

A MEETING OF THE SOUTH HOLLAND INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD WAS HELD IN THE BOARD ROOM, FOXES LOWE ROAD, HOLBEACH ON TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 9.00 AM.

* J M Atkin	* S A R Markillie
* A J Biggadike	P S Przyszlak
* F Biggadike	D Sly
* S M Booth	* M R Taylor
* T Bray	* S Taylor
* P A Espin	* R C Thompson
* J L van Geest	* P M Walls
* N J Grundy	J W Ward
* A G Hay	* D P Williams
* G A Hay	D R Worth
* S Keeble	

* Present

Mr S A R Markillie in the Chair

01/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Messrs P S Przyszlak, D Sly, J W Ward and D R Worth.

02/06 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1 NOVEMBER 2005

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the Board held on the 1 November 2005 at 10.30 a.m. were approved and signed as a true record. Arising there from: -

1. Pay Award 2005/2006 (50/05-3)

The Chief Executive advised Members that Employers had now received confirmation from the Trade Unions that their offer to increase pay by 3.25% with effect from 1 April 2005 had been accepted. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve this increase of 3.25% with effect from 1 April 2005.

2. Holbeach New River, Hallgate (60/05)

The Engineer advised Members that he had investigated the possibility of piping the entire length of open channel on the Holbeach New River adjacent to Hallgate and that the cost/benefit was not favourable. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED not to schedule this work into the maintenance programme.

03/06 HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 15 NOVEMBER 2005

1. The Minutes of the last Health and Safety Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2005, together with the Health and Safety Report for 2005, Hierarchy and Schedule of Health and Safety Responsibilities were considered in detail and approved.

2. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to:
 1. Review the adequacy of the Board's Insurance cover.
 2. Next meet on 14 November 2006 at 1pm.

04/06 CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2005

1. The Minutes of the last Conservation Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2005 were considered in detail and approved.
2. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to:
 1. Split the environmental tasks and associated costs between those that were compulsory and those that were best practice/voluntary initiatives for the benefit of the Committee before appointing an Environmental Consultant.
 2. Review the Board's Conservation Policy.
 3. Next meet on 27 June 2006 at 2 pm at a venue to be decided nearer the date and on 14 November 2006 at 2 pm here at the Board's offices.

05/06 PLANT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2006

1. The Minutes of the last Plant and Development Committee Meeting held on 10 January 2006, together with the Tree Management Policy, the Review of Part 2 of the Operational Plan, the updated 5 year Capital Programme and Mobile Plant Renewals for 2006/07 were considered in detail, approved and adopted by the Board.
2. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to:
 1. Continue to compensate Occupiers for providing the Board with unlimited access strips adjacent to high priority infrastructure for a further 3 year period, at a Rate of £300 per hectare.
 2. Implement Part 3 of the Operational Plan during 2006/07.
 3. Develop a specification and understanding of Hydrological Catchment Modelling during 2006/07.
 4. Determine an appropriate level of output for maintenance operations that is both adequate and affordable during 2006/07.
 5. Document the 5 year maintenance programme for Members consideration at the next Plant and Development Committee Meeting.
 6. Purchase the following equipment:

Case MXM 140 Inc 4 years/4,500 hour warranty	£42,582
Case MXM 155 Inc 4 years/4,500 hour warranty	£45,000
Herder Grenadier & 3 metre Weed basket	£46,500
Volvo EW 140B Wheeled Excavator	£80,000
Herder Dipper Extension & 3 metre Weed basket	£10,500

7. Sell the following equipment:

Massey Ferguson 399	(7430)	£5,000
Case MX 120	(7433)	£10,000
Case MX 120	(7431)	£10,000
Herder Kannonier	(7536C)	£2,000
Atlas 1304	(7113)	£10,000

8. Next meet on Tuesday 24 October 2006 at 9 am here at the Board's offices.

06/06 PERFORMANCE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2006

1. The Minutes of the last Performance Sub Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2006 were considered in detail and approved.

2. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to adopt the following key objectives for 2006/07:
 1. To complete the process of reconciling all digitised agricultural land polygons to the Board's land records.
 2. To reduce the Rate Requirement for 2007/08 that equated to no more than an inflationary increase, without compromising the quality of service provided by the Board.
 3. To ensure that total expenditure does not exceed the expenditure budget for 2006/07.
 4. To re-prioritise the 5 year Capital Programme, should the Board no longer qualify for grant aid.
 5. To draft an Action Plan based on the recommendations identified in the DEFRA/JBA IDB Review of Management and Administration and prepare an Implementation plan with timescales.
 6. To implement Part 3 of the Operational Plan.
 7. To explore and develop opportunities that may benefit the Board and its Chief Executive.

07/06 CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2006

1. The Minutes of the last Chairman's Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2006 together with the Annual Estimates for 2006/07 and Briefing Note on Earmarked Provisions and Reserves were considered in detail and approved (copies of which are filed in the Report Book).

2. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to:
 1. Appoint Mr P Przyszlak as a Member of the Chairman's Committee.
 2. Profile the Fixed Pumping Plant and Development Funds during the coming year.
 3. Increase the Development Contribution Rate per Impermeable hectare from £37,500 to £38,500 with effect from 1 April 2006.

08/06 DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES FOR 2006/07

1. It was unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to approve the budget of £1,938,924 for 2006/07.
2. It was unanimously agreed and thereby RESOLVED to increase drainage rates by 2.40% to 9.975p in the pound, which equated to a 2.80% increase for South Holland District Council given the shift in the proportion of the Board's expenditure arising from development during the course of the year (as shown in Option 3 in the Estimates Report for 2006/07):

Agricultural Drainage Rates	£825,098
South Holland District Council	£994,859
Boston Borough Council	£723
Emergency Reserves	£118,244

09/06 SCHEDULE OF PAID ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Paid Accounts totalling £536,657.38 from 1 October 2005 to 15 January 2006 was considered in detail and approved (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book). There were no matters arising there from.

10/06 OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operations Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising there from.

11/06 ENGINEER'S REPORT

The Engineer's Report (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. Arising there from:

1. Schedule of Rates (1.3)

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Board's Chairman and Mr J L van Geest to select a Consultant for each of the following tasks:

Structural Assessment and Design
Environmental Consultancy (subject to approval by the Conservation Committee)
Hydrological Modelling
Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

2. Moulton River Branch Realignment (3.1)

It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to straighten the Board's Moulton River Branch which would reduce the owned and maintained length by 228 metres, subject to the following conditions:

1. All costs of the realignment work are to be met solely by the applicant.

2. The new cut is designed not only to cope with the minimum flows required for efficient land drainage, but also to incorporate environmental features that are approved by English Nature.
3. That no compensation is paid for land loss or cover and that the written approval of all affected landowners and occupiers is given for the proposed route before the drain design work commences: this approval must include an understanding that the Board is not liable for any land gained or lost as a result of the scheme and that any payments for land gain/loss must be finalised solely between the affected parties.
4. An environmental survey must be carried out on the old route at the applicants' expense, before any filling in of the old route takes place.
5. The Board's costs associated with the transfer of land for the old and new drainage routes must be met by the applicants or landowners.

3. Childersgate Drain Branch Realignment (3.2)

Members considered an application to straighten a length of the Board's Childersgate Drain Branch, which would enable the drain to be maintained by the Berkenheger at a reduced cost. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to investigate this further before taking a decision.

4. Asset Risk Assessments (4.2)

The Engineer advised Members that grant aid would no longer be available for contributing towards the health and safety improvement works during the next financial year. RESOLVED that this be noted.

5. EA Questionnaire: En-maining of Critical Ordinary Watercourses (COWs) [5.1]

Members were concerned that once again the Environment Agency was seeking to en-main Board drains which fulfilled the COW criteria. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to respond to the questionnaire and resist any such move to en-main Board infrastructure.

6. Environmental Issues (8)

1. The Engineer had re specified and prioritised the work required of an Environmental Consultant. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Board's Conservation Committee to determine the extent of the Environmental Consultant's role.
2. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED for the Conservation Committee to develop a reed cutting policy for the South Holland Main Drain and the Little Holland Drain, with input from the Engineering Manager and Operations Manager.

7. Full Planning Application – H11/1640/05 for a two storey extension to side and rear at 81 Bridge Road, Long Sutton (9.1.1)

Members considered an application for consent to construct an extension to the side and rear of the existing property to within 8.5 metres from the brink of the Board's Main Road West Drain. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application, subject to the applicant entering into the Board's Standard Deed of Indemnity.

8. Application for relaxation of Byelaw 10 on Land Adjacent to 36 Osier Road, Spalding (9.1.2)

Members considered an application for consent to construct a single dwelling to within 4.5 metres from the centreline of the Board's Exeter Drain pipeline. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to refuse consent to this application.

9. Application for relaxation of Byelaw 10 on Land Adjacent to 76 Clay Lake, Spalding (9.1.3)

Members considered an application for consent to construct a new two-storey dwelling to within 8.5 metres from the centreline of the Board's Exeter Drain pipeline. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application, subject to the applicant entering into the Board's Standard Deed of Indemnity.

10. Full Planning Application – H11/1690/05 for a Chalet Bungalow with attached double garage adjacent to Four Trees, Station Road, Long Sutton (9.1.4)

Members considered an application for consent to construct a new dwelling to within 6 metres from the centreline of the Board's Sutton Delph Drain pipeline. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to refuse consent to this application.

11. Application for relaxation of Byelaw 10 at 1 Lowgate (9.1.5)

Members considered an application for consent to construct a new bungalow in place of the existing pre-fabricated structure to within 6 metres from the centreline of the Board's Brickfields Drain pipeline. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application, subject to the following conditions:

1. When the existing bungalow and any foundations have been removed, the applicant is to allow the Board access to its land to remove all bushes and re-profile the drain batter, with the extent of the necessary work to be determined by the Board's Operations Manager. The bushing and drain works shall be funded by the Board.
2. If the drain works result in land-take from the garden area, then the 6 metre distance to the new dwelling shall be measured from the current brink line, although the applicant will receive no compensation for any land lost.
3. The foundations of the new property shall be constructed to the depth of the drain.
4. The applicant must enter into the Board's Standard Deed of Indemnity.

12. Full Planning Application – H09/1594/05 for access culvert to new cemetery on land off Hallgate, Holbeach (9.1.6)

Mr F Biggadike declared an interest and left the Meeting Room, taking no part in the debate.

Members considered an application from Holbeach Parish Council for consent to install an access culvert in the Board's Holbeach New River, which would provide dual access to and from a new cemetery off Hallgate in Holbeach and to Mr and Mrs G W Morfoot's neighbouring property. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application, subject to the current open span bridge being removed, the applicant paying to the Board a sum of £22,800 and entering into the Board's Standard Deed of Easement.

Mr F Biggadike rejoined the Meeting.

13. Application to abstract water from Lords drain at Wragg Marsh Farm, Spalding Marsh (9.1.7)

Messrs G A Hay and A G Hay declared an interest and left the Meeting Room, taking no part in the debate.

Members considered an application for consent to install a temporary pipe into Lords drain for the purpose of abstracting water during the period 1 January to 31 March each year. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application by way of an Annual Licence, subject to following conditions:

1. The applicant shall enter into the Standard Deed of Indemnity with the Board covering the temporary raft structure as well as the headwall structure and transfer pipe and this document shall include the terms of the Licence.
2. A Commuted Maintenance fee, including a Wayleave element shall be paid to the Board to cover the installation of the headwall structure on the Board's land.
3. The applicant shall indemnify the Board against any liability howsoever arising.
4. A copy of the Environment Agency's abstraction licence, together with any conditions specified as part of its consent shall be provided to the Board.
5. The method of tethering for the pontoon must be agreed with the Board's Engineering Manager to ensure that the pontoon cannot become detached and then move along the drain during periods of tidal outfall.
6. All electric connections within 9 metres of the brink of Lords Drain must be of a temporary nature, so that they can be removed each year, or be attached to the solid pipe and headwall.
7. The pontoon, flexible pipe and tethers must all be removed on or before 31 March each and every year and not reinstalled until the maintenance operations have finished in the Lords drain for the year.
8. Should the Board's Engineering Manager determine that the flow of freshwater is too low to allow abstraction or that the applicant is abstracting water too quickly, the applicant shall turn off the pump within 4 hours of such notification by the Board and ensure that no further abstraction occurs until the Board has informed them that abstraction can restart.
9. The quality of the water cannot be guaranteed by the Board as being suitable for irrigation and therefore monitoring of the water quality shall be the responsibility of the applicant. All abstraction shall be carried out entirely at the applicants own risk.

Messrs G A Hay and A G Hay rejoined the Meeting.

14. Residential Redevelopment off Matmore Gate, Spalding (9.2.1)

Members considered an application to redevelop land off Matmore Gate, Spalding, which would lead to the removal of a Warehouse that had been constructed over the Board's Exeter Drain pipeline in or around 1971. It was agreed and thereby RESOLVED to consent to this application, subject to the applicant entering into the Board's Standard Deed of Indemnity. It was further RESOLVED to check the condition of the pipeline before redevelopment work commenced.

12/06 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report for the year to 15 January 2006 (a copy of which is filed in the Report Book) was considered in detail and approved. There were no matters arising there from.

13/06 HOLBEACH ANGLING CLUB AND MR J G PORTER OF THE WILLOWS, SUTTON ST JAMES

The Chairman and Chief Executive updated Members with the ongoing difficulties between the Holbeach Angling Club and Mr J G Porter of the Willows, Sutton St James. RESOLVED that this be noted.

14/06 83 BRIDGE ROAD, SUTTON BRIDGE

The Chief Executive advised Members that the Board now owned a property at 83 Bridge Road, Sutton Bridge, which had been paid for by Sutton Bridge Power. RESOLVED that this be noted.