



RIVER LUGG INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

Held on Thursday 15th October 2015 at 10.30 a.m. at 7Y Business Centre, Leominster

PRESENT:

Board Members:

Mr C Pudge – Chairman
Mr J Smith – Vice Chairman
Mrs Z Chilman
Mr N Helme
Major J Hereford
Mr D Makin
Mr K Mitcheson
Mr C Pritchard
Mr G Sparey
Cllr B Baker
Cllr J Hardwick
Cllr P McCaull
Cllr F Norman

In Attendance

Hoople Ltd Officers in Attendance

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

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies had been received from Board Members Mr J Lawrence, Mr M Davies, Mr B Davies, and Mr D Trumper of Hoople Ltd.

15/020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman and Major J Hereford declared an interest in item 6.

15/021 CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made no announcements.

15/022 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2015

The Area Engineer requested 'the culvert' is added to the following sentence;

It was reported that an application by Network Rail to refurbish the culvert on the Hereford/Shrewsbury line at Blackpole had been approved.

Action: LC

Subject to the amendment the minutes were approved as an accurate recording of the meeting.

15/023 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising from the minutes.

15/024 REPORT OF THE AREA ENGINEER TO THE BOARD

In relation to the flail-mowing programme, a total area of 129 kms has been completed to the end of September and not August as stated in the report.

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust Ltd

The Area Engineer recently met with officers of the Trust, to discuss joint working between the Trust and local farmers which has been well received. Another meeting is due to take place.

Sutton Rhea

Although officers from Natural England had expressed concerns regarding planned maintenance on Sutton Rhea but following a site meeting with Sarah Olney of Natural England it was confirmed that the proposed works would proceed.

Wormbrook and Allensmore Brook

The Area Engineer reported concerns regarding the lack of maintenance on the Wormbrook and Allensmore Brook. The Area Engineer suggested that consideration be given to possible demaining with a view to the Board adopting the watercourses in order to undertake future maintenance. It was agreed that a small committee would visit the site and report back at the next board meeting.

James Hereford, John Smith, Dick Makin, Felicity Norman and Les Harrison volunteered for the committee. The Chairman nominated Jim Lawrence.

The Chairman agreed to circulate some dates and advised it would be in a month or so.

Action: Chairman

Bodenham Flood Management Group

It was proposed by the Area Engineer and seconded by Cllr B Baker within the groups operation area to supply 5 litres of Roundup Pro-Biactive for the annual treatment of aquatic weeds.

Ecological Advisor

The Chairman and Area Engineer recently met with Swift Ecology as potential candidates for the role and asked the Board to consider employing them for a 12 month trial period.

A board member suggested looking at the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, as they hold a provision for £15k a year. The Board agreed they were keen to move on with the position and to appoint sooner rather than later. It was therefore agreed to appoint until 31st March 2017.

Rainfall Figures

Monthly rainfall figures for Leominster were tabled at the meeting.

Land Drainage Consents

- Brierley Court – Inlet structure – Approved
- Brierley Court – Flood spillway structure – Approved
- Former Cemex Quarry – Water main crossing of Little Lugg - Approved
- Filly Brook at Five Bridges – Extend highway culvert and fit flap valves. Approved
- Bodenham Moor housing development - Pending.

Concerns were raised regarding the land drainage consent at Bodenham Moor regarding the design of the SW outlet and provision of flap valves. The RFO advised he is in the process of hiring a specialist to review the drawings submitted and to check the calculations.

Planning Applications

The following planning matters were noted;

- PR2015-0010-P151855 - Mill Lane Wellington – It was also noted that this could cause problems at the Mill as the area floods.
- PR2015-0011-P152042_O – Land North of Whitestone Business Park Whitestone, Herefordshire.
- PR2015-0012-P151872/F – Unit 5, Southern Avenue, Leominster, Herefordshire.

- PR2015-0013-P152200/F – Land at Green Farm, Allensmore, Herefordshire.
PR2015-0014-P152188_F – Land opposite Aylus Cottages Auberrow, Wellington, Herefordshire.

15/025 FINANCE REPORTS

The RFO advised that £71k of rates have been received as of 30th September. Good progress has been made tackling the number of rating queries. There were four outstanding accounts the RFO requested the Board to consider writing off, of which the Board unanimously agreed.

The RFO advised that income and expenditure remains on budget with nothing to suggest an overspend at this stage.

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

In relation to a question received from the Deputy Chair regarding the advertising cost of the notice of election, the RFO confirm the cost charged. It was agreed in order to minimise costs in future, public notices will be displayed on the website.

15/026 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

At the last meeting it was agreed that the RFO and Tony Mitchenson would review the vision and objectives of the risk management strategy. The Chair proposed and seconded by Major James Hereford to adopt the vision and objectives outlined in the report. The Area Engineer suggested irrigation was removed from objective one. Following the small amendment the Board agreed to adopt the revised vision and objectives.

15/027 UPDATE ON ELECTION

The closing date for nomination papers conceded on Friday 2nd October, 14 nominations were received therefore no poll was necessary. The RFO advised of one vacancy which the Chair suggested co-opting one of the previous Lower Wye Board members.

The Chair requested the Code of Conduct is circulated to all of the Board members and an up to date list of contact details for the next meeting.

Action: LC

15/028 ADOPTION OF MAIN RIVERS

Adopting the River Frome was discussed between the Board members and the Chair agreed that an inspection could be carried out in conjunction with Wormbrook/Allensmore Brook inspection.

15/030 INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES

The RFO provided a verbal update on the costs involved chasing up small value accounts. There are approximately 100 bills currently outstanding under £10.00. Following some analysis the RFO advised it costs approximately £1.37 per account to send out a reminder letter and £7.50 per account for the total year costs.

It was agreed to continue with the current arrangements but to not let the outstanding bills go over six years. The RFO will review with the Board again in a year.

Action: Greg Evans

15/031 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Area Engineer raised a matter of concern of no Health and Safety advisor to call upon in the event of an accident and questioned the procedure in an event of an accident. The RFO advised a Health and Safety policy did exist and would review and update it for the January board meeting. It was also agreed the RFO and Area Engineer would meet with the new Health and Safety Officer.

Action: Greg Evans and Les Harrison

15/032 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Major James Hereford thanked Charles Pudge on behalf of the Board for his role as Chairman and the Chairman thanked Les Harrison for all of his support.

15/033 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21st January 2016 at 10.30am.

Chairman



Clerk

