

Rea Internal Drainage Board

R L R Jones FRICS FAAV
SURVEYOR & CLERK

New Windsor House
Oxon Business Park
Bicton Heath
Shrewsbury
SY3 5HJ

Tel: 01743 241181
Direct Line: 01743 239222
Fax: 01743 242300

17th December 2014

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORY HALL, YOCKLETON on Thursday 11th December 2014 at 7:30pm

Present:

D Dale (Chairman)
P Jetson
B Roberts
J Morris
C Sandells
N Manning
D Evans
A Jones
(Board Members)
RLR Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

Apologies for absence: A Bebb

Minutes of the previous meeting of 5th June 2014 (previously circulated) were accepted and signed as a true record. Proposed B Roberts, seconded by A Jones.

Points arising from Minutes: - None

Maintenance Report

The Clerk reported work on 25 Workhouse and 24 Paddock had been completed. Works on 20 Hem Ext 1 & 2, 19 Noatmoor 14 Asterley were still be done. D Bishop had reported that it had not been possible to do 6 Halston due to the very short time from harvest to re-sowing. Work on Noatmoor would best involve a site meeting to see the extent of tree bough removal needed to gain access to this relatively short length.

D Dale reported that the Environment Agency weed cutting machine had undertaken some work on the Rea Brook but was only cutting one-half of the ditch bed width for conservation reasons. Board members reported that work on the Rea was needed at the Lower Wood outfall and also the Hem Drain outfall. A Jones reported weed growth in the Rea Brook and

the Hem to Horsebridge length was particularly bad and needed weedcutting. The Clerk was requested to pursue this with the EA.

C Sandells raised the condition of 48 Hanwood Watercourse. This was affected by the culvert running under the A488 which was partially full with silt. The Clerk said he would contact Highways Dept to see if this culvert could be jetted and thence watercourse 48 could be cleaned.

Also, he reported he had met with D Lloyd concerning short length of the Cruckmeole watercourse where it appears c.15m of ditch are not cleaned immediately below the pipe outfall which serves the Hanwood ditch. This is in very poor condition and badly needs cleaning. This would be done in conjunction with the Hanwood watercourse. As some work from this year's budget had not been undertaken, this would be added to the contractor's list for this winter.

EA Liaison Meeting

This was held at Kidderminster on 19th November, 2014. The Chairman and Surveyor had attended. The Surveyor reported on the presentation of Pete Lambert of Shropshire Wildlife Trust concerning various small environmental enhancement works undertaken on watercourses on the Melverley IDB. Unfortunately monies funding this work had ceased.

The Chairman reported that de-silting works were encouraged by the EA but removal of clean gravel was not.

The Chairman was also concerned by what he had heard recently with the Prime Minister saying that IDB's would no longer have to pay monies to the EA. This was the precept payment which was paid to the EA, but it was felt that if this was stopped, the Foreign Water Grant would cease which would be of particular detriment to the Rea Board. The Rea was probably unusual in receiving an overall positive payment when, Precept and Foreign Water Grant were offset against each other.

The Clerk reported on the government's DEFRA proposal to limit hedge cutting further by moving the permitted start date back to 1st September. The Clerk confirmed that many drainage boards were particularly concerned by this proposal as it would greatly reduce the length of time they have for their annual maintenance operations. The Clerk confirmed that he had written to ADA on behalf of the Board, expressing our concern and requesting that Boards be given a derogation in respect of watercourses they are maintaining that year.

Financial Report

The meeting approved the list of transactions carried out since previous meeting as attached to these minutes. The list of debtors was considered and it was agreed that a reminder letter would be sent out promptly. If payment was not received by February, a much firmer letter threatening action would then be sent.

Powysland IDB within Shropshire

D Dale reported on meetings held earlier in the year concerning the proposal that the area of Powysland which lies within Shropshire could be transferred to the Rea IDB's management. Letters had been sent to the 12 ratepayers concerned and circa 4 responses had been

received, 1 supportive and 2/3 negative. DEFRA had decided in view of this feedback not to pursue with transferring this area to the Rea but to abolish the internal drainage district within Shropshire. This area would no longer be subject to the payment of drainage rates and that drainage arrangements would fall back to riparian owners.

Correspondence

The Clerk said that certain queries had been raised by the Auditor, Mazars following our annual return but that these had been resolved satisfactorily and a completed audit certificate had been received.

Amongst items received from ADA, the Clerk referred to the following:-

- 1) 2013/14 National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Report.
- 2) DEFRA consulting on an alternative approach for delivering sustainable drainage systems
- 3) Consultation on the River Severn Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans had opened which runs through until 10th April 2015 and 31st January 2015 respectively.
- 4) New ADA roles. Jean Venables stepping down on 1st March 2015. The ADA Board have Decided that the Chief Executive role will be split into two new roles, Chief Executive and Operations Manager. Inmes Thompson of the Environment Agency will take up the post of Chief Executive with Ian Moodie returning to ADA as Operations Manager.

Date of Next Meeting:

This was set for 12th February 2015 at Yockleton.

A presentation to the retired Clerk and Surveyor J M Donald. The Board approved funding the cost of framing and engraving a small plaque for a painting donated by D Dale. It was proposed that this be presented to Jim Donald at an event in Spring 2015. Cost of the meal would be met by individual Board member contributions.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:05pm



Date: 12/2/15