

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE**  
**THORNTREE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019**  
**AT THE OFFICES OF TOWNEND CLEGG & CO, 4 BELGRAVIA, GOOLE**  
**COMMENCING AT 09:00am**

**PRESENT**

D. N. Hinchliffe – Chairman  
J E Hinchliffe  
D S Backhouse  
S Longthorp  
S Hall  
K Fillingham  
M J Townend - Clerk

**1. APOLOGIES**

All Board Members were present

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 having been previously circulated to all Board Members, it was proposed Mr J E Hinchliffe, and seconded Mr K Fillingham that these were a true record of the meeting. This was carried and the minutes were signed by the Chairman Mr D N Hinchliffe.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reported that a letter had now been forwarded to Natural England in response to their letter, with regard to future contributions towards maintenance and running costs of The Board's pumps as a result of seepage water been taken into The Board's drains from Thorne Moors – a reply was awaited.

**4. RELEVANT CORRESPONDANCES**

There were no correspondences to be brought to the meeting by the Clerk.

**5. TO APPROVE INVOICES PAID FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2018 TO 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

The Clerk presented a Schedule of Payments for approval these consisted of 2 direct debits, together with 2 sets of bank charges. It was proposed Mr S Hall, seconded Mr D Backhouse that the accounts be approved, and this was carried by The Board.

**6. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that there was still outstanding rates due in respect of Mr Goodfellow and Mr Holt, and the necessary account renders had been forwarded to them requesting payment within 14 days.

The current bank balances as at the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 were as follows:

Current Account:	£19,498.80
Deposit Account:	<u>£15,263.01</u>
Total:	<b><u>£34,761.81</u></b>

## **7. MAINTENANCE MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting invoices from Mr Colwill and Martin Richardson, with regard to annual maintenance works and flail mowing to The Board's ditches.

The Chairman confirmed that all maintenance work for 2018 had been completed as planned.

The Chairman had made further enquiries with regard to having The Board's main pump overhauled. The pump was last overhauled in 2009 by Bedford Pumps at a cost of £10,889.00.

It had originally been hoped that the overhauling of the pumps would not be necessary until 2025, however as a result of the increased amount of brown water seeping off the Moors, and the effect that this was having on the length of pumping and the pumping hours, and associated increase in maintenance costs it was now considered that the pump should be overhauled and serviced in either 2019 or 2020.

The Chairman had spoken with Bedford Pumps to obtain an estimate of likely costs, on the basis that the pump was to be overhauled in a similar way to 2009 with the exception of there being no necessity to re-wire the pump then an estimated cost of £8690.00 had been obtained for the service and overhaul, together with a cost of £890.00 each way for collection and delivery and return of the pump following overhauling.

The Chairman had also spoken to Perrys Pumps and to Fenn Flow, and was to obtain budgets and costs from these 2 companies, as well before a final decision was reached.

It was suggested that it may be beneficial for The Board to purchase 'pully carriage', as this would assist with the moving of the pump once raised from the pumping chamber, to get the pump to the doors so as it could be lowered onto a lorry.

## **8. TO AGREE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2020**

The Clerk provided a copy of estimated costs for the current year, and the proposed budget for 2019/20 year.

The accepted budget for 2018/19 had been £17,050.00, but the estimated actual cost was likely to be in the region of £17,233.00. The draft proposed budget for 2019/20 was presented, and discussed. The Clerk's annual fee was due to for review, this had stood at £1,750.00 + expenses + VAT for the previous 3 years and it was agreed that this would be increased to £2,000.00 + expenses + VAT with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

It was agreed that the pump reserve account payment of £1,000 should continue to build up funds, for as and when the pump would need refurbishment.

It was proposed D Backhouse, seconded K Fillingham that the proposed budget for 2019/20 in the overall sum of £17,400.00 should be approved by The Board and this was carried.

**9. TO FIX THE DRAINAGE RATE AND SPECIAL LEVY FOR 2019/20**

The Clerk reported that to realise the monies of the budget this would necessitate an increase in the drainage rate for the ensuing year from 12.7p in the £ to 13p in the £. It was proposed J E Hinchliffe, seconded S Longthorp that the rates in the £ for the drainage rate year 2019/20 should be fixed at 13p in the £, and this was approved by The Board.

Taking into account the Special Levy rateable value, which stood at a rateable value of £17,952.00, based on the rate of 13p in the £, would give an amount for the special levy of £2,333.76. It was proposed D Backhouse, seconded S Hall that the Special Levy should be fixed at £2,333.76, and this was approved by The Board.

**10. THORNE MOORS WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

The Chairman reported that he had nothing specific to raise with regard to the Water Level Management Plan itself.

The Chairman and Clerk had compiled a letter which has now been forwarded to Natural England, in response to a letter received in September 2018, from Louise Hardcastle – Agent to Natural England.

In the letter the concerns of The Board had been raised with regard to brown seepage water coming off the Moors, and running through the boundary drains, along the drains to the Pumping Station, and being pumped into the River Don.

The brown water had increased over the last 5 years. During the period of heavy rainfall, it was now taking longer to lower the level of water in the ditches, as a result of seepage water coming off the Moors. This was having an effect whereby there was increased running costs for the pump, namely electricity as well as an increase in maintenance works carried out annually to the drains leading from the Moors to the Pumping Station. As The Board only had a limited monies available for annual maintenance, this was resulting in maintenance generally being concentrated in the main drains at the expense of other maintenance and de-weeding work to some of the lesser tributary drains.

As a result of the increase pumping, it looked like it was going to be necessary to have the main pump serviced after only 10 years, where in the past this had been carried out every 15 years, and it was considered that a substantial part of the reason for this was as a result of the increased amount of water coming off the Moors which needed pumping.

The letter sent to Natural England also raised the point that at no time had Natural England ever applied for consent to carry out works on the Moors which affected water levels within the Board's boundaries, this being a requirement of The Board's bye-laws. Part of the negotiations for the payment of an annual sum from Natural England towards The Board's increased costs, the question of retrospective consent for works carried out on the Moors should be considered.

The Clerk confirmed that he would keep The Board advised as and when a reply was received.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The next two Board Meetings were fixed for 08:30am on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019, and at 09:00 on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 09:21am.

