

NEEDHAM AND LADDUS INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

At a Special Meeting of the Needham and Laddus Internal Drainage Board
Hosted by the Middle Level Commissioners on Tuesday the 9th February 2021

PRESENT

J F Martin Esq (Chairman)	J Kirk Esq
J H Fenn Esq (Vice Chairman)	C N T Rose Esq
S A Calton Esq	W Sutton Esq
C Crofts Esq	P M Tegerdine Esq
M E Fenn Esq	P W West Esq

Mr David Thomas (Clerk to the Board), Messrs Tom Pollendine and Morgan Lakey (representing the Consulting Engineers) were in attendance.

Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

B.311 New Culvert Installation

Further to minute B.288(iii), the Clerk asked Mr Pollendine to provide an update on progress

Mr Pollendine advised that the drawings and tender document were complete and that he was currently awaiting approval of the design for reinstatement of the adopted highway.

It was confirmed that Peter Beckenham, the Board's Conservation Officer had been out to view the site and that, apart from a small amount of trimming works required to avoid water voles and nesting birds being an issue, all was fine.

The Clerk asked where Mr Pollendine was in relation to the grant bid to which he replied that he expected to be able to use the Environment Agency's Short Form 1 which was fairly straightforward and he could see no reason why it should not yield the grant required by the Board.

Looking forwards tenders were due to be issued the following week and would be returned in 4-6 weeks.

The Clerk noted that Environment Agency approval was key to the scheme progressing in its entirety.

Mr Pollendine noted that Street Works/Road Closures will follow once the predicted date of works commencing was known.

The Chairman asked if the Board were likely to get grant. Mr Pollendine responded that he could see no reason why not and that the aim was to get 100% grant-in-aid for both replacement culverts. This was on the basis that these were the two most important Board assets, there was a general allocation of money for the Board and that there appeared to be little else the Board would be looking to grant fund in the next 10 to 15 years.

Mr Pollendine advised that the current estimate for the works was £160,000.00 plus 20% plus fees, giving a total of £223,000.00

The Vice Chairman asked if this was for both culverts. Mr Pollendine confirmed it was.

Mr Pollendine asked about Cambridge County Highways charges. Mr Pollendine stated that he had estimated £1k but noted that this was not a firm figure.

Councillor Sutton felt that the total charges from the Highways would be above £1K. Mr Pollendine advised the £1K was budgeted for the design check and other sums had been allowed for the other area of involvement.

Will Sutton also asked for confirmation on pipe size, he wondered if a larger pipe was to be utilised. Mr Pollendine advised that two 1.35m diameter pipes were to be used in place of the single existing pipe and that this gave a net increase in capacity. He also pointed out that the new pipe invert 100/150mm is higher than existing, helping reduce the siltation problem which existed.

Councillor Crofts asked how long will the road closure would last. Mr Pollendine thought about 2-3 weeks.

Mr Pollendine then shared his screen to allow Members to remotely view the drawings and the spreadsheet of costs.

The Chairman asked if the drain would need blocking off/damming during works and Mr Pollendine responded that there were items in the tender to allow for this and for over pumping in normal (not flood) conditions. There was also a provisional item for over pumping in a flood event that he hoped would not be needed.

The scheme discussions concluded.

RESOLVED

That the Board continue with the scheme.

Councillor Sutton raised the question as to what should happen if say tenders come in at 10% above estimate. Should the Chairman/Vice Chairman be given the power to approve the extra spend.

The Chairman asked when the works were most likely to start. Mr Pollendine thought the most likely start time would be July and noted that the contract included a statement that it was expected that there would be a 3-month gap between contract awarded and start.

Mr Pollendine asked if any discussions had been held with owners of the fields needed for the working area. The Vice Chairman noted that the field to east was outside the Board's area. Mr Pollendine stated that the compound was to be on the other side (left hand side looking upstream). It was noted that David Lunn occupied that land and that relations between him and the Board were good. Notices will be served in any event.

The Chairman asked if there would be any issues to Waldersey Farms when the pipes taken out due to loss of access. Mr Tegerdine thought there were alternative routes available but he would check.

The Vice Chairman thought the works on the upstream culvert would be approximately 10 days.

Councillor Sutton asked that it be recorded that the Board appreciated the efforts of the Middle Level Commissioners' employees in delivering a scheme design and tender in the timeframe set by the Board.