

LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at Great Carlton Village Hall and via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 28th September 2022.

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

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

- * *In attendance*
v *Attended virtually*

Members observed a minutes silence in honour of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W. Cooper and Cllrs D. Andrews, S. Dennis, D. Edgington and Mrs W. Bowkett.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr R.N. Crust declared an interest in Agenda Item 17 Section 23 Applications.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon declared an interest in Agenda Item 17 Planning Applications.

Mr G.A. Crust declared an interest in Agenda Item 9 Operations (purchase of 4x4).

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Corporate Services Manager would update on Heritage Open Days.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 1652 to 1666)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5:1 Page 1653, Matters Arising

Mr D.R. Tagg queried if Officers had engaged with the Council yet as the annual meetings used to promote integration. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Vice-Chairman was liaising to arrange a bespoke tour for council officers, in addition to the proposed November Board Tour. Mr S.W. Eyre commented that liaison was very important at this time but the Board could only invite them.

5:2 Page 1654, Operations 7:5 Environment Agency Works

The Chief Executive had contacted the Environment Agency regarding Maintenance and this would be covered in more detail under Agenda Item 14.

5:3 Page 1656, Asset Renewal - Coastal Stations

An update on additional costs would be covered under Asset Renewal report.

5:3 Page 1662, Environment Agency and Partnership Matters

The Corporate Services Manager met with the Environment Agency during the previous week to discuss short-term and longer-term plans regarding joint accommodation. The lease on Environment Agency's Manby Office would expire at the end of March 2023. The Corporate Services Manager emphasised that although the Board was unable to assist in the short-term they would consider longer-term plans to co-locate, however, a financial commitment was required from the Environment Agency before the Board undertook any works.

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6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman queried if an update on works could be included in the County Council or District Council newsletters. The Chief Executive stated this had been undertaken previously and Officers would approach East Lindsey District Council.

In response to Mr D.R. Tagg, the Chief Executive suggested that the Board tour would be of the major pumping station projects, with a further tour in Summer 2023 to view maintenance work and machinery.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be adopted by the Board.
- (b) That the Board hold a tour of inspection at the AGM in November.

7. INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

The Chief Executive updated members on the current pressures faced by the Board, particularly in relation to energy prices. Seventeen of the Board's major stations were out of contract. Current day rates were moving from 17p/KwH to between 50 pence and 117 pence per KwH. Officers had calculated the costs for a dry year and a wet year which, even with

the government subsidy, represented a significant rise. Officers expected that the 21 pence per unit cap would actually be around 50 pence cost to the Board. The current estimate for all 30 stations was £303,000, officers had calculated that on the new rates for the 17 major stations in a dry year costs would be £371,000 and £1,069,000 in a wet year. The 13 smaller stations in a typical year accounted for 10% of the annual budget.

IDB's needed their voice to be heard by Government and the Chief Executive had written to ADA who discussed the issue with DEFRA. Both the Chief Executive and Witham and Humber Board's Chief Executive had raised the issue at the ADA Policy and Finance Meeting.

Other costs were also increasing with the costs of works at the Costal Pumping stations increasing significantly and although Officers were trying to offset this with increased grant funding the Board contribution would still increase.

The impact upon Board finances would be considerable and Officers were looking at ways to offset anticipated cost increases costs. The Board could only borrow from the Public Works Loan Board for Capital Refurbishment Projects, were not allowed to have a trading arm to generate income, were unable to initiate a Bellwin Claim following a Flood Event and did not have access to the substantial Flood Recovery reserves available to the Environment Agency.

In a worst-case scenario, the Board might have to consider turning off pumps placing property, land and businesses at risk of flooding as a result of the exponential increase in energy costs/ inflation. The Chief Executive undertook to approach ADA with details of funds, likely rate increases, risks and the views of the Board. He would also engage with MPs and Councils on the issue.

Cllr T. Ashton pointed out that energy costs were on the radar of ELDC and other Lincolnshire Councils and as he had a meeting scheduled with the S151 Officer, it would be useful to have those figures. He considered that this represented the biggest single risk to IDB in that they needed to be able to raise money but also to councils as they would receive a corresponding increase Special Levy. He further stated, that there was no doubt in minds of all council officers that this was serious and there was complete understanding of the important work IDBs do and there was a willingness to work together. He was optimistic this may get government to take finances seriously, IDBs have managed to get by with small increases and it took a situation such as this to bring it into focus.

Mr R. Crust commented that tours should be arranged as soon as possible and invite MPs. Cllr T. Aldridge offered support liaising with the council officers for attendance.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon commented that this was a very serious situation and that here and now the Board needed to decide what to do. To buy electricity as needed based on the market rate was right given that prices were starting to decrease, but it would remain an issue for future planning.

The Chief Executive commented that many agricultural businesses were struggling with their own energy bills so increasing Drainage Rates only added to the pressure. The industry required a major intervention to prevent excessive increases.

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8. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that the Consortium continued to follow Government Covid-19 guidance with advisory measures in place to protect staff.

There were two incidents in the Lindsey Marsh Board area since the last meeting, and although both resulted in minor injuries one had the potential to be serious. Safe systems of work had been reviewed and reissued following the incident.

The annual review of the Health and Safety Policy had taken place with the Safe Systems of Work and Risk Assessments to be reviewed before the end of October.

RECEIVED

9. OPERATIONS REPORT

9:2 Summer Maintenance Works

Summer maintenance work was progressing well due to the dry weather with around 49% of flailing complete. Weedcutting was 33% complete however Operatives had noted that the cutting blades had jammed more frequently due to the lack of moisture in the watercourses which had delayed the normal rate of progress.

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9:2 Winter Maintenance Works

The 2022/23 winter works programme totalled 22,932 meters of reforming, with the proposed 2023/24 programme totalling 23,044 meters. Officers were now compiling the outline programme for 2024/25.

Emergency repairs were planned on Orby South Drain, Old River Lymn and Fern Farm Drain.

RECEIVED

9:3 Construction Works

Work on Lagoons C and D on the Steeping River Relief Channel was nearly complete, with land due to be reinstated by the end of the year.

Work on phase two of Willoughby East flood relief scheme would restart on the 7th November and be completed by early December; this work was delayed due to road closure restrictions.

Culverting work was required on Rotten Row Theddlethorpe due to failure of existing culverts and inconsistent invert levels which were affecting water conveyance.

Culverting works would also be completed on Grove Road Theddlethorpe to improve health and safety concerns caused by low power lines and roadside working.

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9:4 Rechargeable Works

Weedcutting work had been undertaken in Fulstow and Tetney and would be recharged.

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9:5 Plant and Equipment

(a) Replacement Vans

Replacement vans were ordered in November 2021. There had been unforeseen delays but the supplier had indicated that the vans were in the final build stage and delivery was expected in October 2022.

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(b) Trailer Weighing Systems

The trailer weighing system required to ensure highway regulations had been installed, Topcon units were purchased and fitted to all tractors at a cost of £1,572 each. The system could be calibrated to work in conjunction with five separate trailers and had a weighing accuracy of within 3%.

RECEIVED

(c) Weedbaskets

The Board's Workshop Operative had refurbished several Weedbaskets at a significantly lower cost than purchasing new. Following discussions with suppliers around common faults and failures it was noted that some weed baskets were not rated to operate on machines weighing above 16 tonnes. Herder had introduced a new heavy-duty basket specifically designed for use with heavier machines and the new heavy-duty basket was still within the allocated budget of £10,000. It was recommended that the Board purchase a new heavy duty weed basket at a total cost of £9,895. The total cost could be reduced further to £8,595 should the Board approve the trade in of the weedboat side knife.

RESOLVED

That the Board purchase a heavy duty weedbasket at a cost of £9,895, less trade in of the weedboat side knife at £1,300.

(d) Resident Engineer 4x4

A vehicle was required for the Resident Engineer. The hire vehicle was currently provided with costs to date of £1,220. The Board had two budgets totalling £26,500 which were previously approved for the purchase of a new starter vehicle (£15,000) and a small van (£11,500). Officers recommend that the two budgets be combined and used to purchase a pickup truck. The current market prices were around £29,000 for a new 4x4 with delivery times in the region of 9-12 months therefore officers recommend the Board consider purchasing a used vehicle. Current prices for 3-4 year old second-hand vehicle were in the region of £25-26,000. Mr S.W. Eyre supported the purchase stating that vehicle hire was a wasted funds.

In response to Mr R.H. Needham the Senior Operations Manager confirmed that a 4x4 was needed for the role and it must be a commercial vehicle. In response to further questions from members, the Finance Manager explained the P11D and tax implications for use of non-commercial vehicles.

Cllr D. McNally suggested that the vehicle be no older than 4 or 5 years.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon queried the progress of the Toyota Hilux order placed previously. The Senior Operations Manager confirmed delivery was expected in Feb/March 2023 but may be delayed.

Mr D.R. Tagg queried if a new vehicle at £28-29,000 would be more cost effective than 4 year old at £25-26,000. The Senior Operations Manager commented that second hand prices were very high at the moment and that the market was very fast moving with very limited availability.

Mr Pridgeon proposed that the recommendation be amended to state the vehicle was to be no older than 5 years.

RESOLVED

That the Board delegate authority to the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman of Plant and Compensation Committee and the Chief Executive to approve the purchase of a 4x4 up to a value of £26,500.

(e) Mobile Pump

The Board's 6" Betsy mobile pump was 15 years old and had become unreliable with significant repair costs. A like for like replacement would cost in the region of £40,000. Officers therefore recommended that members consider the purchase of a second-hand pump. Three suppliers were approached and the Stuart Group were the only company able to offer a suitable replacement within the £25,000 budget. Costs quoted ranged from £7,995 to £20,185.

Mr D.R. Tagg commented that he disagreed with the purchase of a second-hand pump. The Senior Operations Manager pointed out that the EA had sold all of their Betsy pumps. Mr Tagg queried if officers expected the new pump to last. The Senior Operations Manager stated that Isle of Axholme Board had one and it performed well. Mr P.W. Pridgeon queried if there would be an issued with the 8 inch pump to 6 inch coupling and the Senior Operations Manager stated that the manufacturer preferred to have a bigger pump to pipe.

The Senior Operations Manager reported that the supplier was interested in purchase of the Board's Betsy and he expected it to obtain a good value. Mr Needham asked why we were looking to purchase a 10 year old pump and the value/quality of it particularly taking into consideration that the company was eager to purchase the Board's old pump.

In response to the Chief Executive the Senior Operations Manager stated that Godwin pumps cost in the region of £65,000 new and were widely considered to be an improvement on the Betsy.

The Chairman queried if they were fish friendly and the Senior Operations Manager undertook to check this.

In response to Mr R. Crust the Senior Operations Manager stated he would clarify if the warranty was 3years/750 hours or up to 750hrs.

Mr D.R. Tagg suggested the Board approve provided the guarantee was obtained.

RESOLVED

Resolved that the Board purchase a 2012 Godwin CD200M pump at a cost of £20,185.

(f) Pile Hammer/Extractor

The Board previously hired in pile hammers for sheet piling works. Over the last three years hire costs had risen to in excess of £1,300 per week with availability becoming an issue. Steel costs had risen by 215% since 2020 and purchase of a pile hammer would help prolong the life of the Board's sheet piles, ensure that the correct plant was always available and that the works were carried out in the safest manner possible. Officers recommended the purchase of a hydraulic pile hammer/extractor at a cost of £18,550 against the approved budget of £20,000. Only two quotes had been returned. The recommended unit was fully refurbished to an as new condition and the price included installation. Whilst the other quote was cheaper the unit was 12 years old and installation were an additional cost.

RESOLVED

Resolved that the Board purchase a 2014 Dawson EMV 300 at a cost of £18,550.

9:6 Plant Disposals

In 2015 the Board purchased a weedboat side knife for Public Sector Co-operation Agreement works. This had only had minimal use and was deemed surplus to requirements. A trade-in price of £1,300 had been offered against the heavy duty weedbasket purchase which Officers considered a fair price.

RESOLVED

That the Board trade in the weedboat side knife at a value of £1,300.

9:7 Rainfall

Rainfall figures and pump run hours were presented for members information.

RECEIVED

10. COMPENSATION

A schedule of compensation payments totalling £11,845.32 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 £11,845.32 be approved.

11. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Senior Engineer gave the following updates:

11:1 Coastal Pumping Stations Refurbishment - Trusthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells and Salfleet (LM19351, LM19304, LM20305 and LM20306)

(a) Salfleet Pumping Station

Refurbish work had commenced and temporary over pumping had been installed. Phase one of the asbestos removal was now complete and around 50% of the existing pump and pipework removed. The main electrical connection was due to be completed on the by the end of September 2022. The existing control panel had been removed and the new panel was ready for installation. Basement demolition and structural modifications, to enable the new pump installation, was planned to commence on the 26th September 2022. Installation of the new fish friendly pumps was scheduled for 14th November 2022.

The application for additional FDGiA was progressing and Officers expected to be able to draw down the £1.2 Million funding during late October.

The Chief Executive commented that the new fish friendly pumps were larger than the old ones which made the project complex compared to the traditional replacement of new for old.

In response to Mr R.H. Needham, the Senior Engineer confirmed that the system would take topwater from South Drain and Greyfleet which should reduce the pressure on lowland systems. Mr Needham commented that with the increased development in Louth there would be additional pressure on the Greyfleet and pointed out that there was still a lack of Environment Agency (EA) maintenance on the section up to Pickhill Bridge. The Engineer would discuss this with the EA.

RECEIVED

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

The Flood Risk Activity Permit from the Environment Agency had been approved and works would commence once construction designs were finalised. It was expected this part of the scheme would be completed by 2nd December 2022.

RECEIVED

(c) Gents Canal to Mardyke Connection

A secondary connection linking Gents Canal to the Mardyke had been identified. Calculations to check the hydraulic flow, to ascertain if these works were required, were being undertaken. This element of the work was removed from the civils contract and once design work was complete it would be re-tendered.

(d) Trusthorpe Pumping Station

Temporary over pumping had been installed and the pumping basin drained to enable cleaning, pile inspection and painting. The original pumps remain in an operational state while officers determine enhancements to the temporary pumps to enable them to cope with a heavy rainfall event. It was possible pump replacement may be delayed until Spring 2023.

The application for additional FDGiA was progressing with the Environment Agency. Financial and technical assurance had been met and Officers awaited the final approval letter to enable the drawdown of funds.

There were some difficulties with the exchange rate mechanism for international payments resulting in the Contractor receiving less than they expected and Officers were reviewing the mechanism and were considering a shared pain/gain

method to ensure that neither the Board nor the Contractor met the full difference.

In response to Cllr A.J. Howard the Senior Engineer confirmed that the temporary pumping capacity was 600l/s which was sufficient to manage the day to day flows. The current capacity was 5.4 cumecs so this was significantly lower. To increase temporary pumping to 3 cumecs would cost an additional £800,000. The engineering team were determining the best option before proceeding.

RECEIVED

(e) Ingoldmells Pumping Station

An order for £25,000 had been placed to commence design works for the new fish friendly pumps. The Outline Business Case (OBC) had been updated to reflect initial comments received from the local area Environment Agency team. The current funding position was £327,786 Board and £2,185,271 FDGiA. The scheme costs are anticipated to be £1,858,827 with a contingency allowance of £654,230, total £2,513,057. The contingency was increased due to current market conditions.

Within the Board's five year plan, contributions to this scheme totalled £425,000, £97,214 more than required to support the funding application. Officers proposed to return £75,000 back to the pumping station reserve account and £22,214 to Anderby Pumping Station.

RESOLVED

That the Board approve the transfer of £97,214 from this scheme, with £75,000 going to the pumping station reserve and £22,214 to the Anderby Pumping Station Refurbishment.

(f) Anderby Pumping Station

An order for £25,000 had been placed to commence design works for the new fish friendly pumps. Divers had been engaged to verify the pump chamber dimensions which would allow the pump designs to be finalised. The OBC had been formally submitted and signed off locally and was due to go to the National Project Approval Service (NPAS) team.

The funding position was £437,358 Board and £1,704,430 FDGiA. The scheme costs were anticipated to be £1,522,567 with a contingency allowance of £584,221, total £2,141,788. Within the current five year plan, contributions to this scheme totalled £415,000, £22,358 less than required to support the funding application. It was proposed to increase the Board's 2023/24 allocation to the project from £30,000 to £31,000 in addition to the £22,214 to be transferred from the Ingoldmells project.

(g) Expenditure to date

Costs to date were;

Pumping Station	Committed Expenditure	Estimated scheme costs (Total)
Saltfleet (LM19351)	£4,063,440	£4,411,900
Trusthorpe (LM19304)	£1,493,911	£1,849,692
Ingoldmells (LM20305)	£59,564	£2,513,057
Anderby (LM20306)	£80,123	£2,141,788

Cllr T. Ashton left the meeting.

11:2 Wyche Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM20304)

Quotes from three companies were received for the refurbishment of the pumps and ranged from £26,770 to £35,494.

The delivery dates on the cheapest tender were a concern and risked the pumps being out for a prolonged duration. Officers therefore proposed to accept the tender from North Lincs Engineering at a cost of £28,720 who had in the past provided a prompt and professional service. Costs to date were £22,903 against the approved budget of £41,600. The remaining budget on the project was £18,697 resulting in a budget shortfall. Officers recommended the transfer of £20,000 from the Asset Renewal budget (LM22451) to cover the shortfall.

RESOLVED

- (a) That £20,000 be transferred from the Asset Renewal budget (LM22451).
- (b) That the contract for pump refurbishment be awarded to North Lincs Engineering at a cost of £28,720.

11:3 Covenham Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM19300)

The new electrical control panel and two new pumps had been installed and final commissioning would be complete by the end of September 2022. Committed costs to date were £46,504 against the approved budget of £85,142. Final out-turn costs for the scheme would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

RECEIVED

11:4 Theddlethorpe Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM18306)

Three companies were approached to supply and fit flood resilience gates to the doors. Two quotes had been received and a third was expected to arrive shortly. The existing chain link fence was due to be replaced with palisade and quotes were being sought. It was planned to install glass fibre mesh over the existing concrete planks on the eastern pump intake and quotes for this work were being sought. As an alternative option, a quote for steel mesh was also being obtained.

Costs to date are £427,177 against the approved budget of £676,400. Additional flood resilience measures and been identified and an additional claim for FDGiA was being prepared to release the necessary funds. The Environment Agency had indicated that up to £300,000 grant funding was available through the existing project.

Mr T.H. Heys commented that work had been ongoing for some time he was concerned costs could delay completion further. The Senior Engineer reported that there had been some progress, although some work could not be completed until spring/summer 2023. The leak from the EA watercourse had been grouted and would be monitored to ensure it was successful. Officers would progress what work they could over winter but the scheme should be complete once the piles were painted in the spring/summer.

RECEIVED

11:5 Boygriff Pumping Station Refurbishment (LM17352)

As part of works to reinstate and upgrade the gravity outfall a new de-silting pump to flush the gravity outfall automatically was being designed. Officers were finalising construction drawings in consultation with the Operations team. Costs to date were £691,776 against the approved budget of £803,000.

An additional claim for FDGiA was being prepared to cover the flood resilience work to allow release of the necessary funds. The Environment Agency had indicated up to £200,000 grant funding was available through the existing project.

Work at bleak house doors was ongoing with an application made for power installation so level monitoring could be installed. There were also plans to alter the connection where access was restricted. The Board may need to claim additional funding for the work.

RECEIVED

11:6 Gayton Engine Museum - Subsidence

During the excessively dry summer, further ground shrinkage had occurred causing additional movement of the external wall. A prop was installed by the Board's DLO to prevent it from collapsing until remedial works were completed.

Due to the increased movement, a second structural survey was commissioned and the report was expected within the next two weeks. The recommendations would be reported to the next Board meeting.

RECEIVED

11:7 Future Works Programme Update

11:7:1 Background

Since 2019, the Water Management Consortium had developed an extremely ambitious and varied programme of works for the period ending March 2025. As outlined to the Consortium Committee in July, officers sought to break this programme down into more manageable and clearly prioritised work packages to improve delivery and better allocate resource across the programme.

11:7:2 Programme Work Packages

The programme work packages consisted of:

- (a) The **close-down** programme – projects which were largely complete, but where final snagging and completion had been delayed or put back because of pressure elsewhere in the system.
- (b) The **on-site** programme – major projects already on site or on the verge of being on site (e.g. Saltfleet, Trusthorpe).
- (c) The **planned** programme – schemes and works anticipated for some time, where planning and modelling work may have been undertaken but the scheme had not yet commenced (eg Pumping station refurbishments and culverting works).
- (d) The **future** programme – works not yet commenced but scheduled to be largely delivered by March 2025.

Officers had explored options for completing or accelerating delivery where appropriate. This involved using a mix of resources, including in-house, external consultancy and partnership contributions from other organisations, whilst also packaging groups of projects together to reduce the bureaucratic process and speed up delivery.

There was precedent in other IDB programmes for this approach (for example the Water Management Alliance's programme in Norfolk). There was a strong preference at national level for a programme approach to maximise benefits and efficiencies and ensure that the national flood risk grant in aid allocation was fully spent by the end of current six-year programme.

The Consortium was operating at a scale and scope that, with effective grouping and co-ordination of works, could enable a strategic contribution to be evidenced in water and environmental management across a significant geography.

11:7:3 Means of Delivery

The scale and scope of the Consortium programme meant that some elements were deliverable in-house, however, wider effective delivery would also require the use of external resource. Framework contractors to supplement officer resource, were being considered for elements of the programmed planned for 2023-24. The use of established frameworks which had already completed procurement compliance exercises and pricing comparisons provided access to resources that could deliver relatively quickly without the lead in times for procurement that would be necessary in taking an in-house and project-by-project approach.

Officers were liaising with Scape consultancy framework to explore the potential for rapid delivery of two long-anticipated flood alleviation schemes in the Trent Valley area, as well as the potential for delivering a wider range of pumping station refurbishments. In the slightly longer term, the capacity to develop, under the Consortium's direction, larger scale Outline Business Cases packaging multiple future projects together was also being considered.

There was also further potential support available to Risk Management Authorities through the Environment Agency's approved framework, now referred to the Next Generation Supplier (NGS) Framework and again this would be considered.

11:7:4 Large Scale Outline Business Cases

Nationally, there was considerable interest in multiplying the wider benefits of flood risk and water level management work. Grouping projects together was increasingly seen as a means to achieve this, while the resulting larger scale grant funding also increased flexibility in delivering individual projects which might not attract sufficient funding were they to be considered in isolation.

Officers estimate that an OBC of this nature for the Lindsey Marsh geography for delivery in 2024-25 would represent a value of at least £24m, with a similar scale achievable for the Trent Valley, Isle and Doncaster East Boards as a single programme.

RECEIVED

12. FINANCE

The Finance Manager presented the attached report.

12:1 Management Accounts for the Period ending 31st July 2022

The current estimated surplus budget was £120,016.03 which was an increase on the originally estimated surplus of £46,112. However, the Finance Manager stated this did not include any potential electricity price increases as the full impact was still to be calculated. Electricity was currently £16,000 under budget.

RESOLVED

That the Management Accounts for the period ending 31st July 2022 be approved.

12:2 Transfer of Budgets for Approval

The Finance Manager presented a summary of budget transfers, which were approved under the Asset Renewal and Refurbishment agenda item, for members information.

RECEIVED

12:3 Cash Reserves and Investments as at 31st July 2022

The Finance Manager reported that the Board had £6,465,144.84 held across five accounts. In response to Cllr W. Parkinson she confirmed that Officers were reviewing bank accounts and looking at different organisations for suitable investments with minimal risk. However, she highlighted that much of the funds were due to be spent and could not be locked away in investments. Mr D.R. Tagg commented that this may be easier when interest rates rose as there would be more demand. The Finance Manager stated she hoped availability of accounts would increase but finding low or non-risk investments was difficult. Cllr A.J. Howard stated that the Lincolnshire Councils used the CCLA investment firm, the Finance Manager would discuss this with him for further details following the meeting.

RESOLVED

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

12:4 Conclusion of Audit

The Board had received an unqualified audit.

RECEIVED

12:5 Payments over £500

RESOLVED

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

13. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

As at 31st August 2022 a total of £2,149,612.16 (51.2%) had been collected in respect of drainage rates and special levies had been collected in full.

Of the £3,683.73 outstanding at the 31st March 2022 22 accounts totalling £3,591.00 had been collected.

RECEIVED

14. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

14:1 River Steeping Catchment - Dredging Project (LM20901)

Lagoon C had been dismantled and returned to agricultural land with a view to installing under drainage at the end of the year or in early 2023. Expenditure to date was £1,354,130 against the revised budget of £1,492,709.

The Chief Executive reported that there was still some work to do on the River Steeping and the Board had been asked to undertake a survey on the culverts under the watercourse at Thorpe Culvert. Officers had concerns about the structural integrity of the Environment Agency (EA) owned culverts and the possible flood risk to Witham Fourth area should they fail. Given the litigious nature of the EA, it was Officers' view that the EA needed to undertake the work and assess the liability and risk.

14:2 Environment Agency (EA) Works

Quotations for the Board to undertake maintenance works via the local PSCA agreement had been sent to the EA. Confirmation of the £32,000 quotation for works on Woldgrift Drain, Orby Drain, Willoughby High, Wold Drain was awaited.

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15. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

15:1 Barn Owl Monitoring

Ten nest boxes had been used by breeding Barn Owls with 19 chicks having leg rings applied. Two boxes were used by roosting Barn Owls, and eight boxes had been used by kestrels with 19 chicks present, while others had already fledged. Jackdaws and stock doves were also using the nest boxes.

15:2 Wildlife Recording

The Board initiated wildlife recording by operational staff in 2006. This was required for the Badger Licensing and was desirable for other species particularly water voles as it evidenced that the Board's maintenance policy was not having an adverse impact on species. 11,390 records had been collected by Operatives.

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16. BYELAW APPLICATION AND CONTRAVENTION

16:1 Byelaw Application - Installation of a HV cable routing alongside and crossing the Board maintained Irby School Drain

It had come to Officers' attention that as part of a proposed Solar Farm in Irby in the Marsh, a request for permission of route an HV mains supply cable alongside the Board maintained Irby School Drain was likely to be submitted. The majority of the cable would be outside the nine metre Byelaw distance but a 15 metre section encroached within six metres. There was also an undercrossing of the watercourse

which met the Board's standard requirements. A consent application had not been submitted, however, officers were aware that planned construction timescales and determination of the application would be required prior to the next meeting. Officers asked that the Board grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Senior Engineer to determine the application.

Mr S.W. Eyre commented that the cable should be kept away from the watercourse. The Senior Engineer confirmed this was generally the case but there was one small section where this distance was not possible.

RESOLVED

That the Board grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive and Senior Engineer to determine the application for a HV main supply cable within six metres of the Board maintained Irby School Drain.

16:2 Byelaw Contravention - Installation of a LV cable routing alongside and crossing of the Board maintained Hogsthorpe South End Sewer Branch.

Officers had been made aware that Western Power Distribution had installed a cable within two metres of a Board watercourse and had crossed Hogsthorpe South End Sewer Branch at Llistoft Lane, Hogsthorpe without the Board's Consent. The route was within the verge between the top of the bank and Llistoft Lane for approximately 90 metres and at a depth of 750mm. It then crossed the watercourse at a culvert previously installed for service crossings to serve an existing property. The Operations Team was consulted and the location of the installed cable was unlikely to have any impact on the Board's operations.

It was recommended that no further action be taken, and that the contravention be noted as known. Officers would write to Western Power Distribution expressing disappointment that the Board were not consulted prior to the works being undertaken. The Senior Engineer reported that generally Western Power were proactive and consulted the Board, they had been very apologetic and embarrassed by the contravention.

RESOLVED

That the Board note the byelaw contravention on Hogsthorpe South End Sewer Branch.

17. DELEGATED MATTERS - PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

17:1 Byelaw Applications

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

LMDB/LDC/2022/016 Installation of a cable bridge crossing the Board maintained Woofen Drain North at the Angus Energy Site, National Grid Reference 542525 - 391373 in the parish of South Cockerington.

LMDB/LDC/2022/024 Installation of an outfall structure and increase in flows to the Orby Drain from a new dwelling at site adjacent Glenroy, Skegness Road at National Grid Reference 555428 - 372031 in the Parish of Chapel St Leonards.

LMDB/LDC/2022/026 Installation of new 355mm water main by directional drilling method and removal of existing water main and pipe bridge crossing the Board maintained Anderby Main Drain adjacent the Bridge Crossing at National Grid Reference 551167 - 373883 in the Parish of Mumby.

RECEIVED

17:2 Section 23 Applications

The following 23 applications had been dealt with on behalf of the Board since the last meeting.

LMDB/LDC/2021/046 Installation of approximately 15 linear meters of 300mm diameter twinwall perforated pipe within a riparian watercourse at Bluebell Lodge, North End Lane, Saltfleetby at National Grid Reference 542601 - 389972 within the parish of Saltfleetby.

LMDB/LDC/2021/051 The installation of 6 linear meters of 600mm diameter pipe in a riparian watercourse in the parish of Ingoldmells at National Grid Reference 555537 - 369353.

LMDB/LDC/2022/017 Installation of a 600mm diameter twin wall pvc culvert pipe for approximately 21 metres within a Riparian watercourse to the rear of 185 Eastfield Road, Louth at National Grid Reference 534330 - 388240 in the parish of Louth.

LMDB/LDC/2022/023 Discharge of treated foul waste via a package treatment plant to a riparian watercourse adjacent to The Bungalows, Bank Farm, Huttoft Bank, Huttoft at National Grid Reference 554249 - 377537 in the parish of Huttoft.

LMDB/LDC/2022/029 Infilling of riparian watercourse for approximately 167 metres at field adjacent Ings Lane, Saltfleetby between the National Grid References 542364 - 389661 to 542449 - 389463 in the Parish of Saltfleetby.

The following application had been dealt with on behalf of the Lead Local Flood Authority:

LMDB/LDC/2022/018 Installation of 48 linear metres of 300mm diameter twin wall pvc culvert pipe within a Riparian watercourse at the junction of the A157 Gayton Top towards Gayton Le Marsh village starting at National Grid Reference 541808 - 383049 in the Parish of Gayton Le Marsh.

LMDB/LDC/2022/022 Installation of a 300mm twin wall perforated pvc culvert pipe for approximately 12 metres within a riparian watercourse to the rear of 18 Househams Lane, Legbourne at National Grid Reference in the Parish of Legbourne.

LMDB/LDC/2022/025 Installation of temporary trench sheeting, installation of gabion baskets and rock fill for scour protection and removal of silt deposits from riparian watercourse beneath Westgate Bridge, Louth at National Grid Reference 532111 - 387233 in the Parish of Louth.

RECEIVED

17:3 Planning Applications

Officers had objected to two planning applications since the last meeting:

Application N/112/00783/22 at Maltby Le Marsh for 6 Holiday lodges, formation of fishing pond and access road. The Board had objected to the planning application as insufficient information had been provided on the impact that the application will have on Board maintained Ingham's Sewer. Officers were investigating allegations of works commencing on site, potentially in close proximity to the Board's watercourse. The application was un-determined and the decision was awaited.

Application S/194/00690/22 at Wainfleet for extension and alterations to an existing dwelling. The Board had objected to the planning application as the plans provided indicate the proposed garage would be sited on top of the Board's culverted Wainfleet Common Drain. The application had subsequently been granted permission by East Lindsey District Council. Contact would be made with the applicant, advising of the comments made on the planning application and the need to comply with the Board's requirements if consent is to be granted.

Officers had consulted on a further 85 planning applications since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage were provided.

RECEIVED

18. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

A Notice of Election had been published on the Board's website and Nomination Papers were due for return by 12 noon on Friday, 30th September 2022. This was the last meeting of the current Board and two members (Mr T.H. Heys and Mr P.W. Pridgeon) would not be standing for re-election.

RECEIVED

19. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES

The Chief Executive gave an update on the Policy and Finance Committee at which, attendees had been asked to comment on the DRAFT 'Your Watercourse: Rights and Roles' document which covered riparian ownership. Defra said it covered agriculture, countryside and towns but that it contained a photograph of the River Idle which as an EA watercourse, had a number of issues and had flooded three adjoining SSSIs and several landowners on a regular basis. He stated that the EA needed to maintain their own watercourses before they highlighted the responsibilities of riparian owners. A link to which would be sent to members. He had also made a point on the EA asset review and enquired with DEFRA and the EA, if the EA were going to maintain watercourses properly in areas of special drainage need, requesting a joint statement on maintenance from Defra and EA for the next meeting.

He also reported that ADA subscriptions were to increase by 4%

RECEIVED

20. POLICY REVIEW

Policies were being reviewed across the Consortium to ensure compliance with legislation and ensure best practice. Where possible, joint policies would be adopted to improve consistency. The Members Code of Conduct had been reviewed and compared to ADA/DEFRA Model and there were no recommended changes; a copy of the updated policy with Doncaster East IDB added was circulated to members.

A DRAFT Maintenance Policy was being prepared to cover summer maintenance (weedcutting and flailing), winter works (desilting and reforming), and culvert inspection/cleaning. The Policy would cover maintenance periods, detailing how the work was undertaken, clarify the procedure to be followed to gain access to land, how much and when compensation was payable and compliance with environmental constraints. A list of Board maintained watercourses would be included with the Policy, with Strategic Ordinary Watercourses highlighted capturing some information not currently documented. One policy would be prepared for the Consortium with Appendices for individual ways of working for each Board attached where necessary (e.g. compensation/working through standing crops). This would be circulated to members once complete.

The Consortium agreement had been reviewed by the solicitors and a DRAFT prepared, Officers would review the Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Boards and then circulate to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for comment before bringing it back to the November Board meeting.

A DRAFT staff handbook had been prepared to replace the ADA White Book. New pay scales and terms and conditions around pay would be included.

RECEIVED

21. DYNAMIC RISK REGISTER

The updated risk register was circulated for members information, the major points of note were: the rise in energy costs, project delivery and knowledge gap. The Chief Executive invited members contact Officers if they had any questions and reported that the Risk Register would be updated and recirculated at the November meeting.

RECEIVED

22. STAFFING

The attached minutes of the Joint Negotiating Committee were presented for members information.

The attached Terms of Reference for the Committee were also circulated for approval by the Board. Cllr E. Mossop endorsed the decision not to formally recognise the Union highlighting the importance of taking views of all staff into account.

Officers reported that some Lincolnshire Board's were considering a £1,000 cost of living payment, pointing out that Lindsey Marsh had more directly employed staff than other consortium Board's and asked that the Board consider the possibility of making an award. The Chief Executive suggested that authority to consider this be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chief Executive had received details of the proposed Unison pay claim which was for, 13.2% pay increase. He suggested looking at other local authorities, taking into account what the Board's could afford, considering the Lincolnshire ADA

recommendation amongst other factors such as staff retention etc. The Corporate Services Manager stated that on the Finance report there were savings from vacant posts which meant increased workload and again highlighted the high staff turnover detailed on the Risk Register.

Cllr D. McNally supported delegating authority to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to discuss the matter further. The Chief Executive pointed out that another option would be to give staff an advance on their 2023/24 pay increase as the Board's needed to consider ways to help people. Mr D.R. Tagg supported awarding something to staff along the lines proposed but was not in favour of delegating the decision. Cllr E. Mossop supported implementation sooner rather than later would be better, but officers needed to set it out for the Board to consider separately to pay increases, adding, that the topic needed more consideration.

The Corporate Services Manager pointed out that the Chairmen met prior to the JNC to discuss options and suggested the Vice Chairmen attend this meeting. She further reported that a suggestion had been made by some staff that heating oil could be purchased through the Board's Woldmarsh account to obtain better rates. Officers highlighted the potential risks to the Board and administration needed to monitor orders. The Corporate Services Manager asked if the Board would be in support if there was no impact/cost to the board. The Vice-Chairman queried what would happen if they did not pay and the Corporate Services Manager stated an agreement and process would be in place to deal with this. It was agreed that Officers would look into options and report back to the Board.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the matter be reviewed and a proposal for cost of living payment be brought to the next meeting.
- (b) That options for use of the Board's Woldmarsh account by employees be reviewed and a proposal brought back to the Board.
- (c) That the attached notes of the Joint Negotiating Committee be noted and the Terms of Reference approved.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Corporate Services Manager reported that both Quinceys and Anderby Museum had opened as part of the recent Heritage opendays. Both sites received around 50 visitors and had interest in the stations and work of Drainage Boards.

Regarding Page 1656 of the Board Minutes, Operations 7:6 Plant and Equipment, the Senior Operations Manager reported that he had contacted Hitachi and they estimated a 5% increase rather than the forecast 10%. He had requested confirmation in writing.

CHAIRMAN