Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 28th September 2017, at Winthorpe Community Centre.

* Elected Members
  * Messrs W.J. Staunton (Chairman)
  * J. Miller (Vice-Chairman)
  * R. Warburton (Vice-Chairman)
  * A. Arden
  * T.H. Farr
  * N.J. Greenhalgh
  * R.J. Jackson
  * D. Loates
  * J. Pask
  * R.N.J.S. Price
  * S.E. Richardson
  * Mrs J. Love

* Nominated Members
  * Cllrs K.H. Isard
  * Mrs S. Fielding
  * D. Pidwell
  * Cllrs D.R. Payne
  * I. Walker
  * B. Wells
  * Mrs S. Michael

* Present
  * Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
  * D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
  * M.S. Everett (Operations Manager)
  * J.D. Watson (Operations Director)
  * L. Parker (Rating Officer/Accounts Assistant)

* In attendance

1. **APOLOGIES**

   Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. Arden, I. Davies, Mrs J. Bradley, Cllrs I. Walker, B. Wells, Mrs S. Fielding and Mrs S. Michael.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

   Mr R.N.J.S. Price declared an interest in Agenda item 13, planning application at Cropwell Bishop.

3. **NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

   None.

4. **BOARD MINUTES** (Pages 300 to 305)

   RESOLVED

   That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

   The Chief Executive confirmed that the sale of the Castlegate Office had been completed and new accommodation secured at an annual running cost of £13,500. The sale had been agreed at £232,000 and the Board attained £221,276 after moving costs etc.

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6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Chief Executive reported that a review of the method of calculating recharges for the Consortium would be undertaken shortly and he hoped to report further to the November Board Meeting.

An update on the negotiations with Doncaster East IDB was presented for information, this would have no impact on the services provided to Trent Valley IDB.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Consortium Committee held on the 6th September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and the recommendations made be adopted.

7. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

The Rating Officer reported that £798.61 remained outstanding from 2016/17. Drainage rates and special levies collected to date totalled 60.34% and second reminders were posted on the 15th September 2017.

8. FINANCE

The attached report was presented by the Rating Officer/Accounts Assistant.

The forecast for the year ending 31st March 2018 had been adjusted to a deficit of £363,812 which was £22,220 adverse to budget, mainly due to the over valuation of Castlegate on previous forecasts.

It was noted that expenditure on plant was currently £21,500 under budget following the resignation of a Land Drainage Operative and downtime for a machine. The post was being advertised.

Officers were closely monitoring the drain maintenance and consortium recharge budgets which showed expenditure higher than expected for the year to date.

Mr R. Warburton queried the pension costs on the payment schedule. Officers reported that this included employees' and employers' contributions, as well as the deficit. A report detailing the split between these amounts would be presented to the next Board meeting.

RESOLVED

(a) That the Board's financial position be noted.

(b) That the attached payment schedule be approved.

9. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PENSION FUND

The Chief Executive presented the attached report following discussion with the pension administrators. He confirmed that there would be considerable cost to the Board if they were to leave the scheme.

Mr R.N.J.S. Price was concerned that membership of the current scheme was not sustainable, particularly bearing in mind the financial difficulties faced by the Board over the coming years. He stated that the Board should not rule out excluding new employees from the scheme until further details and accurate costs were obtained. He did not consider that the Board was fully conversant with the details of the Scheme. Mr S.E. Richardson
suggested that a sub-committee could be formed to look at this in detail and assimilate the figures.

RESOLVED

That the pension fund administrators be invited to make a presentation and discuss this further with the Finance Committee.

10. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Operation’s Director presented the attached report on work undertaken by the Direct Labour Organisation. An update was given that 50% of the summer work and 68% of construction work had now been completed. Heavy rain in August had caused a lot of weed to flow down to the pumping stations and time was diverted to clear the weed screens.

The Operations Manager confirmed that all summer weedcutting would be complete by the end of November.

Environment Agency (EA) work continued on a regular basis and the Board was due to commence work shortly on the River Greet in partnership with the EA.

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11. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Engineer presented the attached report for consideration.

The tender specification for the Torksey Pumping Station refurbishment was being prepared and it was hoped to have tenders back before the next Board meeting for work to commence early in the new year and be completed by August 2018. The Engineer reported that there were some operational issues with running the pumps and consideration was being given to making this a fully automated station; the initial cost would be slightly higher but this would extend the life of the station, make it more sustainable and reduce manpower costs.

The Engineer gave a further update on the Kingston Brook catchment study and confirmed that investigations were ongoing on the Sheep Wash watercourse and a report would be presented to the Board in due course. The management plan was being prepared and would be presented to the November Board meeting.

It was noted that the installation of the box culverts (Phase 2 of the Sutton on Trent Improvement Scheme) was due to commence in November and not October as stated in the report.

RESOLVED

(a) That the attached report be noted.

(b) That Tender 4 be accepted for the refurbishment of Sturton, Cuckstool and Wheatley Beck pumping stations in the total sum of £73,391.

12. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Engineer presented the attached report for information.

The Engineer confirmed that in respect of the new Eel Regulations the refurbishment of Torksey Pumping Station was the first project not to be covered by the existing exemption.
He confirmed that the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) is currently lobbying to help ascertain an answer in respect of outstanding issues by November. He suggested that Board Members draw the matter to the attention of their local MP’s. Mr R.J. Jackson confirmed that he was meeting the DEFRA Minister on 11th October and would be happy to raise this with him. The Engineer emphasised that the Consortium had ten pumping stations due for refurbishment over the next few years and it was therefore essential to find a solution to this issue. The Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board had employed a contractor to undertake a study at Boygrift Pumping Station and to come up with options for mitigation. The results of this would be shared with the Consortium partners.

Due to the number of stations due for refurbishment, if the National Eel Liaison Group did not come up with a pragmatic and cost effective solution by the end of the year, the Consortium would have to take the matter up too. The Chief Executive stated that the Engineer would prepare a paper detailing the difficulties complying with the Eel Regulations for members to discuss with their local M.P.s. He stated that this issue had been known about for a number of years and must not hold up the Board’s work; there were some 83 pumping stations across the Consortium and one quarter of these required work in the near future.

Mr J. Miller enquired whether it would be possible to extend the exemption and also suggested that the matter should be brought up at the ADA Conference.

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13. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

13:1 Byelaw Applications

The following consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

TVIDB/LDC/2017/013  Construction of a new surface water outfall into the Board maintained Beecroft Drain at national grid reference SK66234 45013 in the parish of Bulcote.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/014  Construction of a temporary clear span bridge crossing Point, until December 2035, on the Board maintained Catchwater Drain at national grid reference SK80074 84858 in the parish of Sturton Le Steeple.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/008  Construction of one 80mm diameter land drainage outfall into the Board maintained Mill Dam at national grid reference SK88077 64297 in the parish of Swinderby.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/009  Construction of two outfalls into the Board maintained Morton Boundary Drain at national grid reference SK80734 64300 and SK88136 – 64621 in the parish of Swinderby.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/017  Repointing of headwalls and arches on the Board maintained Boundary Drain at national grid reference SK66738 45331 in the parish of Lowdham/Gunthorpe.

TVIDB/LDC/2017/012  Construction of a new access point across an existing culvert on the Board maintained Carlton/Caunton Beck at national grid reference SK00801 60947 in the parish of Norwell.
Erection of a two-bay carport and workshop within nine metres of the Board maintained School Drain at national grid reference SK71754 49767 in the parish of Bleasby.

Installation of a fibre optic cable crossing the Board maintained Marlock Dyke at national grid reference SK72975 51858 in the parish of Fiskerton cum Morton.

Emergency repair to pipeline running in the bank of the Board maintained Seymour Drain in the parish of Rampton at national grid reference SK81811 79227.

Extension of current metal platform (used to collect water samples) towards the Board maintained Wheatley Beck in the parish of West Burton at national grid reference SK79628 86620.

No Section 23 consents had been issued under delegated authority since the last Board meeting.

No applications had been received on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

The Engineer reported on 145 planning applications that had been reviewed by Officers since the last Board meeting. Appropriate comments had been made.

Enhanced maintenance on the River Greet was due to commence in October/November. This was the first phase of a five year project between the Board, the Environment Agency and Southwell Racecourse. The Engineer confirmed that funding was in place for Phase 1 and he was hopeful that money would be available to fund future phases.

The Operations Director reported that one incident had been recorded since the last Board meeting. This had resulted in minor damage to an item of plant but fortunately no injuries.

There were no changes in legislation that would affect the Board's operations.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the ADA Conference would be held in London on 16th November 2017 and asked that members to contact his PA if they wished to attend.
17. STAFFING

The Operations Director reported that the vacancy of Foreman had now been filled with the appointment of an internal candidate and she gave an overview of how the new structure would work. The Lead Workers would continue to support the Foreman until he had become established in the role. The Operations Manager stated that the new structure was a positive move and the appointment of the Foreman would enable him to get out on the ground more regularly.

At a recent meeting of the Lincolnshire Pay and Conditions Committee a 1% cost of living pay increase had been offered to employees in line with that recommended by Government. Once the cap had been lifted, it had been suggested that the annual increase be calculated in accordance with the previous formula (currently estimated at 1.4%). Employers were also asked to consider undertaking a job evaluations.

The Chief Executive reported that a job evaluation now was being undertaken for the three direct labour organisations across the Consortium. He confirmed that any changes relating to this Board would have to be cost neutral and details would be presented. Overall, members were supportive of any changes as long as there was no additional ongoing cost to the Board.

It was noted that Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board had recently taken on an apprentice. This was being monitored and if successful, an apprenticeship scheme would be rolled out across the Consortium.

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CHAIRMAN