

MINUTES of an Extraordinary Meeting of Little Downham Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Little Downham, on Thursday, 3rd October 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.

Elected Members, KO Winters, R Taylor, G Taylor, M Taylor, J Barker and D Parson, formally requested the Extraordinary Meeting for the Council to discuss the Welney barrier and the flood situation questions for East Cambs District Council, Cambs County Council, MP, Environment Agency and D.E.F.R.A.

Councillors present: MM Oldfield, in the chair, and JW Barker, AM Collins, RA Maxey, DR Parson, GH Taylor, M Taylor, JL Waters and KO Winters. **Clerk:** Mrs J Wardle

Other attendees: County Cllr L Dupre, Dist. Cllr A Bailey and 13 parishioners.

Chairman's opening remarks: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the procedures of the meeting and items on the agenda.

85/19 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr RJ Taylor.

86/19 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. **Cllr JW Barker** declared a prejudicial interest (Declaration 018-2019).
2. **Cllr DR Parson** declared a prejudicial interest (Declaration 019-2019)
3. **Cllr GT Taylor** declared a prejudicial interest (Declaration 020-2019)
4. **Cllr M Taylor** declared a prejudicial interest (Declaration 021-2019).
5. **Cllr KO Winters** declared a prejudicial interest (Declaration 022-2019) in item 88/19.1 because they all live and have land in the flood risk area.

6. Dispensations

The above members and Cllr RJ Taylor have applied and been granted dispensations by the Parish Clerk in order that they may stay in council meetings and discuss all general matters relating to the Great Ouse Tidal River System and Strategy under Grounds I, II and III in accordance with Section 33(2)(a), 33(2)(c) and 33(2)(e) of the Localism Act 2011. Namely they live in the Study Area / Flood Cell area of the Great Ouse Tidal River System and as a result believe that

- (a) as over 50% of the members entitled to vote would, by virtue of their having the same personal and prejudicial interest, be unable to do so, and
- (b) the number of members that are prohibited from discussing and voting at a meeting would be such as to upset the balance of the meeting to the extent that the outcome of the voting at the meeting would be prejudiced.

87/19 TO ADJOURN FOR PUBLIC FORUM – 7.04pm

Members of the public commented on the lack of maintenance to the Hundred Foot River and expressed concerns regarding their properties in and around Pymoor and The Drovers.

7.09pm The Council meeting reconvened.

88/19 PARISH MATTERS

1. **To discuss the Welney barrier and the flood situation questions for East Cambs District Council, Cambs County Council, MP, Environment Agency and D.E.F.R.A.** – In their agenda pack, members had been issued with a draft list of questions proposed by the LDPC Ouse Washes Working Group. Cllr Winters distributed a list of 13 draft questions round the table for consideration. Members decided to focus on only the working group draft questions. Following a lengthy discussion, the following questions were approved:

1. *Please provide the height measurements of the five lowest points of all the banks, which are the South Level Barrier, Middle Level Barrier and Scratch (Cradge) Banks.*
2. *At the Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board Half Yearly meeting, 10th May 2017, the Environment Agency gave a presentation on the Great Ouse Tidal River Strategy and System. Clearly upon reading the minutes, it states that the Middle Level Barrier Bank (MLBB) was studied as a Category A under the Reservoir Act and some parts were Category B due to their rural location. Nicola Oldfield (EA Project Manager) stated that the MLBB was a structure under the Reservoir Act and the South Level Barrier Bank (SLBB) was a tidal river bank not classified under the Reservoir Act. If a tidal river cannot be classed as a reservoir, please confirm where the reservoir bank is?*

- 3. *Is the Scratch Bank up to reservoir standard?*
- 4. *Please provide details of your maintenance regime for strengthening the banks of the Hundred Foot River and the whole of the area including the MLBB & SLBB?*
- 5. *What maintenance has been carried out along the Hundred Foot River during the past 15 years?*
- 6. *In addition to what is published in the Great Ouse Tidal River Baseline Report, please provide detailed maintenance work planned along the Hundred Foot River for the next 30 years.*
- 7. *What and where are the key risk areas along the SLBB?*
- 8. *It is assumed that some models would have been carried out to assess and propose work on the Great Ouse Tidal River System, please could you share the results and findings.*

Resolved unanimously to approve the above list of questions (that would be issued to members for final confirmation prior to sending) and send to the Environment Agency and include copies to East Cambs District Council, Cambs County Council, Steve Barclay MP, D.E.F.R.A and County Cllr Lorna Dupre and District Cllr Anna Bailey.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed *Muddfield* (Chairman) Date *17-10-19*