

RIVER LUGG INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

Held on Thursday 21st January 2016 at 10.30 a.m. at 7Y Business Centre, Leominster

PRESENT:

Board Members:

Mr C Pudge – Chairman
Mr J Smith – Vice Chairman
Lord J Cawley
Mrs Z Chilman
Mrs N Davies
Major J Hereford
Mr J Lawrence
Mr J Makin
Mr K Mitcheson
Cllr B Baker
Cllr J Hardwick
Cllr P McCaull

HOOPLE LTD OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Evans – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)
Mr L Harrison – Area Engineer (AE)
Mrs L Chandler – Minute Taker

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies had been received from Board Members Mr C Pritchard, Mr G Sparey, Cllr F Norman and Mr D Trumper of Hoople Ltd.

15/020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr C Pudge and Mr J Hereford declared an interest in the Area Engineer (AE) report section named Adoption of Main Rivers.

15/021 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Chairman requested the order of the agenda to be changed in order for the election of the Chairman to be dealt with first. The Area Engineer requested nominations from the Board and as no nominations were received it was proposed by Major J Hereford and seconded by Mr D Makin to elect Mr C Pudge a Chairman and Mr J Smith as Vice Chairman.

Mr C Pudge was declared as Board Chairman and Mr J Smith as Vice Chairman for the next three years.

The Chairman passed on his thanks to the Board, Hoople and the Area Engineer for their help in his term of office.

15/022 CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the members to the first meeting of the new Board. The Chairman wished a speedy recovery to Mr C Pritchard who was absent from the meeting due to ill health.

15/023 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th OCTOBER 2015

Subject to the small amendment of a typo error at 15/025, the minutes were approved as an accurate recording of the meeting.

15/024 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising from the minutes.

15/025 REPORT OF THE AREA ENGINEER TO THE BOARD

Area Engineer Report

The Area Engineer (AE) reported that all channel maintenance work had been suspended since December due to the waterlogged ground condition.

Expenditure to date reported at £116k

The AE proposed the maintenance programme for 2016/2017 which was unanimously approved.

Progress to date for restoring the newly adopted watercourses to good order was presented in the report. The AE anticipated that the work would be completed within another year or so.

Adoption of Main Rivers

As proposed at the last meeting, a sub-committee carried out inspections on Wormbrook/Allensmore and the River Frome to assess the maintenance standards. It was reported that the three watercourses have been neglected for some time and this was clearly having an impact on the discharge of flood flows which was also having a detrimental effect upon the Board's tributary watercourses. Following discussion, Mr D Makin proposed that a formal letter be sent to the Environment Agency requesting that it might consider possible de-maintenance of the watercourses, this was seconded by Cllr J Hardwick and carried unanimously. It was agreed that discussions with the EA regarding maintenance funding contributions were necessary before the watercourses could be adopted by the Board but the AE advised that it

was likely that this would be restricted to the continued reimbursement of the precept by payment of the Foreign Water Contribution in the equivalent sum.

Action: Greg Evans/ Les Harrison

Rainfall Data

The rainfall data was noted.

Land Drainage Consent Applications

Housing development at Bodenham Moor submitted by Bell Homes was approved on the 18th December 2015.

Planning Applications

The following planning matters were noted;

PR2015-015 – Land adjoining Orchard Farm, Eardisland, Hereford

PR2015-016 – St Mary's Farm, Kingsland, Herefordshire

15/026 FINANCE REPORTS

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) reported an actual spend of £172k as of 31st December 2015. Reminder bills were issued during November which has resulted in further payments being received. There are currently 69 outstanding accounts.

The Board Members unanimously approved the signing of the schedule of bills.

Charles requested clarity on one of the outstanding rates as thought it had been previously resolved.

Action: Greg Evans to check and confirm

15/027 BUDGET AND PENNY RATE

The RFO presented a draft budget in order to set an annual budget to enable the penny rate to be set. The RFO explained the different scenarios depending on the setting of the penny rate.

The RFO explained that the level of penny rate required to cover the annual expenditure was of 9.25p. It was acknowledged that in recent years the board had set a deficit budget with the gap funded by Board reserves. This approach was not sustainable in the long-term.

The Board felt a 9.25p rate was too high and a rate of 0.825p was suggested instead.

A vote was undertaken as follows;-

- To set the rate at 0.825p – Proposed by Mr J Smith and seconded by Cllr P McCaull.
In favour 7, against 2

- To set the rate at 0.800p – Proposed by Major J Hereford and seconded by Cllr B Baker.
In favour 2, against 7

It was agreed that the drainage rate increase for 2016/17 is set at 8.25p.

The Area Engineer queried the level of uplift for the Network Rail Contribution. The RFO will check to see if it should be increased for 2016-17.

15/028 RISK MANAGEMENT

The RFO informed the Board he had met with the AE and the Health and Safety advisor following the request at the last Board meeting. The RFO explained that the H&S advisor had explained in more detail regarding the Construction Design and Management regulations 2015.

The Board requested the RFO ensures with the help of the H&S advisor that health and safety plans are in place. The H&S advisor is going to review the working practices of the contract and report back.

The RFO agreed to present a revised risk register with the new objectives and vision for the Board at the next meeting.

Action: Greg Evans

15/029 ADA BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE

A discussion took place regarding ADA Branch Representative. ADA proposed at a meeting in November for a new ADA regional branch although this was not agreed as the running costs involved were not valid.

RLIDB do not belong to a branch and therefore has no ADA representative, the Chairman advised that the annual ADA fee should be reduced.

It was agreed to invite the Chairman Henry Cator to the next meeting on the 28th April.

Action: Charles Pudge

15/030 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman raised the matter of a vacancy on the Board, initially the Board agreed to offer to the Lower Wye area and has recently received an interest from Mr Corbett via Mr Sparey. It was agreed Mr Lawrence will enquire with the Lower Wye area and report back.

15/031 DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

28th April, 21st July and 20th October 2016

It was agreed to set a date for the annual may inspection and the 12th May was suggested. Anne Wheeler from the Environment Agency to be invited.

The Chairman requested the AE and RFO to send out maps of the RLIDB area for all the new board members.

Action: Greg Evans

Chairman



Clerk

