MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
THORNTREE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
HELD ON TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2022
AT THE OFFICES OF TOWNEND CLEGG & CO, 4 BELGRAVIA, GOOLE
COMMENCING AT 08:30am

PRESENT

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies have been received from Mr K Fillingham.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2022

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 25th January 2022 having been previously circulated to all Board Members, it was proposed Mr J E Hinchliffe, and seconded Mr D Backhouse that these were a true record of the meeting. This was carried and the minutes were signed by the Chairman, Mr D N Hinchcliffe.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that the second payment of £5,000 from Natural England with regards to The Moors had now been received.

4. RELEVANT CORRESPONDANCES

The Clerk had dealt with any routine correspondences, there having been no specific item or correspondences to be brought to the meeting.

5. TO APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAID 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2022

The Clerk presented a Schedule of Payments for approval consisting of direct debit payments, bank charges, and invoices no's. 7-11, and it was proposed Mr S Longthorp, seconded Mr S Hall that the accounts be approved and this was carried by the Board.

6. TO APPROVE THE BOARD'S ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

The accounts having been circulated to all Board Members by the Clerk, and are attached to 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 profit of £4,511.57.

The income for the last year amounted to £23,148.85, with expenditure of £18,637.28. The Clerk was pleased to report that there were no rate arrears for the last financial year, and that a VAT re-claim of £2,660.15, was due from HMRC. The only Creditors for the year end was for electricity of £600.

The Board's current assets of £31,384.43 was represented by a revenue account of £25,134.43, and a pump reserve account of £6,250.00.

It was proposed Mr S Longthorp and seconded Mr J E Hinchliffe that the accounts for the year to the end of 31st March 2022 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, seconded Mr S Longthorp that this should be approved and signed, and this was carried by The Board.

B. ACCOUNTS STATEMENT

It was proposed Mr J E Hinchliffe, seconded Mr S Longthorp that the accounts statement and Annual Governance accountability return should be approved, and this was duly carried by The Board.

It was proposed Mr S Hall, seconded by Mr D Backhouse that the Chairman and Clerk should have the authority to sign the necessary reports and statements, this was carried by The Board.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

Current Account:	£15,589.57
Deposit Account:	£15,311.00
Total:	**£30,900.57**

The Clerk reported that The Board's fixed price contract for electricity with Eon ended in July 2022, and that the electricity charges would increase from a price of 13.69p per unit, to 43.06p per unit. This has a potential to increase costs of electricity by around £8,000 per year, and if this proves necessary it will necessitate an increase in the rate in the £ for the budget of up to 5p in the £, for the next financial year – although this will be reviewed at the time of setting the 2023/2024 budget in January 2023.

8. MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Following the installation of the new control panel at the Pump House, the problem of the pump cutting out when there was a high tide has now ceased.

Routine maintenance was to be carried out the board, and if dry hopefully more spraying will be carried out to the drains thereby reducing the amount of bucket work that would be necessary.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Nothing to report.

10. THORNE MOORS WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT LEVEL PLAN UPDATE

On the 15th February 2022 the chairman met with Robert Cauldwell, chair of ADA along with Sofi Lloyd, technical officer at ADA and representatives of several other IDB's with an interest in the problems surrounding water level management on Thorne Moors.

Boards represented were, Thorntree IDB, Dempster IDB, Goole Fields IDB, Swinefleet and Reedness IDB and Black Drain Drainage Board.

The meeting was held at Castle View Farm Swinefleet by kind permission of Mr Malcolm Barker, followed by a site visit onto the Moors.

A full and frank discussion took place regarding the problems created by the implementation of the Water Level Management plan, without full consultation and consent of all the IDB's . Robert Cauldwell agreed that it was a good example of how such a plan should not be implemented and lessons could be learned. Ms Lloyd suggested that if and when further funding for water level management became available ADA would be willing to act as a facilitator to ensure better partnership working .

The site visit highlighted the issues with the new pump and the poor condition of the water level management infrastructure. It was obvious that this was having a deleterious effect on the surrounding farmland.

The Chairman reported that as a result of the extremely dry weather conditions that the proposed Hydrology Report consultation period could be extended by a further 2 years, in the meantime that an Interim Report may be forthcoming.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Clerk reminded Board Members that 2022 was an election year, and that the election would be held in September, and that the new Board's first meeting would be on the 29th November 2022.

It was agreed that The Board Meetings for November 2022 and the 24th January 2023, would be 09:00am starts, rather than the usual 08:30 starts.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:58am.