

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 held by a Zoom Meeting at 10.30 a.m.

**Present:** Mr I Walker (Chairman)  
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)  
Mr A Bingham (Board Engineer)  
Mr H Beevor  
Mr P Hall  
Mr A Thornton  
Mr T Jolly  
Mr S Askew  
Mr A Westby (Attleborough Town Council)  
Ms M Barron (Attleborough Town Council)

**1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies for absence received from Mr A Southgate, Mr D Stammers, and Mr P Lee. There were no Declarations of Interest.

**2. Minutes of Meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 having been previously circulated were approved and signed (at a later date) by the Chairman, proposed by H Beevor and seconded by A Thornton.

**3. Matters Arising**

A. Developments within the Board

**Grampian Site.**

Discussions took place with the developers and the discharge was agreed at a reduced level. As a result it was agreed that no development charge would be made.

**Norfolk County Council Site, Poplar Road.**

No information has yet been received, but Mr Bingham will deal with this when received.

**Land off Norwich Road Attleborough.**

We are waiting to hear further from the developers and no drainage scheme has yet been agreed. Discussions have taken place in respect of access to our streams.

**Network Rail.**

They wish to carry out structural work on an old culvert by lining it. They have carried out modelling of the flows, which show that the flows will be satisfactory, so the works were agreed.

**Poultry Sheds.**

Mr Southgate is erecting some large poultry sheds and is proposing a sustainable drainage scheme. The Board will need to give consent and a commuted sum will be payable.

B. Attleborough Southern Urban Extension

There has been a transfer of a tranche of land to Homes England, and initial drainage proposals have been received and are being reviewed. It is understood to comprise plots for 1,200 homes, which in turn will

be divided and sold on to developers. There are proposals for a Community Interest Company, which will involve the Town Council, the Drainage Board and other interested parties. There will be discussions in the coming year. Mr Bingham said he had not received a lot of detail yet and is pursuing it further. However the Board needs to look at both the development of 1,200 houses and the overall development in conjunction. Ptarmigan need to be involved in this. The Town Council representatives recognised the need to be involved in discussions with the Board and their input was appreciated.

#### C. Development Charges

This was postponed to the next meeting so up to date figures could be obtained from the Water Management Alliance.

#### D. Norfolk Water Management Partnership

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

#### E. Maintenance of the river Thet.

Mr Bingham reported that the Board had entered into a new Public Sector Cooperation Agreement with the Environment Agency. Currently the Board have agreed to carry out up to £5,000.00 of work each year on behalf of the Environment Agency on the main river. Mr M Stammers had complained about flooding of the industrial site in Roudham, but is not caused by the Board's maintained stream. Mr M Stammers has also complained about trees in the Thet upstream from Manor Farm and that these are causing flooding of his land. Mr Bingham has inspected and advises that this is not a cause of flooding at Manor Farm, however the Thet is blocked further downstream towards the railway and this is likely to be causing flooding. Clearance work is in hand (paid from through the PSCA) to clear the river. There are a number of trees which need clearing including in Swangey and also through Mr Southgate's land.

#### F. CAMEO Partnership

Mr Bingham is involved with a sub group, The Little Ouse and Thetford Partnership (LOPT). This mainly deals with the area around Thetford. It's focus is access to the river and to promote local knowledge. The Board discussed opening up the River Thet for public access, and working with Attleborough Town Council to achieve this. Attleborough Town Council and EHIDB are to progress this with the initial emphasis on the Attleborough SUE. To be reviewed at the next face to face meeting.

#### E. GIS Database

It was agreed that Mr Bingham will arrange a meeting with Phil Camamile of the Water Management Alliance to discuss this further.

#### **4. Conservation Issues**

All Drainage Board work has been done in accordance with the Policy Statement and carried out environmentally sensitively. However Mr Bingham reported that there have been no particular issues.

#### **5. Board Member Reports**

Mr Askew reported that his father John Askew had passed away last Thursday. The Chairman expressed his sympathy on behalf of the Board and said how John had been a valued member of the Board for many years.

Mr Jolly reported there were no problems in his area, as any issues had been addressed.

Mr P Hall said he had nothing to report..

Mr I Walker reported that most of his area was fine, but there was a tree down south of the Ellingham Road which needed to be dealt with.

Mr Askew said there he was concerned that nothing had been done at Stacksford. Mr Bingham said he had been there and could not see any problems. He agreed to meet Mr Askew on site to inspect the problems with him. Mr Askew raised the question of Old Buckenham fen and Mr Bingham said the work was carried out in November last year. – Mr Bingham and Mr Askew to visit to check.

The question of the Old Buckenham weir was raised. Mr Bingham and the chairman have had various discussions with the owner of the weir and others about replacing the sluice which was removed many years ago. It was agreed in principle after discussion that the Board would look at replacing the sluice at the Board's expense as it would alleviate potential problems with drainage of Highland Water for which the Board received payment from the environment Agency. It was agreed that Simon O'Malley would be asked to check the weir periodically after the works had been carried out and alter the sluice gates as required.

Mr Bingham will obtain a quote for the works and inform the landowners. Mr Beevor said we needed to keep people informed with what we are doing and Mr Bingham said he would update the website.

Mr Beevor had sent the Clerk a photographic report, which the Clerk said he would forward to Mr Bingham.

Mr Thornton said his area was OK as Simon had removed two trees which were causing a problem. Mr Bingham agreed to meet Mr Thornton on site to see what needed to be done on the Thet.

Mr Stammers report was given by Mr Jolly, who said he would forward a copy of the written report.

Mr Lee sent a written report with photos to the Clerk who said he would forward it to Mr Bingham.

Mr Southgate reported through the Chairman that the Board maintained part was fine but the Thet needed work on it.

**6. Election of Officers**

- a) It was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Jolly that Mr Ian Walker be chairman and this was carried unanimously.
- b) It was proposed by Mr Thornton and seconded by Mr Beevor that Mr Philip Lee be Vice Chairman and this was 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 Hall and seconded by Mr Beevor 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. There is a small deficit predicted for the current year end, but this can come out of reserves. The accounts are healthy at the present time and after discussion there were no further questions raised. It was agreed that extra maintenance could be carried out and would be funded from the commuted sum payments.

**10. Wages and Salaries**

It was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Thornton that both the Clerk and Mr Bingham should receive 5% increases and this was carried unanimously.

**11. Fixing of the Rate**

The financial position of the Board was discussed going forward and it was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Beevor 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 Hall and seconded by Mr Thornton that the special levy be served on Breckland Council and it was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Thornton that the rate be advertised.

**13. Any Other Business**

- (a) It had been reported that there was a problem at Harling Weir. This is a fixed weir. It could be that a build up of debris has occurred and Simon will be asked to check and also to inspect on a regular basis.
- (b) Mr Beevor stressed the need to keep the website up to date.
- (c) Mr Beevor said he was resigning from the Board as the farming operations were now being carried out by his son Tom, whom he thought would be a suitable replacement for him if the Board thought so. The Chairman thanked Mr Beevor for his service on the Board and said he would be missed. After discussion Mr Thornton proposed and Mr Hall seconded Mr Tom Beevor as the replacement for Mr Hugh Beevor. This was carried unanimously.
- (d) There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.07pm.