

# LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes a Meeting of the Board held at Great Carlton Village Hall on Wednesday, 29th March 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*

## 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C.B. Davies, Mr D. Pridgeon and Cllrs S. Dennis, D. Edgington, P. Rickett and Mrs W. Bowkett.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr G. Bowser declared an interest in Agenda Item 19 Skegness Gateway - Proposed Development.

Mr J.M. Mowbray declared an Interest in Agenda Item 20 Delegated Matters.

## 3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## 4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1704 to 1718)

It was noted that a comma was missing on paragraph one of page 1706 and should read "In response to Mr D. Pridgeon, the Senior Operations Manager confirmed".

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25th January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### 5:1 Page 1713, Minute 11 - Estimates of Income and Expenditure 2023/24

Mr W. Cooper queried the impact of the increased rate on poultry units which was not considered at the last meeting, they were a large contributor and were already affected by Avian Flu. The Chief Executive commented that to change the rate paid by poultry units would need a policy change at national level and that the impact of the rate rise on all Agricultural Rate and Special Levy payers was considered. The increased rate related to the intense level of farming on the small area, he did not have the calculation for this but would report back to the Board. The Senior Engineer stated that poultry units had a higher annual value. Cllr E. Mossop asked for a proportion of poultry units to the rest of the agricultural rate payers to be reported to the Board.

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### 5:2 Page 1718, Minute 18 – Members Disbursement Fund

Mr R.H. Needham queried the lack of forms to sign for members mileage. Officers confirmed this would be circulated for members to sign at a later date.

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## 6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Consortium Committee held on the 7th March 2023 were circulated for members approval. The Chief Executive highlighted that the Committee had recommended that the Boards withhold payment of the EA annual precept and to put together a case evidencing the reasons why and requesting a meeting with DEFRA to discuss a change in policy.

The Chief Executive reported that the Committee had also requested a meeting with the Chairmen of the Boards and the Chief Executive of ADA to discuss their concerns regarding the rebranding of and support from ADA and until this time, payment of the subscriptions be withheld. This meeting had been held on 23rd March 2023 and would be discussed further under agenda item 16.

The Vice-Chairman suggested that Officers write to the Environment Agency asking where the precept for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is being spent. The Board was accountable for where and how its funds were spent.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Consortium Committee held on the 7th March 2023 be confirmed as correct record and the resolutions be adopted by the Board.

## 7. COMMITTEES

The attached DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee were presented for approval. Officers also proposed that a meeting of the Committee be held on 25th May 2023.

RESOLVED

That the attached Terms of Reference be approved.

#### 8. RISK REGISTERS

The Chief Executive presented the updated dynamic and business risk registers for members information. These highlighted areas of current risk and were required by the Auditor, some areas of note were:

- (a) Telemetry system software issue, which was due to be resolved by 31st March 2023.
- (b) Saltfleet Pumping Station refurbishment, which was delayed and due to be completed July 2023.
- (c) Public Relations, website changes were being implemented and Officers would explore options to increase the Board's profile.

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#### 9. COMPLAINTS

Officers presented an update on the complaints and queries received in 2022/23. The Board were required to report on the number of complaints received and outstanding at year end on the IDB1 return.

There had been 26 complaints or queries received in the Lindsey Marsh area, 16 in Axholme, 24 in Trent Valley and seven in Doncaster East, of these 4 were formal complaints.

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#### 10. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that there had been no changes to legislation since the last meeting.

There had been one incident across the Consortium since the last meeting, which was not in the Lindsey Marsh Board area.

A summary of 2022/23 incidents was presented showing one crush injury, nine damage incidents, one struck object by incident, three road traffic incidents, one manual handling, two machinery related, and four near misses.

COSHH risk assessments had been reviewed and rationalised to remove duplicates and amalgamate similar assessments.

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#### 11. OPERATIONS REPORT

The 2022/23 winter programme was nearly complete with a small amount of work remaining on Hargate Drain.

The 2023/24 programme had commenced with work underway on Barrowgate Drain, Boygriff Drain, Saleby Sewer and America Drain. Emergency drain repairs had been carried

out on Catchwater Drain (Burgh Sluice), Low Lane Drain (Wyche), Saltfleetby South Ings Drain (Saltfleet) and Grimoldby Ings Drain (Saltfleet). Work on Orby South Drain (Ingoldmells) to repair a collapsed culvert was due to commence.

Strategic Ordinary Watercourses were being monitored and, where necessary, early weed removal would be undertaken in consultation with the Board's Environmental Officer. Construction work was planned or underway at:

- (a) Theddlethorpe Pumping Station works ongoing, with improvements being undertaken to the walkways, compound, and the pump intake platform.
- (b) Gents Canal culvert installation, due to start on the 11th April 2023 and scheduled to last approximately ten weeks.
- (c) Trusthorpe Main Drain culvert installation, scheduled for late autumn. An update would be presented to the Board once specifications and timeframes have been agreed.

The Operations Manager gave an overview of the works completed on Westfield Drain at Alvingham which had not been maintained for some time. Cllr E. Mossop stated that there had been one or two concerns locally, mostly relating to the unmaintained section but most residents were very pleased with the work undertaken. There were however some concerns about the state of Louth Canal into which the watercourse flowed and would hold up water. The Operations Manager agreed stating that the Board had done all it could to improve the system.

Officers also highlighted issues with steel culverts which had started to rot, three of the emergency repairs were on this type of culvert and one pipe had been virtually non-existent when Operatives attempted removal. Mr D.R. Tagg queried the potential impact of the deterioration of these culverts for the Board and how many watercourses could be affected. The Operations Manager stated that they were starting to find issues with some of the earliest fitted. The Senior Operations Manager agreed that these culverts needed review and in response to the Chairman he confirmed that if mostly intact they could be lined. The Chief Executive stated that Officers needed to identify and survey these culverts and report back to the Board with details of location and condition so that risks could be assessed. Mr W. Cooper asked that costs for lining and replacement be included to inform the Board's decision.

The Senior Engineer commented that the Board's structures database held information on the type of culvert and this could be used to inform surveys and produce a report for the Board.

The Senior Operations Manager gave an update on plant purchases. Following delays the long reach Excavator was expected in May 2023. The Massey Ferguson tractor was due to be sent to Herder for fitting of the flail on the 30th March 2023 and expected to return in May 2023.

Mastenbroek's had indicated that there would be an increase of at least 8% for replacement weedbaskets and flail parts in 2023 and 2024, the 2022 order totalled £56,134. A review had been undertaken and three weedbaskets which were under-rated for the machines they were used on had been identified as requiring extensive refurbishment at an estimated cost of £21,324. The current cost of a new heavy duty weedbasket was £10,590 which included a spare cutting knife which cost £600. Officers recommended replacing the three baskets with three new heavy-duty baskets from Mastenbroek Environmental Ltd at a total cost of £31,770 to save on repair costs and staff time, estimating that the spares bill would reduce by 40%.

The funds would be taken from the Plant Reserve and the provision for a new weedbasket in the 2023/24 estimates would not be required.

In response to the Chairman, the Senior Operations Manager stated that there was a potential re-sale value of around £1,500 per item which would offset the additional expenditure. Mr M. Denby supported the purchase stating they were at the end of their lives for the work expected of them and the new heavy duty baskets were stronger. Mr Needham agreed stating it was essential to have the right equipment.

Mr J.M. Mowbray queried delivery of the new vans. The Senior Operations Manager reported that there had been considerable delays but the first had arrived that week with three more due in the near future.

Mr Mowbray asked if given the delays with delivery, were Officers tendering early. The Senior Operations Manager stated that Officers would review lead times but with the current orders had experienced delays after ordering.

Rainfall and pump run hours were presented for members information.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That a report on the condition, location and estimated repair costs of steel culverts be brought to the June meeting.
- (b) That the Board purchase three heavy-duty baskets at a total cost of £31,770 with the funds being taken from the Plant Reserve.

## 12. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £2,098.90 was presented for approval; these had been paid in accordance with the Board's policy.

The Senior Operations Manager presented the proposed compensation rates for 2023/24 which had been prepared in line with the Board's Compensation policy. This now included Potatoes, Sugar beet, Peas, Beans and Maize which were taken from Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board. Rates for other crops had been calculated using the March wholesale price index issued by the Farmers Weekly with a deduction taken off for harvesting, transportation and profit margin. The values and yields for these crops had been more difficult to establish and should any challenges be received they would be brought to the Board.

The Chairman asked Cllr T. Ashton about the Witham Fourth DIB policy, Cllr Ashton confirmed they did not pay compensation when they ran through crops, however, they had never paid compensation and therefore it was not something they had stopped paying. Mr R.H. Needham stated that there was no legal obligation to pay compensation and the current policy had been in operations for some time, he thought the values offered were a fair average.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the compensation payments made since the last meeting totalling £2,098.90 be approved.
- (b) That the attached Compensation rates for 2023/24 be approved.

### 13. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

#### 13:1 Coastal Pumping Stations Refurbishment - Trusthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells and Saltfleet (LM19351, LM19304, LM20305 and LM20306)

##### (a) Saltfleet Pumping Station

The three new fish friendly pumps including pipework and motors had been installed, testing and commissioning was planned for late April followed by disconnection and removal of the temporary over-pumping. Civils works were ongoing and were impacted by delays with the re-concreting of the seaward wall to regain the water tightness. First fix electrical works and cabling to the pumps and control panel had commenced. Once the building had been hydraulically tested, both the upstream and downstream dams could be removed. Internal building work would run into late April with the roof section infill and the new roof covering planned to be undertaken in late March-early April.

The automatic weedscreen cleaner refurbishment was underway and was expected to be re-installed prior to commissioning of the pumps in April.

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

The first wall pour to the intake structure was complete. However further work had been delayed with focus on completion of the pumping station and was now estimated to be completed in mid-May 2023. Completion works would see the installation of penstocks and reinstatement of the Environment Agency's river bank.

Mr R.H. Needham stated that whilst the Board were doing a good job updating the pumping station and connection, there were still issues with a two mile section of the Greyfleet upstream at Pickhill bridge where the watercourse was almost none existent. Water from Louth flowed into this watercourse from Stewton Beck, he stated it was an accident waiting to happen and the Environment Agency (EA) was not doing its job. The Senior Engineer reported that work on the Greyfleet had been identified as part of the original programme and 1.5 million had been allocated by the EA for work in 2025-27 to improve the watercourse. The Chief Executive cautioned that allocation of future funding did not guarantee work would be undertaken and in other areas the EA had argued that developments should have attenuation and SUDS systems so there was no impact on the systems. Officers would raise maintenance on this section with the EA again.

##### (c) Gents Canal to Mardyke Connection (LM22351)

The Board's Direct Labour Organisation provided a price of £327,746 to install a third connection from Gents Canal to Mardyke, the original quote from JN Bentley Limited to undertake this work was £471,660.14. The revised proposal was to install a 2.1 metre diameter piped connection, in parallel with these works, quotes to de-silt and survey the existing two connections would be sought.

Consultations with the owner and occupiers of the fields affected by the work had been undertaken and formal notices of entry served. Works were planned to commence during early April with completion prior to the summer weedcutting season.

Officers recommended the transfer of £327,746.00 from the main project budget into a separate code (LM22351) for cost control and monitoring purposes.

(d) Trusthorpe Pumping Station

The automatic weedscreen cleaner had been refurbished and re-installed. Officers were awaiting costs for the pile repair works, an initial site visit was held to discuss the repair works which would involve injection of a stabilising resin behind the piles followed by a surface coating to prevent further corrosion. The work would extend the life of the piles for a further 10 to 15 years.

Uplifted costs, taking into account the enhanced temporary over-pumping arrangement, had been received from JN Bentley Ltd. Due to the significant projected increases, it was envisaged that the civils works element would be re-tendered. Tenders were currently being prepared with despatch planned during August 2023.

Officers were in discussion with the Environment Agency in respect of an additional application for £2.35M of FDGiA funding with no additional contributions from the Board but the work would need to be re-tendered to obtain this.

(e) Anderby Pumping Station

Six tenders for the civil work were invited with four tenders returned, Officers were undertaking a technical and financial adjudication. The tenders received were significantly over budget however options to reduce the over pumping element by utilising the Diesel Station would significantly reduce this.

	Price with 2 cumecs over pumping	Price with 600lps over pumping
Tender 1	£1,082,527.80	£776,654.21
Tender 2	1,224,892.15	£747,241.95
Tender 3	£1,417,867.49	£960,839.62
Tender 4	1,463,690.22	£773,558.22

The two lowest bidders would be invited to make a presentation on delivery of the works before appointing a preferred bidder. Officers recommended awarding delegated authority to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to appoint a preferred bidder and award the Civils contract. The planned start date was 12th June 2023 with completion in October 2023.

Quotes for a replacement 500 KVA transformer had been sought with four tenders invited however only two were received £43,425 and £44,635. ESM Power undertook the transformer upgrade at both Trusthorpe and Saltfleet very efficiently. Due to the short timescales with the Anderby project and no prior experience with the second supplier, Officers recommended that an order be placed with ESM Power in the amount of £44,635 for the supply and installation of a new transformer. The budget for the power supply upgrade was £60,000.

Mr Mowbray highlighted the issues faced with supplying electricity to the station when first constructed. The Senior Engineer would look into this to ensure there were no issues.

(f) Ingoldmells Pumping Station

Formal approval had been received for £2,240,000 (including £593,000 contingency) Flood Defence Grant in Aid. Quotes for a replacement 800 KVA transformer had been sought from four suppliers with two returned totalling £52,435 and £53,673. The budget for the power supply upgrade was £80,000. Officers recommended that an order be placed with GBE/PES at a cost of £52,435 for the supply and installation of a new transformer.

(g) Expenditure to date

Committed costs to date are detailed below;

<i>Pumping Station</i>	<i>Committed Expenditure</i>	<i>Estimated scheme costs (Total)</i>
Saltfleet (LM19351)	£3,640,037	£4,084,154
Gents Canal to Mardyke (LM22351)	£28,961	£327,746
TOTAL	£3,668,998	£4,411,900
Trusthorpe (LM19304)	£1,672,981	£1,849,692
Ingoldmells (LM20305)	£1,071,359	£2,575,000
Anderby (LM20306)	£1,033,858	£2,187,750

13:2 Anderby Diesel Pumping Station (Museum) - Repairs

Repairs were required to be able to use the station to supplement over pumping during the refurbishment of the Electric Station. The penstocks were not able to be opened, but the Environment Agency's de-commissioned Chapel Pumping Station was a similar design and they had offered parts and penstocks to support the maintenance and repair of the Anderby diesel station. Quotes had been invited from North Lincs Engineering to remove and install the penstocks and undertake repairs to the Engines. Prices had been provided for a best (£40,700) and worst (£59,840) case scenario.

Cllr T. Ashton commented that the repairs were significantly cheaper than paying for over pumping asking if the pumps would be maintained going forward to be used as a backup. The Senior Engineer confirmed that the intention was to maintain the pumps for emergency use. Members asked that given the scarcity of parts any available parts be obtained for use in the future. Mr D.R. Tagg queried the condition of the parts, the Senior Engineer confirmed that one of the penstocks was like new and had not been used.

Officers recommended proceeding with the work and awarding a contract to North Lincs Engineering with the funds to be taken from the Emergency Pump Repair budget.

The Senior Engineer stated that options for Local Levy funding would be explored.

13:3 Gotts Pumping Station - Installation of platforms (LM22311)

The platforms required for safe installation of the stop logs were being manufactured by the Direct Labour Organisation and an update on works would be provided to a future



meeting.

13:4 Theddlethorpe Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM18306)

Outstanding works were progressing, the glass fibre grid to cover the deteriorating concrete planks had been installed and landscaping works to the side of the station were underway. An order for £22,155.93 had been placed for supply and installation of replacement palisade fencing including a larger main gate and pedestrian gate. Works were scheduled to commence within the next few months. The new flood resilient swing gate had also been installed.

An application for £204,908 additional FDGiA funding for flood resilient measures had been made and was progressing through financial assurance. Costs to date were £491,059.98 against the approved budget of £676,400.

13:5 Chapel Basin Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM21306)

The Pumping Station served a small 1 hectare catchment and the pump was nearing the end of its life and required replacing. The existing Flygt CFS pump had a capacity of 17 litres per second. To accommodate future climate change, a higher capacity pump would be required. The new pump would be capable of discharging 22 litres per second. Quotes had been sought from three suppliers for the new pump.

Following technical and financial adjudication, the quote submitted by Xylem (Flygt) offered the most economic solution and although it had a higher power rating it also had a higher efficiency. Xylem would supply all associated parts required. An order for £5,726.51 had been placed with Xylem Water Solutions UK Ltd. Costs to date were £1,221.84 against the approved budget of £20,821.50.

13:6 Wyche Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM20304)

Some alterations to the stop log frames would be required due to them protruding above ground level, a GRP grid was being manufactured and would be installed. An order was placed with North Lincs Engineering in September 2022 for the refurbishment of the first pump. They were struggling to obtain a mechanical seal kit from the pump manufacturers. They had provided a price to procure a second kit needed for the second pump in the amount of £3,199.20. An order had been placed for this and it was hoped that once both mechanical seal kits were received, the refurbishment of the pumps could commence. Committed costs to date were £42,914.45 against the approved budget of £61,600.

13:7 Boygriff Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM17352)

The rotorflush pump had been manufactured and delivered to the depot. The control panel and flood doors had been installed.

An application for £305,700 additional FDGiA funding for flood resilient measures had been made to the Environment Agency and was progressing through Financial Assurance. Costs to date were £751,943 against the approved budget of £803,000.

13:8 Cabling repairs to Boygriff Pumping Station automatic weedscreen cleaner

The Bosker weedscreen cleaner at Boygriff Pumping Station had been inoperable since January 2023. The Igus track system that allowed the cables to flex as the trolley

moved along was frozen. Damage occurred when the trolley moved as it ripped the cables and track away from the machine. An alternative system using skates was to be installed which would eliminate this issue.

Quotes for repair work had been sought from AIM Electrical Ltd and Ovivo (manufacturer). The quote received from Ovivo in the amount of £15,115.06 was purely to repair the machine and did not include modifications with an alternative system. An order was placed with AIM Electrical in the amount of £9,337.53 to carry out the repair work which would be undertaken in-situ. Works would comprise erection of scaffolding along the entire length of the gantry, electrical disconnection and removal of the old cable track and cables, installation of new flatform cables, supply and installation of new skates and new trolley clamps and reconnection and testing of all electrical works. The costs for the work had been allocated to the Boygriff Pumping Station general maintenance budget.

#### 13:9 Telemetry System Replacement - LM20303

Outstanding works related to fitting new or checking calibration of existing outfall sensors. Calibration of levels to O.D.N. was time consuming and required a Surveyor and Site Mechanical and Electrical Engineer to change the settings to level instruments, telemetry level parameters and pump start/stop levels. Schneider were arranging for two Engineers to visit all sites to update the Telemetry Firmware which should resolve some of the communication issues and other problems this caused.

Schneider and Inter-Lec Ltd were to meet with a representative from the variable speed drive manufacturer to configure settings so that the Schneider Telemetry can 'talk' to the variable speed drives. Once achieved at the first site, this would then be rolled out at all the other pumping stations which had variable speed drives. The first site would be Cuckstool Pumping Station in Trent Valley IDB's area.

#### 13:10 Capital Works Programme Update

A review of the capital programme across the Consortium had been completed identifying 88 widely varying projects. A summary of the programme, showing timescales for commencement and completion together with an assessment of relative priority was presented for members information and had been based on;

- (a) Assets, lands and properties protected
- (b) Risk of asset failure
- (c) Reputational risk to the Consortium Boards
- (d) Local community priority

There were 16 projects in the close down phase with the 15 of these due to be completed by December 2023. At Lindsey March the Telemetry replacement and EA PSCA Badger Work would be complete by end of March 2023, Theddlethorpe Pumping station Refurbishment and Boygriff Pumping Station Refurbishment were due to be complete by September 2023 and the River Steeping Resilience would be complete by end of December 2023. The in-delivery programme consisted of seven projects, with five scheduled for completion by December this year, and the remaining two by December 2024.

The largest element, 33 projects, was planned work where in many cases scoping and design had commenced. Officers had progressed preparation for large scale packaged

outline business cases (OBCs) with the Scape consultancy for works on a range of projects for delivery from 2024. A project brief for implementing a packaged OBC of 11 projects for the Lindsey Marsh area had been prepared by Scape, and one was in preparation for 19 projects in the Trent area. The Lindsey Marsh OBC was expected to be ready for submission in September 2023 and whilst the core of the programme would consist of pumping station refurbishments, the key linking element for Lindsey Marsh would be the potential for new and repurposed watercourses acting to link catchments, enabling movement of water throughout the drainage district alongside demonstration of significant environmental betterment in doing so. Submission of the OBC for the Lower Trent area was expected in November 2023, although it was proving more challenging to develop a strongly evidenced case linking the hydrological and environmental narrative. The expected costs for preparation of the OBC were £250-300,000 which whilst high gave access to a wider range of funding and reduced burden on staff. The Chief Executive stated that a single application could take around 250 hours (around 5,000 hours to write these individually). There was some resistance to large scale OBCs by the EA at a local level. The Chief Executive suggested that if resistance was encountered he would challenge the policy behind the decisions to ensure the applications progressed.

Cllr E. Mossop asked if there was a precedent for this type of work. The Chief Executive confirmed there was stating there was an allocation of £5.4 Billion the EA could not spend and the area managers were now being held accountable and targets for delivery being set.

In response to Mr S.W. Eyre, Officers confirmed the CCTV and desilting programme needed work and they would be focusing on this.

Some work such as condition and catchment surveys would need to be completed for preparation of the OBC and Officers asked that delegated authority be given to place these orders as required.

A further update on projects would be provided at the June meeting.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board approve the transfer of £327,746.00 from Saltfleet Pumping Station Refurbishment project (LM19351) into a separate code (LM22351) for the Gents Canal to Mardyke Connection works.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to appoint a preferred bidder and subsequently award the Civils contract at Anderby Pumping Station.
- (c) That an order for £44,635 be placed with ESM Power for the supply and installation of a new transformer at Anderby Pumping Station.
- (d) That an order for £52,435 be placed with GBE/PES for the supply and installation of a new transformer at Ingoldmells Pumping Station.
- (e) That an order for up to £59,840 be placed with North Lincs Engineering for repairs at Anderby Diesel Pumping Station with the funds to be taken from the Emergency Pump Repair budget.

- (f) That delegated authority be given to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to place orders for work associated with the Outline Business Case preparation.

#### 14. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report for members consideration.

##### 14:1 Management Accounts for the Period Ending 31st January 2023

The management accounts up to the 31st January 2023 showed a positive variance of £338,585.46 the majority of which was due to underspends in employment costs. The predicted outturn at the 31st March 2023 was expected to be a reduced deficit of £62,524.04, after transfers from the Capital Receipts reserve had been taken into account. The general cash reserves at the 31st March 2023 were predicted to be £607,287.95 (14.29%) which increased to 23.11% when unallocated reserves were taken into account.

Electricity expenditure was £71,000 over the expected expenditure to the 31st January 2023 however bills had not been received for the January to March period and whilst likely to increase was expected to be lower than predicted.

The five year plan would be reviewed and brought back to the Board.

#### RESOLVED

That the Management Accounts for the period ending 31st January 2023 be approved.

##### 14:2 Transfer of Budgets

The Finance Manager presented a schedule of budget transfers which had been approved under the Asset Renewal Report for members information.

#### RECEIVED

##### 14:3 Cash Balances and Borrowings as at 31st January 2023

The Finance Manager reported that the Board had £5,873,146.94 held across five accounts and no loans outstanding.

Officers were considering investment options for the Board's funds and had approached an investment broker who was used by other Drainage Boards to provide indicative rates which were higher interest than provided by the banks. Officers proposed to invest in the UK market to minimise risk but noted that funds would be tied in once invested. A policy was being prepared and would be presented to the June meeting along with recommendations.

#### RESOLVED

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

14:4 Payments over £500

Mr R.H. Needham queried expenditure on Dangerous Goods Awareness Training. The Senior Operations Manager explained the need for this training when carrying fuel and other hazardous goods and stated that the course may have included staff from other Consortium Boards which would be recharged.

RESOLVED

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

15. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

A total of £4,201,594.83 had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies up to the 14th March 2023 giving a combined collection total of 99.98%. A schedule of amendments to the valuation list along with write offs totalling £253.10 were presented for members approval.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the amendments to the Valuation List be approved.
- (b) That the write offs totalling £253.10 be approved.

16. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Embankment Repairs to Great Eau, Long Eau, Greyfleet Drain and River Steeping were complete and retention monies held in respect of the works had been released and the Environment Agency had signed off the works. Final Health and Safety files for each of the sites involved had been collated and forwarded to the Environment Agency. Final out-turn costs would be reported to the June meeting.

River Steeping Dredging project had some outstanding compensation claims and valuer's fees to settle. The project costs had been cleansed and historic purchase orders closed with £6,435.17 returned to the project. Expenditure to date was £1,469,250.34 against the approved overall budget of £1,492,709.00. This included a provision of £38,898.25 for under drainage of the land where Lagoon C was constructed should it be required. The project would remain open until 31st March 2024.

The Chief Executive reported that whilst Officers received good support for FDGiA applications the lack of EA maintenance on watercourses was still an issue. He had put the issue to the EA asking if they regarded the channels as assets and had been told that they did, however they did not appear in the asset management system to be maintained. There was confusion between the EA and DEFRA on funding this work. Mr D.R. Tagg asked how this could be improved. The Chief Executive stated that one way to get a response was through withholding the precept, the Isle of Axholme Board had done this last year and it had gained attention from both the EA and DEFRA. At the Consortium Committee all four Boards had proposed withholding payment of the EA precept with a letter sent evidencing the reasons and asking for a schedule of works detailing where the precept is spent as the Boards were responsible for ensuring their funds were spent in their area.

The annual ADA subscriptions for the Consortium were around £21,000 with the EA Precept around £1 million. At the Consortium meeting members were of the opinion that ADA was not meeting the Board's needs and asked for a meeting with the ADA Chairman and Chief

Executive. The Chief Executive was pushing ADA to represent the Boards on sea/ flood defences and river maintenance, ADA had admitted they could not achieve meetings with Ministers. At the meeting ADA had suggested an article on keeping rivers flowing for the gazette from a farmers perspective. The Chief Executive was keen to do this in all four areas and asked for contributions from members and suggested Councils could also contribute.

ADA mentioned that for the first time in a number of years the EA have a Chief Engineer. The Chief Executive would follow up and look to arrange a site visit, perhaps on the Steeping as the Boards needed to affect change at a higher level.

Cllr D. McNally asked if a list of all the work not done could be compiled and an open letter sent to the EA and press to create pressure on the agency. The Chairman commented that there needed to be something to get the press interested. He also highlighted that the EA managed retreat map showed the loss of a large portion of the east coast. Cllr T. Ashton supported the direction and was pleased Officers were pushing ADA stating it was worrying that they could not contact Ministers and the relationship needed development.

Among the South Yorkshire Boards there was a strong feeling that Government should fund defences. The impact of flooding on IDB areas would affect the whole country reducing food production and if food was flown in the carbon footprint would increase. Cllr E. Mossop agreed that food security would be an issue.

The Chief Executive would write a letter asking for details of precept spending and the article for the ADA Gazette and then look at other options depending on the result.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board withhold payment of the Environment Agency annual precept until a schedule of works had been obtained, with a letter sent evidencing the reasons for withholding.

### 17. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

#### 17:1 Eel Passage and Regulation

The New Eel Regulations Process had adopted the principle of Best Achievable Eel Protection. This meant that fish friendly pumps were the go-to option for Internal Drainage Boards and Environment Agency pumping stations. Research partly funded by ADA and the Boards demonstrated that these pumps provided safe eel passage and the costs were similar to conventional pumps. At pumping stations where installation was not practical due to the larger pipe work Cost Benefit Analysis could be used to justify conventional pumps.

#### 17:2 The Environment Act 2021

The Environment Act amended section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Public authorities must:

- (a) Not only conserve but also “enhance” biodiversity.
- (b) From time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective (unless it concludes there is no new action it can properly take).

- (c) Determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and
- (d) Take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Land Drainage Improvement Works) Regulations 1999 with their requirement to publicise works in local newspapers were to be replaced with Environmental Outcome Reports. Guidance on this was awaited.

#### 17:3 Beavers - Reintroduction and management

Legislation had recently changed and Beavers were now protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 making it an offence to:

- (a) Deliberately capture, injure or kill a beaver.
- (b) Deliberately disturb a beaver.
- (c) Damage or destroy a beaver breeding site or resting place (dams, burrows, or lodges).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was amended and Beavers moved from Part 1B (animals no longer normally present) of Schedule 9 to Part 1A (native animals)

A series of licenses to enable drainage authorities to manage the risk caused by Beavers were available.

RECEIVED

#### 18. BYELAW APPLICATION - COW MARSH DRAIN

##### 18:1 Erection of a boundary fence within nine metres and service crossings over a culverted section of the Board maintained Old Sutton Main Drain, White Row Lane, Trusthorpe

An application had been received to erect a boundary fence within nine metres of a culverted section of Old Sutton Main Drain, together with two service crossings over the top of the culvert. The applicant requested to erect the fence at a distance of one metre from the outside edge of the culvert and no more than 1.2 metres in height with a proposed electric cable crossing over the crown of the pipe at a minimum cover depth of 500mm (750mm above the crown of the pipe). The proposed water supply crossing was over the crown of the pipe at a minimum cover depth of 750mm (500mm above the crown of the pipe). Given restrictions on access, installation by directional drilling under the culvert would be impractical.

Officers recommended that the Board grant consent subject to the following conditions;

- (a) That the fence be erected no closer than five metres from the outside edge of the culvert,
- (b) Suitable marker posts be installed for both the electric and water supply crossings, and,
- (c) Termination and meters be installed no closer than nine metres from the outside edge of the culvert.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board grant consent for the erection of a boundary fence no closer than five metres from the outside edge of the culvert on Old Sutton Main Drain
- (b) That the Board grant consent for electric and water supply crossings over the culverted Old Sutton Main Drain with suitable marker posts installed for both and termination and meters be installed no closer than nine metres from the outside edge of the culvert.

18:2 Installation of LV power supply cable within nine metres and crossing the Board maintained Church Lane Drain – Mermaid Leisure Park, Seaholme Road, Mablethorpe

An application had been received to replace an overhead power line with an underground cable. The cable would run adjacent to Church Lane Drain at a distance of eight metres from the bank top following the previously consented overhead line. The application included a new underground crossing over a low level culvert on Church Lane Drain and a new 'H' pole and four stay-wires.

The Operations Team had indicated that the proposed works would improve access and reduce the risk of overhead line strikes during maintenance operations.

Officers recommended the Board grant consent subject to the following conditions;

- (a) The replacement high voltage cable to be laid at a distance no closer than 8 metres from the bank top,
- (b) Service crossing marker posts to be installed for the LV crossing, and,
- (c) The new 'H' pole and stay-wires to be installed no closer than eight metres from the bank top.

RESOLVED

- i. That the Board grant consent for the installation of a high voltage underground cable, new 'H' pole and stay-wires no closer than eight metres from the bank top of Church Lane Drain.
- ii. That the Board grant consent for a low voltage service crossing over the low level culverted section of Church Lane Drain with marker posts to be installed.

*Mr G. Bowser left the meeting.*

19. SKEGNESS GATEWAY – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

A notice under Article 38 for a Local Development Order for a proposed large-scale development on land to the north and south of Wainfleet Road, Skegness had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority. The proposed development included commercial and residential buildings. This was a significant development and the proposals were likely to have a large impact on the Board maintained watercourses within the Burgh Sluice catchment and Gotts sub-catchment. To mitigate the impacts of the potential development, it was probable that a number of watercourses would have to be improved and likely that flood



storage areas may have to be constructed. Upgrades to both Burgh Sluice and Gotts Pumping Stations may also be required. An initial response had been made to the Local Planning Authority highlighting the Board's Byelaws and the impact of the proposed development upon them and Officers were currently in discussion with the developer's agents. An update would be made to a future meeting.

Cllr E. Mossop stated that there was an ongoing issue with maintenance of SUDS/Swales and residents filling them in, it was key to ensure compliance with the developer maintaining these. There were no effective measures to ensure compliance.

Mr S.W. Eyre endorsed this stating it was critical the Board ensured as much capacity as needed before the development was built.

The Chief Executive had concerns that there were Board watercourses on three sides and agricultural protection was lower than residential so Board's System may not provide the appropriate level of protection for residential properties, stating that the developer may have to look to upgrade the lowland system.

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*Mr G. Bowser re-joined the meeting.*

## 20. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

### 20:1 Byelaw Applications

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

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| LMDB/LDC/2022/020 | Installation of a penstock and associated compound within the Board maintained Cow Marsh Drain to land adjacent Phillips 66, Tetney Oil Terminal, Tetney Lock Road at National Grid Reference 532538 - 401798, in the parish of Tetney.   |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/038 | Increase in flows surface water connection via a flow control chamber to the Board maintained culverted watercourse Church Lane Drain Branch from site adjacent Stanley Avenue at National Grid Reference 550406 - 384611 in the parish of Mablethorpe and Sutton.  |
| LMDB/LDC/2022/048 | Installation of a new 225mm HPPE water main by directional drilling method beneath the Board maintained Trusthorpe Insough Drain East, adjacent Mill Field at National Grid Reference 551210 - 383951 and digging of a temporary trial inspection pit within 9 metres but no closer than 6 metres of the Board maintained Trusthorpe Pumping Drain on Grift Bank at National Grid Reference 551199 - 384019, in the parish of Trusthorpe. |
| LMDB/LDC/2023/004 | Replacement of existing overhead power line which crosses the Board maintained John Henley's Drain to provide a vertical clearance in excess of 10 metres, adjacent to Manor Farm, at National Grid Reference 555722 - 368390 in the parish of Ingoldmells.   |

LMDB/LDC/2023/028 Site investigation works including bore holes in close proximity to the Board maintained Mardyke Drain, at Elm House Farm, Main Road, National Grid Reference 545839 - 391652 in the parish of Saltfleetby.

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20:2 Section 23 Applications

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

LMDB/LDC/2023/005 Culverting of a section of riparian watercourse for 300 linear metres using 450mm diameter twinwall pvc pipe at field adjacent Mermaid Caravan Site, Seaholme Road between National Grid Reference 550052 - 383850 and 550299 - 384022, in the parish of Mablethorpe and Sutton.

LMDB/LDC/2023/027 Installation of headwall structure and discharge of treated foul water to riparian watercourse adjacent Rivulet Leisure Park, Low Road, at National Grid Reference 551716 - 362299 in the parish of Croft.

LMDB/LDC/2023/029 Installation of a 300mm diameter twinwall plastic culvert pipes within riparian watercourse at land adjacent to Creekside Family Camping, at National Grid Reference 554524 - 375928 in the parish of Anderby.

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The following Section 23 applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority;

LMDB/LDC/2023/001 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531619 - 375517, 531598 - 375592 and 531616 - 375553, on land to the South-East of Lowfield Lane, Glebe Farm, in the parish of Belchford.

LMDB/LDC/2023/002 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531619 - 375517, 531598 - 375592 and 531616 - 375553, on land to the South-East of Lowfield Lane, Glebe Farm, in the parish of Belchford.

LMDB/LDC/2023/003 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531619 - 375517, 531598 - 375592 and 531616 - 375553, on land to the South-East of Lowfield Lane, Glebe Farm, in the parish of Belchford.

LMDB/LDC/2023/006 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 542554 - 370883, 542589 - 370853 and 542636 - 370815, on land at Fordington Holt, Skegness Road, in the parish of Skendleby.

- LMDB/LDC/2023/007 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 542554 - 370883, 542589 - 370853 and 542636 - 370815, on land at Fordington Holt, Skegness Road, in the parish of Skendleby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/008 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 542554 - 370883, 542589 - 370853 and 542636 - 370815, on land at Fordington Holt, Skegness Road, in the parish of Skendleby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/009 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531071 - 375159 and 531141 - 375144, on land to the South-East of Lowfield Lane, Glebe Farm, in the parish of Belchford.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/010 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531071 - 375159 and 531141 - 375144, on land to the South-East of Lowfield Lane, Glebe Farm, in the parish of Belchford.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/011 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 530975 - 374834, 531029 - 374856, 531102 - 374887 and 531152 - 374902 on land to the South-East of Lowfield Lane, Glebe Farm, in the parish of Belchford.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/012 The installation of a leaky barrier within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531029 - 374856, land at Fordington Holt, Skegness Road, in the parish of Skendleby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/013 The installation of a leaky barrier within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531102 — 374887, land at Fordington Holt, Skegness Road, in the parish of Skendleby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/014 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 534836 - 368816, 534887 - 368757, 535245 - 368498 and 535286 - 368492, on farmland to the East of Water Lane, Eastfield Farm, in the parish of Lusby and Winceby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/015 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 534836 - 368816, 534887 - 368757, 535245 - 368498 and 535286 - 368492, on farmland to the East of Water Lane, Eastfield Farm, in the parish of Lusby and Winceby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/016 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 534836 - 368816, 534887 - 368757, 535245 - 368498 and 535286 - 368492, on farmland to the East of Water Lane, Eastfield Farm, in the parish of Lusby and Winceby.

- LMDB/LDC/2023/017 The installation of leaky barriers within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 534836 - 368816, 534887 - 368757, 535245 - 368498 and 535286 - 368492, on farmland to the East of Water Lane, Eastfield Farm, in the parish of Lusby and Winceby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/018 The installation of a leaky barrier within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 534900 - 368585, on farmland to the East of Water Lane, Eastfield Farm, in the parish of Lusby and Winceby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/019 The installation of a leaky barrier within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 535035 - 368492, on farmland to the East of Water Lane, Eastfield Farm, in the parish of Lusby and Winceby.
- LMDB/LDC/2023/020 The installation of a leaky barrier within a riparian watercourse at National Grid Reference 531152 - 374902, land at Fordington Holt, Skegness Road, in the parish of Skendleby.

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20:3 Planning Applications

Officers had consulted on a further 32 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were provided.

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21. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

The Lincolnshire Branch Annual General Meeting would be held on 20th April 2023 and include a site visit, members were asked to let officers know if they wished to attend.

ADA National were looking for candidates to join the Policy and Finance Committee or the Technical and Environment Committee, expressions of interest were to be submitted by Friday, 31st March 2023.

Flood and Coast 2023 would be held on the 6th-8th June 2023 at Telford International Centre with a limited number of free spaces available for Internal Drainage Boards and Local Authorities.

The Flood and Water Live 2023 working demonstration would be held on 5th and 6th July 2023 at Carrington, near Boston.

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22. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Members had been asked to review and update their Declaration of Interest forms. It was essential that this was completed annually for good governance and was something reviewed by the Internal Auditor. Those who had not completed this were asked to do so as soon as possible.

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23. STAFFING

The Chief Executive reported that the Board was advertising for an Environmental Officer to work alongside the current Environmental Officer, taking on the role fully in April 2024 following his retirement. This would allow the new employee time to learn how the Boards worked.

The Isle of Axholme board were also recruiting for an Operations Manager.

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24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN