

# Rea Internal Drainage Board

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SURVEYOR & CLERK

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10<sup>th</sup> July 2015

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORY HALL, YOCKLETON on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7:30pm

### **Present:**

D Dale (Chairman)  
A Bebb  
C Sandells  
A Jones  
A Dale  
RLR Jones (Clerk and Surveyor)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

There were received from C Phillips, B Roberts, N Manning, J Roberts.

### **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 (previously circulated), were accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk confirmed that the maintenance contractor's bill for 2014/15 maintenance had been received and paid.

### **4. J Donald Retirement**

The retirement presentation to J M Donald, former Clerk and Surveyor, who gave 38 years service was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at The Lowfield Inn. An oil painting of the Bromlow Callow was presented to him and Board members and friends enjoyed a supper meal. Mr Donald had written and expressed his thanks to all Board members for their kind generosity and stated how much he had enjoyed the evening.

### **5. Maintenance Report**

David Bishop, Contractor had confirmed that his rates would be unchanged from 2014.

The programme as outlined in the April meeting minutes was confirmed and D Bishop would be instructed. Surveyor was asked to speak to J Evans regarding cleaning of The Hem extension No 1 and also to Jeremy Dale regarding the cleaning of Noatmoor.

**6. Financial Report**

Current balances - £19,533.68  
Receipts since last meeting - £2,506.02  
Payments since last meeting - £6,319.20  
All as per the cash book attached.  
Current arrears - £751.70.

The latter included the Special Levy payment of £514.00 due from Shropshire Council. No further monies had been received from the six outstanding ratepayers despite having received reminder letters.

The Clerk confirmed that the insurance premium to Zurich had been paid.

**7. Accounts**

The accounts which had been previously circulated were approved by the Board and copy signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**8. Accounting Statements**

The Accounting Statements in the DEFRA Annual Return were approved by a motion proposed by Derwas Dale and seconded by A Bebb and the Annual Return was signed accordingly.

**9. Annual Governance Statement**

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Board on a motion proposed by Derwas Dale, seconded by A Jones. The Chairman and Clerk signed the return accordingly.

**10. Correspondence**

- a) **05/06/15 DEFRA/ERM – FCERM Stakeholder meeting update** on summary of last 6 months work. The Clerk highlighted in particular the Flood Re Insurance Scheme to be established July 2015. When operative this will allow households in high flood risk areas to access affordable flood insurance.
- b) **River Maintenance** - River Maintenance pilots launched in 2013 have now ended and the EA are in the process of writing up a report on lessons learnt and findings. Amongst the suggestions included would be the following operations which would be exempt from regulation:- The removal of sediment in bridge arches and culverts, the removal of silt and sand adjacent to river structures; dredging of no more than 20m of any main river; dredging of no more than 100m of man made ditches and agricultural drains.

Evidence from the pilot suggests that there were frequent low risk activities that could benefit from light touch regulation without increasing flood or environmental risk. The outcome of this pilot could be important for landowners to be able to undertake some maintenance work to watercourses without the necessity for obtaining permits and permissions.

- c) **Channel Management** – A new handbook promoting good practice in channel management has been developed.
- d) **ADA Blog** - Government Ministers following the election are:- DEFRA Secretary, Elizabeth

Truss unchanged; Minister of State, George Eustace, unchanged; Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Rory Stewart who will deal with the water and flooding portfolio. He is MP for Penrith and the Borders. Department of Communities and Local Government Minister Greig Clark now that Eric Pickles has gone.

- e) **ADA – Vice President of ADA, Neil Parish MP has been elected the chair of the EFRA Parliamentary Committee**

From these appointments it would appear that there are MP's in positions of influence who have good knowledge of Land Drainage issues which could be of assistance to us.

**11. Any Other Business**

The Chairman reported that 2015 was an election year. The Clerk confirmed the date of the election would be 30<sup>th</sup> October should this be required.

Date of next meeting – this was set for 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, and this meeting would be used for signing of nomination papers.

The Chairman reported that David Smith had expressed an interest in joining the Board.

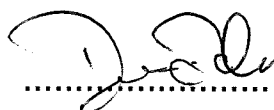
The Chairman and the Clerk reported that they had received a letter from a local solicitor, requesting information in connection with a claim for an agricultural tenancy on land within the Board area. The Clerk confirmed they would provide factual information as to the name of the ratepayer to whom demands were sent and whether or not payment had been made. It was explained to Board members that the Board do not have records as to the status of occupation of occupiers who pay rates. Anyone stating that they are the occupier is taken at face value and treated appropriately.

The Chairman stated that the Board would seek to reclaim any excessive cost involved in this investigation, should the matter develop requiring attendance at any hearing tribunal etc.

**IDB Liaison Meeting at Kidderminster - 16<sup>th</sup> November**

This meeting would also be used for the Shropshire IDB's to get together under ADA auspices. The Clerk explained that with Drainage Boards in Wales being disbanded and their functions being taken over by Natural Resources Wales, the Severn & Wales branch of ADA has ceased to exist. The Lower Severn Board have joined with the South-West area for representation on ADA's Board. ADA was concerned that there was no representation for the smaller Upper Severn Boards such as Meverley, Rea and Strine and it was thought that at this meeting a representative should be appointed to ADA. Whilst this could be Anne Wheeler who is chair of the RFCC and also chairs the EA IDB Liaison Meeting, ADA would probably prefer it to be a Board member or an employee. This would be discussed further at our next meeting.

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

  
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Dated 1/10/15  
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