

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### **PRESENT**

S C P Ayers Esq (Chairman)	G L Lake Esq
M G Day Esq (Vice Chairman)	N Meekins Esq
N Buttress Esq	W Sutton Esq
N J Harrison Esq	Miss M Tanfield
P M Tegerdine Esq	

Mr Robert Hill (representing the Clerk to the Board) was in attendance. Mr Colin Cooper, McAllister Group, also attended the meeting.

### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Booth and D Topgood, F Leach Esq and J Leach Esq.

### **B.1863 Declarations of Interest**

Mr Hill 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.1864 Land Drainage Act 1991 Board Membership – Fenland District Council**

Mr Hill reported that Fenland District Council had re-appointed Councillors Miss M Tanfield, G Booth and W Sutton and appointed Councillors Mrs S Bligh, Miss S Hoy, Mrs S Wallwork, A Lynn, N Meekins, B Rackley and D Topgood to be Members of the Board under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Mr Hill also reported that Councillor Oliver had not been reappointed.

---

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Meekins who was attending his first meeting of the Board.

### **B.1865 Main Outfall Replacement – Crooked Bank**

The Chairman reported that the contractor was currently on site and that works were commencing.

He reported that in accordance with minute B.1859(ii), the £1 million loan from the Public Works Loan Board had been drawn down on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019; repayable over 25 years at 1.78% interest and that annual repayments would be £49,732.76.

Mr Hill reported that when approving the budget for 2019/2020 the sum of £60,000 had been included for loan repayments and that, depending on the timescale for calling on the loan for programmed works, opportunities to invest the loan or part of it would be investigated.

Mr Hill reported that it was resolved at the last meeting that the District Valuer's office be appointed to assess any claims relating to the Main Outfall Replacement Scheme. However, they had subsequently advised that they currently had no spare capacity. In view of this, he enquired whether the Board would consider appointing a local land agent to carry out these works. In response to the Chairman, Mr Hill confirmed that the Middle Level Commissioners had used Brown & Co in the past. Other Members considered them to be satisfactory to carry out these works.

Councillor Sutton queried whether three quotations would be required before an appointment could be made and Mr Hill considered that, as the expenditure related to the agents fees for carrying out the work it was likely that, for this level of works, they would be able to authorise the works within their existing regulations.

#### RESOLVED

That Brown & Co be appointed to assess claims relating to land/crop loss relating to the Main Outfall Replacement Scheme.

#### B.1866 Capital Improvement Programme – Replacement of piped drainage systems

The Chairman outlined the background to the major improvement scheme carried out towards the end of the 1980's, in which a number of piped drainage systems were completed to accommodate the expanding developed area of Wisbech, and the pipes used at the time being Armco, with an anticipated life of 25-30 years. He reported that approximately 5 years ago the Board started carrying out surveys and initially identified one section that required replacement and that when works were commenced the pipework collapsed. He further reported on the collapse of part of the main outfall pipe and that, in view of this and further visual inspections, the majority of the piped systems needed replacing. He informed Members that when the Board were recently carrying out headwall replacement works he had met with Highways engineers carrying out works nearby and following discussions they had suggested 'lining' the pipework rather than replacing it. He and the Vice Chairman had subsequently met with the Welland & Deepings IDB who had been carrying out these works for 30 years and had found the system to be efficient and cost effective.

The system involved inserting a double skinned 'sock' which was filled with resin along the pipework which is then pushed to the outside of the pipe by either air or water and the resin heated so it then sets, forming a 'new lining' on the inside of the pipework.

Welland & Deepings IDB had discussed fully the details of the process and had advised that the Board should not jet clean the pipework to inspect or carry out CCTV investigations until works were to commence, as this was likely to cause the pipework to collapse. It was therefore not recommended to carry out any detailed survey until immediately prior to works commencing.

The Chairman reported that two quotations had been received, based on measurements taken by Messrs Buttress and Harrison. Mr Buttress informed Members that, due to water levels and the condition of some of the pipework, it was only possible to estimate the diameter of some sections but they were content that the details obtained were the best available. In response to Councillor Tanfield, Mr Buttress confirmed that all the details had been recorded and were available digitally, if required.

The Chairman reported that the quotations had been discussed by the Works Committee and it was their recommendation to accept the quotation from McAllister Group in the sum of £803,911.78.

With regards to current finances, the Chairman reported that the Board initially approved to fund the replacement of the Main Outfall from existing balances and to take out a loan of £1 million to fund subsequent phases of the improvement programme.

In response to Mr Lake, the Chairman reported on works included in the current sleeving programme and confirmed that this did not include the culvert under the A47, which was currently being discussed by the Consulting Engineers and the Highways Department.

Councillor Sutton referred to the importance of these works and also the urgency to address the channel at Point 66.

Councillor Tanfield enquired if it was possible to prioritise sections to be addressed. Mr Buttress considered that this was not possible but it was likely that the concrete sections were in better condition and therefore the Armco sections would be addressed first.

Mr Harrison supported the comments of Councillor Sutton in that the channel at Point 66 was most important to address and suggested that revised quotations should be obtained in order for the matter to be fully addressed at the next meeting of the Board.

Mr Hill outlined the Capital Improvement Programme approved at the last meeting of the Board and that approximately £1.4 million works had been estimated over the next 4 years, however, the sleeving works had been estimated at £500,000 in these figures. He reported that although tender documents were in the process of being completed, the Consulting Engineers considered the Holly Bank culvert replacement was likely to be completed for the £70,000 estimated in the programme and that £180,000 had been allowed for the works at Point 66.

In response to Mr Harrison, Mr Cooper estimated that the works would take in the region of 12 weeks to complete and that a CCTV survey would be undertaken immediately prior to works being carried out, so the Board would have additional information to review at their November meeting.

Councillor Sutton queried the lifespan of the lining and the Chairman reported that the Welland & Deepings IDB had informed him that they first started using this system approximately 30 years ago which were still in place.

Mr Hill referred to the Board's Financial Regulations which required that, in these circumstances, at least three quotations or tenders should be obtained but, due to this type of work being so specialised, the pool of companies that could quote was so limited, it had only been possible to obtain two quotations.

He referred to the support and guidance the Board had received from Welland & Deepings IDB who have used this type of culvert rehabilitation over a number of years. Members discussed the position and accepted that, in these particular circumstances, and as there had been a full review by the Works Committee, they were content to proceed without seeking further quotations.

Mr Hill referred to the nature of the proposed works and that, due to the likely condition of the pipe systems, it was not recommended or possible to carry out a detailed survey to quote against. The Chairman commented that, in view of this, it was possible that there could be additional problems, as yet unknown, found which would need to be addressed. Members discussed this matter and were content, in the circumstances, to proceed on the advice and information currently available. Mr Buttress referred to risk assessments, method statements and health and safety documentation and requested that these be forwarded to him when a contract was awarded. Councillor Tanfield

considered these works were initially important for the protection of Wisbech and should be started as soon as possible. She queried if it would be possible to update members of the public on the need for the works and their progress via social media on Facebook or twitter.

Mr Lake proposed, Mr Buttress seconded, and it was resolved unanimously that:-

- i) In view of the specialised nature of the proposed works and the information received from another authority concerning these works, the Board should proceed having only received two quotations.
- ii) In view of the special circumstances in relation to the piped systems, to proceed with the works without carrying out a detailed survey, which, if carried out, could compromise the integrity of the systems.
- iii) McAllister Group be appointed as Contractor for the culvert lining works based on their estimate of £803,911.78.
- iv) McAllister Group forward risk assessments, method statements, health and safety documentation and insurance details to the Board.
- v) The Works Committee be approved to 'project manage' the day to day running of the works.
- vi) With reference to minute B.1479, Councillor W Sutton be appointed to the Works Committee as the Fenland District Council representative and that he be authorised to appoint a substitute to attend in his absence.
- vii) The Clerk look into methods to inform the public of the nature and progress of the works.

#### B.1867 Health and Safety

Mr Buttress informed Members that it was currently planned to get works completed by February 2020 and that he hoped to have a full report produced on the works carried out for distribution at the Board's meeting in May 2020.

#### B.1868 Anglian Water – Request to discharge water from Friday bridge water tower into the Board's system

Mr Hill reported that the Consulting Engineer's had received a request from Anglian Water who wished to carry out maintenance and cleansing works to the Friday bridge water tower to discharge the water in the tower via the Board's system. He informed Members that the proposal was to discharge via a pipe under March Road and the Chequers Inn car park and then to the Board's system at Point 86 via a private drain to the rear of the properties on the north side of March Road. He considered that Anglian Water would need to ensure that the water was de-chlorinated and that the proposed route was capable of taking the flows proposed and that they had a right to use the channels proposed. Members raised concerns over the condition of the proposed route and the timing of the proposed works. They considered that a contribution should be paid for accepting the water and Mr Hill confirmed that this was currently only an enquiry and, if approved, would be subject to conditions the Board consider appropriate.

## RESOLVED

That the Board agree 'in principle' to the proposal by Anglian Water to discharge the water from Friday bridge water tower and that the Chairman be authorised to deal with this matter.