

# GOUTHWAITE BOARD OF MANGEMENT

Incorporated by Act of Parliament - Bradford Corporation Waterworks Act 1890 for the management of Gouthwaite Compensation Reservoir, River Nidd

## MINUTES of 2018 AGM

Held on  
Thursday October 18th 2018 at 2.30pm  
Council Chamber, Pateley Bridge

### AGENDA

1. Welcome. The Chair welcomed board members and new Clerk S. Turnbull (under an agreement with Nidderdale Partnership Plus).

2. Attendance:-

Chris. Hawkesworth - Chair	Glasshouses Mill
John Shillcock - Vice Chair	Chris. Robinson - Low Laithe Weir
Tom Watson	Harrogate Borough Council
Miranda Foster	Yorkshire Water [YW]
David Gotto	NYCC
David Lindsay	Environment Agency
Stanley Lumley	NYCC and Harrogate B C.
John Goodliffe	Nidderdale AC - PB Weir
Newman Booth	Yorkshire Water Services

Sarah Turnbull	Clerk
Veronica Hawkesworth	Observer- Outgoing Clerk
Josh Riddell	Observer- Fish Farm Tenant

Apologies.

Phil Ireland	Harrogate Borough Council
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Abbreviations:-

AMP	Asset Management Plan
AONB	Area of Outstanding Beauty
EA	Environment Agency
PB	Pateley Bridge.
KFC	Knaresborough Flood Committee
NAC	Nidderdale Angling Club.
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
HBC	Harrogate Borough Council
YW	Yorkshire Water

3. The resignation of Veronica Hawkesworth as Clerk was received. Board members offered her their thanks for many years' effective service

4. Votes and voting.

In the event of a vote the chairman said he would take 1 person 1 vote of vote holding members. However, if any voting member wanted to ask for a full vote he would ask for a vote in accordance with the "2016 - 194 total votes listing". In which case the NYCC and HBC representatives would have to decide between themselves how to wield their blocks of votes.

5. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were approved as correct.

6. Matters arising not on the Agenda.

None.

7. Chairman's Report.

The chairman's report explained that as Yorkshire Water in early 2017 were starting major works to increase the capacity of the outflow channels, it had been decided to cancel the October 2017 meeting and reconvene following completion of the work.

Re: the recruitment of a new clerk. The Pateley Bridge Based Nidderdale Partnership Plus had offered to provide a bureau service, including supplying a clerk. This had been accepted in principle.

The Chairman also reported that KFC had requested to receive the minutes of the 2017 meeting, but these could not be released until approved at the next [this] meeting, and there had been no meeting in early 2018 for reasons given above. A call had been received from a Freedom of Information lawyer, and a response had been formulated and despatched.

8. Yorkshire Water Report

Miranda Foster reported that YW had endeavoured to maintain the drawdown goals set for the period of the works at Gouthwaite, leading to 50% of capacity, with a minimum release of 62 tcmd. This had been difficult to maintain and the reservoir had spilled on 5 occasions.

In 2018, however, because of the drier weather, it would have been impossible to maintain the 62tcmd release, and figures had reduced, particularly in July.

The planned safety work had been completed and delivered to programme. Newman Booth reported that installation had commenced to install a new dedicated syphon designed to drawdown the reservoir in an emergency that might threaten the dam wall. The drawdown syphon was not intended for full flood alleviation as to use this for a quick drawdown in the case of an impending flood might exacerbate localised flooding.

Councillor Lumley asked which parts of the Dale would be impacted if such a drawdown did occur. NB answered that in the case of Gouthwaite, only 10 - 12 cumecs would be released, a relatively small amount. In the event of such a release, i.e. in the case of a potentially large flooding event, the release would have insignificant impact on any flooding taking place lower down the valley.

Questioned about arrangements in the event of such a release, NB stated that in an extreme event, YW would enact its emergency plan, notifying the local resilience forum, who would communicate with the public. However, this would not be the case for normal flood events, where no such release would be necessary to protect the integrity of the dam structure.

Further work was planned for the next AMP period (2020-2025) to install the upstream leg of the syphon, work which would require further water control management.

9. Environment Agency Report 2017-18:

River Flow

In 2017, the summer and autumn, river flow in the Nidd as measured at Birstwith had been slightly higher than normal; this had coincided with the reservoir safety work, so releases to the river were sometimes higher than expected under normal operation of the rules (these had been suspended during most of the period of the works).

Conversely, in 2018, particularly since April, the drier weather had meant below average flow until the present date. Since May, the rules had been adhered to, and overall in 2017-18, releases had been close to the rules.

Reservoir level

There had been no spills in 2017, but a few had occurred in early 2018, after which the steady draw down had culminated in the reservoir being 50% full in September; currently it was 75% full, due to recent rainfall.

### Compensation Releases

These had generally followed the patterns agreed in 2017-18.

JS said that communications could have been better with e.g. NAC, and NB asserted that comms would be better for the forthcoming works.

CH pointed out that with global warming, the climate could be 40% wetter or 40% drier. How did YW plan for this? NB stated that YW is looking at 1:1000 events and designing safety plans around these.

#### 10. Accounts.

CH explained that a loss had been recorded for the year 2017-18. This was because a laptop had been purchased in order to facilitate GB administration. The accounts for the year 2017/18 were accepted unanimously.

#### 11. Levy.

The Levy was fixed at £6.00 for the year 2017-2018, as costs would need to rise following the new arrangement with Nidderdale Partnership Plus.

#### 12. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

C Hawkesworth was re-elected chair.

John Shillcock elected Vice-Chair.

Both elected unanimously.

#### 13. Exchange of information.

CH expressed the hope that GB would soon have a website. It was suggested that this could perhaps be a page on the website of NPP.

#### 14. Date, time and Venue of the next meeting.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019