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Land Drainage Liaison Group

Held at Council Chamber, Ryedale House, Malton
on Thursday 15 October 2015

Present

C Bowles, I Cooke, D Hamblin, A Nutt and M Potter

In Attendance

N Lishman and P Long (in the Chair)

Minutes

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cussons and Wainwright, B Hocking (EA) and P Fisher.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2015 were approved as a correct record.

3 Urgent business

There were no items of urgent business.

4 Rye Mouth dredging - Environment Agency

Ian Cooke (EA) advised that the dredging scheduled for spring 2015 had been delayed due to a lack of availability of specialist equipment.

Permissions were to be renewed, with a view to commencing the work as soon as new Environment Agency Health and Safety processes had been finalised. It was hoped that the work would start over the next few months.

Action	Invite David Reece's replacement from Natural England to a future meeting of the Group (expert on catchment sensitive farming methods).
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5 General report from Environment Agency on maintenance activities

The EA rolling programme of works had been delayed due to the introduction of new Health and Safety processes following serious incidents with EA staff.

The main effect had been on weed cutting which had caused high water courses in some areas.

The programme of work due to start as soon as possible is as follows;

Weed cutting	Costa, Bielby Beck and the Derwent at Ganton
Winter tree works	Walk through of water courses to remove debris etc

Tree works	Malton and Norton part the railway bridge, Butterwick bridge and the sea cut
Bank repairs	Upstream of Howe Bridge, Marton, Normanby, Low Marishes

6 **Pickering flood defences - Environment Agency**

Dean Hamblin (EA) reported that the works were bedding in well and greening over successfully.

Telemetry had been installed which would provide more accurate and time specific forecasting of water levels to inform the flood warning system.

The scheme was a valued and successful partnership, gaining interest from many other agencies and was to be officially opened by the Secretary of State on a date to be confirmed.

Action	Site visit to see the completed site in Spring 2016
Action	Partners to consider amendments to the Flood Plan to take account of the improved warning system

7 **Fracking**

M Potter gave a presentation to the Group on a number of points regarding fracking. This included a variety of statistics and technical information.

I Cooke (EA) gave a short presentation on the EA's responsibilities where fracking is concerned.

8 **Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent**

There were no items of urgent business.

9 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was provisionally arranged for 11 February 2016.