

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes a Meeting of the Board held at Great Carlton Village Hall on Wednesday, 25th January 2023.

* Messrs	G.A. Crust (Chairman)	* Cllrs	T. Aldridge
*	S.W. Eyre (Vice-Chairman)		D. Andrews
*	G. Bowser	*	T. Ashton
*	W. Cooper	*	S. Dennis
*	R. Crust		D. Edgington
*	M. Denby	*	A.J. Howard
*	J.M. Mowbray	*	D. McNally
*	R.H. Needham	*	E. Mossop
*	D. Pridgeon	*	W. Parkinson
*	D.R. Tagg	*	P. Rickett
			Mrs W. Bowkett

* *Present*

Messrs	A. McGill (Chief Executive)
*	D. Hickman (Executive Officer)
*	A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)
*	S. Stones (Operations Manager)
*	R. Brown (Senior Engineer)
* Mesdames	N. Hind (Finance Manager)
*	C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

* *In attendance*

The Chairman welcomed Mr D. Pridgeon and Mr G. Bowser to their first meeting of the Board.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A. McGill and Councillors D. Andrews, D. Edgington and P. Rickett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1686 to 1703)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23rd November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that the Health and Safety Executive had removed its Covid-19 guidelines and replaced it with a public health advice statement. Whilst not required under the guidance Consortium staff were still asked to test if displaying symptoms.

There had been two Health and Safety incidents since the last meeting one of which was in the Lindsey Marsh area.

Officers reported on the 2021/2022 Health and Safety Executive Annual Statistics Data. These showed an increase in stress, depression and non work related anxiety absences. The Consortium provided support for staff through a 24/7 GP line as well as counselling, advice and support from mental health, financial and legal experts as well as Apps and access to online factsheets. The feedback from these services was positive.

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7. OPERATIONS REPORT

Winter works had been undertaken on Vicarage Drain, Willoughby Village Scheme and Sutton Ings Drain Branch No1. Work on Thurlby Drain was 90% complete with Boygriff Drain 15% complete, four further drains would be completed before April 2023. Tree and bushing work had been completed on Mablethorpe Upper Cut, Thurlby Drain, Old Highland Drain, Boygriff Drain, West Field Drain, Vicarage Drain, Catchwater Drain, Willoughby East Flood Relief Sewer and Summer Head Drain.

The 2023/24 programme consisted of 24,805m with additional emergency drain repairs identified on Catchwater Drain (Burgh Sluice) and Orby South Drain (Ingoldmells) which would be undertaken in addition to the scheduled 2023/24 winter programme.

Operatives were due to undertake rechargeable weedcutting on a fishing pond at Alford.

An update on approved plant purchases was given:

- (a) 10 small vans - Expected March 2023 (originally May 2022).
- (b) 4 Pickup trucks - Expected July 2023 (originally April 2023).
- (c) Long Reach Excavator – Expected February 2023 (originally December 2022).
- (d) Tenders for replacement of the Volvo 160 Wheeled Excavator (EU66 CWC) would be sought in the next few weeks.

Cllr B. Parkinson arrived.

Eight tenders were returned for supply of a new tractor and two were returned for supply of a new flail. Following review of the tenders, Officers recommend the purchase of a Massey Ferguson 7S180 Tractor and Herder Grenadier Flail for a combined net spend of £211,720, which was within the £225,000 estimate. The recommendations represented the best value for money to the Board and were closest to the specification requested. The service package offered for the Massey Ferguson had a lower price per hour rate to that of its nearest purchase price competitor.

Only two flail tenders were returned, the Herder tender was the most expensive but was the only mid mounted flail and had the longest life expectancy, which combined with the ergonomics of mid mounted flails and operational efficiencies made it the preferred purchase. The Herder price included fitting a subframe to the new tractor in Holland. Herder had premade subframes which would fit the Massey Ferguson, and this would speed up fitting and delivery. The flail purchase also included a 100 hour service which was not standard on most flails. An extended warranty had been offered but this was not recommended by Officers.

Mr R. Crust commented that a mid-mounted flail was better for the operator. In response to Mr D. Pridgeon the Senior Operations Manager confirmed the operator was consulted as part of the process.

Mr D. Pridgeon queried the life expectancy of the flail. The Senior Operations Manager stated this was a minimum of seven years. In practice it was likely to be 10-12 years but the flail would be refurbished once during this period. The Operations Manager further commented that the McConnel life expectancy was a maximum of three years

Cllr T. Ashton queried the speed of the gearbox. The Operations Manager stated that the tender specification was for 40kph which was the legal limit. The Senior Operations Manager highlighted that the increased costs associated with Dyno VT gearbox would not be offset by operational savings.

Mr M. Denby commented that Herder also offered the conveyor which was not available on the McConnel.

The Senior Operations Manager reported that a letter of praise had been received from the Parish Council regarding Willoughby Flood Relief Scheme. The Vice Chairman, who also sat on Willoughby Parish Council, stated it had been a difficult job and the residents were happy with the work, offering his personal thanks.

Rainfall and pump run hours were circulated for information. Mr R.H. Needham commented that the rainfall figures had been higher at South Cockerington than those recorded for December. Mr J.M. Mowbray stated there had been 75mm at Anderby but the annual total was around average.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board purchase the Massey Ferguson 7S180 Tractor from Chandlers Farm Equipment at a cost of £107,319.83 less trade in of the Massey Ferguson 7618 (YX15 AFY) tractor and flail at £33,500.
- (b) That the Board purchase the Herder Grenadier Flail at a cost of £137,900 including fitting and 100 hour service.

8. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £6,282.73 was presented for approval; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

RESOLVED

That the compensation payments made since the last meeting totalling £6,282.73 be approved.

9. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

9:1 Service, repair and refurbishment of automatic weedscreen cleaners

Over recent years refurbishment projects had required major overhauls of automatic weedscreen cleaners. There had been issues with reliability, quality of service and some suppliers only offering minor works. AIM Electrical Ltd had undertaken work across the Consortium and provided a reliable and cost-effective service. Officers were keen to keep and maintain the Bosker units and therefore recommended that the Board approve procurement with AIM Electrical Ltd as a single supplier. Officers struggled to obtain prices but would endeavour to identify other specialist companies

capable of providing competitive and quality service, undertaking regular market testing to ensure value for money.

In response to Members the Senior Engineer confirmed that issues generally arose with smaller electrical components such as switches and motors rather than the structure. The Operations Manager stated that the Bosker units were more resilient. Mr D.R. Tagg raised concerns that appointing a single supplier meant there was no incentive to give a competitive price. The Senior Engineer assured members that Officers would continue to check competitiveness and challenge prices if needed. The Chairman suggested that the recommendation be amended to preferred rather than single supplier.

RESOLVED

That AIM Electrical be appointed as a preferred supplier.

9:2 Coastal Pumping Stations Refurbishment - Trusthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells and Saltfleet (LM19351, LM19304, LM20305 and LM20306)

(a) Saltfleet Pumping Station

Formal approval had been received for the additional £1,154,318 Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) which would be drawn down before the end of the financial year. Civils works were progressing, although considerable delays had been experienced. The pump inlet removal works were 90% complete. A setting-out error by the contractors had led to duplication of some works; downstream dam works had resumed after a re-design and were 70% complete. Internal building works continued with roof removal planned in late January 2023.

It was expected that Bosman Watermanagement BV would attend to install the flow splitters and pumps in February. Due to the delayed programme the date for the pumping station to be back on-line was anticipated to be late March. Over-pumping was performing well with water levels in the catchment being kept around 300mm below normal winter levels.

AIM Electrical Ltd had inspected the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner stored at the Board's depot and quoted £17,226.58 to fully overhaul the machine. The budget for this element of the works was £50,000. It was recommended that an order be placed with AIM Electrical to undertake a full overhaul of the automatic weedscreen cleaner.

RESOLVED

That an order be placed with AIM Electrical to refurbish the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner at Saltfleet Pumping Station at a cost of £17,226.58.

(b) Water Transfer Structure (Greyfleet to Gents Canal)

Piling works commenced on 12th December 2022. All piles were pitched and driving to depth would be completed during week commencing in January 2023. This would be followed by concrete work within the sheet piles to form the intake structure. Piping would commence when the concrete intake structure was complete.

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(c) Gents Canal to Mardyke Connection

The connection was re-designed following the additional surveys undertaken in summer 2022, the revised budget stood at £471,660. The Board's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) had been invited to submit costs. Officers were reviewing prices but it was likely that the work would be delivered by the DLO at a significant saving. An update would be given at the March Board meeting.

Mr R.H. Needham asked if the connection would always be live. The Senior Engineer clarified that the connection would only allow water through when the Greyfleet was tide locked and there was capacity at the Pumping Station. Level monitoring would notify Officers when the gate needed to be opened and the additional two cumecs pumping capacity at the station would be sufficient for the increased flow. An increased Highland Water contribution of 38.4% from the current 16.4% would also be payable for Saltfleet Pumping Station.

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(d) Trusthorpe Pumping Station

Following Board approval, an order to refurbish the automatic weedscreen cleaner had been placed. As part of the Theddlethorpe Pumping Station Refurbishment Scheme, the two original Bosker weedscreen cleaners were removed and stored at the Board's depot. The machines had been inspected and one was in very good condition and suitable for a full overhaul. To avoid down time at Trusthorpe, it had been agreed that AIM Electrical refurbish one of the Bosker machines from Theddlethorpe. Refurbishment works were underway and, upon completion, the existing weedscreen cleaner at Trusthorpe would be disconnected and the refurbished machine installed.

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(e) Ingoldmells Pumping Station

A quote of £18,976.15 had been received for a full overhaul of the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner, Officers recommended that an order be placed with AIM Electrical Ltd to undertake this work.

Initial drawings from both Bosman Watermanagement BV and James Roberts Design Ltd for the civil works had been completed.

A drone survey carried out on Ingoldmells Main Drain from the pumping station to the A52 road bridge confirmed the extremely poor condition of the banks of the watercourse, with encroaching fences, caravans and decking including garden areas set within the banks as well as direct discharges from caravan waste pipes into the watercourse. Capacity was restricted with an estimated 2,000 cubic meters of silt in the section.

Officers met contractors on site who specialised in waterway clearance and maintenance using amphibious excavators and a quote for weed clearance, flailing of banks, tree and bushing work and mulching was awaited.

Mr D.R. Tagg queried enforcing the nine metre byelaw distance. The Senior Engineer commented that many of the contraventions were historic, having taken place over 20 years previously, which meant enforcement action was unlikely to succeed as it should be taken within six months of knowing they exist. When the sites were redeveloped in the future Officers could impose the terms requiring

access be left. In response to members the Senior Engineer agreed to contact the Board's solicitor for advice regarding enforcement.

The Planning and Byelaw Officer would be seeking remedial action regarding the direct discharges into the watercourse. A new application for fencing on the bank top had been received and refused by Officers.

The Senior Engineer stated discussions were underway with site owners regarding the cost of maintenance and asking for contributions towards the additional costs resulting from the restricted access.

Mr R.H. Needham queried why enforcement had not been taken and asked if no maintenance was done what the flood impact was and who took responsibility. The Senior Engineer confirmed that the watercourse was cut using the weed boat but the silt would be a restriction in a storm event.

Mr G. Bowser commented that there were similar situations in Chapel St Leonards. The Senior Engineer confirmed similar contraventions were present in other areas and where aware at an early stage, they had been asked to move.

The Chairman stated Officers needed to identify where else this had occurred.

Mr D.R. Tagg stated that some of the contraventions dated to before his time on the Board.

An update would be provided at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) That an order be placed with AIM Electrical to refurbish the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner at Ingoldmells Pumping Station at a cost of £18,976.15.
 - (b) That legal advice be sought regarding the contraventions on Ingoldmells Main Drain.
- (f) Anderby Pumping Station

The grant approval letter for the Outline Business Case and FDGiA application had been received. The total value of the scheme was £2,187,750 of which £1,742,120 was FDGiA. In 2021 a letter of intent, pending approval of FDGiA, was issued to Bosman Watermanagement B.V for Anderby and Ingoldmells for supply of the new fish friendly pumps. Due to inflationary pressures Bosman Watermanagement B.V. had adjusted their prices for the pumps at Anderby from £628,375 to £768,515. An order had been placed with Bosman Watermanagement B.V. The additional costs were within the revised uplifted scheme budget.

A letter of intent was issued to Inter-Lec Limited for the new control pannel. The original tendered amount was £118,105 which had increased to £137,789. An order had been placed with Inter-Lec Limited. The additional costs were within the revised uplifted scheme budget.

AIM Electrical Ltd had submitted a quote of £17,226.58 to fully refurbish the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner. It was recommended that an order be placed with AIM Electrical Ltd to undertake this work.

RESOLVED

That an order be placed with AIM Electrical to refurbish the Bosker automatic weedscreen cleaner at Anderby Pumping Station at a cost of £17,226.58.

(g) Expenditure to date

Committed costs to date were;

Pumping Station	Committed Expenditure	Estimated scheme costs (Total)
Saltfleet (LM19351)	£3,591,227	£4,411,900
Trusthorpe (LM19304)	£1,466,047	£1,849,692
Ingoldmells (LM20305)	£69,511	£2,513,057
Anderby (LM20306)	£991,160	£2,141,788

9:3 Boygriff Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM17352)

Due to the continual deposition of silt blocking the current flap valve the gravity outfall at Boygriff had been inoperable for several years. As part of FDGiA funding, the project was required to make provision for the passage of eels. The existing flap valve therefore needed to be replaced with an eel compliant one. To ensure the correct function of the flap valve a jetting system would be installed. The cost of the jetting system pump, support system and load monitor was £20,905.50. With the silt removed, the gravity outfall would be able to operate more freely and was therefore likely to lower pump usage and reduce electricity costs.

An estimate for manufacture and installation of the control panel had been received from Inter-Lec Limited at a cost of £3,850. It was recommended that an order be placed with Rotorflush for the new silt flushing pump and Inter-Lec Limited for the supply and installation of a new wall mounted control system.

The civils works to support the new Rotorflush pump and gravity improvements were being designed and would be presented at the March Board meeting. Costs to date were £726,921 against an approved budget of £803,000.

Additional FDGiA funding would cover the costs of increased flood resilliance and the eel passage through additional grant.

Mr D.R. Tagg queried how the eel passage worked. The Senior Engineer stated that the Rotaflush pump would keep the silt clear and the outfall flap would have a second door to allow a 20-30 minutes transition window for eels to travel through with tide changes.

RESOLVED

- (a) That an order be placed with Rotoflush for the supply of a new silt flushing pump at a cost of £20,905.50
- (b) That an order be placed with Inter-Lec Limited for the new wall mounted control panel section at a cost of £3,850.00.

9:4 Theddlethorpe Pumping Station

A power supply was required for automation of Bleak House Doors. Automation would enable flows to pass from the Theddlethorpe to Fulbeck catchment at times of gravitation on a level control system. A quote of £12,559.94 had been received from the Distribution Network Operator. This included £9,821.87 of contestable works which could be procured elsewhere, however, it was generally more expensive if a third party contractor was used. Officers recommended an order be placed for the new power supply at a cost of £12,559.94.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve installation of a new power supply to enable the automation of Bleak House Doors
- (b) That an order be placed with the Distribution Network Operator at a cost of £12,559.94

9:5 Pumping Stations - Emergency Repairs (LM22302)

(a) Crown Farm Pumping Station - Motors

When refurbished the outside pumps did not have the required heaters installed and starting issues were experienced during wet and cold weather conditions. Quotations were sought for the installation of motor heaters and minor refurbishment works from two companies. Officers recommended an order be placed with Grantham Electrical at a cost of £5,580, to be funded from the Pumping Station Emergency Repair budget.

(b) Porters Sluice Pumping Station - Refurbishment of Automatic weedscreen cleaner

Since September 2022 the automatic weedscreen cleaner had only operated in hand mode. AIM Electrical Ltd had inspected the machine and it required substantial repair and replacement works. A quote to undertake the repair works had been received from AIM Electrical Ltd at a cost of £25,360.33 and it was recommended that an order be placed with them to undertake the works which would be funded from the Pumping Station Emergency Repair budget.

Mr D. Pridgeon queried if AIM were able to deliver the number of contracts awarded. The Senior Engineer confirmed they could as work was being phased depending on urgency, with Porters Sluice being a priority.

Mr D.R. Tagg asked if the increased cost for this site was a result of additional work. The Senior Engineer confirmed the other stations were in better condition than this site.

(c) Burgh Village Pumping Station

The top bearing on one of the two screw pumps was suspected to have failed. The estimated repair costs were £18,500 per pump. With additional costs for stop log and dam installation total costs were expected to be in the region of £45,000. Inspection had indicated that repair was not required at this time and the pumps could continue to be monitored.

(d) Costs to date

Committed costs to date were £4,108.63 against an approved budget of £95,884.63.

RESOLVED

- (a) To place an order with Grantham Electrical in the amount of £5,580 to install heaters on both motors at Crown Farm Pumping Station.
- (b) To place an order with AIM Electrical Ltd in the amount of £25,360.33 to repair and refurbish the automatic weedscreen cleaner at Porters Sluice Pumping Station.

9:6 Electricity Costs - New contract with Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO)

Extensive work had been undertaken to evaluate a volatile electricity market and ESPO were able to offer the most affordable rates to the Board. After discussion and agreement with the Chairman, a contract had been entered into for the seventeen pumping stations that were out of contract. The average day rate was 33.7 pence per KWh and the average night rate 23.4 pence per KWh giving an overall average of 30.7 pence per KWh. The lowest standing charge was £2.69 per day for Ludney Pumping Station and the highest £42.74 per day for Burgh Sluice Pumping Station.

Overall this was a reduction on the estimates presented at the November Board meeting and the projected costs had been included within the estimates and projected outturn. The Board was in a fixed contract until the 30th September 2023 at which point, rates would be adjusted for the following 12 month period.

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Cllr E. Mossop queried if penalties were built into the contracts if they were not delivered on time. The Senior Engineer confirmed they were. For example at Saltfleet Pumping Station the penalty period started on the 23rd December 2022, however the contractor was seeking some additional costs of around £170,000. There would be some additional costs for the Board resulting from an incorrect measurement on a plan but not the full amount.

The Chairman commented that Victoria Atkin MP would be invited to open Saltfleet Pumping Station once complete.

10. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for members consideration.

10:1 Management Accounts for the Period Ending 30th November 2022

The management accounts up to the 30th November 2022 showed a positive variance of £97,141.24 the majority of which was due to underspends in employment costs. The predicted outturn at the 31st March 2023 was expected to be a deficit of £240,024.04 largely due to electricity costs. The overspend on electricity had increased since the last meeting and was now estimated at £405,148 based on average conditions. A wet period would increase this by an additional £290,000. Once the approved increased loan for Saltfleet Pumping Station was taken this would improve to a deficit of £61,524.04. The general cash reserves at the 31st March 2023 were predicted to be £608,287.95 (14.32%) which increased to 23.14% when unallocated reserves were taken into account.

Mr J.M. Mowbray commented that the January rainfall to date was normal. The Finance Manager highlighted that the December invoices had not been received and

prices would be higher as some stations were out of contract during December and January.

RESOLVED

That the Management Accounts for the period ending 30th November 2022 be approved

10:2 Cash Balances and Borrowings as at 30th November 2022

The Finance Manager reported that the Board had £4,796,605.18 held across five accounts.

RESOLVED

That the Board's cash balances and borrowings be noted.

10:3 Payments over £500

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of payments over £500 be approved.

11. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24

The Executive Officer reported that following the November meeting, at which the Chief Executive had outlined the Board's actions to mitigate the risk to the Board from electricity increases, Officers had continued to review options. The Association of Drainage Authorities had responded and no help was available at this time from central government however the regulator had expressed interest in looking into standing charges. The new electricity contracts had seen a reduction in costs, though still more than previously paid, so the position was slightly more favourable. Officers continued to do all they could to mitigate the increases and maintain the level of service. The engagement received, particularly from East Lindsey District Council, had been good.

The Finance Manager reported that the standing charges alone were now in the region of £168,000. In 2018/19 the whole year costs for electricity had been £167,000, in 2020/21 £266,000 and in the wet year of 2019/20 £430,000.

The Finance Manager presented the attached estimates of income and expenditure for 2023/24. A full review of expenditure had been undertaken to mitigate the increases in electricity costs faced by the Board. A 27.6% increase on special levy and an increase to 21.22p/£ for drainage rates was proposed. The planned net expenditure for the year was £5,019,513 to be funded by rates and special levy. The proposed rate increase resulted in income of £5,414,973 from drainage rates and special levy, a surplus of £395,964 to be transferred to reserves. This increased the reserves to 30.06% which was in line with the Board's Financial Regulations. For example an increase of 18.3% gave a small deficit but reduced reserves to 22.18%, to set a rate lower than recommended would require use of scheme funds in case of heavy rainfall.

The estimated electricity overspend for 2022/23 was £405,148 with the cost for 2023/24 estimated at £682,593 both of which would be rated for in 2023/24. Although savings had been made to mitigate this it represented a significant increase in expenditure for the Board.

Mr W. Cooper queried the increase in standing charges. The Finance Manager did not have the list of increases available. The Chairman commented that some standing charges had increased by 700%. The Senior Engineer would produce some comparisons and circulate to

members. Mr Cooper clarified that this was a core cost which had increased and was new to when rate was last set. The Finance Manager commented that when new contracts were negotiated in 2024/25 costs may be higher or lower. The five year plan would be reviewed and if needed the current increase planned of 2% would be amended and a negative rate could be set.

Based on an increase of 27.6% income would increase as follows:

- (a) Drainage rates from Agricultural land and buildings would increase from £1,029,271 in 2022/23 to £1,310,880.
- (b) East Lindsey District Council Special Levy would increase from £3,148,331 in 2022/23 to £4,091,378.
- (c) North East Lincolnshire Council Special Levy would increase from £9,965 in 2022/23 to £12,715.

The Finance Manager highlighted that £74,085 of the increase for East Lindsey District Council was as a result of land moved into special levy since the last assessment.

Mr W. Cooper commented that last wet year cost £260,000 extra at a lower rate per unit so the impact of a wet year now would be significant. The Finance Manager agreed stating that in 2019/20 the unit rate was a lot lower. Mr Cooper stated that the Board needed to be able to accommodate an electric bill (including standing charges) of approximately £1 million in a wet year. The Chairman stated that it would be remiss of the Board if they did not have sufficient reserves. Mr Cooper highlighted that traditionally schemes were delayed in flood events so the expenditure was moved back whilst staff dealt with the event. Officers pointed out that other costs increased in heavy rainfall events including staff costs and additional pumping. The Senior Engineer commented that costs at Trusthorpe Pumping Station to provide overpumping at 50% of current capacity was £820,000.

Cllr T. Ashton stated this had been a long time coming Boards had tried to maintain 2-4% increases over the last 10 years and it had to give at some point. It would be challenging for councils. East Lindsey District Council's increase was just over £1 million with all IDBs in their area and the referendum cap limited the Council's increase, equating to £337,000 extra they could raise from tax payers. But it was important to recognise the principle of the drainage rate and the value in properties and business that benefitted from the Board's protection. It was cheaper to pay for drainage and protection rather than for recovery. The Board could not take the risk and needed a degree of security that it could fund rainfall similar to 2019/20 and still operate as a Board. There had been a meeting the previous week with Council leaders, MPs and Lee Rowley MP at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and their reception had been encouraging. He recognised the position of the Board and was happy to move and proceed with the recommendation for a 27.6% increase. It was necessary and justified and as a councillor he was confident he could justify to councillors and the public the need for the increase.

The Vice-Chairman seconded this commenting that luckily there were people on the council's Executive Board who understood and were in harmony with the Board.

Mr D. Pridgeon understood the predicament with electricity costs, but queried if this was the right time to increase reserves so rapidly and then only have 1-2% increases going forward. He asked if the increase could be less with 5-6% increases over the next few years. The Chairman stated that reserves had been run down and as a responsible Board we needed reserves. The intention was to increase slowly but the rise in electricity charges had changed this; the loss to farmers from flooding was likely to be more than the increase in rates.

Mr D.R. Tagg stated that the increase was necessary. For farmers the impact of flooding to one field would cost far more than the rate increase of 27.6%. It was necessary to carry out maintenance and refurbishments to maintain the standard of protection.

Cllr E. Mossop stated that the Board must keep up pressure for help on electricity costs. Cllr B. Parkinson queried if a press release or letter could be sent with the bills to councils to explain the increases. Officers agreed, something would also be included on the annual newsletter.

RESOLVED (Unanimously)

- (a) That the Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 be approved for net expenditure of £5,019,513.
- (b) That the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings, special levies on the local charging authorities and estimates of the amount from balances, for the year commencing 1st April 2023 be as follows:
 - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings - £1,310,880,
 - (ii) by special levy on East Lindsey District Council - £4,091,378,
 - (iii) by special levy on North East Lincolnshire Council - £12,715.
- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 on East Lindsey District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £4,091,378.
- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 on North East Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £12,715.
- (e) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (f) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 be made and sealed in the total sum of 21.22 pence in the pound.
- (g) That a letter be sent with the bills explaining the rate increases.

12. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £3,984,181.09 had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies up to the 9th January 2023 giving a combined collection total of 94.82%.

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13. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Board had undertaken annual maintenance work for the Environment Agency on the Woldgrift, Wold Drain, Willoughby High Drain and Orby Drain under the Public Sector Cooperation Agreement.

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14. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

14:1 Winthorpe Flood Storage Area

The Board received payments from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to create a mosaic of habitats and fencing to allow grazing which was completed in 2013 at a cost of £46,512.50. The Board had received an annual payment of £3,771.75 since that time however payments were due to end after 10 years. A one year extension was, however, now in place and a further one year extension anticipated as DEFRA developed the new Environmental Land Management Schemes.

14:2 Owl Box program

The current boxes had a variable life span and it was proposed to try boxes made of recycled plastic which were expected to last longer. The plastic boxes were slightly cheaper but appropriate brackets required fabricating to provide ladder mounting points. An incident had occurred elsewhere where a volunteer fell and broke their arm when the pole had snapped. Inspection and replacement of the Board's pole mounted boxes was being undertaken to prevent this happening in our area. Installation and monitoring work was on hold due to avian flu.

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15. BYELAW APPLICATION - COW MARSH DRAIN

An application for consent to install a penstock and associated compound within Cow Marsh Drain, Tetney had been received. This related to the oil storage facility close to Tetney Lock which was a registered Control of Major Accident Hazards site.

The proposed structure was designed following consultation with the Environment Agency, Local Planning Authority and the Board to mitigate risks of a potential large-scale leakage of oil from the site and was required to stop any potential oil spill from reaching the Humber Estuary, preventing a major ecological disaster. The main penstock structure would incorporate an automatic oil detection sensor and a trash screen to prevent blockages and aid routine maintenance. The structure/small compound would be surrounded by palisade fencing for security, to which the Board would have access.

The Board's Operations Manager, Foreman, Environmental Officer and Senior Engineer were consulted and all raised concerns that measures were required to prevent leakage to the wider network as this could provide a 'backdoor' for contamination in the event of a large-scale leak. Further structures were to be installed in the riparian watercourses which flow in a westerly direction from Cow Marsh Drain and connect to the Board maintained Field Drain. These structures would consist of concrete headwalls with a flap valve to prevent the flow of water in a westerly direction. The site operator had a pollution plan in place and in the event of a large-scale spill, would be responsible for organising, undertaking and paying for the clear up operation and compensating for any damages.

RESOLVED

That the Board grant consent for the installation of a penstock structure and associated compound within the Board maintained Cow Marsh Drain.

16. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

16:1 Byelaw Applications

Officers reported that the following byelaw applications had been dealt with under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2022/008 Discharge of surface water to the Board maintained Harps Drain West Branch No. 1, from land to the East of Tuplin Road and Peter Chambers Way, at National Grid Reference 549902 - 385224 in the parish of Mablethorpe.

LMDB/LDC/2022/035 Increase in flow to the Board maintained Ingham's Sewer from land at Hodgetoft Lane, National Grid Reference 546972 - 381887 in the parish of Maltby Le Marsh.

RECEIVED

16:2 Section 23 Applications

The following Section 23 applications had been dealt with since the last meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2022/044 Installation of a 600mm diameter twin wall pvc pipe for 11 metres within a riparian watercourse to the rear of 183 Eastfield Road, at National Grid Reference 534317 - 388231 in the parish of Louth.

LMDB/LDC/2022/046 Installation of 35 metres of 450mm diameter culvert within a riparian watercourse at land off Wildshed Lane, National Grid Reference 549526 - 364828 in the parish of Burgh Le Marsh.

RECEIVED

No Section 23 applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority.

RECEIVED

16:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on a further 20 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were provided.

RECEIVED

17. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

The annual membership subscription invoice had been received from ADA at a cost of £6,346.00 plus VAT. The 2022 fee was £6,071.00 plus VAT. Members were asked to approve payment of the membership fee

ADA was seeking expressions of interest for Chair of the Technical and Environmental Committee with the appointment starting in April 2023. The successful applicant would also become a vice chair of ADA and have a Director's position on ADA's Board. Members had been invited to return expressions of interest for the position. The Corporate Service Manager reported that one expression of interest had been received, from Cllr T. Ashton. The Board supported Cllr Ashton standing for the position.

The Corporate Service Manager reported that ADA were holding an Environmental Good Governance workshop on the 2nd February 2023 and asked members to notify Officers if they wished to attend.

RESOLVED

That the 2023 ADA membership of £6,346 plus VAT be approved.

18. MEMBERS DISBURSEMENT FUND

The Corporate Services Manager gave an overview of the history of the fund which was set up in 1998 by Alford Drainage Board. Elected members contributed directly into the fund with nominated members contributing on a voluntary basis. Two neighbouring IDBs had a similar arrangement in place but all members had the option to contribute their travelling expenses with a form sent out annually to members. Officers suggested that a similar arrangement be implemented to give all members the option to pay into the account but that the form be completed and signed at each meeting rather than annually in order to accurately capture the miles travelled.

Following the resolution at the last meeting to purchase a small gift for retiring members who had served over ten years, costs and options were awaited. Officers asked that authority be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to approve the purchases. At the last Board meeting it was agreed to change the signatories on the account to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It was suggested that there should be two signatories for any expenditure and that these be either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and the Chief Executive or Corporate Services Manager and that the Corporate Services Manager be set up as the key contact. It was also suggested that online banking be set up for the account with the Chief Executive and Corporate Services Manager as authorised users and that a debit card be obtained in the Chief Executive's name with any expenditure to be authorised by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board continue with the existing Members' Disbursement Fund with the option for all Board members to contribute their travel allowance directly into the account.
- (b) That the Board approve joint signatories on the account - Chairman or Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive or Corporate Services Manager.
- (c) That the the Corporate Services Manager be appointed as key contact on the account.
- (d) That internet banking be set up with any expenditure to be authorised by two signatories.
- (e) To approve the application for a debit card in the name of the Chief Executive to be used following approval of purchases by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.
- (f) That delegated authority be given to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to approve the purchase of suitable corporate gifts.

19. STAFFING

There was nothing to report.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN