

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at The Green Tree Inn and via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 27th September 2022, at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

Messrs J. Coggon  
\* P. Cornish  
\* R. Adam  
Vacancy  
Vacancy  
\* J.H.T. Bramhill  
\* T. Dickinson  
J. Fretwell  
\* M.A. Harris  
\* R. Mason  
\* M. Wagstaff  
M.T. Smith

Nominated by North Lincolnshire Council

\* Cllr R. Allcock  
Mr I. Bint  
\* Cllr J. Briggs  
Cllr T. Mitchell  
\* Mr M.D. Pilkington  
\* Cllr Mrs J. Reed  
Cllr D. Robinson  
Cllr D.J. Rose  
Three Vacancies

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

Cllr Mrs H. Brand  
Cllr Mrs J.M. Sanger

\* *Present*

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

\* *In attendance*

*In the absence of Mr J. Coggon, Mr P. Cornish chaired the meeting.*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs J. Coggon, J. Fretwell, M. T. Smith and Cllrs I. Bint, T. Mitchell, D. J. Rose and Cllrs Mrs H. Brand and Mrs J. M. Sanger.

RECEIVED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr R. Mason declared an interest in agenda item 5, page 42.

Mr J. Briggs declared an interest in agenda item 19, planning applications PA/2022/1056, PA/2022/1101, PA/2022/1263, PA/2022/1414, PA/2022/1458, and PA/2022/1469, pages 65-66. He also declared an interest in item 12.5, page 42.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 618 to 632)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of a meeting of the Board held on 14th June 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

### 5:1 Minute 6, Page 619 - IOA Strategy Meeting

No further suggestions or ideas on improvements and efficiencies had been received from members.

### 5:2 Minute 7, Page 619 - Health, Safety and Welfare

In response to Mr R. Mason's concerns over the fading of the health and safety signs at the Board's pumping stations, the Operations Manager confirmed that quotations were being sought for replacement signs.

### 5:3 Minute 9:5, Page 625 - CCTV Work at Misterton

The Senior Engineer confirmed that officers had experienced difficulty sourcing a company with the specific skills to undertake the CCTV work so were engaging with a dive team used previously within the Consortium. He agreed to keep Mrs H. Brand up to date with progress.

### 5:4 Minute 11:3, Page 9 - Southfield Pumping Station Refurbishment

The Senior Engineer confirmed that the new protection unit had not yet been installed at Southfield Pumping Station, a date was awaited from KSB.

### 5:5 Minute 17, Page 630 - Membership

Cllr Julie Reed was awaiting a response from North Lincolnshire Council but would chase this up.

## 6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regarding Minute 12, the Chairman sought members' thoughts on a tour of inspection combined with the November Annual General Meeting (AGM) to which members were in favour.

In response to Mr M.A. Harris, the Chief Executive reported that Scape was a national body working for the public sector offering competitively tendered rates. They could offer as much or as little as required and were being trialled on two schemes in the Trent Valley area. Officers were also investigating use of the Collaborative Delivery Framework (previously called the WEM Framework) and the rates on offer would be compared.

### RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of a meeting of the Consortium Committee held on 14th July 2022 be confirmed and adopted.
- (b) That the November AGM be combined with a tour of inspection.

## 7. PLANT AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes were presented for approval and officers provided an update on matters arising from the last meeting.

The new Valtra T194A tractor and McConnel PA80 flail had been ordered at a cost of £137,646 less £26,000 trade-in (to be funded from balances) and the existing Massey Ferguson 6485 and Herder Kanonier flail had been traded in for £26,000. Delivery of the tractor was expected in October and the flail in May 2023. It had not been possible to delay the manufacturer's warranty until the flail was fitted however the supplier was providing a further year's powertrain warranty free of charge (total six years) to offset the delay in the flail's arrival.

The tractor on hire from LMDB to cover the 20-week cutting period was being charged at the Consortium charge out rate for actual hours run rather than for full days/weeks but the Isle of Axholme Board would be responsible for repair, maintenance and fuel costs, this would reduce the charge out cost from approximately £36,000 to £13,500.

#### 7:1 Minute 8 – Purchase of Tracked Excavator and Low Loader Trailer

Officers were asked to report back to the committee on the trailer and weight limits, however, to secure prices, build and delivery slots a decision on the purchase of a replacement excavator and trailer was required ahead of the Board meeting. Following the appropriate tender process, an email was sent to members on 9th August 2022 seeking approval of the following;

- (i) Purchase of a JCB 140LX tracked excavator from TC Harrison JCB at a cost of £126,750 less trade in of £21,000 (£105,750 to be funded from balances).
- (ii) Purchase of a Herbst 21 tonne low loader trailer from Herbst Machinery Ltd at a cost of £15,200 to be funded from balances.
- (iii) Sale of the existing low loader trailer (estimated value £4,000).

The purchase of a new low loader trailer was necessary as the total gross weight of the new excavator exceeded the capacity of the Board's existing trailer. The new Herbst trailer would have the capacity to transport the new excavator within the legal weight limits for towing on the highway.

Sixteen responses were received, (out of 20 members), and all in support of the above purchases and an order was placed for the new equipment. Delivery of the new excavator was scheduled for December 2022 and the new trailer in October 2022. The Board's existing low loader trailer would be advertised for sale by tender once the new trailer was delivered.

#### 7:2 Minute 9 – Compensation

The Operations Manager was reviewing the Board's Strategic Ordinary Watercourses (SOWs) and members would be provided with a map showing the SOWs that were currently identified and would be asked for views on whether there were any that required to be added or removed. Watercourses would then be prioritised and a report would be presented to the Plant and Compensation Committee showing the top ten locations recommended for trialling the new access arrangement along with estimated costs.

#### 7:3 Minute 10 - Plant Replacement Policy

The Operations Manager had suggested that the Plant Replacement Policy be extended to include vans, 4x4 vehicles, the self-propelled flail and tractor mounted flails. The policy would be updated and reviewed by the Plant and Compensation Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 19th July 2022 be confirmed and adopted.
- (b) That the purchase of the excavator and low loader be formally approved.

8. INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

The Chief Executive brought attention to inflationary pressures and how this would affect the Board's operations and in particular the impact of increased electricity costs. It was noted that nine pumping stations were now out of contract and quotations were received for new contracts in the region of 117 pence per kWh. No contracts were being offered for longer than six months and quotations were only valid for six hours due to the volatility of the market. The budget in the estimates for all stations was £166,000 and Officers estimated that a dry year would cost around £397,000 and a wet year could be around £845,000 just for these stations. The remaining 12 small stations made up 16% of the current budget costs in a normal year. Depending on weather conditions, this would represent a rate rise of between 30% and 96% to cover the additional costs. Should there be a flood event, the Board did not have access to Belwin funds unless Councils requested them, nor did it have the reserves available nationally to the Environment Agency.

Members agreed on the importance of preventing costs falling onto local landowners and local councils and stated that Government funding should be sought where possible. The Chief Executive confirmed that he would be lobbying local MPs and had written to ADA about the matter who had approached DEFRA. Mr M.A. Harris was pleased with the approach being taken by the Chief Executive and hoped that ADA would also pursue this on behalf of IDBs. He queried whether there was anything to be done to minimise electricity costs, e.g. maximising natural runoff. Mr P. Cornish stated that this was restricted by lack of EA main river maintenance. Mr Harris stated that if water travelled to the pumps slower it would be easier to deal with and he suggested the Board may have to think differently. Mr M. Wagstaff stated that if water in the River Idle was dropped by a foot it would help with water storage.

Cllr J. Briggs stated that North Lincolnshire Council was in the same position as the Board so needed to be working together. The Chief Executive highlighted that 10% of councils in the area were in an IDB area and this needed to be considered and addressed by Government with a view to providing assistance with the special levies.

Mr P. Cornish confirmed that the newer pumps in stations used less electric so it was important to proceed with these schemes as planned.

Cllr Mrs J. Reed and Cllr R. Allcock agreed to bring this up with North Lincolnshire Council and Mr A. Percy, M.P., stating that help was needed from the Government.

The Finance Manager confirmed that the budget for electricity costs had been increased this year, however, the extent of this cost increase could not have been predicted.

Officers were seeking further information to update the Board at the November meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive and Cllrs Mrs J. Reed, R. Allcock and J. Briggs meet with Mr A. Percy, M.P. to discuss the Board's concerns and seek support.

9. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager gave the following update:

The Consortium's Covid risk assessment had been reviewed and amended to reflect the ongoing relaxation of Government guidance. The previously stated compulsory measures were now advisory with continued focus on personal hygiene standards.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was advising employers to ensure extreme heat became part of their long-term employee welfare management following record-breaking temperatures and an expected rise in global temperature due to climate change. There was no current maximum temperature for workplaces however all workers were entitled to an environment where risks to health and safety were properly controlled. Heat was now classed as a hazard attracting legal obligations similar to any other hazard. Officers would continue to review risk controls to ensure sufficient measures were in place to protect employees' welfare.

Six incidents were reported across the Consortium since the last Board meeting, four of which had occurred in the Axholme area. One had resulted in a minor injury, the other three involved damage to plant/assets.

The WMC Health and Safety Policy had been reviewed and signed off by the Chief Executive. Risk Assessments and Safe Systems of Work were due to be reviewed by the end of October.

RECEIVED

10. OPERATIONS REPORT

10:1 Summer Maintenance Works

The Operations Manager reported that flailing was 79.62% complete, 19.09% ahead of where it was expected to be, and weedcutting was 49.66% complete which was 0.34% behind where it was expected to be.

RECEIVED

10:2 Winter Maintenance Works

The Senior Operations Manager presented members with the completed 2021/22 winter programme. All planned work had been completed with the exception of two culverts (on Folly Drain and Soil Bank Drain) and the Wiseton

Bridge Drain (AXD611700) scheme which had been deferred until 2022/23. The DLO had also been heavily involved with works at Common Carrs Pumping Station.

The 2022/23 proposed winter programme was also presented to members for information.

The Chief Executive stated that the intention was to get two years ahead in terms of surveys to assist with planning of the programme.

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#### 10:3 Construction Works

Some additional construction works had been programmed for 2022/23 including dam installation and desilting of the basin at Southfield Pumping Station and a new cut and drain widening of Wrays Drain (AXD056200).

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#### 10:4 Rechargeable Works

It was reported that the Operations team had not undertaken any third-party recharge works. Finalised plans and Schedule 3 documents were still awaited despite requests from the Board's Officers although the EA had indicated that work would be required at Bawtry Bridge.

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#### 10:5 Plant and Equipment

The Senior Operations Manager reported that a second used Godwin CD150 6" mobile pump had been ordered from Stuart Group at a cost of £19,982 less the trade in of the existing Betsy 6" pump at £4,000. The total expected net spend on the two pumps was £26,490 against the budget of £35,000.

Three new vans had been ordered from Listers Toyota for delivery in February 2023 as replacements for the Mitsubishi L200 pickup and two of the Citroen Nemo vans. Funding was taken from the was from the 2021/22 budget (£12,829) and from the 2022/23 budget (£25,658) to cover the costs.

An order had also been placed with TC Harrison for the new JCB 140XLC at a cost of £123,650 with an expected arrival in December 2022. The net change after the JS130 trade in at £21,000 would be £102,650.

The new tractor at £100,528 and flail at £37,119 were on order with Chandlers. After the trade in of the existing tractor and flail at £26,000 the net change would be £111,645. Delivery for the tractor was due in October 2022, and the flail in May/June 2023.

A new 24FT long 21T Gross / 2 Axle Low Loader was on order with Herbst Trailers at a cost of £15,200. The existing Chieftain Low Loader would be sold by tender following the receipt of the new Herbst trailer.

Officer's recommended the purchase of a portable generator for the existing welding machine to allow quick and effective repairs to be undertaken to weedbaskets to improve efficiency and to save on third-party repair costs. The cost of the generator could be offset by refurbishing two existing weedbaskets and putting back the replacement of the new weedbasket to the following financial year. A budget of £10,000 was allowed in the 2022/23 estimates for this purpose and expenditure was expected to be in at the region of £6,000 giving a £4,000 underspend. A similar approach to extending the life/refurbishing weed baskets had already been undertaken in Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board which had proven successful.

The Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board tractor had experienced 17 days downtime following failure of front prop shaft universal joints. Lincolnshire Motors had undertaken repairs at a cost of £8,967.95 including £6,300 for labour. In accordance with the Hire Agreement, Axholme was responsible for meeting the cost of the repairs. Fortunately, the flailing programme had not been impacted as the DLO were significantly ahead of schedule.

#### RESOLVED

That the purchase of a new generator and refurbishment of two weedbaskets at a cost of up to £6,000 be approved and that the purchase of the weedbasket be put back to 2023/24 at a cost of £10,000.

### 11. COMPENSATION

Officers presented the attached schedule of compensation claims totalling £238.65 which had been paid in accordance with the Board's rates since the last Board meeting.

#### RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of compensation claims be approved.

### 12. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

#### 12:1 South Street Pumping Station Refurbishment (AX16014)

The Senior Engineer reported that following approval of additional funds from the Environment Agency, pump manufacturers had been invited to site to develop proposals and quotes for the additional external pump. The majority of the pipework had been installed as part of the last major upgrade and the pump would be able to fit in the spare sump.

It was required for the pump to be fish friendly and provide the maximum discharge within the constraints of the existing pipework. Pump manufacturers

were unable to hold quotes for more than 30 days and two quotes had been received. Torishima quoted £114,780 which was for the pump only and did not include the pipework and valve controls. Bosman Watermanagement BV quoted €110,250 (pump only - £94,912) or €194,745 (£167,652) including project management, ancillaries, transportation, commissioning and testing. The price from Bosman Water Management BV was within the revised budget therefore officers had placed an order for the supply and installation of a Vision 45-MC fish friendly pump in the amount of £167,652. Installation was expected in March 2023 and installation at this time would have no detriment to the service provided by the station. Costs to date were £727,454 against the revised budget of £891,000.

RESOLVED

That the Officers' actions as detailed above in respect of procurement of the pump for South Street Pumping Station be approved.

12:2 Kelfield Pumped Catchment Improvement Scheme (AX16019) – Decommissioning of Blackdyke Pumping Station.

The Senior Engineer reported that as part of the Kelfield rationalisation, Blackdyke Pumping Station had not been operated in the last two years and water from the catchment was lifted by Southfield Pumping Station. It was intended that pumping apparatus be removed and the building, which was in a poor state of repair, be demolished. A Bauer coupling would be fitted to the discharge pipework for connection to a mobile pump set which could be deployed as and when required; in accordance with the Board's original plan. The site would be secured with a palisade fence compound

Planning permission for the demolition had been sought from North Lincolnshire Council and one quote out of the three sought had been received in the amount of £9,975. Advice from the Board's Environmental Officer recommended that demolition be delayed until after April 2023 due to potential hibernation of bats. An asbestos survey was also undertaken with the report expected in due course.

In response to Mr M.A. Harris the Senior Engineer confirmed that a 200 litres per second pump was available should the need arise and that there would be sufficient pumping capacity to cover that previously available at Black Dyke.

RESOLVED

That decommissioning of the electrical supply and modification of the discharge pipeline at Blackdyke Pumping Station in preparation for demolition of the station in early Spring 2023 be approved.

12:3 Common Carrs Pumping Station

The pump at the station had been installed and commissioned, reinforced blockwork over the headwall had been completed and the height increased to improve resilience. A set of glass fibre steps and platform over the sump had

also been fitted. Remaining works delayed due to contractor availability included modifications to the weedscreen, installation of kee klamp and backfilling around the retaining wall.

The station was now fully operational and costs to date were £193,001 against the approved budget of £180,524.10. Further costs for completion were estimated at £6,500. A discrepancy had been identified between the documented approved budget of £180,524.10 and the funded budget of £150,504.20, leaving a shortfall of £30,019.90 in addition to the expected overspend of £18,976.90. Officers were working to resolve the issue and the final outturn cost after completion together with proposed funding sources would be presented to the November Board meeting.

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#### 12:4 Telemetry System Replacement (AX20303)

The Senior Engineer reported that snagging issues were ongoing however most stations were now operating in telemetry control.

Mr P. Cornish enquired when the work would be complete and what the additional cost would be. The Senior Engineer reported that the system was relatively stable and giving accurate results, levels were visible on the system but work was required to enable panel control. This work was expected to be complete by the end of October and costs would be reported at the November Board meeting.

RECEIVED

#### 12:5 Wrays Drain Crowle (AX21505)

Final design drawings for the flood alleviation route had been received from James Roberts Design Limited and had been submitted to North Lincolnshire Council's Highways department and their design consultant for the Godnow Road scheme. Tender documents were in preparation and consultations with landowners were to be resumed.

Cllr J. Briggs stated that this was a critical scheme and asked for an update on the work and the timescale for completion. He was concerned that the scheme was not progressing. Cllr Mrs J. Reed shared this concern and highlighted that the delays had also meant the cost had now risen considerably due to inflation. The Senior Engineer reported there was delay due to the agreement for the new culvert, but these issues had been addressed and Officers were now awaiting technical approval from Highways. Cllr J. Reed planned to chase the matter up with the Council's Highways team.

#### 12:6 Future Works Programme Update

The Executive Officer gave an overview of the works programme up to 2024/2025 and reported on a plan to manage and prioritise work packages to improve delivery and better allocate resources. The 'close-down' programme

consisted of largely completed projects with delays in snagging or final completion due to other pressures (e.g. telemetry, Kelfield, South Street). The 'on-site' programme referred to major projects currently or due to be on site. The 'planned' programme was schemes where planning and modelling work may have taken place but the scheme had not yet commenced in earnest. Finally, the 'future' programme included works starting later in the period likely to be largely delivered by March 2025. Officers were considering engaging external consultants to take on some schemes with internal resources within the Engineering team directing and managing them.

There could be considerable savings of time and resource in developing a single Outline Business Case (OBC) for a single, national level approval process covering several projects in comparison with preparing a separate OBC per project. Recent engagement with the Water Management Alliance in Kings Lynn suggested that this route could reduce time taken to secure approval at individual scheme level. This is something which could aid in the expansion of capacity to deliver.

RECEIVED

12:7 Minute 8:3, Page 609 - Kelfield

Mr M.A. Harris brought up the issue originally raised in March regarding the open invert syphon and enquired whether this had been addressed. The Senior Engineer stated that costs were awaited for a screen.

RECEIVED

13. FINANCE

13:1 Management Accounts for the Period ending 31st July 2022

The Finance Manager presented the attached Management Accounts for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. It was noted that development water surface fees received were higher than estimated however the expected fuel expenditure overspend was £4,500. The 2022/23 estimates allowed for a deficit budget of £9,272 where the funds would be met from general reserves. The outturn report indicated that after allowing for noted overspends and savings this deficit would increase to £18,966.26. Balances as at 31st July 2022 were £957,206.10.

RESOLVED

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

13:2 Transfer of Budgets for Approval

Due to a shortfall of £60,795.14 in the plant reserves for the unplanned purchases of the new excavator, tractor and low loader, £60,795.14 would be transferred from general reserves to plant reserves to meet the cost.

RESOLVED

That the transfer of budget values be approved.

13:3 Conclusion of Audit

The audit for the year ending 31st March 2022 had been concluded with an unqualified audit report and no matters of concern from the auditor.

RECEIVED

13:4 Cash and Bank Reserves as at 31st July 2022

It was noted that cash balances were £2,330,704.11. Four loans remained outstanding totalling £798,695.84.

RESOLVED

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

13:5 Payments over £500

The attached schedule of payments over £500 made since the last Board meeting were presented for approval.

In response to Mr M.D. Pilkington, the Senior Operations Manager agreed to review hire costs for the year and investigate whether it would be more cost effective to purchase a welfare unit.

RESOLVED

That the attached schedule of payments totalling £439,067.66 be approved.

14. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

Of the 2022/23 year, £443,930.10 (82.59%) of drainage rates and £451,019.50 (50.09%) of special levies had been collected. A total of £569,807.10 remained outstanding.

RECEIVED

15. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Chief Executive reported that he had written to the Environment Agency (EA) regarding issues across the Consortium boards' areas, particularly with regard to the lack of main river maintenance and overtopping from EA watercourses. Specific mention had been made to the River Idle and Carr Dyke at Retford and the complaints that had been received from local landowners. The aim of the letter was to aid focus and hopefully come up with a way to jointly overcome the issues. Following this he had met with the EA on site and pointed out areas of particular concern. In response

the EA had 'reiterated their commitment to do what they could in terms of river maintenance in areas where there was less flood risk to property and said that although they understood the issues that landowners and farmers were facing in those areas, as previously discussed their policies and systems made it more difficult to deliver the kind of maintenance wanted. The EA had also mentioned that these challenges were exacerbated by staff turnover and recruitment challenges within the EA, with many of their most experienced people locally moving on to further their careers meaning that they must prioritise their efforts firstly to where their work directly related to reducing flood risk to property.' There was frustration from Officers and members that no progress was being made and the same issues continued to be discussed. The Chief Executive stated that the Idle (West Stockwith) seemed to be being driven by carbon neutrality rather than land drainage and water level management. A meeting had also been held with the National Wildlife Trust regarding inundation of four SSSI sites which had lost designation due to five control structures not working mainly due to siltation. The Chief Executive referred to the 'Your Watercourse: Rights and Roles' a DRAFT guidance document prepared by the EA explaining the rights and responsibilities of riparian owners occupying land or property next to a watercourse which was out for consultation. Mr R. Allcock would press North Lincolnshire Council to respond to the document. Mr M. Wagstaff stated that the EA was getting worse, Mr R. Adam agreed, stating that the EA was no longer fit for purpose.

*Cllr J. Briggs left the meeting.*

## 16. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The following update was circulated to members:

### 16:1 Yorkshire Water Catchment Management Launch Event

This Yorkshire Water initiative being delivered by Ricardo was to focus on a reduction of nitrate and pesticide concentrations in groundwater. The project was intended to run for seven years and officers would keep up to date with the development of it.

### 16:2 River Idle Management Partnership

Dr. Jon Hillman's report was being included in the Lower Idle Asset Management Plan and the review of West Stockwith Pumping Station refurbishment scheme. It demonstrated the requirement for improvements within the channel in respect of conveyance.

### 16:3 Barn Owl Monitoring

Seven nest boxes had been used by breeding Barn Owls with 16 chicks having leg rings applied. Four boxes had been used by kestrels with the young already fledged and two boxes were used by stock doves.

### 16:4 Mink Control

Axholme Pest Control had installed mink traps as planned and mink were being caught.

RECEIVED

#### 17. ADOPTION OF RIPARIAN WATERCOURSE

The Senior Engineer reported on the poor land drainage suffered by landowners upstream of the Board maintained Skyers Main Drain. There had been issues with riparian maintenance but despite letters to landowners, problems persisted with a 160 meter section directly upstream of Skyers Main Drain which required substantial improvement. As well as draining the adjacent land to the east and west, the watercourse took water from the riparian system to the north of Carrside.

As the watercourse shown on the attached drawing AX22002\_001 required improvement and upgrading to provide the Board's standard of service, this was outside the powers of enforcement under Section 25 of the Land Drainage Act which relates to maintenance. It was therefore proposed that the Board adopt and improve the 160 metre section directly upstream of Skyers Main Drain. Upstream of this section, the landowner who suffered persistent flooding had requested that his section was not adopted as he would continue to maintain it.

The estimated cost of upgrading the watercourse to an adoptable standard was £5,400 and future maintenance costs were expected to be £75 per annum. Improvements were required to the upstream section of Skyers Main Drain for 150 metres at a cost of £5,000.

In response to Mr M.A. Harris, the Senior Engineer confirmed that compensation would not be payable. To Mr J. Coggon, he stated that no watercourses in this area had been identified as suitable to relinquish.

Officers recommended adoption and improvement to the 160 metre section of riparian watercourse and improvement works on the 150 metre section of the Board maintained Skyers Main Drain.

The Senior Engineer stated that, should the Board agree to the recommendation, Officers would liaise with all parties regarding the adoption and improvements to the watercourse and seek a contribution towards the work.

It was proposed by Cllr R. Allcock and seconded by Cllr Mrs J. Reed that officers' recommendations be approved.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the adoption of and improvements to a 160 metre section of riparian watercourse be approved.
- (b) That the undertaking of improvement works on a 150 metre section of the Board maintained Skyers Main Drain be approved.

#### 18. BYELAW CONTRAVENTIONS

The Senior Engineer reported that byelaw contraventions were being investigated along the Railway Drain at Eastoft, shown on the attached drawing AX21010\_CON, involving several landowners.

The Board maintained the watercourse from the northern bank due to existence of mature trees along the southern bank. The earth bund encroached within 6 metres of the Board's watercourse and had since been modified by the landowner to provide an uninterrupted 6 metre access strip. The gate and fence on the western boundary whilst not of permitted construction secured the boundary of the property and the Board's vehicles and plant were able to pass and work freely. The Board's free access had been permitted by the fence along the eastern boundary however was currently being dismantled by the landowner, which the Planning and Developmental Control Officer would monitor.

A barrier had been erected to prevent access along the track adjacent to the southern bank of the watercourse prohibiting the Board's access. After discussions with the landowner a key had been provided for Board's access. The landowner had also agreed to move fruit trees planted along the bank top to a distance of 6 metres in late Autumn. The Planning and Developmental Control Officer would continue to monitor this also.

A historic Heras type permanent fence had recently been replaced with a new Paladin style fence along the northern bank of the Boards watercourse. The new fence had been sited further away than the original fence. The new alignment allowed for machinery access with a pinch point of 4.2 metres at the eastern end of the site which the Board did not previously have access for. A gate had also been installed at the eastern end allowing access along the full length of the northern bank.

Residents in the area would be written to and reminded of the need for consultation with the Board prior to works in proximity of a watercourse. It was not intended to issue retrospective consents however the Senior Engineer confirmed they would be recorded as known contraventions. The Chief Executive queried whether the power should have sat with the Board on such matters however Cllr Mrs J. Reed proposed that the Board note information provided by officers on known contraventions as such actions had already taken place. The Senior Engineer confirmed that enforcement power was limited due to contraventions taking place many years ago.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the above contraventions be noted but no action be taken due to the length of time the structures had been in place, but
- (b) that a letter be sent to the landowners highlighting the Byelaw contravention and stating that action would be taken against any further contraventions.

**19. DELEGATED MATTERS – PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE**

19:1 Byelaw Applications

Officers reported the following byelaw consents had been granted under delegated authority since the last Board meeting:

IOANN/LDC/2021/015 Surface water outfall and head wall to Board Maintained Whitewater Main Drain at A1 (M) Styrrup with Oldcotes in the in the parish of Styrrup at national grid reference 461882 389150.

IOANN/LDC/2022/003 Erection of 1.1m high fence and flood lights to new menage within 9m but no closer than 6m of the Board maintained Adlingfleet Drain at The Willows, Whins Gate in the parish of Eastoft at national grid reference 481107 418459.

RECEIVED

19:2 Section 23 Applications

There had been no Section 23 consents granted since the last meeting.

RECEIVED

19:3 Planning Applications

Officers reported on 20 planning applications which had been dealt with since the last meeting and appropriate comments relating to surface water drainage had been made. No objections had been raised.

RECEIVED

20. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)

The Chief Executive gave an overview of the last ADA Trent Branch Annual General Meeting.

The Chief Executive had also attended the ADA Policy and Finance Committee meetings and when discussing the EA asset review, had asked DEFRA and the EA, who were both represented, for clarification in writing of the interpretation of the policy governing routine maintenance on main rivers for the next meeting.

21. POLICY REVIEW

It was noted that the members Code of Conduct had been reviewed by Officers and no changes made. The document had been circulated to all Board members.

A DRAFT Maintenance Policy was being prepared with a view to pulling all information relating to summer maintenance, winter works and culvert inspection/cleaning into one place, e.g. maintenance periods, how work was undertaken, access, compensation, environmental. A list of strategic ordinary watercourses would also be attached.

The Consortium Agreement was being reviewed and updated by the Board's solicitors. The Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Boards would be circulated to the Chairman

and Vice-Chairman for comment before being brought back to the Board for consideration.

A DRAFT staff handbook was being developed to replace the ADA White Book and would include the new terms for the DLO. Officers would consult with the Union and staff once the DRAFT was ready.

RECEIVED

## 22. DYNAMIC RISK REGISTER

The attached Dynamic Risk Register had been reviewed and circulated to members. Major points to note included the rise in energy costs, project delivery and knowledge gap.

RECEIVED

## 23. STAFFING

The attached notes of the WMC Joint Negotiating Committee were circulated together with the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED

That the Committee Terms of Reference be approved and that a payment of £1,000 pro rata be paid to staff this year to assist with the cost of living increases.

## 24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.