnership

This is to deal with the management of the Ouse to Ely. There is a sub-group that deals with the Little Ouse and Thetford Partnership and Mr Bingham said it was essential that we are there. Thetford Town Council are working at better access to the Thet including environmental improvements. Part of this is raising the profile and educating people. Mr Bingham went through the LOT Operation Catchment (2016 Overall WB Status).

J. GIS Database

Mr Bingham said he was not able to move this forward at the moment.

4. Conservation Issues

Most of these have already been covered in the previous paragraphs. Simon O'Malley will be checking the whole area. There had been a complaint from Stow Bedon which had been dealt with. There had also been a complaint from Mr Clabburn in respect of damage to Land Drains. The IDB have never been informed about Land Drains before the work was carried out and there were no markers on the Banks. There was no evidence at the time of broken pipes. Mr Bingham said he did not think this was our responsibility and in future, if appropriate, Land Drainage Plans would be requested before work was carried out.

5. Board Member Reports

Mr P Lee reported he had walked his section. There are quite a few trees down and Mr Doig had raised concerns about Willows in the middle of the River.

Mr T Jolly reported that he was not aware of any problems in his area.

Mr P Hall said that he required maps and Mr Bingham agreed to provide them. There is a problem behind Stow Bedon House which had been investigated and Mr O'Malley had dealt with.

Mr Thornton reported that there are one or two trees down which was the main problem but otherwise there was no issue.

Mr H Beevor reported no problems within his area.

Mr A Southgate. Other than his earlier comments he said that the balancing pond is still working very nicely.

Mr Walker. Mr Bingham said he was not aware of any problems in his area.

Mr Stammers said there was a tree down behind Larling Church but this was being dealt with

6. Election of Officers

Chairman - Mr Dudley Stammers, he was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Lee and carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman – Mr Alan Southgate, was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Thornton and carried unanimously.

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 Jolly and seconded by Mr Southgate that the payment of accounts be approved.

8. Write Offs Under £5

It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Beevor that the accounts less than £5 be written off, a total of £107.26.

9. Financial Position of the Board

The Clerk reported the current financial position of the Board. It was noted that there had been a lack of spend on maintenance during the current year but this would rectify itself in the forthcoming year. The Board members had received details of the accounts and budgets and the position of the Board remained healthy particularly in view of the excess income over expenditure for the last year.

10. Wages and Salaries

The Clerk and the Engineer left the meeting. The Board considered its position and on their return it was noted that it had been proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Southgate that the clerk's salary be increased by 2.5%. The rates for Bingham Hall Associates were agreed and this was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Thornton.

11. Fixing of the Rate

The financial position of the Board was discussed going forward and it was proposed by Mr Southgate and seconded by Mr Thornton that the rate be fixed at 13 pence in the pound the same as the previous year and this was carried unanimously.

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

It was proposed by Mr Lee and seconded by Mr Jolly that the rate be advertised and this was carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Beevor that the special levy be served on Breckland Council.

13. Any Other Business

(a) Mr Burton said that the meeting had been very informative.

- (b) It was proposed by Mr Southgate and seconded by Mr Lee and carried unanimously that the Chairman's expenses be paid.
- (c) The AGM was arranged for the 31st January, 2019 at 10am.
- (d) There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.