

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at The Green Tree Inn and via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 24th January 2023, at 10.00 a.m.

Elected Members

\* Messrs J. Coggon  
 \*V 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

\*V Cllr R. Allcock  
 Mr I. Bint  
 Cllr J. Briggs  
 Mr L. Drury  
 \* Mrs J. Kennedy  
 Cllr T. Mitchell  
 \* Mr M.D. Pilkington  
 \* Cllr Mrs J. Reed  
 Cllr D. Robinson  
 \* Cllr D.J. Rose  
 One Vacancy

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

\*V Cllr Mrs H. Brand  
 \*V 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*

*A minutes silence was held for Paul Bradwell, who had sadly passed away.*

*Mr J. Coggon make the decision to proceed through the agenda in a different order than originally planned, leaving finance and estimates for discussion last.*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs A. McGill and L. Drury, and Cllrs J. Briggs and T. Mitchell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr J. Coggon declared an interest in planning application PA/2022/2125 on page 47.  
 Cllr Mrs J. Reed declared an interest in planning application PA/2022/2021 on page 46.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of a meeting of the Board held on 22nd November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

#### 6. COMMITTEES

The Chairman suggested that a decision on combining and electing members to committees be revisited at the March 2023 Board meeting.

RECEIVED

#### 7. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE UPDATE

The Senior Operations Manager presented a report highlighting the following points.

The Health and Safety Executive had officially removed its Covid-19 guidelines, however, Consortium staff were still required to take a test if displaying symptoms and to stay at home if they tested positive. Home-working facilities were in place and site-based staff that were mostly lone-working were to inform their line manager who would advise on whether they could continue to work if they felt well enough. Similar precautions were being undertaken for cold and flu viruses which had also increased recently.

There had been three accidents/incidents across the Consortium since the last meeting, one of which had occurred in the Isle of Axholme area when a Lindsey Marsh tractor had sustained some damage whilst being used for training by a member of the Board's DLO. No injuries had been sustained and costs were being covered by the training provider.

An overview of annual HSE statistics was presented for information.

Time off with stress, depression and anxiety had increased and was being monitored; causes were in the main not work-related. The Consortium provided access a GP 24/7 as well as counselling, advice and support from mental health, financial and legal experts; this had received very positive feedback from staff.

Muscular skeletal and hand/arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) was monitored closely with regular HAVS testing for operatives, restricted duties for those affected, and trialling/introduction of equipment to reduce vibration output.

Risk assessments and safe systems of work were in place along with regular tool box talks and near-miss reporting was encouraged.

#### 8. OPERATIONS REPORT

##### 8:1 Winter Maintenance Works

The 2022/23 winter works programme was progressing well and was 52% complete and the planned works up to 31st March 2023 were noted as below:

Drain Name	Catchment	Description of works	Length (m)	Status
Little Carr Drain AXD490300	South Street	Tree and Bushing	20	Complete

*Minutes of a Meeting of the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board held on 24th January 2023.*

Mother Drain (West) AXD580100	Scaftworth	Reforming Access improvements Bush/Tree Removal	1,800 700 290	80% complete
Marsh Ings Drain East AXD040300	Waterton Hall Sluice	Bush/Tree Removal	25	Complete
Snow Sewer/ Warping Drain AXD500100	Three Bridges	Tree and Bushing Berm Installation Enhanced Weed Removal	775 1,250 1,000	50% complete
Wiseton Bridge Drain AXD611700	Wiseton	Reforming Bush/Tree Removal Syphon Culvert Replacement	1,330 650 15	10% complete
Fishing Ground Drain AXD054400	Paupers	Tree and Bushing	200	Complete
Markham Moor Drain AXD640300	River Maun	Bush/Tree Removal	300	Complete
Church Drain AXD041100	Warterton Hall Sluice	Tree and Bushing	158	
Black Skye Drain AXD610300	Wiseton	Reforming Access improvements Bush/Tree Removal	1,000 1,235 1,235	
Mattersey Thorpe Drain AXD541400	River Idle	Reforming Bush/Tree Removal Access Improvements	829 530 48	
Blackdyke Drain AXD510300	Four Bridges	Reforming Access Improvements	772 12	
Luddington Main Drain AXD051300	Paupers	Access Improvements	12	
North Moor Drain AXD431200	Derrythorpe	Access Improvements	30	
<b>Total (m)</b>			<b>14,216m</b>	

The planned winter programme for 2023/24 was presented as below:

<b>Drain Name</b>	<b>Catchment</b>	<b>Description of works</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>
Steelgoose / Folly Drain AXD390200/AXD390100	Folly Drain	Culvert Installation 1,200mm	12
South Moor Road Drain AXD055700	Paupers	Reforming	198
Brunyee Drain AXD055500	Paupers	Reforming	221
Carr Ings Drain AXD570900	Gringley	Toe Boarding	300

Sile Drain AXD030100	Garthorpe North Outlet	Reforming	541
Constable Drain AXD052700	Paupers	Reforming	850
Trent Fields Drain AXD030400	Garthorpe North Outlet	Reforming Desilt	1,658
Althorpe Main Drain AXD380100	Althorpe	Desilting	1,998
Haldenby Drain AXD020800	Adlingfleet	Low Level Culvert to Avoid Badger Sett	20
Blackdyke Drain AXD510300	Four Bridges	Reforming Access Improvements	772 24
Snow Sewer/Warping Drain AXD500100	Three Bridges	Tree and Bushing Berm Installation Enhanced Weed Removal	500 1,250 1,250
<b>Total (m)</b>			<b>9,594m</b>

#### 8:2 Summer Maintenance Works

The performance outcome for the 2022 summer season was 98% completion on flailing and 97% completion on weedcutting with remaining lengths incomplete due to restricted access due to high value root crops.

The recent Strategic Ordinary Watercourse (SOW) review identified that the following watercourses were to be included in the list of watercourses considered for early maintenance works to be undertaken. The amount of growth witnessed on inspection would determine priority watercourses for early maintenance.

Drain Name	Catchment	Length (m)
Eaton West Drain AXD542200	River Idle	997
Markham Moor Drain AXD640300	River Maun	830
Gravel Pit Lane Branch AXD650200	River Meden	1649
Bothamsall Lane Drain AXD650300	River Meden	1673
Lound Rates Drain Branch AXD491000	South Street	1564
Lound Rates Drain AXD490900	South Street	518
Doncaster Dyke AXD490500	South Street	860

#### 8:3 Construction Works

Construction works on Wrays Drain (AXD056200) were planned for the 2022/23 programme consisting of a new cut drain including widening works. This was likely to be continued into the 2023/24 programme and a temporary dam installation and desilting of the basin area at Southfield Pumping Station would also be undertaken in the 2023/24 winter period.

#### 8:4 Plant and Equipment

The new JCB tracked excavator had been delayed and was expected to arrive in January 2023. The three new vans were expected to arrive in May 2023.

8:5 Pump Run Hours

A schedule of pump run hours was presented for information. It was noted there were no up to date figures for South Street, Althorpe and Common Carr due to work being undertaken at these stations.

9. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

9:1 Trentside Pumping Station Refurbishment (AX19301)

The Senior Engineer reported that the Board had allocated £20,000 to this project and it was recommended by officers to transfer this amount to general reserves and fund the project by loan in order to maintain the cash reserves position.

RESOLVED

That £20,000 be transferred from Trentside Pumping Station Refurbishment Project (AX19301) to general reserves.

9:2 Carr Dyke – Retford (AX19404)

It was reported that there was £44,342 in the Carr Dyke project, £40,000 of which was grant and £4,342 Board funding. The £40,000 was specifically for modelling which would proceed once topographical information was received from the Environment Agency. This was sufficient funding therefore it was recommended that £4,000 be transferred to general reserves.

RESOLVED

That £4,000 from the Carr Dyke scheme (AX19404) be transferred to general reserves.

9:3 Wrays Drain, Crowle (AX21505)

The Senior Engineer reported that the bill of quantities was now complete and under final review. It was hoped to go out to tender in the coming week and meetings with landowners would be arranged in due course. Cllr Mrs J. Reed offered her assistance with the road closure if required.

RECEIVED

9:4 Common Carrs Pumping Station – Emergency Works (AX20307)

Final modifications to the weedscreen had been undertaken, completing work at the station except for the replacement of the control room doors. Final outturn costs would be reported at the March Board meeting.

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9:5 Mother Drain Culvert SSSI at Misterton – Investigations (AX22403)

An order had been placed with Northern Divers for a walk-through inspection and survey of the culvert on the 27th January 2023, costing £2,900.

RECEIVED

9:6 Pumping Station Emergency Repairs (AX22302) – Derrythorpe Pumping Station

Quotations were being sought for replacement of the existing weedscreen which had deteriorated and found to be beyond repair on inspection. Damming of the channel and desilting of the sump would likely be required to ensure accurate measurements were taken. Costs would be presented to a future meeting for approval.

RECEIVED

9:7 Southfield Pumping Station Refurbishment (AX18001)

The fault on pump no.1 had been difficult to find but after further investigation the issue was found to be tolerances in the resistance of control cable to the pump. KSB confirmed that the fault was rare and wouldn't have been found without the extensive testing since installation. The control cable required replacing to enable full pump protection to be re-engaged. This would be low cost and installation would be undertaken by the Board's Field Engineer.

RECEIVED

9:8 Electricity Costs – New Contract with Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO)

After extensive research, it was found that ESPO was able to offer the most affordable rates to the Board and after discussion and agreement with the Chairman, a contract had, therefore, been entered into for the nine pumping stations out of contract. The new contract was fixed until 30th September 2023 at which point the rates would be adjusted for the following 12-month period.

The average day rate was 32.9 pence per KWh and the average night rate was 22.8 pence per KWh giving an overall average of 29.9 pence per KWh. The lowest standing charge was £12.12 per day for South Street Pumping Station and the highest was £99.39 for Paupers Pumping Station. Overall this was a reduction on the estimates presented in November and had been factored into the current estimates.

RECEIVED

10. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

Of the 2022/23 year, £519,756.37 (96.69%) of drainage rates and £900,419 (100%) of special levies had been collected. A total of £17,754.35 remained outstanding. Mr J. Coggon thanked the Board's Rating Officer.

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11. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Senior Operations Manager reported that no Public Sector Co-operation Agreement (PSCA) works had been carried out in the Board's area this year. Discussions with EA Officers continued (in particular with regard to work on the River Idle) and it was hoped to receive confirmation of works in the near future.

The Chairman reported that at the recent RFCC meeting, confirmation had been received that IDBs could apply to use money from the asset replacement fund. It was noted that £325,000 of local levy funding had already been allocated for the Wiseton

Scheme and the Senior Engineer would be applying for this to be rolled over to 2024/25 and for additional funding to meet any shortfall.

Officers were also meeting with representatives from Severn Trent Water regarding potential contributions towards Board schemes.

RECEIVED

## 12. BYELAW APPLICATION – LAND OFF NORTHMORE LANE CROWLE

The Senior Engineer reported on an application made to the Board to plant a mixed Hawthorne and Blackthorne hedge within nine metres but no closer than 2.5 metres from the bank top of the Board maintained Fishing Grounds and North End Common Drain at land off Northmoor Road in the parish of Crowle, shown on the attached drawing AX22006\_001. Maintenance of this watercourse was currently undertaken from the opposite bank along Northmoor Road and from the eastern and northern side of the watercourse which bounded the site. The Senior Engineer confirmed that the Board would have full access to the watercourse from the opposite bank.

The Board's Operations Team had no objections provided the hedge was maintained no closer than 2.5 metres from the watercourse. The proposed hedge was to be funded by a grant from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and was supported by the Board's Environmental Officer. Officers recommended that the Board grant consent to the application.

RESOLVED

That consent be granted for the planting of a mixed Hawthorne and Blackthorne hedge within 9 metres but when matured, no closer than 2.5 metres of the Board maintained Fishing Grounds and North End Common Drain, Crowle.

## 13. DELEGATED MATTERS – PLANNING, BYELAWS AND SUPERVISORY ROLE

### 13:1 Byelaw Applications

The following byelaw consent had been granted under delegated authority since the last meeting:

IOANN/LDC/2022/008 Extension of existing access culvert within the Board maintained Lound Road Drain East, on land off Carr Lane at national grid reference 478884 399370 in the parish of East Lound.

RECEIVED

### 13:2 Section 23 Applications

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

RECEIVED

### 13:3 Planning Applications

Officers reported on 11 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 made.

RECEIVED

14. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)

The invoice for annual membership subscription had been received from ADA, the 2023 fee was £4,294 plus VAT.

It was reported that ADA was seeking expressions of interest for Chair of the Technical and Environmental Committee with the appointment starting in April 2023. The successful applicant would also become a Vice-Chair of ADA and have a Director's position on the ADA Board. Members had been emailed regarding the position and should contact the Corporate Services Manager if interested. Deadline for submission was 27th January 2023 and these would be reviewed by the Chair's group with a recommendation being made at the ADA Board meeting on 15th February 2023.

RESOLVED

That the ADA membership fees for 2023/24 be approved.

15. STAFFING

The Corporate Services Manager reported on the proposal to bring Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) pay in line across the Consortium to assist with recruitment and retention, simplify administration and enable easier negotiations with the Consortium's Joint Negotiating Committee. Major changes were as follows:

- The current salary of £29,868 (including standby) for 2,064 hours, paid monthly, would change to £29,007.68 (plus £975 standby) for 1,976 hours paid four-weekly.
- Hours worked currently worked varied throughout the year but would move to a standard 38 per week with non-guaranteed overtime of up to a total 60 hours per week throughout the summer cutting season.
- The overtime rate would increase from 1.3333% to 1.41%.
- Sick pay would be paid at basic rate with an allowance for long-term sickness absence for employees with more than two-years' service who normally worked overtime during the summer.

Should the Board agree to the above, all DLO across the Consortium would be on a similar package, the only remaining difference being the pension scheme.

The Corporate Services Manager reported that the total cost of the changes would be £19,758 (this included wages for the DLO, Foreman and apprentice, as well as the 5.5% pay rise already agreed for 2023/24).

Cllr Mrs H. Brand was supportive of this and queried whether it had been discussed with the Union. The Corporate Services Manager confirmed that there was not a recognised Union but a full consultation with the workforce would commence if the Board agreed to the changes.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the above changes to DLO pay and terms and conditions be approved and that Officers commence the consultation process.



- (b) That the cost of the changes and the 5.5% pay increase (£19,758) for the operations team be noted.

## 16. FINANCE

### 16:1 Management Accounts for the Period ending 30th November 2022

The Finance Manager presented the attached Management Accounts for the period ending 30th November 2022. This showed a positive variance for the period of £20,203.69.

The 2022/23 estimates allowed for a deficit budget of £9,272 to be met from general reserves, however, the outturn report indicated that after allowing for noted overspends and savings, this deficit would increase to £195,313.80.

It was noted that the previously reported estimated overspend on electricity of £353,828 had decreased to an estimated overspend of £206,316 following the move to ESPO for the out of contract pumping stations (this estimate was based upon average weather conditions).

The Finance Manager reported that the predicted surplus cash position at 31st March 2023 for general use was £613,897.54 (38.06% of net operating costs). She highlighted that, although the recommended reserve was 30%, the Board must also consider the monetary amount.

As at the 30th November 2022, the remaining funds within engineering schemes, after committed costs, was £738,689.22. Of this, those funds relating to Board contributions were calculated at £418,405.73 with £148,392.86 earmarked, £80,000 for Occupation Drain (AX21303) in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and £68,392.86 for reforming which would be consumed fully by the end of the financial year.

The attached balance sheet was also presented for members' information.

#### RESOLVED

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

### 16:2 Transfer of Budgets

The attached transfer of budgets were presented for note, these had been discussed in more detail under the relevant items within the Asset Renewal and Refurbishment report.

#### RESOLVED

That the attached transfer of budgets be noted.

### 16:3 Cash and Bank Reserves as at 30th November 2022

It was noted that cash balances were £2,301,983.26. Four loans remained outstanding totalling £788,620.91.

#### RESOLVED

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

16:4 Payments over £500

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

RESOLVED

That the schedule of payments totalling £336,714.26 be approved.

17. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023/24

The Finance Manager presented the attached report and detailed estimates for 2023/24 for members consideration and approval. Due to the unprecedented increase in electric costs facing the Board, Officers had reviewed all aspects of the estimates, including the funding of schemes, the timing of loans and their associated repayments, the procurement of plant and equipment, and the utilisation of the Board's other capital reserves, in order to lessen the impact of the impending electric price increases and the impact on the local councils and rate payers. The Executive Officer highlighted that Officers had thoroughly investigated the above and taken any possible measures to save money or lessen costs where possible.

The 2023/24 estimate was for a net expenditure of £2,050,342 taking into consideration estimated income and expenditure. With Officers' recommendations of a 26% increase on drainage rates and special levies, this would result in a deficit of - £253,566. To create a balanced budget the Board would be required to increase the rate by 43.85% in 2023/24. It was noted that any deficit within the estimates must be met from reserves. The Finance Manager recommended an increase of 26% which would reduce the surplus cash reserves to £627,443 (30.6% of net operating costs). Officers highlighted the risk that could come with wet periods of weather with additional costs of up to £164,000 if a wet period occurred before March 2023 and additional costs of up to £364,000 if a wet period occurred in the 2023/24 year. This was based on electricity costs alone and did not take into consideration other costs such as emergency pumping and overtime. In response to Cllr D.J Rose, Mr J. Coggon confirmed that although the percentage had varied in the past due to different weather conditions, the Board's policy was to keep to 30% of net operating costs. In response to Mr J. Fretwell, the Finance Manager confirmed that this was standard practice to allow enough money in reserves for emergencies.

Cllr J. Reed highlighted the importance of external help from bodies such as ADA, to which Mr J. Coggon confirmed that a response was still awaited. Mr R. Adam reported that ADA had confirmed that Ofgem would be looking at standing charges. The Senior Engineer confirmed that the costs of electricity for all stations in the 2020/21 year was £127,000 and for the 2021/22 it was £137,000. The standing charges alone for 2022/23 were £106,000 - £107,000. Mr R. Adam queried what sort of rate increases other IDBs were looking at and Mr J. Coggon confirmed that all Boards were different and could not be easily compared. The Finance Manager also confirmed that it was not just based on the percentage but the monetary amount. She highlighted that there were further expected increases in electricity costs in 2024/25 when the remaining pumping stations would be out of contract and estimated that this would require a further rise of 6.5% with 4% thereafter.

Cllr Mrs H. Brand understood the importance of preserving the integrity of the assets and the safety and security of homes and businesses, however, believed an increase

of 26% was extremely high when local authorities and members of the public were also facing issues with increased costs. She reported that herself along with another Bassetlaw representative who was a member on the Trent Valley IDB had written to the local MP urging him to have meaningful discussions at Government level about the position the IDBs find themselves due to the increase in electricity costs and raising the profile and importance of IDBs' works. She urged Officers to continue to look for ways to reduce costs. Mr M. A. Harris stated that he had given this matter a great deal of thought and although 26% was a bitter pill to swallow, the Board needed to consider the homes, business and infrastructure it was protecting and also look at the amount, rather than the percentage. He emphasised that compared to the cost of a flooding event, this paled into significance and he did not want ratepayers to query why the Board had not done anything - trying to keep the cost down was a poor excuse when people were flooded. Although he did not want to see a large increase, he could not see a way around it without putting the Board's systems at risk.

In response to Mr J. Coggon, the Finance Manager presented what effect a 5% increase in the rate would have. This would mean a £553,028 deficit and leaves reserves at 16% of net operating costs. It would also mean the Board would require a rate increase of 30% for the following financial year based on moderate rainfall. On a worst-case weather scenario, should there be excessive rainfall this year and next, the Board would completely run out of reserves. Mr M. Wagstaff agreed with Mr Harris but was concerned that some landowners would struggle, particularly when some had fields under water. The Finance Manager highlighted it would be difficult to know how to move forward in a situation of flooding with no reserves.

The Senior Engineer reported on a few options to save costs such as ceasing pumping at some of the gravity stations (Paupers, Trentside, Heckdyke, Kelfield and Wiseton) and limiting to night pumping, however, this would increase the likelihood of flooding, and higher water levels would also increase the risk of slips. He emphasised that the standing charges would still have to be paid. In response to Cllr R. Allcock, the Senior Engineer reported that the standing charge alone for 2022/23 was £106,000, compared to a total electricity cost in 2020/21 of £127,000 and in 2021/22 of £137,000.

In response to Mrs J. Reed, the Finance Manager reported that a 19% increase would reduce reserves to £527,000 (25.72% of net operating costs). Mrs H. Brand queried whether an increase over 5% would trigger a referendum but felt that a 10% increase would be more palatable.

Cllr R. Allcock had spoken to the Leader of North Lincolnshire Council and indicated that they were looking at a rise of around 5%. Although they understood there was a special need in the Isle of Axholme, they were trying to keep council tax rises as low as possible. He did not want to see flooding occur but stated that a 26% increase was a phenomenal amount. He understood the need to maintain sufficient reserves but suggested that this be reduced to come up with a more realistic figure. The Finance Manager confirmed that an increase as low as 5% would only defer the problem to the following financial year. Mr R. Mason commented that reforming could be cut down. Mr J. Fretwell supported a 26% increase to maintain the reserves position, he did not support relying on gravity or reducing operational activity which could result in the increased risk of flooding. In response to Mr J. Fretwell, the Finance Manager confirmed that the rate could be reduced in the future 2024/25 if costs were lower than

expected. Mr J. Fretwell would in principle support a 26% increase for one year only in order to maintain the level of service.

Mr J. Coggon emphasised that the Board could only borrow money for schemes, not for general running costs and maintenance and the only way to fund this was from the rates and special levies. Mr J. Coggon commented that members should act in the interest of the Board and not the bodies they represented. Cllr Mrs J. Reed commented that they also represented the council ratepayers. She suggested that solar panels be investigated as an alternative energy source and stated that the maximum increase the council would support was 10%. The Finance Manager reported that a 10% rise would leave reserves at £399,000 (19.5% of net operating costs) and would require a 25% increase next year.

Mr M. A. Harris proposed that the Officers recommendation of a 26% rise be approved and this was seconded by Mr J. Fretwell.

Cllr Mrs J. Reed then proposed an amendment of a 10% increase, which was seconded by Cllr D. Rose.

In response to Mr R. Adam, the Senior Engineer confirmed that all pumping stations were in contract and the nine that were previously out of contract were fixed in contract until September 2023 and the remaining stations until July 2024. Cllr D. Rose commented that he accepted the points that had been made however stated that energy bills had the potential to change and improve and that landowners would not be expecting an increase of 26%, he believed that 10% was more reasonable. In response to Mr J. Fretwell, the Senior Engineer confirmed that on special levy alone the average cost per household would be £17 per property, per year based on a 26% increase. Cllr Mrs J. Reed suggested that an audit be done on the Board's assets to determine whether alternative methods for sourcing energy could be put in place for cost saving.

Mr J. Coggon reported back on the proposal of a 26% increase on the drainage rates and special levies made and the proposed amendment of 10%.

Cllr Mrs H. Brand proposed a further amendment of a 13% increase which was seconded by Cllr Mrs J. M. Sanger.

Members voted on the amendment of a 13% increase with two in favour and eight against.

A vote was then taken on the proposal for a 10% increase which again failed with seven for and eight against, the Chairman using his casting vote.

The proposal to accept the Officers' recommendation of a 26% increase was then voted on with seven in favour and eight against.

After both amendments and the original proposal failed, the Senior Engineer asked members if they wanted to maintain the Board's standard of service to which Mr M. A. Harris confirmed that this was essential to reduce the risk of flooding.

Mr J. Coggon queried what affect a 20% increase on drainage rates and special levies would have to which the Finance Manager confirmed that it would result in a percentage of net operating costs of 26% and a 12% increase would be required the following financial year.

Mr P. Cornish therefore proposed an increase in drainage rates and special levies of 20% which was seconded by Mr M. D. Pilkington.

Cllr D. Rose then proposed an amendment of a 15% increase which was seconded by Cllr Mrs J. Reed. Members took a vote on the amendment of 15% which failed with seven votes in favour and eight against.

Members voted finally on the proposal of a 20% increase which received eight votes in favour and seven against. It was therefore approved that there be an increase of 20% in the special levies for 2023/24 on district councils and that a drainage rate be set based on a 20% increase which the Finance Manager calculated to be £18.97 pence in the pound; a total increase in income of £292,942. The Finance Manager reported that this would result in a deficit budget of £339,254 and a 13% increase would be required the following financial year. Reserves would therefore be estimated at £541,755, this would be 26.42% of net operating costs. The Finance Manager calculated the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates and special levies based on the 20% increase, as the figures in the attached report were based upon a 26% increase. This was reported to members as per the resolution. Mr J. Coggon asked if officers could report back at a future meeting with energy saving measures to which Cllr Mrs J. Reed agreed that an energy audit on assets should be completed.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the estimates of net income and expenditure of £2,050,342 be approved.
- (b) That the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and buildings, special levies on the local charging authorities and estimates of the amount from balances, for the year commencing 1st April 2023 be as follows:
  - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and buildings £620,492,
  - (ii) by special levy on North Lincolnshire Council £909,210,
  - (iii) by special levy on Bassetlaw District Council £166,178,
  - (iv) by special levy on East Riding of Yorkshire Council £13,264,
  - (v) by special levy on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council £1,944, and
- (c) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 on North Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £909,210.
- (d) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 on Bassetlaw District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £166,178.

- (e) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 on East Riding of Yorkshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £13,264.
- (f) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 on Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council be made and sealed in the sum of £1,944.
- (g) That the statutory record of levies be made up.
- (h) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2023 be made and sealed in the total sum of 18.97 pence in the pound.
- (i) That Officers continue to seek cost savings and undertake an energy audit on assets, the results to be reported back to the Board at a future meeting.

**18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

Mr J. Coggon thanked members for their input, stating that this had been a very difficult meeting but he understood the concerns that members had regarding the increased costs and stated that he would be happy to meet with Officers to discuss cost savings and efficiencies.

CHAIRMAN