

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THORNTREE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY 19th JULY 2021
AT BANK HOUSE FARM, RAWCLIFFE BRIDGE
COMMENCING AT 08:30am

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr S Hall.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 26th JANUARY 2021

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 26th January 2021 having been previously circulated to all Board Members, it was proposed Mr J E Hinchliffe, and seconded Mr S Longthorp 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

None

4. RELEVANT CORRESPONDANCES

The Clerk had dealt with routine correspondences, there having been no specific items of correspondences to be brought to the meeting.

5. TO APPROVE INVOICES PAID 1st JANUARY TO 31st MARCH 2021

The Clerk presented a schedule of payments for approval, consisting of direct debit payments for electricity and bank charges, and it was proposed Mr D Backhouse, seconded Mr K Fillingham that the accounts be approved, and this was carried by the Board.

6. TO APPROVE THE BOARD'S ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2021

The accounts have been circulated to all Board Members by the Clerk, and are attached at the end of these minutes.

The Internal Audit had been carried out by Diane Taylor, and the accounts were found to be correct.

The Clerk reported that the accounts showed a deficit £4,342.34, this was wholly due to the fact that there had been no Sub-Contractor s invoices received during the year to the end of March 2020, and all invoices for 2020 and 2021 had been received during the last financial year.

The income for the last year amounted to £17,485.31, with expenditure of £21,827.65.

There were 3 rate arrears amounting to the total sum of £1,391.91, together with further debts owed in respect of a VAT re-claim of £3,764.36.

There were no Creditors in the last year as at the year end.

The Board's current assets of £25,872.86, was represented by a revenue account of £20,622.86, and a pump reserve account of £5,250.00. It was proposed by Mr S Longthorp, seconded by Mr J E Hinchliffe that the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021, should be duly approved and accepted and this was carried by the Board.

A. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Governance Statement within the Annual Governance and Accounts Return had been completed by the Clerk, and it was proposed Mr D Backhouse, and seconded Mr J Hinchliffe that should be approved and signed, and this was carried by the Board.

B. ACCOUNT STATEMENT

It was proposed Mr J E Hinchliffe and seconded Mr S Longthorp that the Account Statement of Annual Governance and Accountability return should be approved, and this was duly carried by the Board.

It was proposed Mr K Fillingham and seconded Mr D Backhouse, that the Chairman and Clerk should have the authority to sign the necessary report and statements, and this was carried by the Board.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported the various balances as at the date of the meeting were as follows:

Current Account:	£17,717.48
Deposit Account:	£15,309.84

A total of £33,027.32 as at the 1st July 2021.

The Clerk reported that rate arrears in respect of Mr Goodfellow and Mr Holt, in respect of the financial year 2019/20 and 2020/21 had been paid, and that a letter had been forwarded to Mr Cawkwell demanding payment by the end of July, and the Clerk awaited receipt of the month end bank statement to ascertain as to whether or not these have been paid.

It was proposed Mr S Longthorp, seconded Mr J Hall that if rate arrears had not been paid by the end of July, then the Clerk should instigate a claim through the Small Claims Court for recovery of rate arrears.

It was proposed by Mr D Backhouse, seconded by Mr K Fillingham that the Clerk should be given the authority to apply to HSBC for electronic banking facilities for the Board's accounts, and this was approved.

8. MAINTENANCE MATTERS

No additional maintenance over and above the usual being carried out by Mr Colwill was required, apart from the usual de-weeding and the flail mowing of banks carried out by various Landowners.

The Chairman raised concern with regards to the condition of the electrical control box in the Pumping Station, this has been raised in the last few years annual inspection for insurance purposes and the Chairman stated that he would obtain quotations for the replacement control box and bring this back to the November meeting.

Mr J E Hinchliffe reported that there was no evidence of any slips to the Board's drains.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

Nothing to report.

10. THORNE MOORS WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Clerk had circulated a copy of a letter from Natural England dated 21st June 2021, in respect of a without prejudice lump sum offer of £10,000 to the Board. It was intended to cover the concerns expressed by the Board for the period 2014-2022, and was on the understanding that any action relating to notices and fines under the Land Drainage Act 1991, and the Board's bylaws would be withheld until the relevant hydraulic survey report had been received by Natural England and circulated to the Board. This offer was made on a purely without prejudice basis, and was not to be seen as an acceptance of any liability on the part of Natural England, or acceptance of the position that is being adopted by the Board.

The Chairman reported that the hydrology survey was ongoing, and that it was anticipated that there would be a preliminary report due in Summer 2022.

At this point the Clerk raised the issue that a payment of £10,000 in a single financial year could create problems with regards to the audit, as this would raise the receipt of the Board over the £25,000 income or expenditure limit and would require a more extensive audit at the year end.

The Clerk suggested that he should return to Natural England, and agree to their proposals in principle, but ask for 2 payments, 1 of £5,000 prior to the 31st March 2022, and the 2nd payment after the 1st April 2022.

It was proposed Mr D Backhouse, seconded by Mr S Longthorp that the Board should accept the proposal from Natural England on a without prejudice basis, and this was carried by the Board.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business it was confirmed that the next Board Meeting would take place on Tuesday 30th November 2021, the venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 09:10am.