

**Dan Vm Drainage
Commissioners
Finance Committee**

JBA Consulting
Epsom House, Doncaster

Meeting

Friday 27 May 2016
10.00am



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Purpose

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1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declaration of Interest

3. Minutes of the meeting 11 December 2015

Present: Andrew Cooke (AC) (Chairman)
Gillian Ivey (GI)
Richard Ward (RW)
Richard Thompson (RT)
Dave Hill (DH)
Mike Jordan (MJ) (acting sub for Carol Mackman)

Observers: Tony Sockett (TS) Commissioners Chairman

Attendees JBA: Craig Benson (CB)
Ian Benn (IB)

2015.65 Apologies – were received from Derek Bell. Members were informed of the very sad news that Carol Mackman had recently died. The Chief Executive was requested to send a letter to her partner on behalf of the Board.

2015.66 Declaration of Interest – AC declared an interest in Agenda item 4.10.

2015.67 Minutes of meeting 9 October 2015 were proposed as a true record by GI, seconded by RW and approved by the Committee.

2015.68 Matters Arising – 2015.57 – Hydraulic Model – It was agreed that the letter, issued by the Board with respect to the complaint, is disseminated to all Board Members.

At this point in the meeting it was agreed to go into a private session. Members of the public were asked to leave.

2015.69 Workforce – The Chief Executive reviewed the current position and that there were three items for the committee to approve.

2015.70 Finance Audits – Internal – Three Auditors had been approached for quotations to undertake the Commissioners internal audit function for a five year period commencing 1 April 2016. Two quotations had been received and the Finance Officer confirmed that the decision will be made shortly and the expected costs are included in the proposed budget.

2015.71 External Audit – Not yet completed. Information requested by the auditors had been sent and completion of the audit is expected before the February board meeting.

2015.72 Budget Estimate for the Year Ending 31 March 2017 – The Finance Officer informed Members that the budget is in line with the agreed movement towards a level drainage rate across all of the four districts of the Board. He confirmed that this year's changes will result in a flat rate across the Board's entire district. Members then had a comprehensive review of the full budget and raised questions with regard to the Website renewal budget and Satellite bases. There was also a request to show the breakdown of items that are included in the budgeted costs associated with the pumping station maintenance. The Budget as discussed would be

recommended by this Committee for full Board approval. This was proposed by MJ and seconded by RT subject to those amendments that had been approved.

- 2015.73** Five Year Budget Estimate – The five year estimate was reviewed and members noted that the forecast was based upon the Board's Reserve Policy.
- 2015.74** Fishlake Pumping Station Scheme - The FO reported that the scheme was progressing satisfactorily.
- 2015.75** Board owned assets – PV Cells – Options were contained within the meeting papers and members agreed that the third option to lease the land to the Coal Authority and then take a share of the FIT payments with them after years 8-9 was the best option for the Board. RT raised a query with regard to the pre-accreditation process and whether or not the Coal Authority had obtained it. Further discussions followed with regard to the lease of the land and it was asked for a comparison of the rent of the land for grazing. Members agreed to delegate to the Chairman and Finance Committee Chairman the authority to progress this matter, providing the pre-accreditation issue and rental values were resolved.
- 2015.76** It was noted that the Board's Financial Regulations had been approved by the fully Board.
- 2015.77** List of Payments – The committee approved the list of payments made by cheque totalling £70,290.11 of which £165.00 was signed by Officers only. Approval was given to the list of payments made direct out of the bank totalled £368,847.84 of which £108,777.96 were signed by Officers only.
- 2015.78** Stubbs Grange Bridge – The Finance Committee Chairman and the members of the public left the meeting before this matter was discussed. It was resolved that this committee would recommend that the Board follow the Counsel's advice that had been received.
- 2015.79** Any Other Business – The Board Chairman suggested that a letter of support to the Cumbrian district should be sent to the Local Authorities, Environment Agency and Parish Councils during this time of adversity. He mentioned similar letters Doncaster MBC received during the 2007 flooding of Toll Bar. Members agreed to the suggestion and the Chairman agreed to write the letter himself.
- 2015.80** Date of next meeting – 27 May 2016 commencing at 10:00am.