

Minutes of the Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 26th June 2023 at Attleborough Hall Attleborough at 1100am.

In attendance: **Mr T Jolly(Chairman)**
 Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)
 Mr A Bingham (Board Engineer)
 Mr I Walker
 Mr S Askew
 Mr A Westby (Attleborough Town Council)
 Mr N Doig
 Mr D Stammers
 Mr T Beevor

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Mr P Hall and Mr A Thornton. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes of Meeting of the 24th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting of the 24th January 2023 having been previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman and it was proposed by Mr Askew and seconded by Mr Beevor and carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

a. Attleborough Southern Urban Expansion

Mr Bingham reported that the Developer was initially applying to build the first 1200 houses, which would not trigger the construction of the relief road. The development would start from the Old Buckenham Road side, which is not ideal from the drainage point of view as the Board needs to consider drainage throughout the development site. The IDB are working closely with the Lead Flood Authority (Norfolk County Council). Attleborough Town Council were not currently negotiating anything with the Developer, but a Community Interest Company to look after the green space had been discussed in the past. Mr Bingham is reviewing the 1st Phase Surface Water Drainage Strategy and responding to Breckland.

b. Developments within the Board

(i) Norwich Road Site – Developer Hill Homes

Mr Bingham reported that he was in the process of agreeing Heads of Terms with the Developer, Hill Homes, and then a draft consent agreement could be produced. The stream from Mill Road Besthorpe

would remain the responsibility of the Board to maintain, for which a commuted sum would be paid. The other stream within the site would remain the Developer's responsibility, but the Board would have the ability to carry out works in the future if necessary as the stream was in the Board area.

(ii) Hargham Road Site -Lovell

Mr Bingham said an agreement would be necessary again for this site and he would chase the Developer.

(iii) Poplar Road Site – Norfolk County Council

Mr Bingham said he had had some contact with consultants acting for the Council and again an agreement would be required and a commuted sum payable.

(iv) Carvers Lane Site – Places for People

Places for People have requested to discharge into a ditch within the highway boundary. Mr Bingham has had discussions with National Highways, who have agreed that the ditch can come under the Board's control. He is waiting a memorandum of understanding to be completed with NH and in the meantime negotiating an agreement with the Developer's consultants. A commuted sum will be payable.

(v) New site East of A11 off Carvers Lane

This is another site where Mr Bingham is discussing an agreement with the Developers. (Mr Bingham explained to the Board how the commuted sum payments were calculated).

c. Old Buckenham Weir

Mr Bingham outlined the history. The Clerk said that the sluice gate on the weir had been operating when he became clerk. Mr Bingham said that Mr Morgan would only agree to the sluice being re-instated if it was done on his side of the weir and that he along with the Board were the only people to be able to operate it. The Chairman asked if the sluice was really necessary and how many properties had been flooded. Mr Bingham said it was only gardens and fields which flooded, although properties near the weir had had septic tanks backing up. It was not known whether the problem was on-going. It was agreed that Mr Bingham and the Clerk would meet with Mr Day and Mr Hill to discuss the present situation.

d. GIS Mapping System

The Water Management Alliance have been given the information and have confirmed their original quote, although they wish to scan the old

OS maps onto the system and this will be at an extra cost. The whole cost should not exceed £10,000.00, the amount the Board have budgeted for.

e. A D Plant at Roudham

Mr Stammers asked if Mr Bingham had been consulted as there is a new application for a much larger A D Plant. Mr Bingham said he had not but would investigate.

4. Accounts

1. The Clerk went through the Annual Statement of Governance and after due consideration it was proposed by Mr Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Stammers that this be approved and the Chairman and Clerk then signed the same.
2. The Clerk went through the annual accounts and explained the variations between this years and last years accounts. It was then proposed by Mr Doig and seconded by Mr Beevor that the accounts be approved. The Chairman then signed the accounts.

5. Any Other Business

1. The Policy Statement is due for review and Mr Bingham had circulated the proposed new Statement. Subject to a couple of blanks being corrected, the Board approved the Policy Statement. This was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Stammers and carried unanimously.
2. Mr Bingham said he felt that Mr O'Malley did not need additional assistance to carry out the work for the Board. He said that Mr O'Malley provided before and after photographic reports of the work he carries out, In future Mr Bingham will circulate to the Board and put the reports on the website.
3. Mr Stammers said he would speak to Mr Lewin again about his non payment of rates.
4. Mr Jolly raised the question of succession planning for both the clerk and the Board engineer. They both said they had considered this and had various options to investigate further as the time approached.
5. Mr Jolly asked whether the Board should consider some stream realignment/habitat enhancement to return to a more natural state. It was agreed that this would be looked at and considered further at the next meeting,
6. The next AGM was provisionally arranged for 24th January 2024.