

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THORNTREE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
HELD ON TUESDAY 26th JANUARY 2021 BY ZOOM
COMMENCING AT 09:00am

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS JOINED THE MEETING ON ZOOM

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

1. APOLOGIES

All Board Members joined the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18th AUGUST 2020

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 18th August 2020 having been previously circulated to all Board Members, it was proposed Mr S Longthorp, and seconded Mr J E Hinchliffe that these were a true record of the meeting. This was carried and the Chairman was given approval to sign the minutes, and return these to the Clerk.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no specific matters arising that would not come up under the Agenda items.

4. RELEVANT CORRESPONDANCES

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

5. TO APPROVE INVOICES PAID 1st APRIL TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2020

The Clerk had circulated a Schedule of Payments for approval. These consisting of invoice numbers 1-10, together with 10 direct debits and 8 notification of bank charges.

It was proposed Mr K Fillingham, seconded Mr S Longthorp that these accounts be approved, and this was carried by the meeting.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there were outstanding drainage rates owing in respect of Mr Goodfellow, Mr Holt and Mr Cawkwell, and the Clerk was to send out renders requesting payment before the end of the financial year.

The current bank balances were as follows:

Current Account:	£11,193.80
Deposit Account:	£15,309.08
Total:	<u>£26,502.88</u>

7. MAINTENANCE MATTERS

The Chairman reported that Mr Colwill had carried out the routine maintenance works to the drains at a total cost of £2,554.20. The Clerk reported that the electricity supply contract had been changed from npower to Eon, and that a more beneficial rate had been obtained although the electricity bill was now charged monthly rather than on an annual budget plan, thereby there would be monthly fluctuations in the accounts dependant on weather conditions and the usage of the pumps.

8. TO AGREE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

The Clerk provided a copy of estimated costs for the current year, and the proposed budget for year 2021/22. The accepted budget for 2021 had been £17,450.00 with the estimated actual cost likely to be in the region of £22,057.00, in view of increased electricity costs and due to the final settlement of Martin Richardson's account for flail mowing dating back to 2017/2018.

The draft proposed budget for 2021/22 was presented and discussed, and it was agreed that the pump reserve account should remain at an annual payment of £1,000.00, to build up funds for as and when the pump would need further refurbishment in the future.

It was proposed Mr S Longthorp, seconded Mr K Fillingham that the proposed budget for 2021/22 be the sum of £18,050.00 and this was approved by the Board.

9. TO FIX DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVY FOR 2021/22

The Clerk reported that in view of the proposed budget for 2021/22 having increased by £600.00, from the previous year's budget that it would be necessary to increase the drainage rate to 13.5p in the £.

It was proposed Mr J E Hinchliffe, seconded Mr D Backhouse that the rate in the £ for the drainage Year 2021/22 should be increased to the sum of 13.5p in the £, and this was approved by the meeting.

Taking into account the Special Levy rateable value which stood at a rateable value of £17,952.00, and based on a rate of 13.5p in the £, this would give an amount for the Special Levy of £2,423.52.

It was proposed Mr K Fillingham, seconded Mr J E Hinchliffe that the Special Levy should be fixed at £2,423.52, and this was approved by the Board.

10. HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

The Clerk reported that there was nothing to report to the meeting.

11. THORNE MOORS WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Chairman gave a resume of the current position in respect of discussions with Natural England, and also advised as to the ongoing hydrological survey being carried out on behalf of Natural England.

The Chairman said that he was keen to arrange a meeting with Natural England to bring to a head the question of illegal structures constructed on the Moors, as well as agreeing to a contribution towards future maintenance and running costs for the Board, and it was hoped that a meeting with Natural England would be able to be arranged prior to the next Board Meeting.

The Chairman had had informal discussions with Wilkin Chapman Solicitors, as to the Board's legal position if they were to serve notice upon Natural England for the illegal structures, and the Chairman sought the Board's approval to be able to take formal legal advice from Wilkin Chapman at an estimated cost of £2,000.00, if the forthcoming meetings with Natural England were not productive.

It was proposed Mr S Longthorp, seconded Mr J E Hinchliffe that the Board could spend up to £2,000.00 + VAT in obtaining legal advice in respect of the ongoing dispute with Natural England, and this was carried.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman brought to the Board's attention that the control box for the Pumping Station was now 'long in the tooth', and would need replacing shortly.

The Chairman had obtained an estimated cost of £4,720.00 for the replacement of the control box, in addition if this was to be linked by SMA texting to up to 5 Board Members, then there was an additional cost of £535,000.

It was agreed that this would be discussed at further length at the next Board Meeting.

There being no further business the Zoom meeting closed at 09:24am.