

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at The Green Tree Inn and via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, 28th March 2023, 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

\*V Cllr R. Allcock  
 Mr I. Bint  
 Cllr J. Briggs  
 Mrs J. Kennedy  
 \* Cllr T. Mitchell  
 \* Mr M.D. Pilkington  
 Cllr Mrs J. Reed  
 Cllr D. Robinson  
 \* Cllr D.J. Rose  
 Two vacancies

Nominated by Bassetlaw District Council

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)  
 \*V A. Malin (Senior Operations Manager)  
 \* D. Braddy (Operations Manager)  
 Mesdames N. Hind (Finance Manager)  
 C.B. Davies (Corporate Services Manager)

\* *In attendance*

*A member of the public was in attendance of the meeting.*

*It was agreed to move the Environment Agency and Association of Drainage Authorities items to the end of the agenda.*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs T. Dickinson, J. Fretwell, M.A. Harris, M.T. Smith, I. Bint and Mesdames C.B. Davies, N. Hind, J. Kennedy and Cllr Mrs H. Brand.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. BOARD MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of a meeting of the Board held on 24th January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6. CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE

The attached minutes of a Consortium Committee Meeting held on 7th March 2023 were circulated for members approval. The Chief Executive confirmed that officers were still pushing DEFRA in regards to energy costs and caps. It was also highlighted by the Chief Executive and Chairman that officers would look to maximise cost savings by utilising bulk buying of machinery across the Consortium where possible however it was noted that previously this had only resulted in a 2% discount.

RESOLVED

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

7. COMMITTEES

The attached DRAFT Terms of Reference for Committees were presented for members' consideration. Members discussed holding two Finance and Plant Committee meetings annually and it was agreed that the first meeting would be held around June or July and the second meeting be held in November, to discuss estimates and rate setting.

The appointment of members to committees was discussed which was to consist of six members on the Standards Committee and eight on the Finance and Plant Committee, both including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It was noted that Cllr R. Allcock would not be standing for re-election in May and therefore would no longer stand on any committees. Members agreed that existing membership would remain for the Standards Committee with Mr M. Wagstaff joining the committee to take Cllr R. Allcock's place. After discussion, members agreed that Mr R. Adam and Mr R. Mason, previously on the Plant and Compensation Committee, remained as elected members for the new Finance and Plant Committee along with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Cllr Mrs H. Brand and Mr M.D. Pilkington, previously on the Plant and Compensation Committee, and Cllr D. Rose and Cllr Mrs J.M. Sanger, previously on the Finance Committee would remain as the nominated members for the new Finance and Plant Committee. It was agreed that Mr M.A. Harris take Cllr R. Allcock's place as substitute for the Consortium Committee.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Terms of Reference for Committees be approved subject to the change of number of meetings of the Finance and Plant Committee from one, to two annually.
- (b) That Messrs J. Coggon, P. Cornish, J. Briggs, D. Rose and M. Wagstaff and Mrs J. Reed be appointed to the Standards Committee.

- (c) That Messrs J. Coggon, P. Cornish, R. Adam, R. Mason, D. Rose and M.D. Pilkington and Mesdames H. Brand and J. Sanger be appointed to the Finance and Plant Committee.
- (d) That Mr M.A. Harris be appointed substitute for the Consortium Committee in the absence of the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

## 8. RISK REGISTERS

The attached Dynamic Risk Register and Business Risk Assessment were presented for members information. Mr P. Cornish highlighted and queried the telemetry communications which were currently red on the Dynamic Risk Assessment. The Senior Engineer confirmed that there were some issues with the talus unit losing communication which had halted finishing of the project. Calibration of levels to O.D.N was quite time consuming as it required a Surveyor and a Site Mechanical and Electrical Engineer to change the settings to level instruments, telemetry level parameters and pump start/stop levels. The Senior Engineer reported that variable speed drive testing would be carried out with this commencing first on Cuckstool Pumping Station within the Trent Valley area. Mr P. Cornish commented on the importance of using less electricity going forward and the Senior Engineer confirmed that officers were looking at altering operating levels, reducing water levels whilst on cheaper rates to reduce the need for pumping in the day to minimise electricity costs. In response to Mr R. Adam, the Senior Engineer confirmed that the testing to be carried out was part of the contract. Officers would need to review and set the data points.

Mr P. Cornish expressed concerns over the email retention policy highlighted in the Dynamic Risk Assessment, due to the importance of some emails that could sit within this. The Chief Executive confirmed that there was a filing system in place so that all emails containing important information could be filed in the relevant place.

RECEIVED

## 9. COMPLAINTS

It was noted that 16 queries/complaints had been received and recorded in line with the Board's complaints procedure from the 1st April 2022 to date. Across the Consortium four formal complaints had been received, all formal complaints were reported on the IDB1 forms at the year end.

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## 10. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Senior Operations Manager reported that there had been one accident/incident in the Isle of Axholme area since the January meeting, a flail had struck the hydraulic casing when being returning to docking point during a training course and this had resulted in minor damage with no injury to employees. For the 2022/23 year, eight accidents/incidents had been recorded.

Officers had rationalised COSHH risk assessments by just under 40% of the original number of risk assessments. Risk assessments had been removed where substances were no longer used across the Consortium and substances with similar chemical

compositions and safety measures had been amalgamated to form one risk assessment.

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## 11. OPERATIONS REPORT

### 11:1 Winter Maintenance

The Operations Manager reported that the winter works programme was now 97% complete. Little Carr Drain, Mother Drain West, Marsh Ings Drain, Snow Sewer/Warping Drain, Wiseton Bridge Drain, Fishing Ground Drain, Markham Moor Drain and Constable Drain were all complete or nearing completion with Mattersey Thorpe Drain 70% complete. The programme was expected to be completed by 31st March 2023.

The planned winter maintenance 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
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
Luddington Main Drain AXD051300	Paupers	Access Improvements	12
North Moor Drain AXD431200	Derrythorpe	Access Improvements	30
<b>Total (m)</b>			<b>5,786</b>

#### 11:2 Summer Maintenance Works

Evaluation of plant and machinery was ongoing in readiness for the summer maintenance season. Strategic Ordinary Watercourses were being regularly monitored for continued conveyance of water and early weed removal would be undertaken in consultation with the Environmental Officer where necessary.

#### 11:3 Construction Works

Construction works planned for 2023/24 were presented as below;

<b>Pump Station/Drain Name</b>	<b>Catchment</b>	<b>Description of works</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>
Wrays Drain AXD056200	Paupers	Completion of remainder of works carried forward from 2022/23 which were currently 10% complete	831
Southfield Pump Station AXPS4601	Southfield	Temporary dam Installation with full desilting of basin area	200
New EA Drain AXD610100	Wiseton	Desilting and channel improvement works as part of the Wisteon PS Works	5,000
<b>Total (m)</b>			<b>6,031</b>

#### 11:4 Plant and Equipment

The Operations Manager reported that the new JCB tracked excavator had arrived and was performing well. The delivery of the three new vans was expected in May 2023.

#### 11:5 Pump Run Hours

The pump run hours were presented for members information.

Mr M.D. Pilkington commented that Snow Sewer had never been in as good a condition and asked how much of the commuted sum was left. The Senior Engineer stated that there were funds left to undertake Drain Head Pumping Station and watercourse improvements. The Operations Manager confirmed there was a break in work on Snow Sewer next year but a five-year programme was in place to keep improving access along the watercourse. Mr Pilkington asked if Doncaster East IDB still paid a precept to pump into the watercourse to the Environment Agency, the Senior Engineer confirmed they did but 99% of the water was gravity flow.

Mr R. Adam queried progress on fishing rights. The Operations Manager confirmed Officers were reviewing this and would be negotiating a new licence.

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## 12. COMPENSATION

### 12:1 Compensation Claims

The Senior Operations Manager reported that compensation totalling £927.77 had been paid in line with the Board's policy since the last meeting.

12:2 Compensation Rates 2023/24

Members were presented with the proposed compensation rates for the 2023/24 year. Members believed some of the rates required adjusting and Mr M. Wagstaff stated that the sugar beet price was low as it was £40 per tonne from British Sugar. Mr M.D. Pilkington queried where the figures came from as the tonnages and prices were low.

Mr R. Adam stated occupiers must be able to negotiate in changeable times. The Chairman stated that the Board was trying to get away from negotiation where it could and whilst he agreed with some of the rates proposed others should be by negotiation.

In response to Cllr D. Rose, the Senior Operations Manager confirmed that for some crops the Farmers Weekly only had wholesale prices which meant to get the value of the crop in the field Officers had calculated profit margin and transport costs to deduct from the price. It was challenging to get the right figures.

Mr Wagstaff stated the tonnages need reviewing to make it work. Officers would review tonnages and bring the compensation rates back to Board. The policy had served the Board well but it needed to be fair.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the compensation payments made in accordance with the Board's rates since the last meeting be approved in the total of £927.77.
- (b) That amended rates for the 2023/24 year be brought to the June Board meeting for approval.

13. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

The Senior Engineer reported tha:

13:1 Wrays Drain, Crowle (AX21505)

Officers had met with affected landowners regarding the new diversion route. Three tenders had been received out of six invited to tender and these had been adjudicated. Initial tender amounts were £361,553.52, £423,645.72 and £699,847.76. The tenders were for installation of the culverts and did not include the additional required drain works and soil movement for the open sections of watercourses which would be delivered by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO). Tree and bushing works had commenced with reforming works to follow. Costs to date were £42,017.56 against the approved budget of £451,000. The combined costs were expected to exceed the budget, however, officers were discussing funding options and additional contributions with Severn Trent Water.

PBS Construction Ltd was the lowest priced tender. It was also reported that the material that would be removed from reforming and the new diversion route was

particularly sandy and therefore could not be stockpiled, so officers were looking at options for its removal from site.

After reviewing all tenders, Officers recommended that PBS Construction Ltd be appointed as preferred bidder and delegated authority be granted to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to award a contract. Cllr R. Allcock proposed the officers' recommendation on the appointment of PBS as preferred bidder and the granting of delegated authority to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to award a contract and members were all in favour.

RESOLVED

- (a) That PBS Construction Ltd be appointed as preferred bidder for the Wrays Drain Relief Scheme, and,
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to award the contract.

13:2 Southfield Pumping Station Refurbishment (AX18001)

Outstanding works consisted of shotblasting and painting of piles, replacement penstocks to the diesel pump outfall, installation of bauer couplings, a new concrete pad and a new gate within the existing palisade fencing, desilting of the basin, erection of safety fencing, installation of external lighting and installation of flow splitters within the sump for the KSB pumps. Officers were investigating temporary works options for gravel bag dam designs to be installed by the DLO under supervision of the Board's engineers to reduce contractor costs. Once complete, the basin could be drained down and de-silted, flow splitters installed and piles shotblasted and painted.

A refreshed quote had been received from Bagnalls since the original order for £5,795 was placed, therefore it was recommended that an order be placed in the amount of £6,954 as per the new quote for shotblasting and painting the piles. It was also noted that costs to date were £260,806.77 against the approved budget of £392,000.

RESOLVED

That an order be placed with Bagnalls in the amount of £6,954 for the shotblasting and painting of piles at Southfield Pumping Station.

13:3 Cow Lane Pumping Station – Replacement surge chamber covers and refurbishment of existing penstocks (AX21304)

Officers had sought quotations from three companies for the replacement surge chamber covers and refurbishment of penstocks. The only quotation received was from CH Mell, therefore, it was recommended to place an order with CH Mell to undertake the works at a cost of £23,800. Costs to date were £611.39 against the approved budget of £31,400.

RESOLVED

That an order be placed with CH Mell for the replacement surge chamber covers and refurbishment of penstocks at Cow Lane Pumping Station.

13:4 Mother Drain Culvert SSSI at Misterton - Investigations (AX22403)

Divers had carried out a walk-through survey of the culvert which consisted of a full masonry arch, a small section of in-situ concrete in a box profile and bedrock arch with masonry side walls. The bedrock and masonry were the most common construction type followed by the full masonry arch. Three manholes were seen during the survey. Silt build-up was found throughout, getting up to 1-1.2m deep towards the upstream end. The survey had been abandoned due to a high hydrogen sulphide gas alarm and low oxygen reading, resulting in the last 100m and the second pass not being surveyed.

No major defects were found in terms of brickwork or collapse but seepage through the brickwork and rock was prevalent along the entire length. The mid areas of the culvert were in fair to good condition. Some brickwork would benefit from re-pointing and some minor sections rebuilding due to tree root damage. The locations of manholes still needed to be identified to ensure they were in good order at ground level. There was no immediate requirement to clear the silt build-up as this was not holding up water.

The presence of the low oxygen and high hydrogen sulphide gas within the culvert was of significant concern so it was therefore recommended that works be undertaken to prevent access into the culvert from either end. Officers were investigating options with a view to applying for Local Levy or Flood Defence Grant in Aid on health and safety grounds to restrict entry to the culvert. The works would include installing a raking grid with a work platform and silt trap upstream of the culvert to prevent material entering, desilting the culvert, repairing headwalls with the removal of some trees and enclosing the upstream and downstream ends to prevent access. Costs to date were £5,538.63 against the approved budget of £10,000.

RESOLVED

That works be undertaken to prevent access into the culvert at Misterton from either end following receipt of funding through Local Levy or Flood Defence Grant in Aid.

13:5 Kelfield Pumped Catchment Area Improvements (AX16019)

13:5:1 De-commissioning of Black Dyke Pumping Station

An order in the amount of £6,593.85 had been placed with Northern Powergrid to undertake both the contestable and non-contestable works to disconnect the existing electricity supply. The lead in time for this work was 26 weeks. The Senior Engineer reported that there had been a delay to the process but the whole of the project would be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Design drawings were being prepared for the minor civils works required involving a new concrete slab and non-return valve with a 6" Bauer coupling where temporary mobile pumping plant could be



connected if required in future. The site would be secured with fencing. Quotations for the works would be requested and presented to the June board meeting.

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13:5:2 Kelfield Pumping Station Refurbishment

Quotations for installation of palisade fencing around the perimeter of the station had been received and an order in the amount of £3,807 had been placed with Burn Fencing Ltd. The new sanitary fittings and toilet would be installed by the Board's Field Engineer. Cost to date were £650,593.42 against the approved budget of £656,000.

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13:6 South Street Pumping Station Refurbishment (AX16019)

Quotations for the installation of palisade fencing around the perimeter of the station had been received and an order in the amount of £5,217 had been placed with Burn Fencing Ltd. John Hill Associates had been engaged to undertake a structural survey of the station to detail any essential repairs needed to the building.

Designs were being progressed for moving and making safe, the water retention structure within the catchment. Aquatic Control Engineering and Martin Childs Ltd had been approached to explore tilting weir designs and to provide an indicative quote. Bosman Watermanagement BV had indicated an installation date of the new fish friendly pump of 26th to 28th April 2023. The station would be dammed off so the pump bay could be cleared and minor civil works to accommodate the pump including the cutting out of concrete from the sump could be carried out. Costs to date were £763,333.11 against the approved budget of £891,000.

Mr P. Cornish highlighted the ivy on the fence and wall at the station. The Senior Engineer noted this.

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13:7 Derrythorpe Pumping Station - Replacement Weedscreen (AXPS4301)

Investigations continued for the replacement weedscreen and measurements would have to be taken on site as no drawings existed for the station. It was envisaged that the new screen and safety rails could be fabricated in-house within the Consortium.

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13:8 Common Carrs Pumping Station – Emergency Works (AX20307)

The new doors had been installed at the station and works were now complete with costs to be reported to the Board at the June meeting. Any residual funds would be transferred back to reserves.

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13:9 Telemetry System Replacement (AX20303)

This had been discussed under the dynamic risk assessment.

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13:10 Capital Works Programme Update

The Executive Officer reported that officers had completed a comprehensive review of the entire capital programme across the Consortium which included a total of 88 widely varying projects. Members were presented with a report detailing timescales for commencement and completion and an assessment of priority based on assets, lands and properties protected, risk of asset failure, reputational risk to the Boards and local community priority. It was noted that some projects were due for completion before the end of the year which included Telemetry replacement and Common Carrs Refurbishment by June 2023, Derrythorpe Pumping Station Weedscreen in September 2023 and the Kelfield, South Street and Southfield Pumping Station Refurbishments were due to be completed by December 2023. A project brief for implementing a packaged Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Lindsey Marsh area had been prepared by Scape and one was in preparation for the Lower Trent area. It was estimated that the Lindsey Marsh OBC would be submitted in September 2023 and the Lower Trent OBC would be submitted shortly afterwards. The Executive Officer reported that it was not guaranteed that the EA would be receptive to the OBC and it was proving slightly more difficult to develop evidence that the areas of work were geographically linked and similar in nature for the Lower Trent OBC. The packaged OBC was expected to cost around £250,000 to £300,000 which gave the Board greater value for money than completing individual OBC applications.

To facilitate collection of asset condition and catchment surveys required for the development of single large scale OBCs, the Board was recommended to delegate authority to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to place orders for the respective works as costs were likely to exceed Officers delegated authority limits. The Senior Engineer explained that this would include condition surveys, modelling and ground investigation reports and as costs would exceed the delegated limits, delegated authority would help officers to proceed with the works prior to the next Board meeting. Mr R. Adam therefore proposed to accept officers' recommendation and it was seconded by Mr M.D. Pilkington.

RESOLVED

That delegated authority be granted to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive to place orders for the respective works.

14. FINANCE

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

The Chief Executive presented the attached Finance Report showing the Management Accounts for the period ending 31st January 2023.

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 £160,467.52.

The overspend regarding electric in the year to 31st March 2023 was estimated to be £206,316 based upon average weather conditions. Invoices were awaited from the new supplier however these were unlikely to worsen the outturn position due to the dry weather experienced in January and February.

It was noted that the predicted surplus cash position at 31st March 2023 for general use was £648,743.82 (41.10% of net operating costs).

The balance sheet was also presented for members information.

The Chief Executive reported that the Finance Manager would present an updated five-year plan to the June Board meeting based on the 20% drainage rates and special levies increase approved in January.

RESOLVED

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

14:2 Cash and Bank Reserves as at 31st January 2023

It was noted that cash balances were £2,078,652.27. Four loans remained outstanding totalling £780,771.28.

The Chief Executive reported that initial enquiries had been made with an investment broker company regarding short term investments to maximise the investment potential of the Board's funds. The Chairman highlighted that the Board did not have an investment policy and was missing out on interest on the cash balances. He recommended that the Finance and Plant Committee be given delegated authority to make a decision on an investment policy and an investment company for an amount of the Board's balances provided this was with an A rated institution. The Chairman suggested that the Committee meet in the next two weeks to finalise the policy and make a decision. Mr R. Adam queried whether this would be all of the Board's balances and the Chief Executive confirmed it would not be all balances but Officers would prepare an investment policy for the Committee to consider and decide levels of investment and risk.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's cash balances and borrowings be noted.
- (b) That the Finance and Plant Committee be granted delegated authority to approve an investment policy and make a decision on short term investments of the Board's funds.

14:3 Payments over £500

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

Mr P. Cornish queried the £52,668.76 spent on twinwall pipes. The Operations Manager confirmed that these were for pipes for the whole year's programme.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of payments totalling £353,598.35 be approved.

15. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

For the 2022/23 financial year, £532,145.67 (99%) of drainage rates and £900,419 (100%) of special levies had been collected, £5,365.05 remained outstanding. Of the £19,984.93 outstanding at the 31st March 2022, £18,177.48 had been collected.

A schedule of proposed write offs totalling £1,068.71 was presented for members consideration these amounts were either proving difficult to recover or the occupiers could not be traced. The Chairman suggested that if members had any information on outstanding account holders that this be given to the Board's Rating Officer.

RESOLVED

That the schedule of write offs totalling £1,068.71 be approved.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

16:1 Eel Passage and Regulation

The new eel regulations process had adopted the principle of Best Achievable Eel Protection. This meant that fish friendly pumps were the preferred option for Internal Drainage Boards and Environment Agency pumping stations. At pumping stations where it may not be practical to install fish friendly pumps due to the larger pipe work necessitating complete rebuild of the station, cost benefit analysis could be used to justify conventional pumps.

16:2 The Environment Act 2021

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

- (a) Not only conserve but also "enhance" biodiversity,
- (b) From time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective (unless it concludes there is no new action it can properly take),
- (c) Determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and
- (d) Take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.

16:3 Beavers - Reintroduction and Management

The legislation had recently changed and Beavers were now additionally protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It was an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a Beaver; to disturb a beaver;

and to damage or destroy a beaver breeding site or resting place (dams, burrows, or lodges). The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 had been amended and Beavers were now listed as native animals under Schedule 9, Part 11A. A series of licences to enable drainage authorities to manage the risk caused by beavers was available.

Mr R. Adam expressed concerns over the changes in legislation and what they may mean for the Board especially in the event of a flood. More clarity was required on the effect this would have on the Board and how they could work around beavers. The Chief Executive confirmed that officers would enquire into detail as to what the licences entailed and how quickly interventions could be made to maintain flows. It was highlighted that officers had been able to work well around badger legislation so it was believed that the new beaver legislation would not cause issues. The Senior Engineer confirmed that Natural England would be the body of correspondence for licences and officers would write to them for information on licences and the Board's abilities. Further information would be brought to the June meeting.

#### 16:4 Mink Control

Twenty-five mink had been caught and of the 15 from last year that been processed, there were seven females and eight males.

#### 16:5 Snow Sewer - Grazing

The Farm Business Tenancy was due to expire on the 31st May 2023 and it was hoped to renew it on similar or better terms.

Mr M.D. Pilkington highlighted that there was some old barbed wire on the bank.

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### 17. DERRYTHORPE CATCHMENT ENLARGEMENT

The Senior Engineer reported on land north of the Derrythorpe catchment, shown on the attached plan, that had recently been sold. As part of the sale the new owner was to make arrangements for the management of land drainage and to provide a new outfall for the catchment. The catchment, currently outside of the Board's area, was 100 hectares and discharged into the River Trent. In 2011 the catchment was assessed to see whether it could accept the extra water. Derrythorpe Pumping Station had sufficient capacity to support the extension of the catchment by 100 hectares with no detriment to the Board. The new watercourse would not be adopted so there would be no maintenance liability for the Board.

After investigation, the preferred route would be to cut a new watercourse through to the Board's Carr Lane Dyke North, which would require upgrading to enable drainage by gravity to the extended catchment. Costs for all associated works and compensation payments would be met by the landowner.

Extension of the Board's area required undertaking the relevant legal procedures with DEFRA. The Board could not rate for the land until this was complete therefore it was proposed that, initially, the Board allow the additional flows from the lands to enter the district by consent under Byelaw No. 3 (Control of Introduction of Water and Increase in Flow or Volume of Water). This would be on the condition that the landowner paid

an annual charge equivalent to the drainage rates for the whole area each year until the process with DEFRA completed and if not paid the Board could stop the inlet. In response to Mr M.D. Pilkington, the Senior Engineer confirmed that the Old Folly Drain nearby was a siphon connection. Mr P. Cornish queried whether there was an ability for the landowner to have a mobile pump if required. The Senior Engineer stated that the previous owner would facilitate mobile pumping for three years. The Chairman queried what assurance the Board had of the decommissioning of the existing pump on the land. The Senior Engineer stated that the watercourse beyond the pump would be closed to prevent any back flows.

It was recommended that the Board's area be extended to incorporate approximately 100 hectares of land to the north of the Derrythorpe catchment, which was proposed by Mr P. Cornish and seconded by Mr M.D. Pilkington.

RESOLVED

That the Board's area be extended to incorporate approximately 100 hectares of land to the north of the Derrythorpe catchment as shown on the attached plan.

18. PLANNING AND BYELAW POLICY - TREATED EFFLUENT DISCHARGE

The Senior Engineer reported that the Surface Water Development Charge was introduced through the Board's Planning and Byelaw Policy to cover costs of dealing with discharges. These connections required consent under the Board's byelaws however the costs associated with improving watercourses, pumping stations or offsetting the initial pumping costs were not currently charged.

Applications for effluent discharge were uncommon but could have a significant impact on the Board's network where they connected. Officers had been discussing a potential application for a significant increase in discharge rate within the Paupers pumped catchment which would generate £200-250,000 because of the increase which is 3% of the station's capacity. The Senior Engineer confirmed that the Middle Level Commissioners had a charge for this type of application and had provided officers with details which had been reviewed and applied to the Consortium boards.

The Board was recommended to include an initial treated and untreated effluent charge of £126.83 m<sup>3</sup>/day DWF (dry weather flow) in the Planning and Byelaw Policy which along with the advice notes would be reviewed and brought to the June Board meeting for members' consideration. Dry weather flow was for treated effluent not storm water.

In response to the Chairman, the Senior Engineer confirmed that retrospective consents could not be issued but officers would start a register of discharges into the Board's area. Cllr R. Allcock stated that the Environment Agency (EA) consented this type of discharge and officers may be able to obtain details from them including flow rate. The Chairman asked the Senior Engineer to clarify if the EA received money for discharges and the Senior Engineer confirmed that the EA issued consent for treatment and combined overflow and monitored quality but not discharge into watercourse. Cllr Allcock agreed they did not receive funds for the flow.

The Senior Engineer stated that sewer companies would get fined for excessive discharge but the fines would go to Ofwat not the EA. In response to Mr P. Cornish's

concerns over bad press for the Board discharging foul effluent into main rivers as a result of this, the Senior Engineer confirmed that the Board could only consent certain elements of the discharge (the volume of water) and applicants would be required to meet water quality standards set by the EA and undertake water quality testing. The Chief Executive commented that if the untreated effluent was in a Board maintained watercourse it may be held responsible so it was important to be aware so the Board was not held responsible and prosecuted. In response to Mr R. Adam, the Senior Engineer confirmed that officers regularly checked for new developments and developers would be levied with a singular charge at application point where there was a connection or increase of flow into Board maintained watercourses or catchments.

RESOLVED

That the Board include an initial treated and untreated effluent charge of £126.83m<sup>3</sup>/day DWF within the Board's Planning and Byelaw Policy.

*Cllr D.J. Rose left the meeting.*

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

19:1 Byelaw Applications

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

IOANN/LDC/2023/003 Installation of a 63mm HPPE water main crossing the Board maintained Hartleys Drain by Horizontal Directional Drilling method, adjacent to Boskeydyke Farm at national grid reference 483886 – 413354 in the Parish of Amcotts.

IOANN/LDC/2023/004 Installation of a 63mm HPPE water main with connection to existing water main with nine metres of the Board maintained Boskerdyke Farm Drain, adjacent to Boskeydyke Farm at national grid reference 483886 – 413354 in the parish of Amcotts.

RECEIVED

19:2 Section 23 Applications

The following Section 23 consent had been granted since the last meeting:

IOANN/LDC/2022/009 Increase in flow to a riparian watercourse. Land at Three Acres Farm, Brewery Road at national grid reference 477777 – 414936 in the parish of Crowle.

RECEIVED

19:3 Planning applications

Officers reported on 18 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

**20. REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

The Corporate Services Team had sent requests to members asking them to review and update their declaration of interests forms. It was essential this exercise was completed annually for good governance and it was something that was reviewed by the Internal Auditor. Members were reminded to complete new forms or confirm their declarations were still valid to the Corporate Services Team as soon as possible.

RECEIVED

#### 21. STAFFING

The Chief Executive reported that the Operations Manager was leaving the Board to take up another role. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman thanked the Operations Manager on behalf of the Board for his hard work and wished him well in his new role. The role would be advertised, along with an advertisement for an Environmental Officer to shadow the current Environmental Officer until his retirement in 2024.

It was also reported that salary negotiations were ongoing with the Board's DLO and would soon be complete.

RECEIVED

#### 22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

*The member of the public left the meeting for the remaining agenda items.*

#### 23. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

The Chief Executive updated the Board on a discussion which had taken place at the Consortium Committee meeting on the 7th March 2023, in respect of the Environment Agency and the frustrations felt by members in respect of lack of maintenance. A recommendation had been made by the Consortium Committee for all the Boards to withhold payment of the EA precept and to prepare a letter evidencing the reasons why and asking for a schedule of where the monies would be spent stating the Board had a duty to know where its money was being spent and felt it needed to withhold funds until this was obtained.

The RFCC say funds should be spent on enabling flows to get away with local contributions spent in local areas. Cllr R. Allcock agreed that the RFCC minutes made this clear.

Mr P. Cornish commented that a Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust survey had shown farmers land did more for nesting birds than the SSSI and suggested they may contribute.

The Chief Executive would write letters to the EA regarding spending of precept and possible withholding of precept until information received. A further update would be given at the June meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive write to the Environment Agency asking for details of spending stating the Precept would be withheld until obtained.

#### 24. ASSOCIATION OF DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES (ADA)



Details of the AGM and tour of the ADA Trent Branch meeting to be held on 14th June 2023 would be circulated to members shortly.

ADA was seeking candidates to join Committees and full details could be found on the website. Expressions of interest should be returned to ADA by 31st March 2023.

It was noted that there were a limited number of free spaces available on Internal Drainage Boards and Local Authorities for the Flood and Coast 2023 on 6th-8th July 2023. Details on obtaining a ticket could be found on the ADA website. The Flood and Water Live 2023 working demonstration was to be held on 5th-6th July 2023 and registration was open and free of charge.

The Chief Executive updated the Board on concerns expressed about the delay in ADA picking up issues which were of concern to the IDBs. At the request of Consortium Committee a liaison meeting was held with the four Chairmen and Mr I. Thompson (Chief Executive) and Mr R. Caudwell (Chairman) from ADA on Thursday 23rd March.

ADA were willing to include an article in the ADA Gazette on maintenance and the Chief Executive suggested that as one of the members had 50 acres always under water from the River Idle and there were four SSSI's in the area not performing due to the condition of the River Idle members who are directly affected may wish to contribute.

RECEIVED

CHAIRMAN