

East Suffolk

Internal Drainage Board

Minsmere Catchment Committee - Minsmere Levels Stakeholders' Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the 3rd October 2008

(The first meeting of the Group in the guise of the Minsmere Catchment Committee for the Board.)

Held at Theberton Hall Farm, courtesy of Nat Bacon,
starting at 5:00pm.

1.0 Attendance:

Present: - Nat Bacon, Steven Brett, John Keeble (**Chairman, MSG**),
John Rea-Price (Secretary, MSG)), David Robb
& Adam Rowlands.

In Attendance: - Ian Hart (District Engineer).

Apologies: - Alan Miller.

Action:

2.0 Inter-relationship between the Minsmere Levels Stakeholders' Group (MSG) and the Minsmere Catchment Committee:

It was agreed that, because the Group consisted of all the major landowners within the operational area of the Catchment, it would be reasonable to consider the Group to be representative of the Catchment's interests. However, the MSG will continue to operate independently of the Board because its remit extends beyond the interests of the Board to cover any issues that might be of interest and concern to the local community.

2.1 Financial Assistance:

The sum of £100 per annum was proposed as a contribution from the Board towards MSG's clerical and administrative expenses.

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3.0 Main Drain Maintenance:

3.1 Because of budgetary constraints such as the new Board's set-up costs and the lack of any contingency reserve and the anticipated cost of tackling the most needy reach of Drain No.7, alongside ****pygtle** Covert, it is recommended that work on that reach is postponed to next year. Amongst the environmental constraints that may affect the work will be the need to avoid disturbance during the bird-breeding season until the end of July and the social constraint of the presence of a popular footpath along the Drain's northern bank.

3.2 Members advised that the uppermost reach of Drain No. 7, alongside the road known as 'Flash Corner,' may be so waterlogged that the adjacent highway pavement may be suffering. Therefore, it is possible that the County Highways Dept. could be persuaded to contribute to work there in due course.

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3.3 The Engineer advised members that it has been common practice with the former boards that landowners could arrange drain maintenance on main drains within their land in conjunction with their own drain maintenance programmes, thereby affording both parties mutual advantage, provided:

- a). the need for the work and its estimated cost are approved by the Board/Catchment Committee beforehand;
- b). the charge back to the Board is 'at cost' without any element of profit to the landowner;
- c). environmental safeguards are in accordance with the Board's standards.

All

4.0 **Finances:**

Revised Estimates 2008/'09:

The Engineer explained the background to his latest estimate, a copy of which is appended to these notes.

All

5.0 **Open Meeting:**

The Group adjourned to Theberton Village Hall, where the Engineer addressed the assembly with a talk on the present state of evolution of the new Board, during which he touched on some of the issues that may have a bearing on the Board's development, including:

**EA's East Suffolk Catchment Flood Management Plan;
Norfolk & Suffolk Catchment Sub-Committee;
EA Estuary Strategies;
Floods & Water Bill.**

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JRP

6.0 **Date of Next Meeting:**

Early 2009: the precise date and time were left to the discretion of the Secretary and Engineer.

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East Suffolk IDB – Minsmere Sub-District

Estimates 2008/'09

| Approval/preparation date: | | Sept '08 | Oct '08 |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Line</i> | <u>REVENUE</u> | Amount | Amount |
| | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | £ | £ |
| R1 | EA Precept | 6,964 | 6,964 |
| R2 | Maintenance | 3,000 | 0 |
| R3 | Administration | 2,533 | 2,533 |
| R4 | Set-up Costs | 833 | 833 |
| R5 | <u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u> | 13,330 | 10,330 |
| | <u>INCOME</u> | | |
| R6 | Drainage Rates | 12,076 | 12,076 |
| R7 | Special Levy (SCDC) | 1,290 | 1,290 |
| R8 | EA Contribution, Highland Water: | -512 | -512 |
| R9 | Interest | 19 | 19 |
| R10 | <u>TOTAL INCOME</u> | 12,873 | 12,873 |
| R11 | Surplus/Deficit for the Year | -457 | 2,543 |
| | <u>BALANCES:</u> | | |
| R12 | Brought Forward 1st April | 561 | 561 |
| R13 | Revenue Contribution to/from Capital or Contingency Reserve Fund | 0 | -3,000 |
| R14 | Carried Forward 31st March | 104 | 104 |
| R15 | DRAINAGE RATE (Pence) | 27.890 | 27.890 |

| CONTINGENCY RESERVE | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|-------|
| C1 | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | 0 | |
| | <u>INCOME</u> | 0 | |
| | <u>BALANCES:</u> | | |
| C11 | Brought Forward 1st April | 0 | 0 |
| C12 | Revenue Contribution to/from Capital Development Fund | 0 | 3,000 |
| C13 | Carried Forward 31st March | 0 | 3,000 |

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ACTING AS THE MINSMERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2008
REVENUE ACCOUNT**

| 2006/2007 | | 2007/2008 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| £ | | £ |
| 8183 | Environment Agency Precept | 7757 |
| 0 | Maintenance of Watercourses | 11583 |
| 2388 | Administration | 2459 |
| 4535 | Surplus for the year carried down | |
| <u>15106</u> | | <u>21799</u> |
| NIL | Deficit for the year brought down | 7925 |
| <u>7804</u> | Balance Carried Forward | <u>7925</u> |
| <u>7804</u> | | <u>7925</u> |

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ACTING AS THE MINSMERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2008
BALANCE SHEET**

| 2006/2007 | | 2007/2008 |
|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| £ | | £ |
| 7804 | Revenue Account | 0 |
| | Drainage Rates Over/pre payments | 2 |
| NIL | Cash Overdrawn | 119 |
| <u>7804</u> | | <u>121</u> |

I certify that the attached revenue accounts and balance sheet represent period end and the income and expenditure for the period.

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A Brasnett Responsible Officer 31 March 2008

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| 2006/2007 £ | | 2007/2008 £ |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 12475 | Rate Income for the year | 11362 |
| 1332 | Special Levy | 1214 |
| 1056 | Contribution - Section 57(1) | 1088 |
| 243 | Interest | 210 |
| NIL | Deficit for the year carried dc | 7925 |
| <u>15106</u> | | <u>21799</u> |
| | 0 Balance brought forward | 7804 |
| <u>7804</u> | Balance carried forward | <u>121</u> |
| <u>7804</u> | | <u>7925</u> |

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| 2006/2007 £ | | 2007/2008 £ |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| | Revenue Account | 121 |
| | Drainage Rates Arrears | |
| | 7804 Cash at Bank | |
| <u>7804</u> | | <u>121</u> |

fairly the financial position of the Minsmere Internal Drainage Board at the

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