

**Meeting of the South Holderness Internal Drainage Board
Held at: Ottringham Village Hall, Main Road, Ottringham
On: Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 9.30am**

PRESENT Howard Sadler – Vice Chairman – Keyingham
M Grant - Keyingham
J Maston – Preston
A Styche - Preston
R T Williams – Ottringham
M Jackson - Ottringham
P Lount – Skeffling
Chris Leckonby - Skeffling
A T Annison – Thorngumbald
M Cook – Thorngumbald
R Stephenson - Winestead
Cllr S Steel
Cllr J Dennis
Cllr C Holmes
Cllr J Holtby

IN ATTENDANCE R Ward (Clerk), D Moss.

Also welcomed to the meeting were: Andrew Mclachlan and Alan Randle of Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Board Consulting Engineers

1. **Apologies for absence** – G Nettleton (Chairman) Cllr B Skow, Cllr D Edwards, Cllr D Tucker
2. **Declaration of Interest**
All Farmer members have an interest as rate payers.
3. **Minutes of the Meetings held on Tuesday 9 November 2021**
The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by Vice Chairman Howard Sadler (due to the absence of Chairman G Nettleton due to Covid)
4. **Matters arising therein not included on agenda**
None
- 5a/b. **Maintenance works for IDB and Maintenance Works under the PSCA**
A majority of the maintenance work on both the IDB and PSCA sections have now been completed.
Old Fleet Drain: A Section of the PSCA is still to dredge.
Saltend: The IDB Section through the Saltend Chemical Works still to complete.
Bilton: IDB Section on Red House Drain is still to complete.

There has been an issue with the cut reeds left on the banks blowing back into the drain at Halsham and other areas where reeds have been cut. R W would speak to Wilkin Partners about this issue and see if there was any solution.
- 5c. **Health & Safety**
Ralph Ward stated there was no incidents to report.
- 5d. **Correspondence**
A list of correspondence, received and sent, was handed out to members.

5e. Planning Application

A list of applications was handed out to members and approved.

Pensana plc – Comments were made on this planning regarding the Boards issues with the culvert which carries Preston New Drain under the site which had previously been surveyed in 2011 and found to be in need of maintenance works a further survey was scheduled to be carried out in 2018 but did not take place. Following a recent meeting with the PX group they stated that a survey is due to be carried out hopefully within the next six months but until then, and proposals being to the Boards satisfaction, the Board will continue to object to any planning applications submitted for the site. It was also noted that if the culverted section was not replaced/repared and it collapsed it would be catastrophic to the community and is becoming a worrying situation.

R W was due to meet the land owners (ABP) on the 10 February 2022 to try and resolve the situation. It was also noted that a new plant had been built over part of the culvert with no gaps or access to monitor or carry out works on the culvert and also putting extra strain on the culvert.

Andrew Mclachlan stated that Under Section 24 of the Land Drainage Act it was a criminal offence to build within 9m of a water course even culverted sections and legal action could be taken.

It was also noted that additional and any future developments in the Preston area also go into the drain and thus causing the levels in Preston New Drain to rise.

The Board agreed to object to all further planning applications on this and adjoining sites until their concerns are dealt with to their satisfaction.

GB Bio Ltd Aldbrough – Full planning permission for the erection of a biomass and waste wood processing building – This application is on the very edge of the boards area with a large amount of acreage to be concreted. On their application there is mitigation to deal with a flood event and large lagoon storage. Andrew Mclachlan was instructed to look into this application to see if there was sufficient mitigation to cope with a flood event.

5f. Land Drainage Act Consents

None

5g. Bank Accounts

A summary of bank account activity was given out to members. Discussions took place and this was approved.

5h. Accounts for confirmation

A summary of accounts for confirmation was given out to members. Discussions took place and this was approved.

5i. Other Expenses

No expenses were brought to the meeting.

- 6. (a) Rates Collected** – £110,654.63 (97%) collected to date leaving £3,485.33 outstanding. The Clerk to pursue. The Clerk also requested authority from the Board to pursue a number of the outstanding ratepayers through the courts, and also instruct bailiffs to attend to attempt to recover outstanding rates. This was approved by the board and the clerk will report back at the next meeting.

(b) Drainage Rates to Write Off – Preston Area

It was agreed by the Board that all outstanding rates under £4.50 would be written off. The total amount being £25.77 in Preston Area. The board agreed unanimously for these to be written off

(c) Budget 2022/2023

Three proposals were put forward to The Board (1) The Rates stay the same (2) A 2.9% increase (3) A 6% increase.

It was proposed by T Williams that the rates should be increased by 2.9%, seconded by R Stephenson and agreed unanimously by The Board.

d) Effect Of Abolishing Differential Rates

If the agricultural rate is raised by 2.9% as agreed by the board the rates would have to be levied at £0.14 In the pound due to the abolition of differential rating areas as agreed at the June 2021 meeting – this would have an increase/decrease on the different areas:

Members of the Board for the Preston area accepted that this would be a levelling up of the agricultural rate paid per acre

(e) Laying of the rates

It was proposed and seconded that the Drainage Board do hereby make a Drainage Rate for the purposes chargeable thereon assessed on the Annual Value of Agricultural Land and Buildings subject to the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991 as here under set out that is to say :-

An Occupiers' rate assessed at 0.14p in the £ for the period ending on the 31st Day of March 2023.

That the Drainage Board do hereby make a Special Levy assessed as hereunder, that is to say:-

A Special Levy chargeable to East Riding Yorkshire Council in the sum of (as listed) for the period ending on the 31st Day of March 2023.

THAT the purposes for which the said Rate AND Special Levies are made and the amount in the £. For each of the purposes are as hereunder set out. AND that the said Rate shall be payable on Demand.

AND that the seal of the Board be affixed on the said Rate and Special Levies accordingly. AND that the Clerk be and is hereby authorised to take all necessary steps to demand and collect the said Rate.

PURPOSES under the Land Drainage Act 1991 for which the Rate mentioned is made	Amount of the rate in the £ for the Occupiers Rate
£p in the pound	14.00p/£
Special Levy	£61,276.40
Expenses of Administration under this Act.	0.0737
Works of maintenance under the said Act.	0.0423
Improvement of existing works under the said Act	0.000
New works under the said Act	0.000
Precept of the Environment Agency under the said Act	0.0290
Total Expenses	0.1450
Less Government Grants	0.000
Contributions from EA	0.0050
Other Income	0.000
Total Income	0.0050
£p in the pound	0.1400

7. Internal Control Arrangements and Verification of Existing Policies.

Members had been asked to read and digest the Risk Management Policy, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. These were discussed and their effectiveness was discussed. The Internal Control Arrangements throughout the year were discussed and found to have been followed and had been effective. Amendments were discussed and found not to be necessary.

8. Bramble House, Middle Lane, Preston – Flooding Issues/Actions

The clerk reported back to the board that the riparian owner has now carried out maintenance work on the ditch. A local board member is still carrying out regular checks and monitoring the levels and there has been no issues to date. It was noted that the ERYC had been flailing the surrounding hedges and an amount of debris had fallen into the ditch. It was suggested that on this the board could arrange for somebody to attend site and rake out any discharged rubbish. The clerk would ask Wilkin Partners to provide a quote for the work. This work to be charged to the Riparian Owner if the ERYC would not pay.

9. Update of Farmers use of pumps in the Keyingham Area

It was report that all was running ok at the moment and no issues reported.

10. Update of Proposed Pumps at Stone Creek

Andrew Mclachlan and Alan Randle as consulting engineers took the floor to report their findings to the board.

Alan Randle who has been compiling the study took the floor:

The doors themselves are in good order but a large amount of water is leaking through them and it suggests that something is wrong under the water line stopping the doors working efficiently. It was suggested that a dive team goes down to investigate this which would be done on the inland side of the doors and a report be submitted. This was discussed by the board and approved. Depending on the outcome of the report two options have been looked at:

1) Installation of pumps: This is a very expensive option involving extensive planning consents, environmental issues and there would be no guarantee that the pumps would be large enough to cope. It was also not known if the issue with the doors were going to get worse and so making the pumps not able to cope.

2) Constructing a new structure upstream of the existing doors which would be independent from the existing doors. This would be built approximately 20 metres upstream, with the option of bringing in temporary pumps in the event of a major flood event, but these would probably not be required as the doors would have a 100% seal.

He would hopefully have the costings back for the projects by the end of the month and report back to the board.

There is a possibility for the board to obtain a nation flood defence grant from the EA and Andrew Mclachlan was looking into this on behalf of the board.

The water course at this site is classed as an EA Main River and the de-maining programme to be able to put into the boards authority is not due to be looked at by ministers until 2023.

11. Update Sand Le Mere

The Keys have not been officially handed over to the board to date but prior to the last high tide RW was able to obtain a set.

The board asked for volunteers as key holders to be able to operate the sluice gates when required so following discussions it was decided that The Board work as a collective and to keep an eye on levels and to ask local ratepayers to report any incidents to board members to enable them to monitor levels and operate the gates if required.

R Ward would hold the keys in the office for the moment.

The top flood gate is shut at the moment and with consistent water levels over the winter period the board agreed to leave the gates as they are for the moment. The Clerk and Chairman to monitor.

12. Update on Skeffling Managed Retreat

RW and GN take part in a monthly online teams meeting for updates with regards to modellings and what they are looking to progress with and looking for the boards approval. The board have stated on numerous occasions that they will not give any consents in stages until all the scheme and protocol is submitted as a whole.

Andrew Mclachlan stated that the project has not been looked at properly and the land drainage needs to be right before any major works commence. Including the renewal of Winestead Outfall Pump.

The EA do not have an adopted system in place and need to come back with more technical information as to what is proposed. The current system proposals are not sustainable or maintainable and need to be addressed.

It was agreed by the board that no consents would be given until the scheme was put in as a whole.

There is also an option for the board to serve notice on the EA if they encroach the 9m easement during works.

13. Update on Hedon and Paull Developments

John Maston and Ralph Ward recently attended a meeting along with farmers and land owners north of the disused railway and representatives from Hull City Council and developers to discuss potential land drainage issues where the drainage of the land to the north of the disused railway line and Hedon Aerodrome relies upon long standing surface water drains running under and through the site and then discharges into Preston New Drain. The proposed development of this land indicates that this would interfere with the drainage of the farmers land and lead to possible flooding.

After a preliminary appraisal made by drainage consultants and a meeting with RW and JM it was suggested, to avoid impeding the surface water, Hull Eco Park Ltd will provide, at the start of the development, a culverted drain, design to be agreed, to the North of the site to discharge existing land drains which now cross the site into a refurbished ditch on the East side of Staithes Road and hence into Preston New Drain. The new culvert and new ditch to be adopted by South Holderness Internal Drainage Board provided a 9 metre wide maintenance strip is provided by the developers

Natural England are insisting the developers fence along the full length of the top of north-western bank of Reedmere Sewer, extending the fence line that is already present in the south-east corner of the Site, for preservation of the nature reserve including the exclusion of all public. Cllr J Dennis stated that this would cause uproar in the local community as this area is in constant use by residents including himself. The board would also require access to carry out maintenance works.

The Board agreed that this was unacceptable and against the Boards bylaws which states that a 9m easement is required for access. RW was going to go back to them and state that the board will not give their consent to the erection of a 1.3m fence on the Western bank of Reedmere Sewer. They are happy for this to be erected a minimum of 9 metres West of the bank. The board cannot see where this is prevented by Natural Englands requirements and do not wish to be involved in the no doubt squabbles with existing illegal users of the site over the fence. They believe a 9m strip will help prevent illegal dog walkers going further into the site.

14. Update on revising New Board Area

Nothing still to report

15. Great Yorkshire and Driffield Show

ADA Northern will not be attending the Great Yorkshire Show but will be attending Driffield Show

16. ADA Northern Branch Meeting

This will be held on the 27th May 2022

17. ADA Northern Branch AGM

This will be held on the 4th November 2022

18. Any Other Business

Ralph Ward and John Maston had a Zoom Meeting with Andrew Barron of the Environment Agency regarding Old Fleet Drain and to go through the potential opportunities for improving the flood risk in the Old Fleet Drain system. One proposal was to pump water from Old Fleet into Preston New Drain but this was not a feasible option. They had also omitted Bilton Catchment area off their maps. It was noted the only realistic solution to pump Old Fleet into the Humber was the 19th alternative. They have instructed Jacobs as their consultants so it will probably be a long process.

19. Future Meetings

Tuesday 7th June 2022 at 9.30am – Ottringham Village Hall

The Board thanked Andrew Mclachlan and Alan Randle for the valuable contribution to matters arising. There being no Further Business the meeting was closed at 11.15am.

Chairman's Signature.....



Mr G Nettleton

Date.....

7th June 2022