

HUNDRED OF WISBECH INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Meeting of the Hundred of Wisbech Internal Drainage Board
held at the Middle Level Offices, March on Thursday the 7th February 2019

PRESENT

S C P Ayers Esq (Chairman)	N J Harrison Esq
M G Day Esq (Vice Chairman)	C F Hartley Esq
G Booth Esq	G L Lake Esq
J Bunning Esq	F D Leach Esq
N Buttress Esq	W Sutton Esq
P M Tegerdine Esq	

Miss Lorna McShane (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance. Ms Sandy Cox, Risk Management Consultant, NFU, also attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Leach Esq and C E Ward Esq

B.1819 Declarations of Interest

Miss McShane reminded Members of the importance of declaring an interest in any matter included in today's agenda that involved or was likely to affect any individual on the Board.

B.1820 Health and Safety

Ms Cox attended the meeting to advise the Board on matters arising from her health and safety inspection which were detailed in her formal report to the Board. As well as the matters of particular concern which she detailed in her report, she advised the Board on the need for a health and safety policy and a risk assessment.

Mr Buttress, District Officer, gave an update on implementation of recommendations from the health and safety report. Forty signs had been ordered at a cost of £4,100. The signs to be erected were the British Standard sign with the triangle, which was internationally recognised. Mr Harrison, the contractor, was to install each sign at locations identified in the health and safety report.

Councillor Sutton queried whether quotations had been received for the supply of the signs. It was confirmed that quotations had been obtained from several suppliers and the Middle Level Commissioners had previously market tested the supply of signs by 3B Design & Print (March) which presented the best value for the Board.

The requirement for any additional signs could be reported to the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED

That forty signs should be erected at a cost of £4,100.

B.1821 Access problems

Mr Buttress outlined some of the steps that need to be taken to improve health and safety at various structures and culverts throughout the District. He highlighted the attention needed at Sandall Road where there was a need to either replace or remove the steps and lower the platform. The Board recognised the need for these health and safety matters to be carried out urgently.

RESOLVED

- i) That a total of £11,000 be allocated for health and safety matters.
- ii) A report to be made to the next meeting of the Board to assess what future budget is required for health and safety matters.

B.1822 Risk Assessments

Ms Cox advised the Board that risk assessments need to be bespoke for each structure and the time estimate for carrying out this work would be approximately 5 days. The risk assessments could be carried out by NFU at a cost of £3,150.

The Board thanked the two District Officers, Neil Buttress and Fred Leach and Nigel Harrison, the contractor, for all their hard work on the Board's health and safety matters.

RESOLVED

To employ NFU to carry out the risk assessments for the Board.

B.1823 Depot/Yard

Members discussed the position with regards to the Depot/Yard and agreed that it should be disposed of.

In order to achieve best value for the site, exploratory discussions should take place with the planning department at Fenland to assess whether the site could possibly get residential planning permission. However, it was recognised that there may be issues with highways and the conversion of building.

RESOLVED

To dispose of the Depot/Yard and market it for future commercial/agricultural use.

B.1824 Outfall Replacement

The Chairman gave an update on the outfall replacement and Armco pipes. The drawings needed to be completed and a tender specification prepared in order to go out to contractors with invitations to tender. The Chairman stated he would hope that this would be ready for the next meeting of the Board. There was some discussion as to whether this work could be grant aided. The Chairman advised that it was unlikely that grant aid would be available at this stage and 2021 was the next period when funds were likely to be available. Indicative figures would be included in the budget and the Board would look to make an appropriate resolution to borrow at the next

meeting. The application for loan could be made and on the advice of the Treasurer, Mr Hill, the Board would have 2-3 years to then draw it down.

B.1825 Delivery of Annual Maintenance Work

Miss McShane advised that the maintenance contract was for a period of three years, with a review after the first year. This review was in fact a breach clause enabling the Board to determine the contract. The contract figure had been a total of £28,000, which was to be billed quarterly. However, the contract had contained no mechanism for increase over the three year period and the Works Committee had agreed that the contractor should submit invoices for payment for any additional works which the Board required him to undertake.

The contract had commenced on the 1st March 2017 and the contract for the provision for annual maintenance works would be reviewed to include the extra work such as the industrial areas which needed attention three times per year.

RESOLVED

- i) That the actions of the Works Committee be approved.
- ii) That the contract for the provision of annual maintenance services be reviewed at the November meeting of the Board.

(NB) - Mr Harrison declared an interest when this matter was discussed.

B.1826 Access to Mr Porter's site

The Chairman outlined the problems that had been experienced gaining access to the Board's drain at this point due to the storage of scrap cars and outlined the steps that would be required to enforce the Byelaws at this point.

RESOLVED

That the Solicitor/Assistant Clerk prepare a letter to be sent to the company, in draft, and discuss with the Chairman.