



**River Lugg Internal Drainage Board
Minutes of the Board Meeting
Held on 19 October 2017 at 10.30am at the 7Y Business Centre, Leominster**

PRESENT:

Board Members

Mr C Pudge – Chairman
Mr J Smith – Vice Chairman
Lord J Cawley
Mr J Makin
Mr M Davies
Mr G Sparey
Major J Hereford
Mr R Corbett
Mr S Dale
Mrs N Norman
Ms Z Chilman
Cllr B Baker
Cllr S Bowen
Cllr J Hardwick
Cllr F Norman

Hoople Ltd Officers in Attendance

Ms Adrienne Davies – Clerk to the Board (CB/AD)
Mrs Audrey Harris – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO/AH)
Mr Les Harrison – Area Engineer (AE/LH)
Mrs Liz Chandler – Deputy Clerk to the Board (LC/DCB)

APOLOGIES FOR NON ATTENDANCE

Apologies were noted from Mr J Lawrence, Mr K Mitchenson, Ms S Olney and Cllr R Phillips.

17/029 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were raised.

17/030 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were confirmed.

17/031 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 20 JULY 2017

Minutes were approved.

17/032 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Proposed Management of Curl Brook System

Adrienne Davies, Clerk to the Board (AD) confirmed letters have gone out to 16 ratepayers within the Curl Brook catchment area. The letter requested the view of whether they thought that unless, in an emergency, the Board will refrain from carrying out any maintenance on any of the Board controlled watercourses within the Curl Brook area for a period of five years.

12 responses were received. 10 agreed for no work to be undertaken within the Curl Brook catchment area for a period of five years and 2 disagreed with the proposal. AD confirmed it was agreed at the previous Board meeting the decision was based on all ratepayers agreement.

The Board were interested to understand in terms of area covered the value of the 12 ratepayer who had responded.

Action: AD to investigate and report back

Finance Reports

AD confirmed that ratepayers email and telephone details were being collated.

17/033 REPORT OF THE AREA ENGINEER TO THE BOARD INCLUDING RAINFALL DATA

The Area Engineer (AE) presented some photographs alongside a verbal update. The AE explained that the flail-mowing team had done well in completing almost all of the flail mowing programme.

The AE reported an outturn expenditure as at 30 September 2017 of £98k, against an annual budget of £147k.

Wormbrook/Allensmore De-maining

The AE explained to the Board that the Environment Agency have proposed that the RLIDB implement a set of measures in order for the demaining process to proceed on Wormbrook and Allensmore. The AE tabled the set of measures for the Boards consideration. The AE also advised that the Board would also need to to adopt the revised Model Byelaws in order to progress the application.

Following a discussion Mr M Davies proposed and seconded by the Chairman to accept the set of measures and revised Model Byelaws. All Board Members voted in favour.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs)

The AE informed the Board that he had been approached by Herefordshire Council requesting the RLIDB's involvement in adopting some of the storm-water attenuation ponds within the Board's operational area with a view to fulfilling all future maintenance requirements.

It was proposed by Cllr S Bowen and seconded by the Chairman to accept involvement dependant on funding. All Board Members voted in favour.

Rainfall Figures

The rainfall figures were shown as an appendix for information.

Land Drainage Consents

The Board approved the application to divert the course of Moreton.

Baron Cross Development

The AE reported that the land drainage consent approved at the last meeting for Ebnall Ditch has encountered some problems and an independent consultant is required to check calculations. An experienced independent consultant should be commissioned to verify a revised SW submission. Fees will be reimbursed by the developer."

Planning Matters

The following planning matters were noted:

Land to the west of Mill Cottage, Monkland, Leominster - P172236/F

17/034 FINANCE REPORTS

Audrey Harris, the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) reported that the outturn position is slightly ahead of the previous reported forecast by £3k.

The RFO informed the Board the collection rate is currently at 65% which is lower than last year but will continue to monitor the situation of the next couple of months. Reminder letters were issued this week.

The Board requested the number of understanding rates that are in dispute are added to future reports.

Action: RFO

The RFO reported four accounts are in credit by over £100 and it was agreed to refund these accounts and any account which was in credit by the over £10, this would only be done for accounts who had confirmed there hectare they are responsible for within the Boards area.

Action: RFO

A couple of minor points were raised during the internal audit and the annual return has been published on the website.

Action: AD

Schedule of Bills

The Board unanimously agreed the Chairman signing the schedule of bills.

17/035 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

AD explained a meeting took place with the Chair to the Board, Area Engineer, ADA and Herefordshire Council to discuss the Board Membership. At that meeting it was recommended the RLIDB proposes reducing the number of elected members from 15-10. Based on the current levy Herefordshire Council could appoint 11 members, making an overall Board Membership of 21.

In order to achieve this, the Minister is required to approve a new order reconstituting the Board and the process could take up to twelve months. AD would also write to the Minister to request the election due to be held in 2018 is deferred until 2019 to coincide with the election of the first 10 members of the newly constituted Board.

It was noted that the Board felt that having environment experience on the Board was important.

It was proposed by Mr M Davies and seconded by Cllr S Bowen to accept the recommendation to reduce the number of elected members from 15 to 10 and seek to move the next election to 2019. All Board Members voted in favour.

17/036 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

AD advised the Board GDPR comes into effect in May 2018 and a report will be presented at the January Board meeting on the impact of this on the board. The regulation will see a greater understanding on data that is being held and how data is shared.

Action: AD

17/037 RISK MANAGEMENT

AD advised in relation to the new risk regarding the Board Membership, as it has now been agreed to reconstitute the Board, AD will update the risk.

Action: AD

17/038 HEALTH AND SAFETY

A copy of the minutes from the Health and Safety meeting held last week was circulated for information.

17/039 FORTHCOMING ADA MARCHES BRANCH MEETING IN JANUARY 2018

ADA have invited the ADA Marches Branch to attend their regional meeting on 14th December in Kidderminster. The ADA Marches Branch meeting would then take place that afternoon rather than in January.

This was approved and AD will invite the ADA Branch Board members.

Action: AD

Major James Hereford provided a verbal update on the recent ADA meeting he attended, advising the Board he is unable to attend the next meeting in February and asked the Board if any of the members would like to attend in his absence.

The next ADA annual event in London will be held on 16th November and the Chairman and Major James Hereford will attend.

Action: LC to book places

17/040 CIRCULATION FROM ADA CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIABILITY FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Included for information only.

17/041 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

17/042 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18th January 2018

