

**Minutes of the Engineering Committee
of the Lower Severn (2005) Internal Drainage Board
Meeting held Wednesday 16th December 2020 at 10.30 am
Blended Meeting**

Present:

Mr Barnes	Chairman	
Mr J Cornock		Cllr J Jones
Mr T Cullimore		Mr I Ractliffe
Mr R Godwin		Mr G Simms
Miss R Hewlett		Cllr M Riddle (Deputising for Mr R Thatcher)
Mr R Hylsop		Cllr M Williams

Guest:

Richard Betteridge Motion (present for minute 3131 – 3136)

Staff:

Martin Dear	Accounts Officer	AO
James Druett	Land Drainage Engineer	LDE
James Thomas	Civil Engineer	CE
Kieran Warren	Principal Officer	PO
Louise Reading	Minutes	

3131	Appointment of Engineering Committee Chairman Resolved that: Mr Barnes be appointed Committee Chairman for the ensuing year.	
3132	Apologies Apologies were received from Mr P Goodey and Cllr R Griffin	
3133	Chairman's Announcements There were no Chairman's Announcements	
3134	Declarations of Interest No interests were declared.	
3135	Minutes of Previous Engineering Committee Meeting It was resolved that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2020 be approved as a correct record. 	
3136	Elmore Back Pumping Station Update The CE informed Members that tenders had been issued to 4 contractors; 2 had responded. The sums contained in both bids reflected a significant increase in expenditure. The CE explained that this was due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little information available including an absence of drawings this resulting is extensive surveys. • Delayed pre-application planning advice that planning permission was not required to remove the existing structure. • The EA fish pass consent has not yet been received, though expected imminently. • EA requirement that larger pumps were required resulting in additional works to upgrade the power supply to the site. <p>In order to minimise the financial impact on ratepayers, Officers proposed that the Capital Programme be pushed back by one year. This would also provide more time for comprehensive cost assessments, with professional QS assistance, resulting in more accurate forecasts for the remainder of the pump replacement programme.</p>	

The LDE added that whilst this was a significant increase the pumps that were being installed were able to pump at a larger capacity at a higher head and this would futureproof the pumps dealing with increasing water levels owing to climate change. He also advised Members that 50% of the cost of the pumps and screens had already been paid and parts required from outside the UK had been sourced early in order to avoid any potential issues arising from Brexit.

Richard Betteridge, the Director of Motion Consultants agreed with the Engineers and explained that the size of this project was a first for the Board and whilst Saul had gone relatively smoothly, Elmore Back had presented more challenging issues owing to its complexity.

Members heard that considerable time had been spent in analysing and modelling the catchment. He confirmed his confidence in the revised figure of £700k the LDE and CE had presented. Mr Betteridge stated that his role was to act impartially and fairly for the Board with the appointed contractor.

Cllr Riddle commented that that it was important to fully understand the overspend as it may impact and have consequences on future pump replacements.

Mr Simms expressed concern that this overspend had occurred and felt it was important that lessons were learnt from this and taken forward.

The Chair agreed but pointed out that at this meeting it was important for Members to focus on the outcomes for the Elmore Back scheme.

In response to a question from Mr Hyslop, Richard Betteridge confirmed that the pumps would be inoperable for the shortest amount of time possible and there was a contingency for over pumping in the budget. Exact timings could be provided once the contract had been awarded and project timings discussed.

In response to a question from Cllr Riddle, the CE advised that although the UK had left the EU, the Eel Regulations 2010 remain part of UK law.

Cllr Riddle also asked if depreciation on buildings could be changed from 25 years to 40 years based on current life span of pump stations surpassing 40 years. Members agreed.

Mr Godwin requested that the pump station work was completed at the most appropriate time of year, taking into account rainfall and high tides. Richard Betteridge and the LDE confirmed that these were considerations and that whilst the weather can be unpredictable, works would be carried out to minimise any potential disruption.

The LDE confirmed, in reply to Mr Hyslop, that electrical works would be completed in conjunction with the pump replacement.

Cllr Riddle thanked the CE, LDE and Motion for all their efforts so far in respect of the pump replacement programme

It was recommended that:

- **A Board meeting be held on the 23rd December 2020 to approve the alterations to the Capital Programme**
- **The Committee recommends to the Board that the alterations be accepted by the Board**
- **The Committee recommends that the Board approve the increase in expenditure for Elmore Back Pump station to £700k**
- **The depreciation for the pumping stations is applied on a straight line basis over 40 years for new buildings and 15 years for the pumps and electrical equipment.**
- **Officers be requested to produce a project review report for consideration at the next Engineering Committee meeting addressing the issues encountered in the Elmore Back scheme and containing**

	recommendations for improved project management in respect of the remaining pumping station replacements.	
3137	<p>Land Drainage Engineers Engineering Committee Report <u>Machinery Replacement 2021/2022</u></p> <p>The LDE advised Members that the existing Claas 650 tractor and Bomford Eagle mower were due for replacement. The new Claas would replace the Claas 997 as the Boards spare vehicle. The LDE reminded members that the Board maintained a spare to minimise downtime when other machines required maintenance or servicing.</p> <p>Members noted that the quote for the new Claas was [REDACTED] with a part exchange available of £[REDACTED] and the Bomford mower at [REDACTED] costing a total of £[REDACTED] was recommended by the LDE. The Claas tractor also came with a 5-year warranty.</p> <p>It was resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Claas tractor and Bomford Mower be purchased in 2021/22, part exchanging the Claas 997. <p>The LDE also reported that the Kobelco SK135 purchased in 2014 with the extended dipper arm (purchased in 2001) was due for renewal.</p> <p>The LDE had spoken with Kobelco about purchasing another extending dipper arm. The company indicated that owing it would not be able to manufacture another one. Consideration was given to refurbishing the dipper arm for another 7 years however given its age and condition the LDE was not confident it would last.</p> <p>The LDE received 5 quotes and after consideration felt that the Hitachi ZX135 would be the best option. It came with a factory produced dipper arm and did not require modifications. The quote for the Hitachi with dipper arm was [REDACTED] with a part exchange available for the existing Kobelco around [REDACTED].</p> <p>It was resolved that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Hitachi Excavator be purchased in 2021/22, part exchanging with the existing Kobelco. 	
3138	<p>Frampton Flood Resilience Briefing Notes</p> <p>The LDE explained that the water from the village of Frampton on Severn drained via 2 routes. The water in the north of the village drained via Hock Ditch into the Severn Estuary via an EA owned outfall.</p> <p>The remaining water in the village drained under the canal via Buckholt Syphon. Once on the west side of the canal the water flowed via a drainage channel owned by the Canal and Rivers Trust southwards through several old structures and the wharf before being discharged into the Estuary.</p> <p>Maintenance of some of the drainage areas was poor and there was a build-up of mud and debris in the wharf. The LDE advised that this would cause more severe drainage problems in the future and that it would be beneficial to carry out some hydraulic modelling to assess the issues.</p> <p>Miss Hewlett advised Members that information had been collated over a number of years that supported this approach.</p> <p>Funding was available from Gloucestershire County Council and the local parish council and it was thought the cost to the drainage board would be around £5,000.</p> <p>Mr Hyslop asked who would carry out the works once the modelling was complete, as there would be no value in funding a study if the works then required were not executed. Miss Hewlett confirmed that the Council had identified possible funding opportunities.</p>	

	<p>In response to Mr Simms' question as to which financial year the money would be required, the LDE confirmed this would be 2021/2022.</p> <p>Cllr Riddle was pleased to see joint working between the councils and IDB to provide Frampton with an improved drainage system.</p> <p>It was recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5,000 be included in the Budget for 2021/2022 for hydraulic modelling at Frampton on Severn 	
3139	<p>Date of Next Meeting The date of the next meeting is 14th April 2021.</p>	
	The meeting closed at 12.30pm	