

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the East Harling Internal Drainage Board held on the 24th January, 2023 held at Attleborough Hall Attleborough by kind permission of the Chairman at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Mr I Walker (Chairman)
Mr C D Wright (CEO and Clerk)
Mr A Bingham (Board Engineer)
Mr T Beevor
Mr P Hall
Mr A Thornton
Mr T Jolly
Mr S Southgate
Mr N Doig

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed Mr T Beevor and Mr N Doig the two new members to the Board. Apologies for absence received from Mr S Askew, Mr D Stammers, and Ms A Kester (the new representative of the Quidenham Estate). There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes of Meeting of the 19th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the 19th May, 2022 having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman, proposed by A Thornton and seconded by A Southgate and carried unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

A. Developments within the Board

Land off Norwich Road Attleborough.

Heads of terms have been issued to the Developer and when they have been agreed and the commuted sum finalised then an agreement will be drafted for the Developer to approve.

Land off Hargham Road Attleborough – Lovells.

Mr Bingham said he was putting together Heads of Terms for the Developer to agree so an agreement could be entered into and a commuted sum paid.

Land off Carvers Lane Attleborough – Places for People.

Mr Bingham is discussing Heads of Terms with the Developer, but it is complicated by the need to involve National Highways.

Norfolk County Council Site, Poplar Road.

No information has yet been received, but Mr Bingham has registered our interest.

Land at Poppyfields East Harling.

Mr Doig reported that a further large development was about to start and Mr Bingham said he would investigate further.

B. Weir at Old Buckenham

Mr Bingham set out the position for the new members. He said that he had found a company which said it would be able to carry out the work, namely Miles Drainage. He said that the works had been

complicated by a bridge which the landowners had built over the weir, which the landowners would have to remove before the works commenced.

C. Attleborough Southern Urban Extension

Mr Bingham said that this was moving on and he had received a recent set of plans. He was working with the Developer's consultant and Norfolk County Council, the lead flood authority to agree the land drainage scheme. An agreement will then be entered into with the Developer and a commuted sum paid.

D. Development Charges

It was agreed to fix the Board's charges in line with the charges made by the Water Management Alliance. This was proposed by P Hall and seconded by T Jolly and carried unanimously.

E. Norfolk Water Management Partnership

There have been no meetings this year but the Clerk will attend any called in the next year.

F. CAMEO Partnership

Mr Bingham is involved with a sub group, The Little Ouse and Thetford Partnership (LOPT). Nothing has been heard in the last year.

F. GIS Database

Mr Bingham has received the plans and copies of the rate demands and he is working through the plans prior to sending them to the Water Management Alliance for them to create the GIS Database.

4. Conservation Issues

All Drainage Board work has been done in accordance with the Policy Statement and carried out environmentally sensitively. Mr Bingham reported that there have been no issues in the last year.

5. Board Member Reports

Mr Stammers submitted a written report detailing some works which Mr Bingham said he would investigate.

Mr Southgate reported no problems.

Mr Jolly reported no problems in his area.

Mr Beevor said that there was nothing further to report from his last report and that the works were now scheduled to be carried out.

Mr P Hall said there was a lot of weed growth at the bottom of his meadows, but otherwise was unaware of any problems.

Mr Doig reported some areas of the Whittle had trees down and there was some weed growth which needed to be dealt with. He agreed to meet Simon O'Malley on site and will send mr Bingham photos.

Mr I Walker reported that most of his area was fine, but there was a tree down south of the Ellingham Road which needed to be dealt with.

Mr Thornton said Simon had removed trees and clearing by the lakes and was working upstream as there were further trees blocking the river Thet.

6. Election of Officers

- a) It was proposed by Mr Walker and seconded by Mr Southgate that Mr Tim Jolly be chairman and this was carried unanimously.
- b) It was proposed by Mr Hall and seconded by Mr Jolly that Mr Andrew Thornton be Vice Chairman and this was carried unanimously.

7. Approval of the Payment of Accounts

The Board members considered the payments made and income received over the last year and considered the position in respect of outstanding rates. After due consideration and discussion, it was proposed by Mr Southgate and seconded by Mr Jolly that the accounts be approved and this was carried unanimously.

8. Write Offs of Rates Under £5

It was proposed by Mr Thornton and seconded by Mr Jolly that the accounts less than £5 be written off and this was carried unaanimously.

9. Financial Position of the Board

The Clerk reported the current financial position of the Board. The Board members had received details of the accounts to date and budgets for the coming year. There is a small deficit predicted for the current year end, but this can come out of reserves. The accounts are healthy at the present time and after discussion there were no further questions raised. It was agreed that extra maintenance could be carried out and would be funded from the commuted sum payments.

10. Wages and Salaries

It was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Doig that both the Clerk should receive 7% increase and this was carried unanimously.

11. Fixing of the Rate

The financial position of the Board was discussed going forward and it was proposed by Mr Thornton and seconded by Mr Southgate that the rate for the

coming year be fixed at 10 pence in the pound and this was carried unanimously.

12. Advertising of the Rate and Service of the Special Levy

It was proposed by Mr Beevor and seconded by Mr Hall that the special levy be served on Breckland Council and it was proposed by Mr Jolly and seconded by Mr Beevor that the rate be advertised and both proposals were carried unanimously.

13. Any Other Business

- (a) Mr Bingham requested pictures from the new members for the website and took their phone numbers.
- (b) Mr Bingham said he was updating the website and trying to take over more control of it.
- (c) The next AGM was arranged for the 26rd January 2024 and Mr Walker said that he was happy for the meeting to be held at his home..
- (d) There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.35pm.